

27 August 2016

**To all Virginia Pumpkin Growers' Association members:**

Once again the VPGA will have a display in the Meadow Pavilion, along with other ag commodity groups, and hold our 4th annual People's Choice Pumpkin contest at this year's State Fair of Virginia in Doswell. On my way to the fair, I can also transport horticulture crops entries and youth pumpkins for this year's annual contests. To help make all this successful, please read the following:

***State Fair Horticulture Crops Contest***

- If you, someone in your farm family, or any of your farm employees want to enter a horticulture crop in this year's contest, the included entry form must be completed and either submitted to me in person at the VPGA Field Day on Sunday the 28<sup>th</sup>, **OR** sent via USMail (address below) so I receive it by **Saturday, 3 September** **OR** scanned and sent to me via email: [SustainAg@gmail.com](mailto:SustainAg@gmail.com) **by 8pm on Sunday, 4 September.**

\*Choose from these category lists, *Open Crops & Vegetables* or *Youth Crops & Vegetables* at:

[http://statefairva.org/Competitions\\_Education/Competitions/General\\_Competitions.aspx](http://statefairva.org/Competitions_Education/Competitions/General_Competitions.aspx) then click on General Competition Guides, then on either *Open* or *Youth* competitions. I can also email the lists to you and will have copies at the VPGA Field Day event on Sunday. Please read over the lists carefully because they were changed to more accurately reflect the wide variety of gourds, pumpkins and winter squash.

**\*\*PLEASE NOTE:** *There is no fee for VPGA grower members, their farm family or farm employees, but this is only if you submit your entries through the VPGA (me as their 'agent'). \*If you have already sent in your crops entry info along with the \$1/entry fee, you do not need to do anything else. I can still transport your entries to the fair – just let me know.*

- I will be traveling to the fair on the morning of Thursday the 22nd. I will make pickups on Wednesday, the 21st, for folks southwest of Christiansburg. On Thursday, I will travel I-81 > I-64 > I-95 on my way to the fairgrounds and can make pickup stops along the way, as long as it's not far off that route.  
**\*\*I need to know what I am hauling and the pickup stops by Tuesday the 20th.**

***VPGA People's Choice Pumpkin contest***

- Please encourage your youth, 18 and under, to enter their best large Jack-O-Lantern type pumpkin (*one entry only*) for our **4th Annual VPGA People's Choice Pumpkin contest** where the public casts their vote for the pumpkin they would pick for fall decorating, carving, etc. Please have the youth submitting these entries contact me directly so we can arrange for transportation and get their information for later recognition in photos, press releases, etc.  
**\*\*I'll need to have all info on these youth entries by Tuesday the 20th.**

***Promoting your farm enterprise at the fair***

- If you want information about your farm & fall activities to be included in the VPGA display (farm name, location, contact info, schedule of events, photos of your farm & crops, a timeline of your farm's yearly activities, etc), I'll need to have this info by **Tuesday the 13th** so I can get it arranged and to the printers.

Please contact me if you have any questions or want to make arrangements for display donations, transportation of crop contest entries or People's Choice Pumpkin entries.

Thank you,

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