

The Virgin Islands Consortium

Department Of Agriculture To Host Open House Aimed At Helping Farmers And Fishermen

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Dale Browne holds a freshly-picked yellow zucchini

ST. THOMAS -- Department of Agriculture Commissioner Carlos Robles has invited the territory's farmers and fishermen to an open house with federal and local agencies providing services to the agricultural community, according to a press release Government House issued late Monday.

The St. Thomas Open House will be held tomorrow in Room 142 of the U.V.I. Administration and Conference Center from 5:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. On St. Croix, the event

will be held on Wednesday at the U.V.I. Great Hall from 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Participating agencies include:

- Small Business Administration
- USDA Farm Service Agency
- USDA Food & Nutrition Service
- USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
- USDA Rural Development
- UVI Cooperative Extension Service
- VI Delegate to Congress
- VI Economic Development Authority
- VI Small Business Development Center

According to the release, agency representatives will meet with local farmers, fishermen, rural businesses and residents to discuss available programs and resources to help attendees advance their agricultural or rural businesses and plans, increase economic opportunity and improve quality of life.

Attendees will also be able to signup for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and Electronic Benefits Transfer program to aid in the increasing of customer base, support the local economy and provide healthy and nutritious food options for SNAP participants.

For more information, contact the Virgin Islands Department of Agriculture at 340-778-0991 on St. Croix or St. Thomas at 774-5182.