Graduate student research at the Eastern Shore AREC greatly impacts our stakeholders, growers and industry on a local, national, and global level. Currently, students are working on eliminating foodborne human pathogens in packinghouses, conversion of chicken litter ash into comparable phosphorus fertilizer sources, and decreasing weed pressure using new, innovative modes of action.

Students participate in monthly seminars, guide AREC tours, and assist in all outreach activities. They work hand in hand with faculty, staff, fellow students and hourly employees in all aspects of their research. These interactions ensure that students are prepared to become the next generation of teachers, researchers and innovators.

“It is important for growers to be able to diversify our crops and edamame has the potential to be an alternative in our farming systems. I’m pleased that the Eastern Shore Agricultural Research and Extension Center is doing research which will help make edamame a viable crop.”

JUSTIN COLSON
C&E FARMS, OPERATIONS & SALES
EASTERN SHORE AREC AT A GLANCE

DISCIPLINES
- Commercial Fruit and Vegetable Producers and Packers
- Potato, Vegetable, Corn, Small Grains and Soybean Associations
- Agricultural Fertilizer, Technology, and Chemical Companies
- Virginia Master Gardeners
- USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Services
- Soil & Water Conservation Districts

INNOVATIVE TECHNOLOGIES
- Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs) for assessing plant health & weed management
- Fertilizer source and application technologies
- Molecular Identification of Plant & Human Pathogens
- Advanced pollinator habitats

FACILITIES
- 220-acre farm
- 7500 sq. ft. Modern Equipment Building
- 000 sq. ft. Renovated Greenhouse
- 3 Biosafety Level 2 Laboratories
- Onsite Student Housing

INDUSTRY PARTNERS
- Commercial Fruit and Vegetable Producers and Packers
- Potato, Vegetable, Corn, Small Grains and Soybean Associations
- Agricultural Fertilizer, Technology, and Chemical Companies
- Virginia Master Gardeners
- USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Services
- Soil & Water Conservation Districts

ABOUT THE EASTERN SHORE AREC
Established in 1956, the Eastern Shore AREC grows more than 25 agricultural crops annually for research and Extension studies. To ensure that the Eastern Shore remains a leader in commercial agriculture production, it is essential that new, state-of-the-art applied research is conducted that is relevant to local large and small-scale farming operations.

A COLLABORATIVE NETWORK
The ARECs are a network of 11 centers strategically located throughout the state that emphasize close working relationships between Virginia Agricultural Experiment Station, Virginia Cooperative Extension, and the industries the 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.

Virginia Cooperative Extension programs and employment are open to all, regardless of age, color, disability, gender, gender identity, gender expression, national origin, political affiliation, race, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, veteran status, or any other basis protected by law. An equal opportunity/affirmative action employer. Issued in furtherance of Cooperative Extension work, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, Virginia State University, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture cooperating. Edwin J. Jones, Director, Virginia Cooperative Extension, Virginia Tech, Blacksburg; M. Ray McKinnie, Administrator, 1890 Extension Program, Virginia State University, Petersburg.