

Island Life

Grant Academy to assist local farmers is now virtual and in-person

Daily News Staff

The Local Food and Farm Council's TAP (Territorial Agricultural Plan) Grant Academy sessions will now offer attendees the opportunity to join in person at the University of the Virgin Islands' St. Thomas and St. Croix campuses, as well as virtually.

The two remaining free hybrid

sessions, scheduled from 2 to 4 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 6, and Friday, March 6, will address how to write grant-winning proposals and how to find grants, loans and other resources.

Sessions will be held in-person at the Conference Center at the St. Croix campus, and at the School of Business' Chase Auditorium at the St. Thomas campus.

Presenters will include the UVI Office of Sponsored Programs' Rick Nader; Agriculture Business Center's Shanta Roberts; V.I. Good Food Coalition's Sommer Sibilly-Brown; and TAP Fellows Carolyn Boykins-Winrow and Diana Collingwood.

The Academy is available to farmers, fishers, local organizations and those involved in food produc-

tion interested in supporting food sovereignty in the territory, where currently 97% of the food supply is imported.

The priority of the TAP Grant Academy is to provide foundational knowledge that will move the needle on expanding food production in the territory through increased funding opportunities.

Each Grant Academy session focuses on a distinct aspect of the process. Those interested must register in advance at <https://bit.ly/TAPGrantAcademy> and opt to join virtually or in person. Attendees may also call **340-693-1003**.

For more information contact vilocalfoodandfarmcouncil@doa.vi.gov.