

FEBRUARY 2024

PATRICK COUNTY COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

FAMILY & CONSUMER SCIENCES CORNER

As nationwide incidents of food borne illness continue to rise, preparing food safely continues to be of upmost importance. Since the food handler is a vital link to safe food preparation and handling, proper training is key to effective prevention. The FCS agent has multiple training opportunities available during 2024 for managers and other restaurant staff to become a certified ServSafe Food Protection Manager. In addition, Food Handler classes are also provided for new employees and front-end staff as requested. Contact Terri Alt for details and registration link.



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Upcoming Events

**Patrick County 4- H
Speech/Presentation County Contest**
FEBRUARY 2, 2024

VSU Producer Tours
FEBRUARY 22 & 23, 2024

**Food Protection Manager
Certification and Exam**
MARCH 4 & 8, 2024
MAY 6 & 10, 2024

**Patrick County 4- H Share the Fun
County Contest**
MARCH 8, 2024

Patrick County Junior 4-H Camp
JUNE 10 - 14, 2024

**Rise and Shine Youth
Entrepreneur Market**
JUNE 21, 2024

County Well Water Testing Clinic
JUNE 26, 2024



Family Nutrition HAPPENINGS

For the fall semester, The Family Nutrition Program was busy sharing nutrition information with the schools in the county including Blue Ridge, Woolwine, Patrick Springs, Hardin Reynolds and PCHS. Along with hands-on activities that promote healthy eating habits, the elementary schools have been taste testing a variety of fruits and vegetables, while the high school students have been cooking and enjoying nutritious recipes.



4-H YOUTH DEVELOPMENT CORNER

Patrick County 4-H ended 2023 teaching 4th graders across the county about financial literacy through Kids Marketplace Financial Simulation. Kids' Marketplace is a hands-on educational tool used to introduce elementary students to financial choices while having fun.

Students learn how to:

- Make good financial decisions
- Understand the difference between needs and wants
- Recognize the importance of math skills in everyday life

Students are given an occupation with a monthly salary. They then get to experience the financial obligations that adults deal with every day.

CONTACT US

Terri Alt, FCS Agent
talt@vt.edu

Teresa Rakes, Nutrition Ed. Facilitator
teresar8@vt.edu

Tamika Reynolds - Unit UAA
tamoore2@vt.edu

Kristy Hughes - 4-H PA
kramos@vt.edu

Leigh Ann Hazelwood - 4-H Agent
lpendlet@vt.edu

Christian Taylor - ANR/AG Agent
cmt26@vt.edu

AGRICULTURE & NATURAL RESOURCES UPDATE

Know what's in your well water? Since private water supplies are unregulated, homeowners should periodically test their water quality for safety. Confidential water testing and education will be offered through the Extension office in June of 2024. Participation is voluntary. The Extension office will be able to offer 40 county residents free water testing and follow up instruction on test results. Free tests will be available for Patrick County homeowners who have not received a free or discounted test kit in the past two years. For those who participated in this program during 2022 or 2023, the normal fee of \$70 will be collected. To be placed on our participant list for 2024 testing, please contact our office at 276-694-3341.