



Virginia Agricultural Council

ANNUAL REPORT

*Fiscal Year Ending
June 30, 2021*

Virginia Agricultural Council Annual Report

PUBLICATION YEAR 2021

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, 2021.

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Tscharner D. Watkins, III
Chair

Cecil E. Meyerhoeffer, Jr.
Vice Chair



Jason O. Bush
Secretary

Kendra Brown Shifflett.
Executive Director

October 29, 2021

The Honorable Ralph S. Northam
Governor
Commonwealth of Virginia
Richmond, Virginia 23219

Dear Governor Northam:

The Virginia Agricultural Council is pleased to present its annual report for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2021.

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	
Vacant Commodity:Peanuts, Cotton	Mr. Jason O. Bush Bush Farms 471 Brickchurch Circle Castlewood, VA 24224 Commodity:Cattle, Tobacco cowmanjob@yahoo.com
Mrs. Kathy G. Coffee W. J. Coffee Farms 2255 Fletcher Chapel Road Kenbridge, VA 23944 Commodity:Tobacco, Soybeans, Wheat kgcoffee1979@yahoo.com	Mr. Travis Croxton Rappahannock Oyster Company 4777 Wormleys Drive Mechanicsville, VA 23116 Commodity:Aquaculture travis@rroysters.com
Mr. Philip B. Glaize Jr. Fred L. Glaize 112 Piccadilly Street P. O. Box 2077 Winchester, VA 22604 Commodity:Apples glzapple@visuallink.com	Mr. George G. Grattan 305 Wickham Glen Drive Richmond, Virginia 23238 Commodity:Turf Gil.grattan@virginiagreenlawncare.com
Ms. Ashley E. Hardesty Harvue Farms 1458 Longmarsh Rd. Berryville, VA 22611 Commodity: Dairy e-mail: alelgin85@gmail.com	Mr. Cecil B. "Sonny" Meyerhoeffler 7865 Kiser Rd. Mount Crawford, VA 22841 Commodity:Poultry, Grain email: sonnyebp@gmail.com

Mr. Justin Minor 14455 Macon Grove Lane Gainesville, VA 20155 Commodity: Education e-mail: jminor16@gmail.com	Mr. Mark Newbill Forest Lake Farm & NEWBILT Construction 105 Darlington Drive Rocky Mount, VA 24151 Commodity: Dairy e-mail: mnewbill@embargmail.com
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	Ms. Lynn Rush St. Clair Swover Creek Farms 4176 Swover Creek Road Edinburg, VA 22824 Commodity: Direct Marketing swover@shentel.net
Ms. Tia L. Walbridge 17170 Brockdale Lane Round Hill, Virginia 20141 Commodity: Livestock tiawalbridge@gmail.com	Mr. Tscharner D. Watkins III 3907 West Franklin Street Richmond, VA 23221 Commodity: Nursery Stock tscharnerwatkins@comcast.net
Mr. Alan Worrell Worrell Family Farms 879 Sunrise Drive Austinville, VA 24312 Commodity: Vegetables Alanworrell@ymail.com	

VIRGINIA AGRICULTURAL COUNCIL
EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS

Dr. M. Ray McKinnie Virginia State University 100 Owens Hall Box 9081 Petersburg, VA 23806 mmckinnie@VSU.edu	Bradley Copenhaver Virginia Dept. of Agriculture and Consumer Services 102 Governor St. Richmond, VA 23219 Bradley.copenhaver@vdacs.virginia.gov
Dr. Alan Grant Dean, College Of Agriculture VPI & SU 104 Hutcheson Hall Blacksburg, VA 24061 algrant@vt.edu	

Purpose of the Council

Agriculture is Virginia's largest industry, with an economic impact of \$70 billion annually, and it provides more than 334,000 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 empowered to tall 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, 15 of whom are engaged in farming and are appointed by the Governor. Insofar as practical, each of the members should be engaged in the production of a different agricultural commodity.

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. In FY 2021, the summer meeting was not held and the spring meeting was conducted virtually due to COVID-19. The principle 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. Due to COVID-19, the funding decision for new grant awards was delayed, and the project period was adjusted to September 1 through August 30 for the FY 2021 funding cycle.

GRANTS APPROVED BY THE COUNCIL FOR FISCAL YEAR 2021

Last Name	Project Name	Amount
Persia	Evaluation of Butyric Acid in Broiler Diets Raised Without Antibiotics	\$17,000
Horn	Spray Application Water Quality	\$ 3,000
Kuhar	Laying the Groundwork for Insecticide Resistance Management for Corn Earworm	\$ 10,000
Snyder	Seaside Aquaculture: Improving Hard Clam Broodstock	\$ 20,577
Ealy	Improving the Efficiency of Embryo Production and Transfer in Dairy and Beef	\$12,000
Singh	Unmanned Aerial Vehicles Based Herbicide Spray Applications in Diverse Cropping Systems	\$18,800
Lee	Exploring Genetic Markers for Estrus Behavior and increased Fertility in Beef Females	\$12,000
Williams	Determine the Growth Promoting Potential of Previously Undescribed Bacterial and Fungal Helpers to Support Soybean Yield; & Resilience to Environmental Variation	\$11,420
Zhang, B.	Continue Developing Public, Roundup Ready® Soybean Varieties	\$12,000
Sujani	Protein and Mineral Supplementation on Digestibility, Performance and Gastrointestinal Parasitic Load in Sheep Consuming Low Quality Hay	\$ 9,900
Labbe	Identifying Market Opportunities for Local Dairy in Virginia	\$18,500
Stewart, R.	Should Virginia Vineyards Bulldoze their Topsoil?	\$ 7,750
Booher	Virtual Fencing to Enable Stream Exclusion Without a Physical Fence	\$10,000
Stewart, J.	Chromium Propionate Supplementation as a Strategy to Improve the Reproductive Performance of Heat-Stressed Dairy Cattle	\$10,000
Rideout	Maximizing Virginia Pumpkin Production Through Increased Understanding of Disease and Heat Tolerance	\$15,750
Yin	Innovative Packaging for Virginia Hops: Strategies to Preserve Premier Flavor and Physical Characteristics	\$13,000
Zumbaugh	Determining the Rate of Ergot Alkaloid Degradation in Ensiled Toxic Endophyte Infected Tall Fescue During Long-term Storage	\$ 8,835
Flessner	Herbicide Tolerance of Industrial Hemp for CBD Production	\$10,000
Shortridge	Improving Water and Nutrient Use Efficiency in Virginia Cropping Systems	\$10,000
Roqueto dos Reis	Developing an Open Source Sensor as a Strategy to Identify and Decrease the Effects on Growing Animals Grazing Fescue Toxic	\$14,940
Ferreira	Assessing the Growing-degree-days to Optimize Harvesting Time of Small Grains and to Maximize Digestibility of Silage to Feed Dairy and Beef Cattle	\$15,000
	Total	\$260,472

SECOND YEAR PROJECTS

Last Name	Project Title	Amount
Cazenave	Increasing Agricultural Sustainability through Adoption of New Crops	\$10,000
Cockrum	Improvement of Colostrum Production in Dairy Breeds via Photoperiod Manipulation	\$ 7,575
Ferreira	Evaluating the ruminal digestibility of conventional and brown midrib (BMR) summer annual grasses	\$12,000
Fike	Virginia Hemp Production and Management Trials	\$20,005
Kuhar	Monitoring Annual Bluegrass Weevil (ABW) on Virginia Golf Courses - The Saga Begins	\$12,000
Latimer	Cultivars Trials of Alternative Crops for Hydroponic Production in Virginia	\$ 7,335
Maroof	Development of High Protein Soybean Cultivars	\$ 9,000
Oakes	Assessment of Fusarium Head Blight in Small Grains Using Aerial Methods	\$ 8,000
Pent	Can Sericea Lespedeza Pellets Reduce the Effects of Fescue Toxicosis?	\$13,064
Petersson-Wolfe	Investigating the Effect of Dexamethasone on Productivity, Immune Function, and Behavior in Dystocic Periparturient Dairy Cattle	\$17,850
Total		\$116,829

SEED FUND PROJECTS

Last Name	Project Title	Amount
Askew	Alternatives to Glyphosate for Renovating Mixed Vegetation on Farmland and Industrial Sites	\$ 6,000
McCall	Expanding the Adoption of Targeted Pesticide Applications Using Drones and GPS Sprayer Technology	\$11,500
Goatley	Optimizing the Soil Warming Properties of Turf Blankets	\$ 4,000
Derr	Control of New Invasive Weed Species in Cool- and Warm-season Turfgrass	\$11,500
Zhang, X.	Land Application of Exceptional Quality (EQ) Biosolids for Improved Soil Health and Drought Resistance of Tall Fescue Lawn	\$16,000
	Total	\$49,000

GRANTS COMPLETED FY 2021

Project Number	Title
691	Testing a novel strategy for evaluating energy content of feed
694	Utilizing Oocyte Reconstruction to Improve the Heat Tolerance of Dairy Cattle
710	Safe cooling strategies for naturally cured artisan meats
711	Development of Genomic Resources for Advancement of Hard Clam (<i>Mercenaria mercenaria</i>) Aquaculture
712	Carry-over effects of hatchery conditions (seawater pH and temperature) on the Virginia aquaculture species, <i>Crassostrea virginica</i>
714	Improvement of flooding tolerance in corn
716	Weed Identification Website Phase II
725	A survey of Virginia dairy nutritionists' methods and practices for formulating rations across a variety of production situations
726	Evaluating the potential for dual-use canola/rapeseed production in Virginia
727	Hops in Virginia: Cultural Practices and Post-Harvest Processing
728	Evaluating the Potential of Perennial Two-grass Turf Management Systems Utilizing Kentucky Bluegrass Established and Maintained in Combination with Seeded and Vegetatively Established Bermuda Grass
733	Assessment of Fusarium Head Blight in Small Grains Using Aerial Methods
734	Improving Parasite Resistance in the Virginia Sheep Industry
737	Cultivars Trials of Alternative Crops for Hydroponic Production in Virginia
739	Investigation of the Correlation Between the Boxwood Endophyte Population Antagonistic to Boxwood Blight and Boxwood Plant Resistance
740	Development of High Protein Soybean Cultivars
741	Is Treatment with Iron Necessary to Prevent Anemia in Pigs Raised in Outdoor Production Systems?
742	Evaluating the Ruminant Digestibility of Conventional and Brown Midrib (BMR) Summer Annual Grasses

743	Developing Predictive Markers of Reproductive Soundness in Peri-pubertal and Mature Rams Throughout the Year
748	Expanding Sod Marketing Options with Native and Pollinator Plants

Current Financial Statement for					
July 1, 2020 - June 30, 2021					
Revenue and Expenditures					
Cash balance - June 30, 2020				\$	562,733.56
Add: Revenues					
	Feed Tonnage		\$ 263,891.93		
	Seed		72,408.58		
	Fertilizer Tonnage		45,979.49		
	Lime Tonnage		21,902.66		
	Motor Fuel		0		
	Interest		3,219.45		
	Miscellaneous		0.00		
			407,402.11		
Total Balance and Receipts				\$	970,135.67
Less - Expenses					
	Miscellaneous		\$ 1,483.22		
	Travel		0.00		
	Administrative support		15,000.00		
	Grant Expenditures		301,276.73		
			\$ 317,759.95		
Cash Balance - June 30, 2021				\$	652,375.72

Revenue Year-Over-Year FY2020 and FY2021

	2020	2021	Difference
Fertilizer Tonnage Inspection	\$41,031.55	\$45,979.49	4,947.94
Feed Tonnage Inspection	278,111.79	263,891.93	(14,219.86)
Lime Tonnage Inspection	15,300.50	21,902.66	6,602.16
Seed Inspection Fee	67,342.72	72,408.58	5,065.86
Motor Fuel/interest/misc.	7,895.44	3,219.45	(4,675.99)
<u>Totals</u>	<u>\$410,926.60</u>	<u>\$407,402.11</u>	<u>(2,279.89)</u>

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

Agency No. 307

Agency Name: 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, 2021, 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)
Yes	Total expenditures (by fund, program, account)
Yes	Net revenues (by fund, account)
Yes	Fixed assets (by fund)

PLEASE INDICATE IF THERE ARE
ITEMS NOTED ON THE EXCEPTION
REGISTER.

No

Signature *: 

Printed Name: Bradley Copenhaver

Title: Commissioner
Agency Head or Designee

Date: 07/14/2021

Signature *: 

Printed Name: Tyhisha Pittman

Title: Finance Director
Fiscal Officer or Designee

Date: 7/14/2021

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

***Your typed name in the Signature field represents your electronic signature.
By typing your name in the Signature field, you agree your electronic signature is the equivalent of your
manual/handwritten signature on this form.***