



**The Virginia Soil Health Coalition  
Quarterly Meeting  
February 26th, 2024  
1:00 PM-3:00 PM**

## **Agenda**

**1:00-1:15: Grower's Corner: Soil Health Champion Feature**

- ❖ **Lydia Fitzgerald, Cropland Agronomist, Virginia Tech and NRCS Integrated Conservation Agronomy Program**

**1:15-2:00: Advancing Biochar and Compost Research in Virginia: Insights and Applications for Agriculture**

- ❖ **Dr. Vijay Chaganti, Assistant Professor and Extension Specialist, School of Plant and Environmental Science, Virginia Tech**

Dr. Chaganti will share insights from his research on biochar and other soil amendments and byproducts, focusing on applications for agriculture in Virginia. Dr. Chaganti's research focuses on use and management of agricultural, municipal, and industrial byproducts (e.g., animal manures, biosolids, food and paper processing sludges, combustion ashes, vegetative wastes, biochar etc.) and studying the impacts of their land application on soil, water, and air quality. Extension program is directed towards developing educational materials and activities designed to train and educate stakeholders and other clientele on efficient management of byproducts and their beneficial reuse in agricultural and urban landscapes.

**2:00- 2:30: USDA and Federal Programs Update: Emerging Priorities and Uncertainties for 2025**

- ❖ **Chris Young, Director of Governmental Affairs, National Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts**

**2:30-2:45: Conservation "speed dating" breakouts**

**2:45-3:00: Coalition updates and announcements**