



Virginia Agricultural Council

ANNUAL REPORT

*Fiscal Year Ending
June 30, 2023*

Virginia Agricultural Council Annual Report

PUBLICATION YEAR 2023

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, 2023.

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Tscharner D. Watkins, III
Chair

Cecil E. Meyerhoeffer, Jr.
Vice Chair



Jason O. Bush
Secretary

W. Dewey Jennings
Executive Director

November 1, 2023

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, 2023.

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: 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>Mrs. Kathy G. Coffee W. J. Coffee Farms 2255 Fletcher Chapel Road Kenbridge, VA 23944 Commodity:Tobacco, Soybeans, Wheat kgcoffee1979@yahoo.com</p>	<p>Mr. Travis Croxton Rappahannock Oyster Company 4777 Wormleys Drive Mechanicsville, VA 23116 Commodity:Aquaculture travis@rroysters.com</p>
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<p>Ms. Sarah Jane Thomsen 39 Malvern Avenue Apt. 6 Richmond, VA 23221 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>Ms. Rosalea R. Potter 3673 Big Hill Road Lexington, VA 24450 Commodity: Cattle Riley.buffalocreekbeef@gmail.com</p>	<p>Mr. Tscharner D. Watkins III 3907 West Franklin Street Richmond, VA 23221 Commodity: Nursery Stock tscharnerwatkins@comcast.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

Dr. Robert Corley III
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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 2023

Last Name	Project Name	Amount
Acimovic	Evaluation of New Fungicides for Management of Apple Bitter Rot Disease in Virginia and Comparison to Synthetic Fungicides	\$ 15,000
Biase	Identification of Plasma Proteins That Can Be Used to Reduce the Economic Impact of Infertility in Beef Heifers	\$ 15,000
Duraj-Thatte	Novel Smart Materials to Capture and Recover Ammonia from Poultry Houses	\$ 22,000
Ealy	Improving Ovum Pickup and Embryo Yield in Cattle	\$ 15,000
Ferreira	Assessment of asymptomatic clinical hypocalcemia among dairy farms in the Commonwealth of Virginia	\$ 19,160
Fritzlen	Effects of the Combination of Betaine and Butyrate on Broiler Chickens Raised on Used Litter with Different Amounts of Moisture	\$ 20,000
Maroof	Identification of Perfect DNA Markers to Develop High Protein Soybean Cultivars	\$ 10,000
Nita	In-field Evaluation of Aerial Drone Imaging and Mapping in Vineyards for Disease Management	\$ 12,500
Nix	Selection of High Competence Cattle Embryos by Video Analysis	\$ 15,000
Payne	Evaluation of Handheld NIR Scanning Devices in Predicting Forage Quality	\$ 10,000
Pilot	Evaluation of the Effect of Protein Hydrolysate Biostimulants on the Growth and Yield of Corn, Strawberry and Tomato	\$ 20,000
Quezada	Sustainable Approaches for Heat Stress Mitigation and Pest Management to Enhance Tomato Production	\$ 16,485
Rhoads	Can Blood Glucose Concentrations Predict the Response to Summer Heat Stress	\$ 12,644
Schram	A Novel Treatment for Mastitis that Reduces Intramammary Antibiotic Use and Lessens the Concerns of Antibiotic Resistance on Virginia Dairy Farms	\$ 11,444
Singh	Tolerance of Edamame to Soybean Herbicides and Weed Management	\$ 21,098
Tracy	Evaluating Diets for the Black Soldier Fly: A Novel Composting System for Agricultural Wastes	\$ 7,022
Vinatzer	Metagenomics for Faster Identification of Plant Pathogens in Virginia	\$ 19,000
Zeng	Effect of Management Practices on Microbiome and its Impact on Soil and Plant Health on Tobacco Farms	\$ 25,024
	Total	\$286,377.00

SECOND YEAR PROJECTS FY 2022

Last Name	Project Title	Amount
Acimovic	Identification of Colletotrichum Species Causing Apple Bitter Rot Disease in Virginia and Development of DNA-based Rapid Diagnostic Method	\$ 15,299
Cockrum	Use of Precision Technology to Predict Pathogenic Diarrhea in Pre-weaned Dairy Heifers	\$ 11,750
Collakova	Development of Soybean Cultivars and Germplasm with High ω -3 and ω -6 Fatty Acids for the Growing Aquafeed Market	\$ 7,496
Derr	Selective postemergence control of grass and sedge weeds in turfgrass	\$ 15,080
Fike	Shortening the time to convert toxic fescue fields to novel fescue	\$ 15,339
Frame	Cover crop species and variety evaluation to maximize agronomic and economic returns in Virginia's row crop agroecosystems	\$ 15,000
Helm	How cannabidiol affects pig intestinal inflammation during weaning	\$ 6,880
Chandel	Innovations in Controlled Traffic Farming: Building Resilient, Sustainable and Smart Cropping Systems	\$ 16,160
Salom	Testing a naturally occurring bioherbicide host for spotted lanternfly against the invasive tree-of-heaven	\$ 9,560
Yang	Combining chemical and biological (virus) controls to increase the sustainability of fire ant management on Virginia turf farms	\$ 15,000
Zhang	Developing Public, XtendFlex® Soybean Varieties	\$ 12,000
Total		\$139,564.00

SEED FUND PROJECTS FY 2023

Last Name	Project Title	Amount
Askew	Measuring Ultraviolet Radiation Reflectance from Turf Weeds	\$ 5,000
Del-Pozo	Assessing the Contribution of Golf Course Out-of-play Areas to Pollinator Recruitment by Remote Sensing	\$ 15,000
Goatley	The Use of a Nurse Grass and Selective Herbicides in Accelerating the Establishment and Use of Zoysiagrass	\$ 6,000
Hensler	Improving Residential Blue Grama Establishment as a Low-input Lawn Option Using Pre- and Post-emergent Weed Control	\$ 10,000
McCall	Assess the Role of Turfgrass Diseases on Field Uniformity and Athlete Safety	\$ 19,300

Zhang	Optimizing Combinations of Bioproducts and Wetting Agent for Improving Summer Stress Tolerance and Quality for Creeping Bentgrass Putting Greens	\$ 25,500
	Total	\$80,800.00

PROJECTS COMPLETED FY 2023

Project Number	Title
754	Assessing the Growing-degree-days to Optimize Harvesting Time of Small Grains and to Maximize Digestibility of Silage to Feed Dairy and Beef Cattle
755	Control of New Invasive Weed Species in Cool- and Warm-season Turfgrass
761	Exploring Genetic Markers for Estrus Behavior and increased Fertility in Beef Females
765	Improving Water and Nutrient Use Efficiency in Virginia Cropping Systems
770	Should Virginia Vineyards Bulldoze their Topsoil?
772	Determine the Growth Promoting Potential of Previously Undescribed Bacterial and Fungal Helpers to Support Soybean Yield; & Resilience to Environmental Variation
779	Characterization of Targeted Weed Control Technologies in Managed Turf
782	Using Ethylene Inhibitor and Polyamine to Prolong Tall Fescue Sod Shelf Life
783	Exploring Vaginal Microbiome and pH Fertility Markers for Beef Cattle
784	Mitigating the Negative Effects of Heat Stress on Reproductive and Lactation Performance in Sows
785	Comparing the Nutritional Effects When Feeding Virginia-Grown Grass Hay or Alfalfa Hay within the Rumen of Dairy Cattle
786	The Hunt for a Bull Fertility Marker: Characterization of Phosphatidylserine (PS) in Bovine Sperm and its Role on Fertilization
787	Developing GreenTram, a Low-Cost, Autonomous Device for Monitoring Crop Health in the Greenhouse
788	Development of High protein with Desirable Oil Soybean Cultivars
791	Improved Method to Determine Red Anthocyanin Pigments in Strawberry
792	Enhancing Soybean Meal Demand and Market by Developing Soy Meal Based Aquafeeds
795	Development of a Novel Technique to Synchronize and Breed Ewes Using Ram Seminal Plasma

Current Financial Statement for VAC					
July 1, 2022 - June 30, 2023					
Revenue and Expenditures					
Cash balance - June 30, 2022					\$ 560,491.36
Add: Revenues					
	Feed Tonnage		\$ 280,742.86		
	Seed		\$ 67,960.51		
	Fertilizer Tonnage		\$ 41,392.23		
	Lime Tonnage		\$ 28,674.23		
	Motor Fuel		\$ -		
	Interest		\$ 9,820.46		
	Miscellaneous (VT refund)		\$ 5,123.32		
			\$ 433,713.61		
Total Balance and Receipts					\$ 994,204.97
Less - Expenses					
	Administration		\$ 15,000.00		
	Miscellaneous		\$ 3,198.17		
	Travel		\$ 17,926.27		
	Grant Expenditures		\$ 279,383.72		
			\$ 315,508.16		
Total Cash Balance - June 30, 2023					\$ 678,696.81

REVENUE SUMMARY 2018 - 2023							
	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023	5 YR AVERAGE	Difference
Feed Tonnage	271,020.90	278,111.79	230,385.22	253,463.82	280,742.86	262,744.92	27,279.04
Fertilizer Tonnage	42,673.69	41,031.55	45,020.48	43,647.87	41,392.23	42,753.16	(2,255.64)
Lime Tonnage	21,876.07	15,300.50	21,258.75	20,785.14	28,674.23	21,578.94	7,889.09
Motor Fuel/Interest/Misc.	14,709.32	7,895.44	2,197.22	1,513.42	9,820.46	7,227.17	8,307.04
NON SEED TOTAL	350,279.98	342,339.28	298,861.67	319,410.25	360,629.78	334,304.19	41,219.53
Seed	60,646.62	67,342.72	30,395.70	66,454.66	67,960.51	58,560.04	1,505.85
TOTAL	410,926.60	409,682.00	329,257.37	385,864.91	428,590.29	392,864.23	42,725.38

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA
Department of Accounts
General Accounting
Certification of Agency Reconciliation to Cardinal

Agency : 307 - Agricultural Council

To the Comptroller:

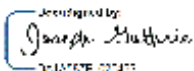
Our agency's management accepts responsibility for the integrity and objectivity of the financial transactions provided to the State Comptroller. We believe the data provided are accurate in all material respects. The basis for these conclusions relates to our assessment of the internal controls operating 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, 2023, 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)	No	PLEASE INDICATE IF THERE ARE ITEMS NOTED ON THE EXCEPTION REGISTER.
Yes	All appropriations (by Fund, Program)		
Yes	All allotments (by Fund, Program)		
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.

Signature :  _____

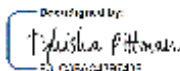
Email : joseph.guthrie@vdacs.virginia.gov

Printed Name : Joseph Guthrie

Title : Commissioner

Role : Agency Head

Date : 7/16/2023

Signature :  _____

Email : tyhisha.pittman@vdacs.virginia.gov

Printed Name : Tyhisha Pittman

Title : Finance Director

Role : Fiscal Officer

Date : 7/14/2023

Fiscal Officer's
Telephone No : 804-371-2292