



Virginia Agricultural Council

ANNUAL REPORT

*Fiscal Year Ending
June 30, 2024*

Virginia Agricultural Council Annual Report

PUBLICATION YEAR 2024

Document Title

Virginia Agricultural Council Annual Report

Author

Virginia Agricultural Council

Legislative Mandate

Va. Code § 3.2-2904

Executive Summary

Summarizes the management and expenditure of the Virginia Agricultural Foundation Fund for programs of agricultural research, education, and agricultural services to strengthen and promote the best interests of agriculture in the Commonwealth. The report contains the annual financial statements of the Agricultural Council for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024.

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Tscharner D. Watkins, III
Chair

Cecil E. Meyerhoeffer, Jr.
Vice Chair



Jason O. Bush
Secretary

Ashley Reed
Executive Director

November 1, 2024

The Honorable Glen Youngkin
Governor
Commonwealth of Virginia
Richmond, Virginia 23219

Dear Governor Youngkin:

The Virginia Agricultural Council is pleased to present its annual report for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024.

The members of the Council appreciate the opportunity to serve the agriculture industry in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

We trust you will find the report informative and rewarding, and we recognize the diversity of agricultural interests in the state that contribute greatly to the Commonwealth's economic prosperity.

Sincerely,
VIRGINIA AGRICULTURAL COUNCIL

Tscharner D. Watkins, III
Chairman

MEMBERS OF THE VIRGINIA AGRICULTURAL COUNCIL

<p>Mr. Keith M. Dunn Oak Hill Farms 21100 Peters Bridge Road Yale, VA 23897 Commodity: Peanuts, Cotton Keith.oakhillfarms@gmail.com</p>	<p>Mr. Jason O. Bush Bush Farms 471 Brickchurch Circle Castlewood, VA 24224 Commodity:Cattle, Tobacco cowmanjob@yahoo.com</p>
<p>Mr. Tscherner D. Watkins III 3907 West Franklin Street Richmond, VA 23221 Commodity:Nursery Stock tschernerwatkins@comcast.net</p>	<p>Mr. Travis Croxton Rappahannock Oyster Company 4777 Wormleys Drive Mechanicsville, VA 23116 Commodity:Aquaculture travis@rroysters.com</p>
<p>Mr. Philip B. Glaize Jr. Glaize Apples 601 Pennsylvania Ave. Winchester, VA 22601 Commodity:Apples Phil@glazeapples.com</p>	<p>Mr. George G. Grattan 305 Wickham Glen Drive Richmond, Virginia 23238 Commodity:Turf Gil.grattan@virginiagreenlawncare.com</p>
<p>Ms. Ashley E. Hardesty Harvue Farms 1458 Longmarsh Rd. Berryville, VA 22611 Commodity: Dairy alelgin85@gmail.com</p>	<p>Mr. Cecil B. "Sonny" Meyerhoeffler 7865 Kiser Rd. Mount Crawford, VA 22841 Commodity:Poultry, Grain sonnyebp@gmail.com</p>

<p>Ms. Sarah Jane Thomsen 2401 Fruehauf Road Henrico, VA 23228 Commodity: Agricultural Education sthomsen@statefairva.org</p>	<p>Mr. Mark Newbill Forest Lake Farm & NEWBILT Construction 105 Darlington Drive Rocky Mount, VA 24151 Commodity: Dairy mnewbill@embarqmail.com</p>
<p>Ms. Kimberley H. Nixon Co-Owner, Glenmary Farm LLC and Western View Plantation LLC 21496 River Road Rapidan, Virginia 22733 Commodity: Cattle, Turkey and Grain khnixon1231@gmail.com</p>	<p>Ms. Lynn Rush St. Clair Swover Creek Farms 4176 Swover Creek Road Edinburg, VA 22824 Commodity: Direct Marketing swover@shentel.net</p>
<p>Mr. Alan Worrell Worrell Family Farms 879 Sunrise Drive Austinville, VA 24312 Commodity: Vegetables Alanworrell@ymail.com</p>	

VIRGINIA AGRICULTURAL COUNCIL
EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS

<p>Dr. Robert Corley III Dean, College of Agriculture Virginia State University 100 Owens Hall Box 9081 Petersburg, VA 23806 rcorley@VSU.edu</p>	<p>Joseph Guthrie Virginia Dept. of Agriculture and Consumer Services 102 Governor St. Richmond, VA 23219 Joseph.guthrie@vdacs.virginia.gov</p>
<p>Dr. Alan Grant Dean, College Of Agriculture VPI & SU 104 Hutcheson Hall Blacksburg, VA 24061 algrant@vt.edu</p>	

Purpose of the Council

Agriculture is Virginia's largest industry, with an economic impact of \$82 billion annually, and it provides more than 380,000 jobs in the Commonwealth.

The Pennies for Progress Act (Act) was passed in 1966 by the Virginia General Assembly to establish the Virginia Agricultural Council (Council) to administer the objectives of the Act. The current Agricultural Council Law (Virginia Code § 3.2 – 2900 et seq.) permits financial assistance and support for agricultural research and other services. The Council is authorized, in part, to take all such measures as will assist in strengthening and promoting the best interests of agriculture in the Commonwealth.

The Council is directed by 18 members to be appointed by the Governor. Insofar as practical, 15 of the members shall be actively engaged in farming and shall be primarily engaged in the production of a different agricultural commodity. The Commissioner, the Dean of the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences of Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, and the Associate Vice President for Agriculture and Extension of Virginia State University shall serve as ex officio members.

The General Assembly specified in the initial enabling legislation that it is in the public interest that assessments be levied upon certain agricultural supplies used by farmers. Monies are received from one-half cent per gallon of the state gasoline tax refund made on motor fuel used for agricultural purposes; a five cents-per-ton levy on lime sold; a 25 cents-per-ton levy on fertilizer sold, with five cents-per-ton for Virginia Agricultural Council use; a seven cents-per-ton levy on feed; and 3/10 of one percent of gross sale receipts from lawn and turf seed, with 50 percent to the Council. In 2008, the General Assembly established the Seed Fund (Virginia Code § 3.2-4004). Monies received for this fund are administered by the Council for the exclusive funding of lawn and turf research. The Council is also authorized to accept gifts and grants.

The Council accepts requests for financial assistance from any organized group within, or serving, Virginia's agriculture industry. This includes suppliers, farmers, marketers, extension centers, colleges, and universities.

The Council's philosophy on selecting projects for support dictates that projects should exhibit the capabilities of yielding timely results that are applicable and useful. Studies should address current or foreseeable problems and interests and should have the potential to provide benefits to a reasonably broad spectrum of agricultural needs. All projects will be considered; however, projects should show promise with results that can be applied in a reasonable timeframe.

There are five basic considerations, as follows:

- a. Importance of the project to Virginia's agricultural economy.
- b. Recognition by the public or the Council of the project's importance.
- c. Availability of other funds from industry, commodity groups, governmental agencies, or private individuals in support of the project.
- d. Availability of personnel and facilities to conduct the project.
- e. Ability of the group, organization, or agency to execute the proposal.

Council members meet at least twice each year; once in the spring, and again in the summer. To be considered for funding, principal investigators complete a preproposal outlining the objectives of their proposal, and selected applicants are invited to submit full proposals. New project proposal requests are considered at the spring meeting.

The Council approves project funding for one fiscal year (July 1 - June 30). Continued financial support for the second year depends upon reports of progress, availability of funds, and priority in relation to other requests.

The Council's grant award requires the researchers to submit final reports summarizing their research and results, and more importantly, to disseminate the results to industry. Researchers will present at conferences, publish results and summaries in industry newsletters, or work with cooperative education and stakeholder groups, such as the Virginia Turfgrass Council, to share the information with Virginia's agricultural producers.

GRANTS APPROVED BY THE COUNCIL FOR FISCAL YEAR 2025

Last Name	Project Name	Amount
Ealy	Improving the health of bovine embryos used for embryo transfer	\$ 16,000.00
Hanigan	Evaluation of Growth Responses to Amino Acids in Broiler Chicks	\$ 9,715.00
Romano	Evaluating the Impact of Saline Water Usage on the Quality of Fruits and Vegetables in Aquaponic Systems	\$ 18,945.00
Lyons	Amelioration of a coccidial challenge in turkey poults using corn particle size.	\$ 20,000.00
Ferreira	Reducing dairy methane emissions through forage quality	\$ 20,860.00
Persia	Evaluation of soybean meal processing on the energy digestibility and release of soybean meal for broiler chickens.	\$ 20,000.00
Feng	A comparative study to investigate the nutrition, flavor and consumer acceptance differences between Virginia blue catfish and farm-raised catfish	\$ 19,432.00
Aigner	Can insecticide seed treatments in wheat benefit Virginia agriculture?	\$ 15,180.00
Zhang	Continue Developing Public, XtendFlex® Soybean Varieties	\$ 12,000.00
Acimovic	Requesting funding as a contractual service for the tissue samples related to grapevine nutrient assessment.	\$ 13,776.00
Congrove	Early Season Survival of Oyster Seed During Winter Holding	\$ 15,750.00
Total		\$ 181,658.00

SECOND YEAR PROJECTS FY 2025

Last Name	Project Title	Amount
Rhoads	Can Blood Glucose Concentrations Predict the Response to Summer Heat Stress?	\$12,644.00
Acimovic	Evaluation of New Fungicides for Management of Apple Bitter Rot Disease in Virginia and Comparison to Synthetic Fungicides	\$15,000.00
Nita	In-field Evaluation of Aerial Drone Imaging and Mapping in Vineyards for Disease Management	\$4,787.00
Pilot	Evaluation of the Effect of Protein Hydrolysate Biostimulants on the Growth and Yield of Corn, Strawberry and Tomato	\$20,000.00
Zeng	Effect of Management Practices on Microbiome and its Impact on Soil and Plant Health on Tobacco Farms	\$25,094.30
Singh	Tolerance of Edamame to Soybean Herbicides and Weed Management	\$21,874.00
Vinatzer	Metagenomics for Faster Identification of Plant Pathogens in Virginia	\$20,000.00
Goatley	The Use of a Nurse Grass and Selective Herbicides in Accelerating the Establishment and Use of Zoysiagrass	\$6,000.00
Zhang	Optimizing Combinations of Bioproducts and Wetting Agent for Improving Summer Stress Tolerance and Quality for Creeping Bentgrass Putting Greens	\$21,800.00
Total		\$119,399.30

SEED FUND PROJECTS FY 2025

Last Name	Project Title	Amount
McCall	Evaluating accuracy, precision, and efficacy of GPS sprayer technology for targeted turfgrass applications	\$ 15,000
Sandor	Seed Coating Impacts on Ryegrasses used for Overseeding Bermudagrass Athletic Fields	\$ 5,000
Askew	Individual Plant Treatment with Cryogenic Liquids & Lasers	\$ 15,000
Total		\$35,000.00

PROJECTS COMPLETED FY 2024

Project Number	Title
763	Maximizing Virginia Pumpkin Production Through Increased Understanding of Disease and Heat Tolerance
776	Land Application of Exceptional Quality (EQ) Biosolids for Improved Soil Health and Drought Resistance of Tall Fescue Lawn
777	Introducing Mungbean as an Alternative of Rotation Crop to Tobacco in Virginia
780	Helping Wheat and Soybean Breeding with More Accurate Selection Technologies
781	Single Use Bio-Based Plastics: Impact on Rumen Function and Feed Efficiency In Dairy Heifers
797	Using natural Medicinal Plant-based Supplements to Maintain Animal Health to Reduce Reliance on Antibiotics
801	Could Herbicides and UV-blocking Compounds Protect Pollinators from Insecticide Exposure?
803	Development of Soybean Germplasm and Cultivars with High3 and 6 fatty Acids for Growing Aquafeed Market
805	Evaluation of a Non-antibiotic Feed Additive for Enhancing Growth Performance and Well-being in Weanling Pigs Raised for Conventional or Organic Pork Production
806	How Does Drought Stress Affect the Ruminal Digestibility of Corn Silage?
809	Low-impact Conversion of Golf Turf Fairways
811	Innovations in Controlled Traffic Farming: Building Resilient, Sustainable and Smart Cropping Systems
812	Statewide Monitoring and Management Program for Fall Armyworm (FAW)
813	Developing New Technologies to Improve Embryo Development In Vitro
814	Selection of Female Gametes and Embryos for Efficient In Vitro Production of Healthy Blastocysts in Dairy Cattle
817	Virginia-grown Barley for Craft Brewing: Evaluation of Free Amino Nitrogen Content and Malt Sensory Characteristics
818	Identification of Genomic Markers That Can Be Used to Reduce the Economic Impact of infertility in Beef Heifers
819	Combining Chemical and Biological (virus) Controls to Increase the Sustainability of the Fire Ant Management of Va Turf Farms
821	Using Ethylene Inhibitor and Ployamine to Prolong Tall Fescue Sod Shelf Life

824	Novel Smart Materials to Capture and Recover Ammonia from Poultry Houses
827	Effects of the Combination of Betaine and Butyrate on Broiler Chickens Raised on Used Litter with Different Amounts of Moisture
833	Sustainable Approaches for Heat Stress Mitigation and Pest Management to Enhance Tomato Production
840	Measuring Ultraviolet Radiation Reflectance from Turf Weeds
841	Assessing the Contribution of Golf Course Out-of-play Areas to Pollinator Recruitment by Remote Sensing
844	Assess the Role of Turfgrass Diseases on Field Uniformity and Athlete Safety

Current Financial Statement for VAC					
July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024					
Revenue and Expenditures					
Cash balance - June 30, 2023					\$ 678,696.81
Add: Revenues					
	Feed Tonnage	\$	240,241.79		
	Seed	\$	61,267.30		
	Fertilizer Tonnage	\$	48,375.81		
	Lime Tonnage	\$	25,158.76		
	Motor Fuel	\$	-		
	Interest	\$	23,782.66		
	Miscellaneous (VT refund)	\$	0.36		
		\$	398,826.68		
Total Balance and Receipts					\$ 1,077,523.49
Less - Expenses					
	Administration	\$	15,000.00		
	Miscellaneous	\$	1,056.63		
	Travel	\$	10,452.71		
	Grant Expenditures	\$	430,897.81		
		\$	457,407.15		\$ 457,407.15
Less - Reserve	Non-Seed				\$ 50,000.00
Total Cash Balance - June 30, 2024					\$ 570,116.34

REVENUE SUMMARY 2019 - 2024							
	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024	5 YR AVERAGE	Difference
Feed Tonnage	278,111.79	230,385.22	253,463.82	280,742.86	240,241.79	256,589.10	(16,347.31)
Fertilizer Tonnage	41,031.55	45,020.48	43,647.87	41,392.23	48,375.81	43,893.59	4,482.22
Lime Tonnage	15,300.50	21,258.75	20,785.14	28,674.23	25,158.76	22,235.48	2,923.28
Motor Fuel/Interest/Misc.	7,895.44	2,197.22	1,513.42	9,820.46	23,782.66	9,041.84	14,740.82
NON SEED TOTAL	342,339.28	298,861.67	319,410.25	360,629.78	337,559.02	331,760.00	5,799.02
Seed	67,342.72	30,395.70	66,454.66	67,960.51	61,267.30	58,684.18	2,583.12
TOTAL	409,682.00	329,257.37	385,864.91	428,590.29	398,826.32	390,444.18	8,382.14

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA
Department of Accounts
General Accounting

Attachment B
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Certification of Agency Reconciliation to Cardinal

Agency Number: 307

To the Comptroller:

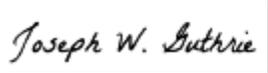
Our agency's management accepts responsibility for the integrity and objectivity of the financial transactions provided to the State Comptroller. We believe the data provided are accurate in all material respects. The basis for these conclusions relates to our assessment of the internal controls operating within our Agency. The establishment of such internal controls requires estimates and judgments from management so that, in attaining reasonable assurance as to the adequacy of such controls, the cost of controls should not exceed the benefits obtained. I believe the Agency's internal controls adequately safeguard its assets and provide reasonable assurance as to the proper recording of financial transactions.

Additionally, I certify that, for the agency listed above, the accounting records represented in Cardinal, the official record of the Commonwealth, are accurate in all material respects.

Our agency accounting records for the year ended June 30, 2024, have been verified and reconciled to Cardinal, and when any submitted General Ledger Journals have posted to Cardinal, and/or items shown below (if any) are processed, our internal records will be in agreement with those reported in Cardinal for each of the following:

Yes	All cash balances (by Fund)		
Yes	All appropriations (by Fund, Program)		
Yes	All allotments (by Fund, Program)	No	PLEASE INDICATE IF THERE ARE ITEMS NOTED ON THE EXCEPTION REGISTER.
Yes	Total expenditures (by Fund, Program, Account)		
Yes	Net revenues (by Fund, Account)		
Yes	Capital assets (by Fund)		

*Note that agencies must adhere to the reconciliation requirements outlined in CAPP Topic No 30905, Reconciliation & Error Correction, for capital asset accounts, including Construction in Progress.

	
Agency Head Signature	Fiscal Officer Signature
	
Email: <u>joseph.guthrie@vdacs.virginia.gov</u>	Email: <u>susan.wales@vdacs.virginia.gov</u>
Printed Name: <u>Joseph W. Guthrie</u>	Printed Name: <u>Susan Wales</u>
Title: <u>Commissioner</u>	Title: <u>Assistant Finance Director</u>
Role: <u>Agency Head</u>	Role: <u>Fiscal Officer</u>
Date: <u>Jul 13, 2024</u>	Date: <u>Jul 12, 2024</u>
	Fiscal Officer's Telephone No. <u>804-371-8576</u>

If you indicated there are items noted on the exception register, at least one of items 1, 2, or 3 on the following page must be completed.