

INFORMATION ABOUT VIRGINIA AGRICULTURE

Economic Impact of Agriculture in Virginia

Agriculture is Virginia's largest industry, with nothing else coming a close second. The industry has an economic impact of \$55 billion annually and provides 357,100 jobs in the Commonwealth. The industries of Agriculture and Forestry together have a total economic impact of \$79 billion and provide 501,500 jobs in the Commonwealth. Every job created in agriculture and forestry supports another 1.5 jobs elsewhere in Virginia's economy.

Production agriculture employs nearly 60,000 farmers and workers in Virginia and generates approximately \$3 billion in total output. Value-added industries, those that depend on farm commodities, employ an additional 76,000 workers and generate \$26 billion in total industrial output. Add to that the purchasing decisions of agriculture-related industry and the ripple effect contributes an additional 221,000 jobs and nearly \$26 billion in total annual output.

The Diversity of Virginia Agriculture

Virginia's agricultural production is extremely diverse. Virginia's agricultural production is extremely diverse. Many Virginia commodities rank in the top 10 among all U.S. states. These include: fresh market tomatoes and tobacco, 4th in the nation; apples and summer potatoes, 6th; fresh market snap beans and grapes, 7th; and peanuts, 8th.

In addition to its tangible benefits such as cash receipts and jobs, agriculture provides many intangible benefits. These include recreation, tourism, wildlife habitat, biodiversity, flood mitigation, improved water quality, and soil stabilization.

Virginia Agriculture in the Global Marketplace *- Virginia Agricultural Exports Totaled \$2.3 Billion in 2009 -*

Virginia's agricultural sector has undergone significant modernization in recent decades. Productivity improvements due to increased mechanization and the adoption of new technologies have provided Virginia with a competitive advantage in the global marketplace. Virginia's farms provide food and fiber to feed and clothe consumers around the world.

Virginia Farm Facts

Virginia has 47,383 farms.

The typical Virginia farmer is over 58 years old. More than 32 percent of principal farm operators are 65 or more years of age.

The average farms average 171 acres in size and has assets worth over \$720,000.

Farms cover 8.1 million acres, or 32 percent of Virginia's total land area.

There were more than twice as many farms in Virginia in 1960 as there are today.

Approximately 17 percent of Virginia primary farm operators are female.

The average market value of an acre of Virginia farmland is \$4,213.

About eight percent of the farms in Virginia account for 85 percent of total farm sales.

Virginia farms employ more than 39,000 full-time and part-time workers.

About 87 percent of Virginia farms are owned and operated by individuals or families.

About 20 percent of Virginia farms share their net farm income with multiple households.

Source: 2007 Census of Agriculture

**INFORMATION ABOUT
THE VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT
OF AGRICULTURE AND
CONSUMER SERVICES**



Mission Statement

We promote the economic growth and development of Virginia agriculture, encourage environmental stewardship and provide consumer protection.

VDACS PROGRAMS

The Department's diversity is evident in the wide variety of programs it encompasses, including regulatory, environmental, promotional and one, the **Century Farm Program**, designed to recognize Virginia's historic farms. VDACS' programs help to ensure a safe and wholesome food supply, prevent or eradicate animal diseases, and assure consumers of a level playing field in commercial transactions. Other programs dispose of pesticides in an environmentally safe manner, grade products ranging from eggs to potatoes, and preserve Virginia's valuable farmland.

The **Ag Stewardship Program** provides a way to address water quality complaints on farms. The **Farm Link Program** seeks to bring farmers with assets to sell or transition together with aspiring farmers who lack those assets. The **Virginia's Finest Trademark Program** assures consumers of the highest quality products grown, produced or processed in Virginia and the **Virginia Grown Program** points consumers to products grown, raised, processed or produced within the state.

Regulatory Programs

Various regulatory programs ensure all citizens of a safe and wholesome food supply and fair trade practices through

- Food, dairy, meat, and poultry inspection
- Weights and measures regulation
- Animal disease control and surveillance
- Regulation of animal medications, remedies, and feeds
- Inspection and prevention of the spread of plant pests and diseases
- Investigation of unlawful practices
- Alternative dispute resolution
- Assuring crop and plant health and productivity
- Pesticide registration and regulation of pesticide use and storage
- Endangered species program for plants and insects
- Assurance of fair trade practices in commerce through motor fuels regulation and the commission merchants regulation.

DIRECTORY OF VDACS OFFICES AND PERSONNEL

Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services

P. O. Box 1163
102 Governor Street
Richmond, VA 23219

Commissioner's Office

Matthew J. Lohr, Commissioner
Sandra J. Adams, Deputy Commissioner
804.786.3501, FAX: 804.371.2945

Office of Administrative and Financial Services

Jennifer Cavedo, Director
804.786.3532
jennifer.cavedo@vdacs.virginia.gov

Office of Communications

Elaine Lidholm, Director
804.786.2373, FAX: 804.371.7679
elaine.lidholm@vdacs.virginia.gov

Office of Emergency Services Management

Dr. Donald W. Butts, Director
804.786.9600
don.butts@vdacs.virginia.gov

Office of Farmland Preservation

Kevin Schmidt
804.784.1346
kevin.schmidt@vdacs.virginia.gov

Office of Human Resources

Linda Cole, Director
804.786.3531, FAX: 804.371.8879
linda.cole@vdacs.virginia.gov

Office of Policy, Planning and Research

Roy Seward, Director
804.786.3538
roy.seward@vdacs.virginia.gov

State Milk Commission
Rodney L. Phillips, Administrator
102 Governor Street
Richmond, VA 23219
804.786.2013, FAX: 804.786.3779
Shella.Tillery@vdacs.virginia.gov

Division of Animal and Food Industry Services

Dr. Richard Wilkes, State Veterinarian
Doug Saunders, Deputy Director
804.692-0601, FAX: 804.371.2380
richard.wilkes@vdacs.virginia.gov
doug.saunders@vdacs.virginia.gov

Office of Dairy and Foods
Ryan Davis
804.786.8899, FAX: 804.371.7792
ryan.davis@vdacs.virginia.gov

Office of Laboratory Services
Dr. Joseph Garvin
804.786.9202
joesph.garvin@vdacs.virginia.gov

Office of Meat and Poultry Services
Dr. Richard Hackenbracht
804.786.4569
richard.hackenbracht@vdacs.virginia.gov

Office of Veterinary Services
Dr. Charles Broaddus
804.692.0601, FAX: 804.371.2380
charles.broaddus@vdacs.virginia.gov

Division of Consumer Protection

Andres Alvarez, Director
804.786.3523, FAX: 804.371.7479
andres.alvarez@vdacs.virginia.gov
Consumer Protection Hotline
Within Virginia: 800.552.9963
Richmond Area: 804.786.2042

Office of Charitable Gaming
Carlton Courter, Director
804.786.3015
Fax: 804.225.2580
carlton.courter@dca.virginia.gov

Office of Consumer Affairs
804.786.2042, 800.552.9963
FAX: 804.786.5112

Office of Pesticide Services
Liza Fleeson
804.371.6558, FAX: 804.371.6558
liza.fleeson@vdacs.virginia.gov

Office of Plant Industry Services
Larry Nichols
804.786.3515, FAX: 804.371.7793
larry.nichols@vdacs.virginia.gov

Office of Weights and Measures
Dale Saunders
804.786.2476, FAX: 804.786.1571
dale.saunders@vdacs.virginia.gov

Division of Marketing
Charles Green, Director
804.786.3530, FAX: 804.225.4434
charles.green@vdacs.virginia.gov

Office of Agribusiness and Forestry Development
Robins Buck
804.371.6094
robins.buck@vdacs.virginia.gov

Office of Commodity Services
E.L. Knicley
540.209.9140
Fax: 540.432.1357
el.knicely@vdacs.virginia.gov
For Market News information:
Brett Richardson
Phone 804.786.3947
Fax: 804.371.7787
marketnews@vdacs.virginia.gov

Office of Food Distribution
Beth Beville
804.786.0532
Fax: 804.371.7788
beth.beville@vdacs.virginia.gov

Office of International Marketing
Keith Long
804.371.8990, FAX: 804.225.4434
Keith.long@vdacs.virginia.gov

Office of Livestock Marketing
Frank Graves
804.786.0577
Fax: 804.371.0247
frank.graves@vdacs.virginia.gov

Office of Promotions and the
The Virginia's Finest Program
Olivia Wilson
804.786.2112
olivia.wilson@vdacs.virginia.gov

Office of Sales and Market Development
Kent W. Lewis
804.371.6098, FAX: 804.371.7786
kent.lewis@vdacs.virginia.gov



P.O. Box 1163
Richmond, VA 23218
804.786.2373
www.vdacs.virginia.gov
webmaster.vdacs@vdacs.virginia.gov