



# VIRGINIA FSA NEWS

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Virginia FSA News  
Articles for publication and  
questions or comments  
should be sent to the VA  
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*Virginia Farm Service Agency's mission is to ensure that all customers receive opportunity, access, and equality in program delivery and services.*

Your contributions are needed to make the newsletter informative and interesting. Contributing a picture and/or story is an excellent way to let the rest of our State know what is happening in your area. Send to Mike in the STO or you can email him.

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## Student Career Experience Program



The Student Career Experience Program (SCEP) provides students with on-the-job training by working in their career field while completing their academic degree. Upon graduation, students are considered for permanent employment and are placed in a position with oppor-

tunity for additional career advancement.

Virginia has been participating in the SCEP since September 2004. In early 2006 we were authorized the second SCEP Slot. Chantel Brown a sophomore at Virginia State University has

accepted the position.

Chantel has some FSA experience. She worked in the Accomack/Norhampton Farm Service Center during the summer of 2002. During her tenure in SCEP she will work primary in the Farm Loan Programs. Chantel will

start her FSA career on May 15, 2006.

We welcome Chantel to the Virginia FSA family!!!

## eGov Training in Chesapeake

On February 9th, FSA partnered with Virginia State University to provide some eGov Training at the Southeast Virginia Field Crop Conference at the Hickory Ruritan Club in Chesapeake.

Sherry Evitt, State eGOV Coordinator and Emily Horsley, CED Chesapeake/VA Beach provided hands on training in

the mobile computer lab provided by VSU to those who attended.

Farmers expressed pleasure in having the ability to work from the comfort of their homes.



## MESSAGE FROM SED



Why since we have had such a mild winter am I so ready for spring? True signs that spring is almost here are COC orientation and the robins return. I enjoyed attending three COC orientations to

date in Harrisonburg and Rustburg and then the combined sessions for Districts 2 and 4 in the State Office. The staff did a great job in training and it is always a pleasure to meet new committee members.

I had the opportunity to attend the 2006 USDA Ag Outlook Forum in February. All the speakers shared a positive message that the agricultural outlook is good. Exciting times are around the corner as we prepare for the 2007 Farm Bill.

While we all are aware our Agency has some challenges ahead of us let us use this season of hope and renewal to have an even more positive outlook.

There is no other industry like ours for optimistic—each year as a farmer plants a new crop they do so with faith and hope that it will be better than last years.

*Jackie*

## All in The Family



Ron Kraszewski is the proud father of Isabella Mary born on 02/05/06, Super Bowl Sunday. She was 8 lbs.

Isabella Mary

3 oz. and the doctor missed the delivery by two minutes and that was the third time that this has happened to Ron's wife Lynn. Isabella is the 12th baby for the Kraszewski family. Ron says they often get 3 questions when they tell someone that they have 12 kids and their response is: **Are they all yours?** Yes, they're all ours.

**Were you previously married?** No, we weren't. **Are you crazy?** No, not yet..



The Kraszewski children, Justin 21, Jason 18, Rachel 15, Daniel 13, Josiah 10, Isaiah 8, Hannah 7, Sarah 5, Elijah 5, Jeremiah 3, and Abigail 2.

## State Committee Spotlight



Jesse Williams a Seventh Generation Farmer in Suffolk Virginia.

A 1971 graduate of North Carolina State University's Agricultural Engineering pro-

gram. He started farming the same year he left college.

He is currently farming in Suffolk, Isle of Wright and Moultrie Co. Illinois. He raises corn, cotton peanuts, soybeans, wheat, rye, edible beans and hay.

As a community leader he has served as a Boy Scout Leader and a Livestock Judge for 4-H shows.

He is an active member of

Oakland Christian church and a Sunday School Teacher.

Jesse and his wife Mary a social studies teacher at Nansemond Suffolk Academy have two children Jess and Brooke. Jess is a graduate of University of Nebraska and is employed by Amadus Industries a Co. that produces peanut harvesting equipment. Brooke a March 12th newly wed who is attending Yale University working on a PhD. in Engineering.

### Pittsylvania County FSA Celebrates Black History Month



The Pittsylvania County FSA Office staff along with the Pittsylvania County FSA

Committee recognized Black History Month with a luncheon at the FSA office on February 22, 2006. During the luncheon, Diane D. Taylor, CPT spoke to the audience about the origin of Black History month and how it came to be recognized. Wayne R. Yarbrough, Jr., CED, addressed the audience concerning the contributions made to the agricultural industry by George Washington Carver, who was born of slave parents in 1864 and became one of the world's most respected and honored men in devoting his life to understanding nature and the many uses for the simplest plant life.



### Russell L. Marsh Retires

January 3rd marked the end of a 30 year career for Lee. His outstanding leadership will be remembered by all. On January 16th approximately 65 USDA employees gathered to honor his contribution to the agricultural community and reminisce the good ole days.

Lee planned to take a couple of months off to work around the house and spend some time with the grand children. Then he plans to spend some time with his dad on the family farm in Wythe County.

We were told that his major retirement plan was to stay out of Sheila's hair. We will miss Lee and wish him good luck!!



# USDA

## Accessibility

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## Employee Recognition

### Retirements

Thomas M. Eddins—32 Years—Albemarle County  
Raymond T. Wingate—28 Years—Grayson County

### Length of Service

30 Years  
Charles O. Newton

25 Years  
Bernadette Moore  
Patricia A. Church

20 Years  
Judith B. Owen  
Carolyn E. Slaughter

15 Years  
Rita W. Mcfalls  
David M. Berry  
Alan G. Ricks

10 Years  
Julia P. Stephens

5 Years  
Allison N. Goin

## You Light Up My Life



For the past year Donna has had a special glow about her while receiving roses on a regular basis. Now we know why! In January she became engaged to Michael J. Hoert, retired Commander, USN. Stay tuned for the wedding date. Congratulations Donna and Michael!

## On the Road To Success

Daniel Daff, a 16 year old high school student in Bridgewater, VA recently obtained a youth loan from the Verona Farm Loan Office. Dan, at the age of 15, started his own landscaping business "Handy Dan's Lawn Mowing & Landscaping, Etc.". His first landscaping job started in 2003 with a project in his family's front yard correcting a dip in the lawn that would fill with water after a heavy rain. Dan filled it with dirt, pulled out shrubs, designed flowerbeds and put in a water pond.

Daniel then did odd jobs for neighbors such as mowing, raking and tending their

yards. His high school offered home-school courses which allowed Daniel to have a flexible schedule to work at his business in the afternoons. Soon, the young entrepreneur's customer base began to grow and he was able to obtain several important items of equipment such as a push mower, riding mower, wee eater, and various other landscaping items. He also was able to rent a skid loader for snow removal jobs.

In November of 2005, Annette B. Sanacuore, Farm Loan Officer in the Verona office conducted an outreach meeting at Turner Ashby High School in

Bridgewater to discuss youth loans. Daniel was immediately interested and contacted Annette about a loan to purchase an enclosed trailer which would allow him to store and haul his equipment. This would allow him to travel greater distances and increase his clientele.

In this day and age it is tough for us all to get our 16 year olds to mow the home lawn. However Daniel's business is thriving and he continues to add more and more clients. Daniel has been told by some that he will be a millionaire at age 26; he replies that his goal is 21.

