



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

EASTERN VIRGINIA AREC NEWSLETTER

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Dr. Joseph Oakes,
Superintendent
Eastern Virginia AREC



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Greetings from Eastern VA AREC,

Despite a cold winter with several snowfalls, the month of March has been unseasonably warm, which has caused activities at the center to significantly pick up over the past few weeks. The wheat crop is growing nicely after the cold winter and will be heading soon. In the picture to your left, you can see us planting soybean the third week of March (!) as part of a large planting date and maturity group study being conducted across the state.

We invite everyone out to the center on May 22 for our annual small grain field day! For more info and to register, check out the flyer on page 3.

We appreciate your support and feedback, as it is critical to our continued success!

- Joseph

Research Spotlight

Return on Investment of Variable Rate Technology in Grain Crops

Eastern VA AREC has recently been funded through a CALS Internal Integrated Competitive Seed Grant to look at the Return on Investment of Variable Rate Technology in Grain Crops. The initial two year project is a collaboration of Dr. Joseph Oakes, EVAREC Superintendent, Robbie Longest, Essex County ANR Extension Agent, and Dr. Carrie Ortel, Extension Agronomist. This project is the result of a series of grower feedback sessions in 2024, in which grain growers indicated their number one technological need was a breakdown of ROI on variable rate fertility applications. The project has three main objectives:

1. To evaluate the return of investment when implementing variable rate fertilizer application of preplant products on a Virginia grain farm.
2. To quantify the impact of variable rate fertilizer on crop growth indices (NDVI, yield)
3. To extend the results to Virginia extension agents and stakeholders to support their agronomic and financial success.

For the 2025 growing season, on-farm trials will be planted at two locations on the middle peninsula and one in Virginia Beach. Two of the locations will be looking at corn and the other soybean. Selected fields have been sampled and variable rate prescriptions for P, K, and lime have been identified.

VCE ANR Agent Roy Flanagan provided his input on the project. "Conducting this research with [growers] will not only answer the research objectives, but will also help learn the necessary steps to implement variable rate technologies..."

We will be providing updates on this project going through the season.



Variable rate potash being applied on April 4, 2025 at a grower's field in Virginia Beach.

2025 Virginia Small Grain Field Day

Join us at the Eastern Virginia AREC for the 2025 Virginia Small Grain Field Day! Register using the link or QR code found below.



2025 VIRGINIA SMALL GRAIN FIELD DAY



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Eastern Virginia AREC
2229 Menokin Rd.
Warsaw, VA 22572

- May 22, 2025
- 8:00 - 12:00 pm
- Join us for the latest from the Virginia Tech small grains team!
 - CCA credits will be available
 - BBQ Lunch will be provided

Register here for this free event!

<https://bit.ly/4c8cn6S>



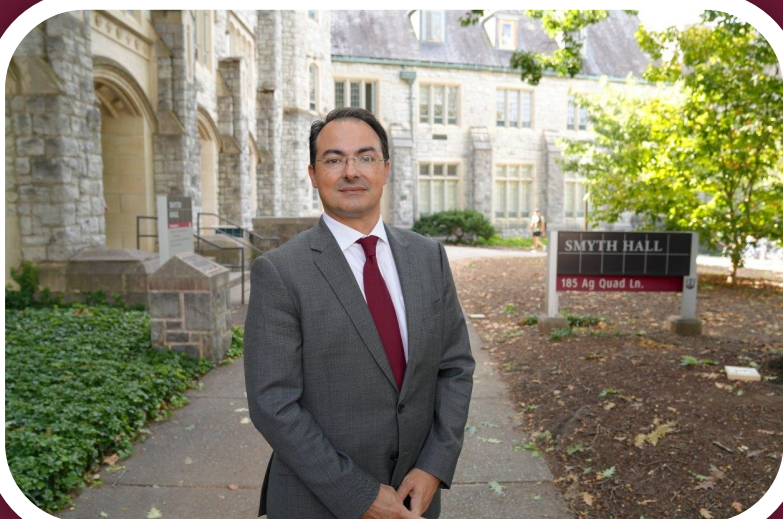
To register, please click here: <https://bit.ly/4c8cn6S>

To see a list of all field days across the AREC system in 2025, click here: <https://brnw.ch/2025arecfd>



RECENT GRANTS

- **Return on Investment of Variable Rate Technology in Grain Crops.** Joseph Oakes, Robbie Longest, Carrie Ortel, Abhilash Chandel, VT CALS Integrated Grant. \$40,000
- **Optimizing Early Season Soybean Management in Virginia.** Carrie Ortel, Joseph Oakes, Carol Wilkinson. Virginia Soybean Board. \$39,142
- **Eastern Virginia AREC Soybean Research Support.** Joseph Oakes. \$12,000



Meet the new CALS Dean Dr. Mario Ferruzzi on April 14th. Click the link below to register for the meeting at VAFB Richmond.

https://aimsbbis.vt.edu/CALS-Richmond?fbclid=IwY2xjawJPl99leHRuA2FlbQlXMAABHdbOrX64H2G4eNZ_OnlKvlr0Bp9QgS1X1KIg_n7cwvv_64fJaok6T4oJQQw_aem_HYNMiMQyRlzbWT-fM9m31g

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Around the Center



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Dr. Joseph Oakes presenting at the Virginia Soybean Board meeting (L);
Snow on wheat plots at the Eastern Virginia AREC (R)



Jasleen Makkar and Joseph Oakes planting early soybean in late March. This project, funded by the Virginia Soybean Board, examines the productivity of early planting and maturity dates of soybeans in Virginia. Plant dates will range from late March through early June. This study is a collaborative effort of Dr. Carrie Ortel, Dr. Joseph Oakes, and Dr. Carol Wilkerson.



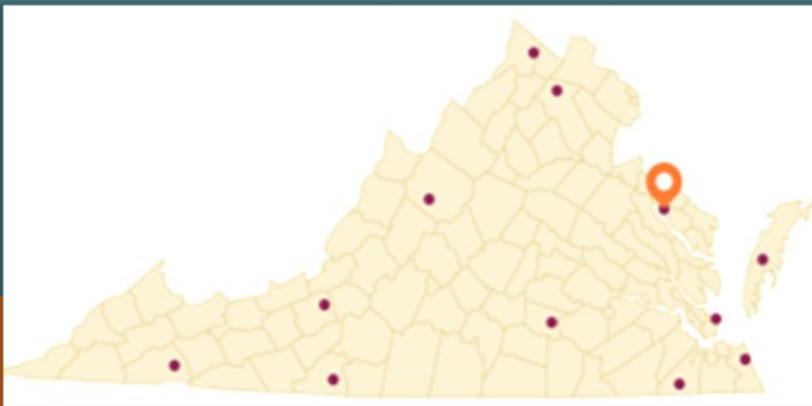
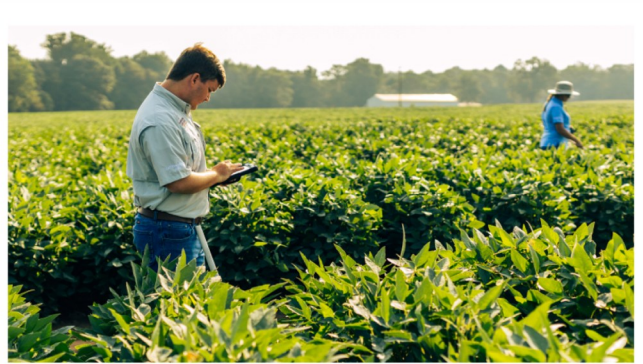


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Eastern Virginia AREC's mission is to serve Virginia's grain and soybean industries through research and educational programs leading to improved varieties and crop management practices. Our research objectives are to support the Virginia Tech soybean 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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