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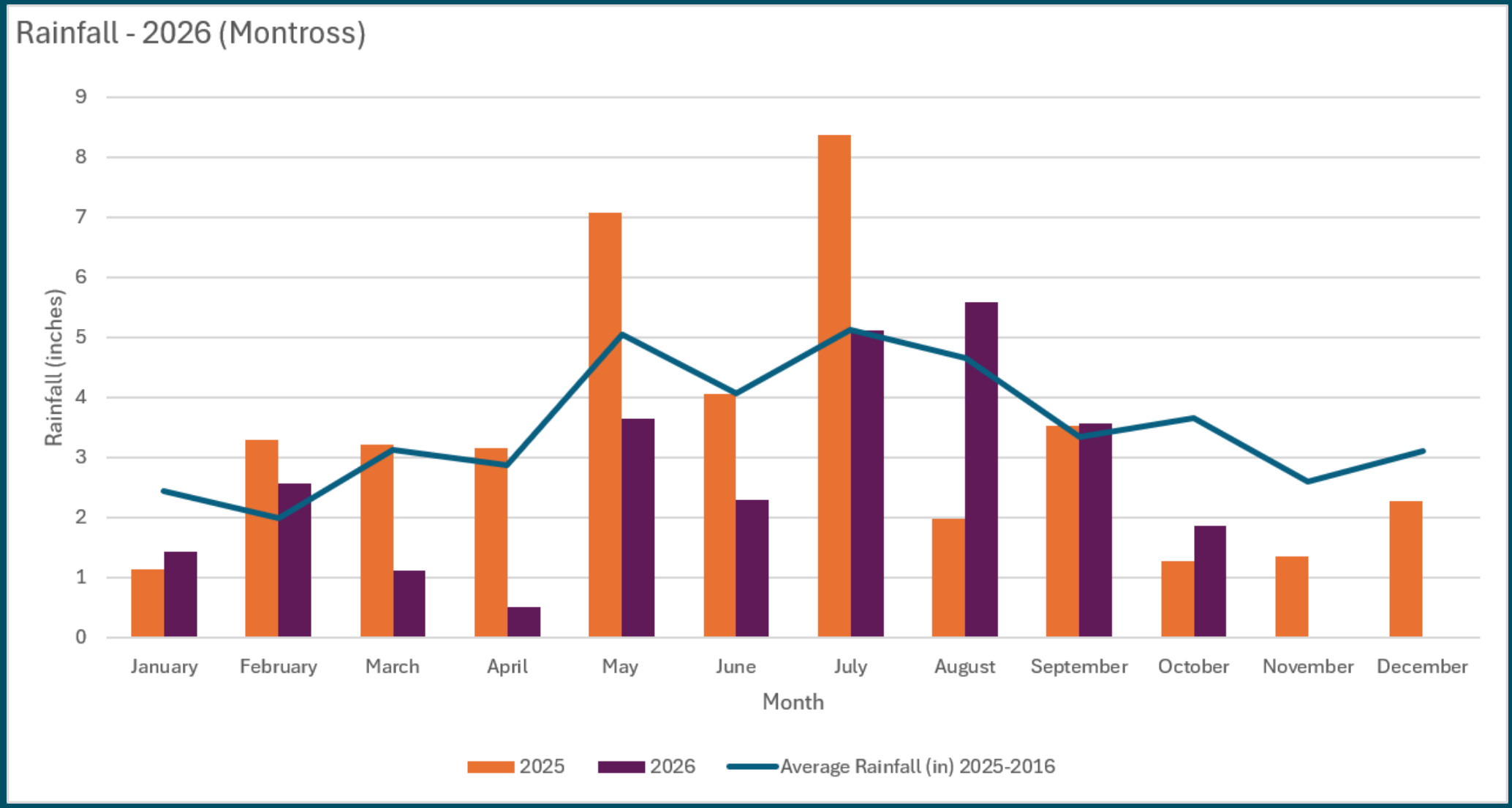
2026 – A Year in Westmoreland County

Stephanie Romelczyk – ANR Westmoreland County


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Extension Master Gardeners
Northern Neck
Just a little TREAT for you
to say
THANK YOU for all you do!

2026 Weather Patterns

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Spider Mites

- Arachnid – 8 legs
- Prefers hot and dry weather
- Damage = stippling
- Webbing at high populations
- Many host species
  - Field Corn!!







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Deer Browsing

- Numerous reports of deer browsing, especially in soybeans
- Drought conditions caused concentrated feeding
- Statewide deer browsing study in soybeans – plant response



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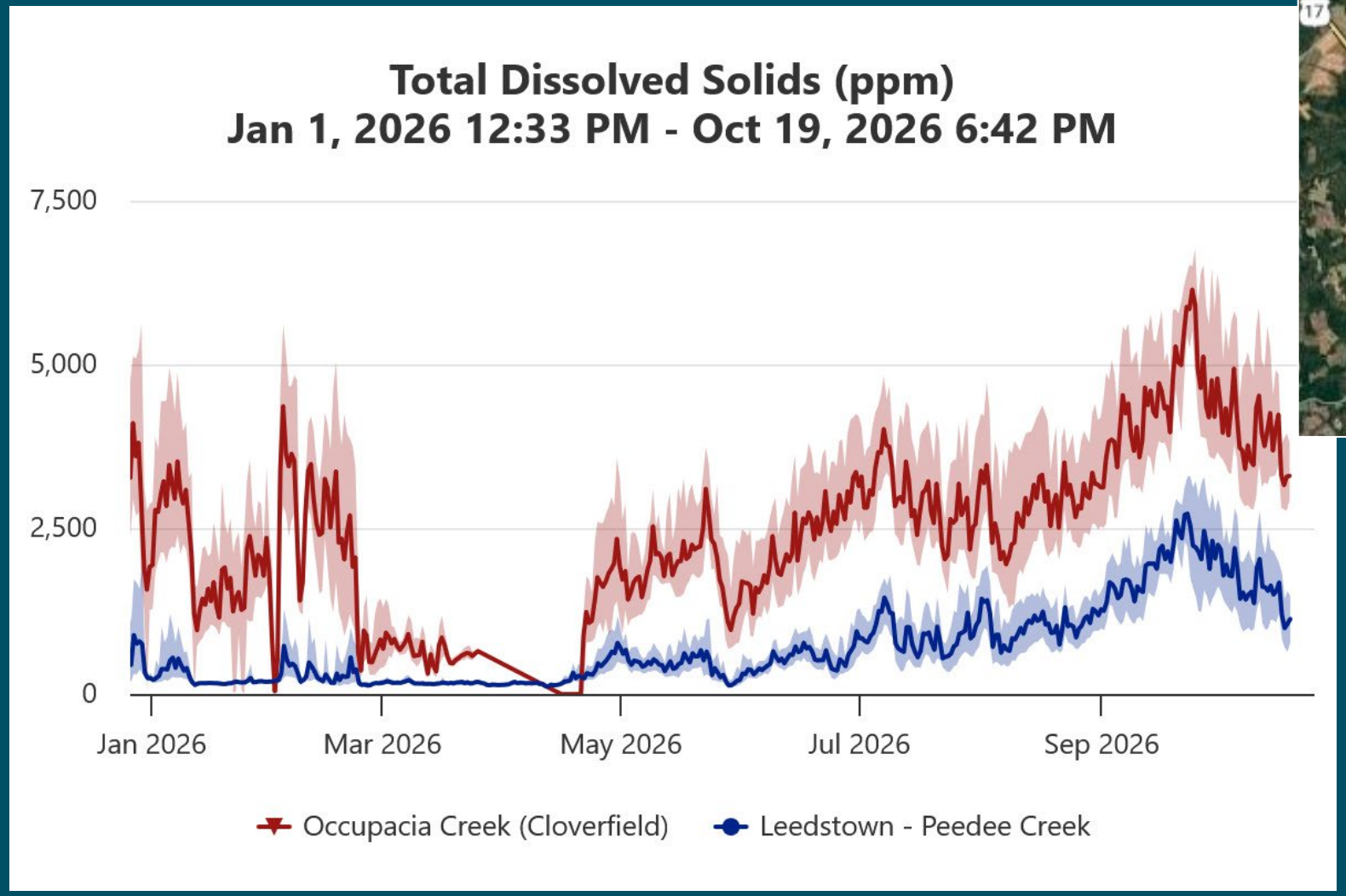
Deer Browsing Study

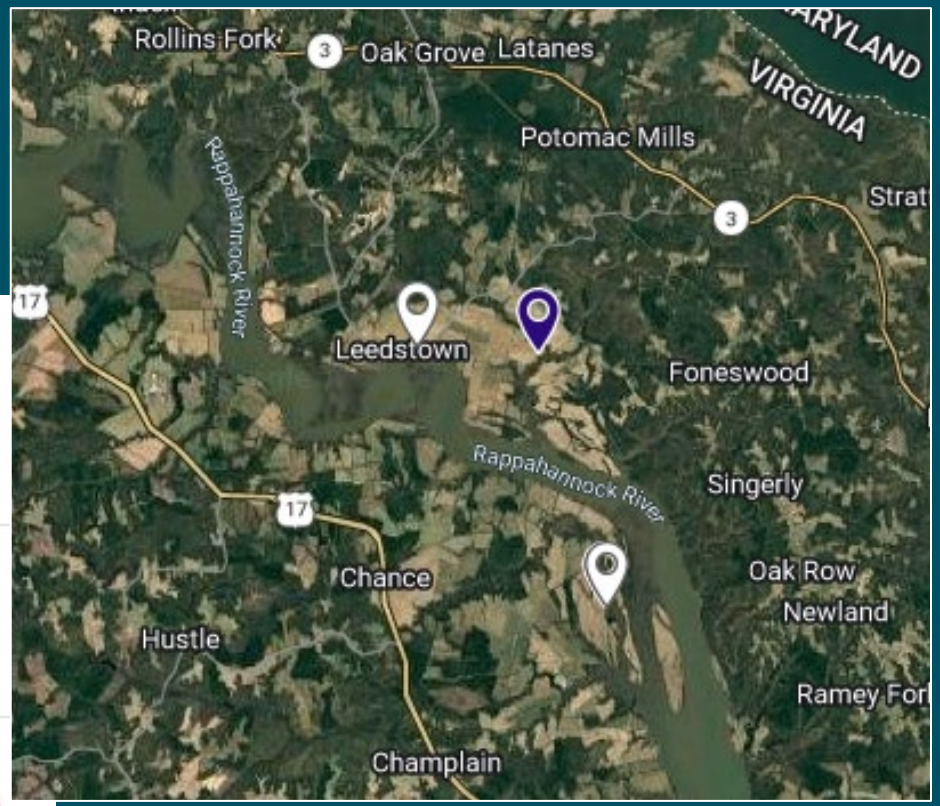
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Salinity





Green Bean Yield Loss = 490 ppm
Broccoli Yield Loss = 1330 ppm
Soybean Yield Loss = 2310 ppm

Late Winter Freezes

- Locally affected wheat and barley
  - 30 degrees or lower for 2+ hours
  - Severe yield reductions
- Statewide affected vineyards and fruit trees – little to no harvest

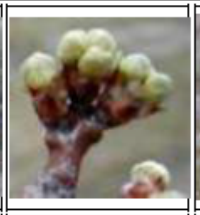


Fruit Tree Phenology

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Pome Fruit (Apples and Pears)									
Apples									
Apples	Silver tip	Green Tip	Half inch green	Tight Cluster	First Pink	Full Pink	First Bloom	Full Bloom	Post Bloom
Old temp	16	16	22	27	27	28	28	29	29
10% kill	15	18	23	27	28	28	28	28	28
90% kill	2	10	15	21	24	25	25	25	25
Pears									
Pears	Bud scales separating	Blossom buds exposed	No name	Tight cluster	First White	Full White	First Bloom	Full Bloom	Post Bloom
Old temp	18	23	No data	24	28	29	29	29	30
10% kill	15	20		24	25	26	27	28	28
90% kill	0	6		15	19	22	23	24	24

Stone Fruit (Apricots, Peaches and Plums)

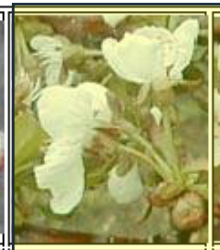
Apricots									
Apricots	**Swollen Bud**	**Tips separate**	**Calyx red**	**First White**	**First Bloom**	**Full Bloom**	**In the shuck**	**Green Fruit**	
Old temp	--	23	--	25	--	28	--	31	
10% kill	15	20	22	24	25	27	27	28	
90% kill	--	0	9	14	19	22	24	25	
Peaches									
Peaches	**Swollen Bud**	**Calyx Green**	**Calyx Red**	**First Pink**	**First Bloom**	**Full Bloom**	**Post Bloom**		
Old temp	23	--	--	25	--	27	30		
10% kill	18	21	23	25	26	27	28		
90% kill	1	5	9	15	21	24	25		
European Plums									
European Plums	**First Swelling**	**Side White**	**Tip Green**	**Tight Cluster**	**First White**	**First Bloom**	**Full Bloom**	**Post Bloom**	
Old temp	--	--	--	--	23	27	27	30	
10% kill	14	17	20	24	26	27	28	28	
90% kill	0	3	7	16	22	23	23	23	

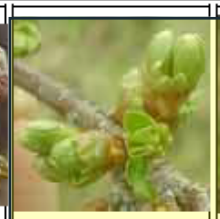
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CRITICAL SPRING TEMPERATURES FOR TREE FRUIT BUD DEVELOPMENT STAGES

Cherries

Sweet Cherries					No picture				
Sweet Cherries	**Swollen Bud**	**Side Green**	**Green Tip**	**Tight Cluster**	**Open Cluster**	**First White**	**First Bloom**	**Full Bloom**	**Post Bloom**
Old temp	23	23	25	28	28	29	29	29	30
10% kill	17	22	25	26	27	27	28	28	28
90% kill	5	9	14	17	21	24	25	25	25

Tart Cherries										
Tart Cherries	**Swollen Bud**	**Side Green**	**Green Tip**	**Tight Cluster**	**Open Cluster**	**First White**	**First Bloom**	**Full Bloom**		
10% kill	15	24	26	26	28	28	28	28		
90% kill	0	10	22	24	24	24	24	24		

Greenhouse Water Quality

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Greenhouse Water Quality

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- Three parameters to test
  - pH
  - Alkalinity
  - Soluble salts (electrical conductivity)
- pH: measure of how acidic or basic
  - Acceptable 5.4 – 7.0 (depends on crop)
  - Many of our wells test higher than 7.0 pH
- Alkalinity: water's natural ability to resist chang
  - Upper limit is 100 ppm
  - Affects pH and availability of nutrients
- Soluble Salts: measure of salinity
  - Inherent salinity in our water
  - Also indicates fertilizer usage (too much/too little) in greenhouse production



Clubroot in Broccoli



- Caused by fungus-like microorganism
- Can survive in soil 18+ years
- Disease of brassica crops (cabbage, broccoli)
- Symptoms:
  - Galling, swelling, distortion of roots
  - Stunting, yellowing, wilting of aboveground parts

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A Sampler of Programs...

1A/Registered Technician Prep Class

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Pizza Camp

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4-H Fall Ag Bag





