

Grace is passionate about providing solutions for farmers and developing individuals who want to help the agriculture community. As a fifth generation farmer and a student, she has experienced first-hand how the impact of state cooperative extension offices and agriculture education can transform an individual's life. A Shenandoah Valley Virginia native, Grace has roots that run deep in Future Farmers of America and 4-H programs, being the third generation of her family to receive the American FFA Degree.

She is currently working in a plant pathology lab at Virginia Tech where she studies fungal pathogens and fungicide resistance. Grace is pursuing a degree in Environmental Horticulture at Virginia Tech, has completed her Viticulture and Plant Health Sciences Minors, and plans to pursue a Masters in Plant Pathology upon graduating in December 2021. She will be the first in her family to receive an agriculture degree. The challenges she experienced while operating a small produce operation have pushed her to find solutions for farmers that reduce financial pressure and risk. She knows that real solutions for farmers do not just come from laboratory work, but from a combined effort between research, extension, education, and industry.