



VIRGINIA AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATION
EASTERN VIRGINIA AGRICULTURAL
RESEARCH AND EXTENSION CENTER
VIRGINIA TECH.

EASTERN VIRGINIA AREC NEWSLETTER

VOLUME V, ISSUE II

July 2024



Dr. Joseph Oakes,
Superintendent
Eastern Virginia AREC



We hope that everyone is having a wonderful summer and growing season! June was an extremely dry month as we only received 0.25” from May 30-June 25. This created excellent conditions for wheat harvest which matured the crop 1-2 weeks early and allowed us to get the crop out early. Preliminary results from the wheat state variety test are available on page 4. However, the hot & dry condition in June was detrimental to corn and soybean. We have had nearly 4” of rain in July which has enabled much of the early planted soybean to catch up. Later planted soybean in late May and early June have been plagued with poor stands. We are looking forward to hosting the Virginia Soybean Field Day on September 12, and hope to see many of you here! We will also be out at the Virginia Ag Expo on August 1, and will have two tables set up, one at the Advanced Agronomy Area and one at the Virginia Tech tent.

- Joseph

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Research Spotlight

Impact of Plant Date on Wheat Development, Freeze Susceptibility, and Yield

The purpose of this research is to determine if Virginia wheat growers can afford to shift their planting dates later in an attempt to stave off spring freeze, and still achieve adequate tiller growth in the fall by achieving 700 GDD before Dec. 31.

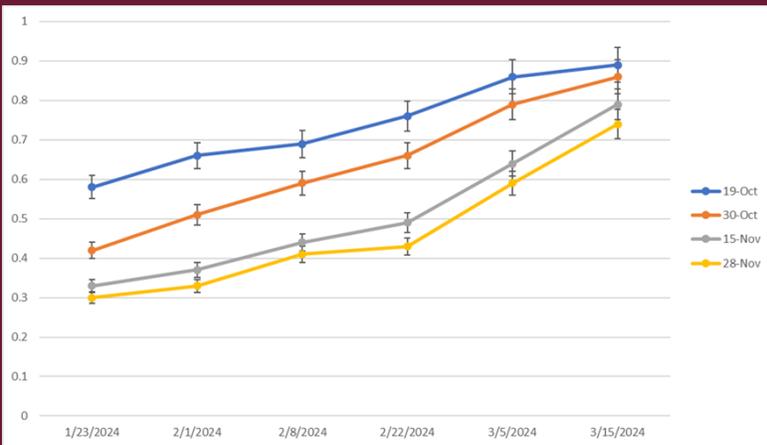


Figure 1: Aerial NDVI throughout the growing season.

Figure 1 shows NDVI throughout the growing season which serves as a proxy for tiller development and overall growth. Early on, there was clear difference in growth between the two October planting dates, but by March there was no difference. Both had significantly more growth than the Nov. plant dates, and had adequate tiller density by GS 25. The October plant dates also achieved 700 GDD by Dec. 31. Figure 2 shows that the Oct. 30 plant date had the highest yield and test weight, with no significant difference in yield between the Oct. 19, Nov. 15, and Nov. 28 plant date.

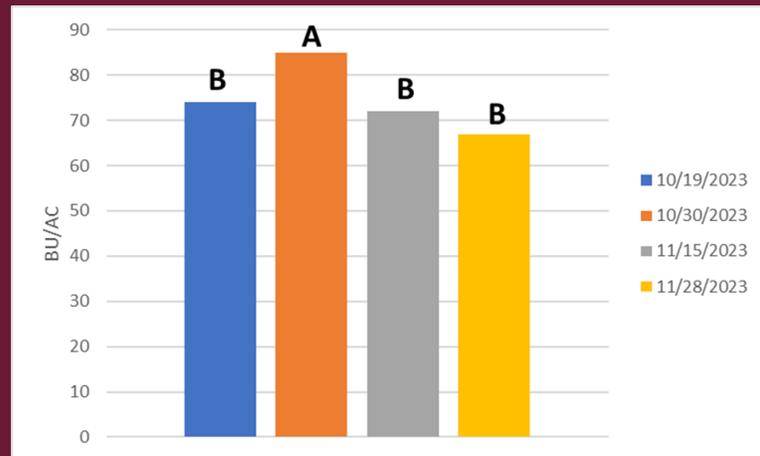


Figure 2: Grain yield for the four plant dates in Richmond County, Va.

This is only one year of data, and it is not advisable to make major management changes based on one year's worth of research. A similar study is being planned for the 2024-25 growing season which will give us a clearer picture year to year of the appropriate planting date.

JOIN US FOR THE

VIRGINIA SOYBEAN FIELD DAY

**Thurs.
Sept. 12**



2229 Menokin Road | Warsaw, VA 22572

Registration 9:00 AM | Lunch 12:00 PM

Register Here | <https://bit.ly/SoyFieldDay>



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**Virginia Soybean
Association**



Virginia Cooperative Extension is a partnership of Virginia Tech, Virginia State University, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and local governments. Its programs and employment are open to all, regardless of age, color, disability, sex (including pregnancy), gender, gender identity, gender expression, national origin, political affiliation, race, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, military status, or any other basis protected by law.

Virginia State Wheat Preliminary Results

- Preliminary state wheat results have been compiled by Dr. Nicholas Santanotnio and are available now available.
- Click here to view the results: <https://bit.ly/24StateTest>



- Dr. Joseph Oakes was a recent guest on the Grain in the Commonwealth podcast discussing the 2024 Virginia wheat crop and other pertinent research. Click below to listen.
- ⇒ [Dr. Joseph Oakes, Superintendent at the Virginia Tech Eastern Virginia AREC - Grain in the Commonwealth | Podcast on Spotify](#)

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Highlights



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On May 16, we hosted the Virginia Small Grains Field Day in collaboration with the Virginia Grain Producers Association. Small grain faculty gave research updates, while Virginia Secretary of Agriculture Matt Lohr, VDACS Commissioner Joe Guthrie, and Delegate Hillary Kent also addressed the group. If you missed the field day, click here to view the presentations:

⇒ [Virginia Grain Producers Association - YouTube](#)



In April, we hosted a group of researchers from the African countries of Ghana, Senegal, and Malawi that were visiting the US through a USAID project at Virginia Tech.

Around the Center



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Full-season soybean planting with new Soybean Extension Specialist Dr. Carrie Ortel



Dr. Joseph Oakes harvesting wheat yield plots



Dr. Nicholas Santantonio unloading combine while harvesting wheat yield plots

Planting double crop soybean with EVAREC's new GPS plot planter



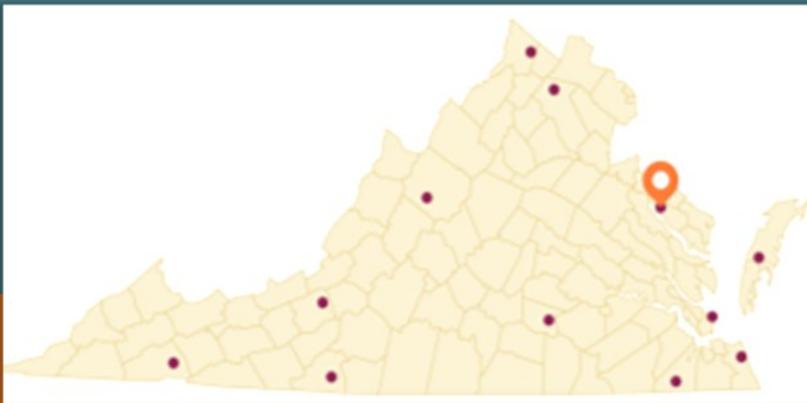


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Eastern Virginia AREC's mission is to serve Virginia's grain and soybean industries through research and educational programs leading to improved varieties and crop management practices. Our research objectives are to support the Virginia Tech soybean and small grain breeding programs, and to conduct agronomic research that contributes to economically and environmentally sound crop production in the Commonwealth and beyond.

A COLLABORATIVE NETWORK

The ARECs are a network of 11 centers strategically located throughout the state that emphasize the close working relationships between Virginia Agricultural Experiment Station, Virginia Cooperative Extension, and the industries they work with. The mission of the system is to engage in innovative, leading-edge research, to discover new scientific knowledge, and create and disseminate science-based applications that ensure the wise use of agricultural, natural, and community resources while enhancing quality of life.



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