



VTeen 4-H Science Pathways Café

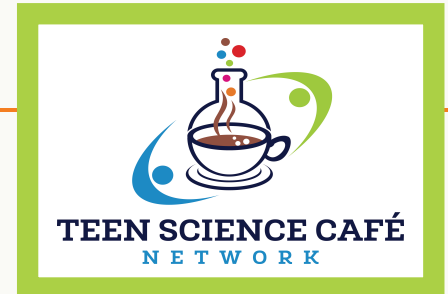
Saturday, February 10, 2024, 5 – 7 p.m.

University of Vermont, Davis Center, Mansfield Dining Room, Burlington, VT

AgroTek Innovation

What do you get when you cross agriculture with technology? AgroTek! This café will introduce you to different ways that technology is applied in agricultural settings to create new products or improve our environment as a teaser to get you interested in 4-H's summer AgroTek Academy. Hear from three different UVM faculty in their research: one focused on converting agricultural waste into value added products like paper or hempcrete; one who uses coding and virtual reality in precision agriculture; and

the third, focused on how experimental planting of perennial grains can be used to examine microbial diversity and soil health. This café will also feature how high school students in last summer's AgroTek Academy would apply this type of research in real-world settings.



About our Speakers

Dr Eric Bishop von Wettberg is a Professor in UVM's Department of Plant and Soil Science with research focusing on the wild relatives of crops which will ultimately build resilience to climate change in agricultural systems. **Steven Kostell** is an Assistant Professor in UVM's Department of Community Development and Applied Economics, with research focused on circular design concepts. This includes looking at the regional hemp fibershed — linking production, processing and manufacturing through regenerative materials and sustainable practices. **Laura Sullivan** is a fiber artist and farmer currently working with the UVM Extension Northwest Crops and Soils team to research hemp fiber at the Borderview Research Farm in Alburgh, Vermont. With a goal of reviving local fibersheds in the Northeast, Laura is deeply interested in disrupting our runaway carbon emissions trajectory through a closed loop textile market where farmers are paid a premium for their raw materials grown with environmental integrity. **Benjamin Ryan** is a Ph.D. student at the UVM's Department of Community Development and Applied Economics. His research is focused on motivations of sustainable agricultural practices using AI-driven information technology and monetary incentives, also known as Payment for Ecosystem Services. The impact of this research extends beyond the study locations of Vermont, Virginia and South Dakota, with global implications in developing empirically based sustainable policy and innovations. Of particular interest are understanding dimensions of equity and knowledge systems in algorithmic governance related to the water-soil-carbon nexus through a variety of methodological approaches.

What is a Teen Science Café

The cafés are a free, fun way for teens to explore science, engineering and technology with local scientists, engineers and technology experts. Teens participate in informal discussions and hands-on activities to learn about different topics. And there is always free food! Planned and run by teens for teens.

Register at: <https://go.uvm.edu/agrotek-innovation>

Please register for this café by Thursday, February 7, 2024 so that we have time to email you the required paperwork to attend.

Open to all youth in grades 7–12, FREE pizza and drinks!

To request language interpretation/translation assistance and/or a disability-related accommodation to participate in this program, please call or email Lauren Traister at 802-656-7565 or lauren.traister@uvm.edu by Friday, January 26, 2024, so we may assist you.

For more information about UVM Extension 4-H and youth programs, visit
www.uvm.edu/extension/youth