



Friday, March 11, 2016

**Best Western
Lee-Jackson Motor Inn &
Conference Center
Winchester, Virginia**

**8:15 a.m. - 3:45 p.m.
\$40 Registration Fee**

The Forum for Rural Innovation is a cooperative educational effort by the Offices of Agricultural Economic Development and Cooperative Extension in Clarke, Fauquier, Loudoun and Prince William Counties, Virginia; Berkeley and Jefferson Counties, West Virginia; and the Town of Berryville, Virginia; Blue Ridge Community and Technical College; and NCIF.

**biz.loudoun.gov/forum
703-777-0426**

Educating for the Craft of Innovative Agriculture

This is the 12th annual Forum for Rural Innovation. The purpose of the forum is to showcase new and exciting projects and programs that enhance farm or rural business profitability. The models presented at the forum also focus on conserving farmland and natural resources, and developing new approaches to rural prosperity in upscale areas where land commands premium prices.

The Forum will feature a series of presentations, with an emphasis on educating the public about the agriculture industry. Topics and exhibits have been chosen to present practical examples of successful innovative operations that could be adapted to any farm. The program will feature some of the most progressive and recognized farms, organizations and research in the United States.

Who Should Attend

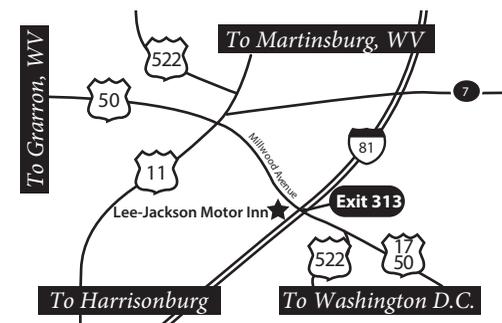
The conference will offer farmers, landowners, rural business owners, local elected and appointed officials, extension educators, economic development and planning professionals an opportunity to see and hear industry leaders discuss innovative practices and methods for agricultural development.

The program is open to all, regardless of race, color, religion, sex, age, veteran status, national origin, disability or political affiliation. Persons needing reasonable accommodations for any type of disability in order to attend this program should contact 703-777-0426.

**Best Western
Lee-Jackson Motor Inn &
Conference Center**

711 Millwood Avenue
Winchester, VA 22601

540-662-4154



Space is limited to the first 150 registered. Pre-registration is required by March 4, 2016.

The \$40 registration fee includes a continental breakfast and buffet lunch showcasing local foods. Payments are accepted in cash, check or credit card.

Additional registration information, or information on becoming a trade show exhibitor, is available by calling 703-777-0426 or online at biz.loudoun.gov/forum.

Educating for the Craft of Innovative Agriculture

Friday, March 11, 2016 * Best Western Lee-Jackson Conference Center * Winchester, Virginia

8:15 - 9 a.m.

Registration, View Exhibits

Morning refreshments to include: Mackintosh Fruit Farm Cider and Apple Crisp with Black Dog Coffee.

9 - 9:30 a.m.

Hops Processing Facility

Solomon Rose, Black Hops Farm, Lucketts, VA

Craft beer inputs are becoming a very popular industry. Loudoun County's hops processing facility has taken local beer to a new level! Hear about the new opportunities for hops growers in this region.

9:30 - 10:15 a.m.

Fresh Farm Markets

Mike Koch, Fresh Farm Markets, Washington, D.C.

Fresh Farm Markets is a non-profit organization whose mission is to build and strengthen the local, sustainable food movement in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed. Executive Director Mike Koch will be discussing direct market trends along with the focus of Fresh Farm Markets.

10:15 - 11:30 a.m.

Agriculture and Higher Education in Our Communities

Ronnie Helmondollar, West Virginia University Extension Service, Elkins, WV

Tiffany Hine, Blue Ridge Community Technical College, Martinsburg, WV

Dr. Donna Ballard, Potomac State College, Keyser, WV

Hear how community colleges and university extension services are working together to encourage agriculture within schools, universities and the community.

11:30 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.

Food Safety and Modernization Act

Dr. Laura Strawn, Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, VA

The Food Safety and Modernization Act was signed into law in 2011. FSMA aims to ensure the U.S. food supply is safe by shifting the focus from responding to contamination to preventing it. Dr. Strawn will discuss in detail what this law could mean for farming and food distribution in the future.

12:15 - 1:15 p.m.

Lunch and Innovation Awards

Including local food products from: Black Dog Coffee, Blue Ridge Cattlemen's Association, Locke Store, Mackintosh Fruit Farm, Orr's Farm Market, South Street Under and Truefarms.

2016 Innovation Award Winners

Tabb Family - Lyle C. Tabb and Sons, LLC
Jonathan Staples, Solomon Rose and Dylan Krzywonski - Lucketts Mill and Hops Works

1:15 - 2:15 p.m.

Slade Farms – The Rest of the Story

Clifton Slade, Slade Farms, Surry, VA

Attendees of the 2015 Forum rated Clifton Slade as one of the best presenters of practical and useful knowledge presented in a comedic fashion. Hear Clifton's expertise on vegetable research, planting, growing, harvesting, and marketing. If you grow and market any farm product, you will want to hear this!

2:15 - 3 p.m.

Handcrafted Artisan Cheese

Molly Kroiz, Georges Mill Farm Artisan Cheese, Lovettsville, VA

Find out how cheese-making works on a small family farm. Cheese-making has become an incredibly popular industry. Hear from the expert what it takes to create this product and how their business got to where it is today.

3 - 3:30 p.m.

Artisan Malt House

Michael Schimmel, Pilot Malt House, Lucketts, VA

Loudoun County, Virginia is home to a new malt house. Hear about the opportunity this facility creates for new and current producers of grains such as barley, wheat and rye.

3:30 - 3:45p.m.

Closing Remarks; Adjournment

Forum for Rural Innovation – Friday, March 11, 2016 – Registration Form
Pre-Registration is required by Friday, March 4, 2016 – Space is limited to 150 participants.

Please complete this form and mail \$40 registration fee to:

Forum for Rural Innovation – Attn: Cassie Walls, Loudoun County Economic Development
PO Box 7000, Leesburg, VA 20177

Now accepting credit card payment; call for more information. Please make checks payable to: *Forum for Rural Innovation*.

Please check here for vegetarian meal I do not wish to have my contact information shared

Name _____ Organization/Farm Name _____ Telephone _____
Mailing Address _____ City/State/Zip _____
Email _____

Please RSVP by March 4, 2016. Space is limited!!

For additional information, please call 703-777-0426 or visit biz.loudoun.gov/forum.

If any member of the public requires a reasonable accommodation for any type of disability in order to participate in this event, please contact 703-777-0426.