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### **For Immediate Release**

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## **Corbin Hall Farm Site of the 2009 Virginia Small Grains Field Day**

**Chesapeake, VA (March 20, 2009)** – Producer education on varieties, seed treatments and production practices will be featured during the 2009 Virginia Small Grains Field Day, held at the historic Corbin Hall Farm in Water View, Virginia.

The educational event, hosted by the Virginia Grain Producers Association (VGPA) in cooperation with Virginia Cooperative Extension, will be held Thursday, May 14 starting at 3:00 p.m. Dinner will immediately follow the Field Day; provided by Nixon's Catering.

“New wheat varieties offer increased yield potential, test weight, and increased disease resistance. Having the best possible variety is probably the most important investment a wheat producer can make,” said Virginia Tech Grains Specialist, Wade Thomason.

“Educational events featuring field research provide important tools for Virginia's grain producers. Having the most updated, accurate information allows them to make decisions that maximize profitability and protect their viability for the long-term. Agriculture is constantly changing; especially, in the Mid-Atlantic region. With increasing environmental pressures, legislative mandates, price, and weather, every risk management tool available to the producer is an important one. We are happy to offer this event along with Virginia Cooperative Extension. We also appreciate the willingness and work of this year's field day host, Ronnie Russell and Corbin Hall Farms,” said Molly P. Pugh, VGPA Executive Director.

The field plot tours this year include:

- Wheat Variety Strip Trials
- Bread Wheat Variety and Disease Interactions
- Potential New Seed Treatment Insecticides for Wheat
- Foliar Disease Control Strategies in Wheat and Barley
- Barley Plant Growth Regulator Evaluation

Corbin Hall Farms, operated and managed by Ronnie Russell, is the largest contiguous farm in Middlesex County; featuring, 2000 acres. Russell raises corn, soybeans, wheat, barley and livestock on the farm today.

Originally, Corbin Hall was part of "Bukingham" which consisted of over 4,000 acres granted from the King of England to Henry Corbin in the mid 1600s. The farm sits on a peninsula surrounded by the Rappahannock River to the East, LaGrange Creek to the West and Weekes Creek to the North. Corbin Hall has roughly 12 miles of shoreline.

Made famous for its sweet potatoes in the early forties by John Jackson of Pittsburgh Steele, Corbin Hall still utilizes the potato house as a machine shop and equipment housing area. W.R. Harrell purchased the property in 1959 and the Russell Family has managed and farmed the property since that time. Today Corbin Hall is owned today by Mrs. Louise Harrell.

Please visit [www.viriniagrains.com](http://www.viriniagrains.com) for direction and more event information.

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