



**The Virginia Soil Health Coalition
Quarterly Meeting
August 28, 2024
10:00 AM-12:00 PM**

Agenda

10:00-10:20: Grower's Corner: Soil Health Champion Feature

10:20-11:00: Rooted in Science: Perspectives on Soil Health from Virginia Tech's New Faculty, Part II

Continuing from last meeting, we will hear from another new faculty members at Virginia Tech. Dr Olga Walsh will present an overview of her research and its relevance to soil health. She will discuss her ongoing projects and how they intersect with understanding and improving soil health. Additionally, she will share their goals for future research and outreach/education, highlighting opportunities for collaborations with partners and practitioners.

❖ **Dr. Olga Walsh, Associate Professor in Small Grains Research and Extension, School of Plant and Environmental Science**

Dr. Walsh's research and extension program focuses on production and management of corn, small grains, and other potential crops for grain and silage to increase overall productivity, resiliency, sustainability, and economic value of food, agriculture production systems, and natural resources. She holds a Ph.D. and M.S. in soil science from Oklahoma State University and a B.S. in soil science from St. Petersburg State University.

11:00- 11:30: Highlights from the Virginia Tech Center for Food Systems and Community Transformation and the Virginia Beginning Farmer and Rancher Coalition

The Center for Food Systems and Community Transformation works at the nexus of food, agriculture, and society to explore and catalyze the conditions for a more just and sustainable food system so that all may thrive. They also manage the Beginning Farmer and Rancher Coalition (BFRC). In this presentation, learn more about the work and programming of the Center and the BFRC and explore ways to connect and engage with the programs to support your work and Virginia producers.

❖ **Dr. Katie Trozzo, Associate, Center for Food Systems and Community Viability, Virginia Tech**

11:30-11:50: Coordinating USDA Climate Smart Commodity Projects in Virginia: Status and Next Steps

❖ **Mary Sketch Bryant, Director, Virginia Soil Health Coalition, Virginia Tech**

11:50-12:00: Final updates and announcements