

PRESS RELEASE

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Honouring the Hands that Feed Us: Virgin Islands Set to Celebrate Food Heroes at 2026 Exhibition & Market

Release Date: 8 April, 2026



The poster features a blue background with a green and yellow wavy border on the left. On the left side, there are two images: the top one shows baskets of fresh produce including green bananas and a watermelon, and the bottom one shows people at an outdoor market under colorful tents. At the top right, there are three logos: the Government of the Virgin Islands coat of arms, the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries logo, and the Agriculture and Fisheries Exhibition and Market logo. The main text is centered and reads: 'The Government of The Virgin Islands invites you to the AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES Exhibition + Market 2026'. Below this is the tagline: '"FARMING THE LAND, FISHING THE SEAS, NOURISHING LIVES AND LEGACIES"'. The event details are listed at the bottom: '10TH APRIL OPENING CEREMONY and Harvest Parade/Procession' at Eileene L Parsons Auditorium and H Lavity Stoutt Community College at 4:00 p.m.; and '11TH - 12TH APRIL EXHIBITION & MARKET' at Road Town Festival Grounds from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. An orange banner at the very bottom lists activities: 'AGRICULTURAL PRODUCE | ANIMAL DISPLAY | LOCAL FOOD COMPETITIONS AND GAMES | MUSICAL ENTERTAINMENT'.

GOVERNMENT OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES

AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES EXHIBITION AND MARKET

The Government of The Virgin Islands invites you to the

AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES *Exhibition*
+ Market 2026

"FARMING THE LAND, FISHING THE SEAS,
NOURISHING LIVES AND LEGACIES"

10TH APRIL **11TH - 12TH APRIL**
OPENING CEREMONY **EXHIBITION & MARKET**
and Harvest Parade/Procession
Eileene L Parsons Auditorium
H Lavity Stoutt Community College
4:00 p.m. Road Town Festival Grounds
10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.

AGRICULTURAL PRODUCE | ANIMAL DISPLAY | LOCAL FOOD
COMPETITIONS AND GAMES | MUSICAL ENTERTAINMENT

While the scent of local food and the vibrant colours of fresh produce will soon fill the Road Town Festival Grounds, the heart of this year's Agriculture and Fisheries Exhibition and Market lies in a profound act of gratitude.

As the Territory prepares for the 2026 event, the Government of The Virgin Islands is shifting the focus toward the individuals behind the harvest, ensuring that the legacy of local farmers and fishers is given the national prestige it deserves.

"Under the theme: 'Farming the Land, Fishing the Seas, Nourishing Lives and Legacies,' this weekend's celebration serves as a powerful reminder that food security is a collective territorial effort," stated Permanent Secretary in the Premier's Office, Mrs. Carolyn Stoutt Igwe.

In a significant move toward unity, the 2026 honours will recognise primary producers not just from Tortola, but from the sister islands of Anegada, Virgin Gorda, and Jost Van Dyke, highlighting the vital contributions made by every corner of the Virgin Islands community.

The opening ceremony for this year's Agriculture and Fisheries Exhibition and Market will be held on Friday, 10th April, at 4p.m. at the Eileene L. Parsons Auditorium at the H. Lavity Stoutt Community College. The ceremony will feature a harvest procession, musical entertainment, official remarks, and games.

"A vibrant harvest procession will lead the way and there will be a special video presentation showcasing various aspects of agriculture and fisheries in the Virgin Islands," Mrs. Stoutt Igwe announced.

The pinnacle of the evening will be the formal recognition of industry leaders across seven distinct categories. These awards include Livestock Producer Award; Food Producer Award; Agri-Tech Innovator Award; Community Farming Hero Award; Community Fishing Hero Award; Lifetime Achievement Award (Fishers); and Fisheries Entrepreneurship Award.

According to the Permanent Secretary, the aim is to celebrate both the youth injecting new energy into the field and the more seasoned farmers and fishers who have dedicated their lives to the sea and the soil. She said by honouring these

"Community Heroes," the Government seeks to elevate the status of food production from a mere trade to a celebrated pillar of Virgin Islands culture.

The public is invited to the Road Town Festival Grounds during the weekend of 11th-12th April to witness the excellence of these and other producers firsthand through livestock displays and crop exhibits. The grounds will also play host to the Territory's competitive spirit, with local food enthusiasts battling in the goat soup, pumpkin punch, and ital stew competitions. Patrons will also get the opportunity to compete in the Strong Man and Strong Woman Competition, Greased Pig Competition, Tug of War, among many others.

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About:


The Department of Agriculture and Fisheries is mandated to promote and regulate the agricultural and fisheries sectors to ensure that food produced and harvested within the Territory is safe, nutritious, and sustainably produced, while protecting the natural environment, enhancing economic growth, and improving the social well-being of Virgin Islanders.

For Additional Information Contact:

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Gallery


EXHIBIT CATEGORIES




LIVESTOCK AND CROP Competitions

Open to all farmers throughout The Virgin Islands
Livestock entries should be well-groomed, disease free and healthy.
Crop entries should be disease and pest free, fresh, and mature/ripe.


CATTLE
Prizes for each
1st Place - \$100
2nd Place - \$300
Best Cow
Best Bull
Best Cow with Calf




POULTRY
Prizes for each
1st Place - \$100
2nd Place - \$100
Best of Six Broilers
Best of Six Layers
Best of Six Ducks




GOAT/SHEEP/PIG
Prizes for each
1st Place - \$100
2nd Place - \$200




RABBIT
Prizes for each
1st Place - \$100
2nd Place - \$50
Best Doe with Litter
Best Buck
Best Doe




GOAT
Best Doe
Best Buck
Best Doe with Kids



CROP EXHIBIT
Prizes for each
1st Place - \$100
2nd Place - \$75
Best Display of Root Vegetables
Best Display of Fruits
Best Display of Cucurbits
Best Display of Leafy Vegetables and Herbs
Best Display of Sugar Cane




Farmers may contact **Mr Miclain Francis** at 688-9128 for full judging criteria and to register.
Forms and entry cards available at the Department.
Registration ends **Wednesday, 6th April 2026**.



Think your **BITE** and **SIP** are the **BEST**?
Prove it and take the **CROWN!**

Food & Beverage COMPETITION

The Department of Agriculture and Fisheries invites persons eager to showcase their culinary skills to participate in their Agriculture and Fisheries Exhibition and Market - Food and Drink Competitions.



DATE	COMPETITION	1ST PRIZE	2ND PRIZE
SAT. 11 APRIL	Goat Soup Competition	\$400.00	\$200.00
SAT. 11 APRIL	Pumpkin Punch Competition	\$300.00	\$150.00
SUN. 12 APRIL	Ital Stew Competition	\$400.00	\$200.00

Registration Deadline: Wednesday, 8th April, 2026

For Registration and More Information
Contact Ms Kia Soares at 468-9185 or 468-0123.

Road Town Festival Grounds

Additional Documents or Media

- [f farmers and fishers to be honoured.pdf](#)