Vision Statement

The Virginia Tech Tidewater Agricultural Research and Extension Center will be recognized for excellence in discovery, development, evaluation and dissemination of technical information critical to profitability and sustainability of field crop agriculture and commercial swine production in the Commonwealth of Virginia and beyond.
TAREC’S MISSION

The Virginia Tech Tidewater Agricultural Research and Extension Center (Tidewater AREC) will pursue a mission of excellence through:

- conducting unbiased research that addresses specific needs in production of economically important food and fiber crops with emphasis on profitability, production efficiency, product quality and safety, and soil, water and air quality protection.

- conducting unbiased research that addresses specific needs in commercial swine production with emphasis on profitability, production efficiency, animal welfare, environmental protection and pork quality.

- recruitment, training and graduation of Ph.D. and M.S. graduate students in these discipline areas so that these individuals are fully prepared to help meet a critical need for agricultural scientists in the future;

- integration of research-based knowledge into Extension programs, publications, electronic media, diagnostic tools, recommendations and guides that effect change and generate positive impact in production of food and fiber crops and commercial swine production;
1. Advance excellence in research and Extension for field crop agriculture and swine production throughout the Commonwealth and beyond

Vision: The Tidewater Agricultural Research and Extension Center (AREC) will be a recognized leader among national and regional ARECs for advancing applied research and extension programs, and graduate student world-class training.

Goals: Strive for continued excellence in applied research focused on agronomic crops and livestock important to Southeast Virginia including but not limited to corn, cotton, peanut, soybeans, and swine. Strive for continued excellence in Cooperative Extension programming for Virginia’s row-crop farmers and swine producers.

Milestones:
• Increase extramural expenditures by 10% by 2025.
• Increase the number of intra- and interdepartmental, multi-state and international collaborations by 10% by 2025.
• Increase indicators of excellence in research and Cooperative Extension programming including refereed journal articles and nomination of faculty and programs for awards.
• Intensify extension engagement with stakeholders of the region and Commonwealth
• Diversify recognitions and measures of excellence for faculty, staff, and students
2. Elevate the Ut Prosim (That I May Serve) Difference

Vision: The Tidewater AREC will build and support communities with different ideas, beliefs, perspectives, and experiences through successful integration of research and hands-on learning.

Goals: Address critical challenges related to environment, health, economy, and food, to build communities.

- Increase visibility
- Support lifelong engagement and learning for alumni and local communities

Milestones:
- Increase partnerships with industry, government, and nonprofit stakeholders by 5%
- Enhance communication to raise awareness of the TAREC’s engagement towards maintaining clean environment, health soils and waters, and nutritious food production
- Increase graduate student education through diversification of research to include emerging challenges
STRATEGIC PRIORITY 3

3. Be a home for the best and brightest

Vision: The TAREC will become a force for attracting and retaining innovative, diverse, and dynamic faculty, staff, and students.

Goals: Attract, retain, and develop to full potential a diverse faculty and staff in research and Cooperative Extension
Attract, retain, and ensure degree completion of graduate students.
Increase representational diversity and cultural awareness in research and Cooperative Extension programming.

Milestones:
• Increase hiring and retention of diverse faculty and staff with fair representation of gender, color, origin, and education differences
  • Precision Ag Specialist (SmartFarm Innovation Network Cluster)
• Increase faculty and staff satisfaction with career-advancement opportunities to a 75% work-life balance
• Increase number of students in research and extension programs by 5%
STRATEGIC PRIORITY 4

4. Maintain and build upon the brand

Vision: TAREC will create opportunities to solicit and explore innovative ideas of research and collaborations by optimizing effectiveness of personnel, effectiveness of laboratory and field space, and fiscal resources.

Goals: Continually enhance the physical and technological resources and human capital of the Tidewater Agricultural Research and Extension Center to promote robust, inter-disciplinary research and Cooperative Extension programs.

Develop and foster mutually beneficial relationships with internal and external stakeholders

Milestones:

• Assemble a committee to develop a 3-year strategic facilities plan identifying programmatic space needs for renovation, major maintenance, major equipment, and new construction