

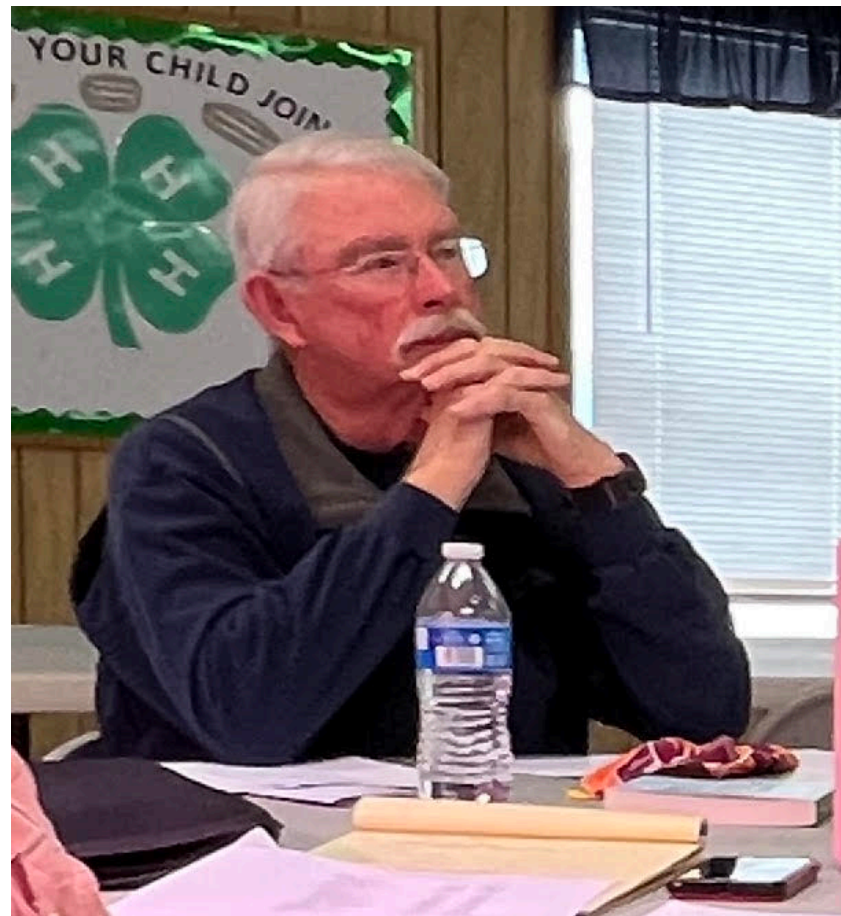
Virginia Forage and Grassland Council Annual Business Meeting

January 24-27, 2023

11:00 am

Keith Tuck, President

Alan Spivey, 1952-2022





Membership Report

The Virginia Forage and Grassland Council (VFGC) remains the leader, having the highest number of members compared to all the state affiliates across the nation.

VFGC had 329 members in 2022.

2022 Activities Report

- 2022 Winter Conference themed *The Green Side of Beef: In Defense of Grassland Agriculture*, featuring Dr. Alan Franzluebbers and Nicolette Niman
 - Totaled 343 participants in person and another 112 live streaming the event.
- Basic Grazing School, May 18-19, 2022 at the Wilbanks Farm in Orange, VA
- 5 Pasture Walks or Field Tours
 - May 26th -Jordan Farm, Bob Brame, Gordonsville, VA
 - May 31th – Adams Family Farm, Miller Adams, Red Oak, VA
 - July 21st – Wind Ridge Farm, Time Service, Meadows of Dan, VA
 - October 5 – Bracketts Farm, Fall Field Day, Louisa, VA
 - November 15th, - Shamoka Run Farm, Leo Tammi, Mt. Sydney, VA
- Advanced Grazing School ‘Ranching for Profit’ Workshop in partnership with American Farmland Trust and others October 18-19, 2022.
 - Averaged 45 participants each day

VFGC Representing VA at the AFGC Conference in Winston-Salem NC



These Activities are Made Possible by

- Active and engaged VFGC members like you!
- A dedicated, hard-working VFGC Board of Directors
- Partners, sponsors, grants, and collaborative funding to provide the best educational and learning opportunities at a low subsidized cost to you.
- If you are not yet a member, please join today!

Collaborating Grant Partners



Board Election Results

Producer Directors

John McClintic, Thousand Hills Farm



- John and family raise beef cattle, and his wife raises hunt seat horses in Loudoun and Clarke Counties
- Raises 280 acres of pasture, hay, and silage
- Passionate about getting youth involved in agriculture
- Glad to have John on the Board

Board Election Results

Producer Directors

Alston Hilliard, Sidlo Farms



- Alston, a 5th generation farmer, founded Sidlo farms in 2016
- Started with a small produce and livestock operation and is now raising over 250 acres of hay and small grains
- Serves as Unit Coordinator for the on-farm demonstrations at Va State University
- Glad to have Alston on the Board

Incoming VFGC Officers for 2023

Shawna Bratton – President

Becky Szarzynski – Vice President

Dr. Gabe Pent – Secretary

Leo Tammi – Treasurer

2023 VFGC Photo Contest Winner

**Isaac Swortzel
Greenville, VA**

**Pick Up Your 2023
VA Graziers' Planner Today!**



Harlan White Scholarship Award Winner

Jonathan Kubesch

- BS – Ohio State University
- MS – University of Tennessee
- PHD – Working on a PhD under Dr. Ben Tracy at Virginia Tech
 - Studying the development of biodiverse pastures to increase ecosystem services

\$1,000 Cash Scholarship



VFGC Scholarship Funds

Dr. Harlan E. White Legacy Scholarship

1938 – 2007

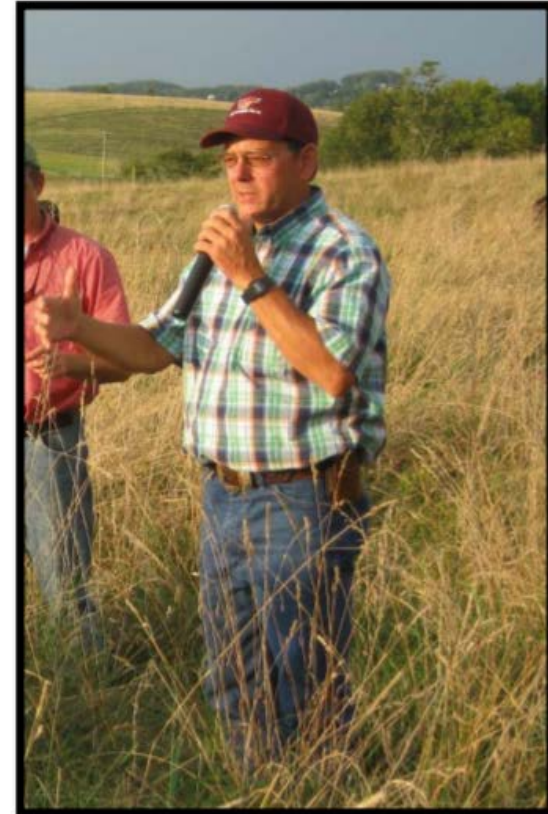
Administered by
Virginia Forage and Grassland Council



David A. Fiske Innovator Scholarship Fund

1959 – 2018

Administered by
Virginia Forage and Grassland Council



2023 Outstanding Forage Producer of the Year

Isaac, Stephanie, and Mac Swortzel, Suffangus Farm, Greenville, VA



- Registered Black Angus, sheep and poultry
- 300 acres of mixed grass pasture
- Combined 4 herds into one
- Livestock now graze in permanent paddocks and limited to 1-3 day moves using polywire
- Went from 215 to 330 grazing days per year cutting the amount of hay fed by 75%
- Began implementing in 2020

Thank you for being a part of this organization!

Enjoy the rest of today's program.