



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

# EASTERN VIRGINIA AREC NEWSLETTER

VOLUME VI, ISSUE II

July, 2025

Dr. Joseph Oakes,  
Superintendent  
Eastern Virginia AREC



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Greetings from Our Superintendent,

As we progress throughout the summer months, the activities at the center increase tremendously. With the addition of summer employees (local college students) the size of our staff has increased 60%! These students take part in many activities here at the station including tasks from field data collection, plant sample collection, and seed processing. In late June, we wrapped up a successful small grain harvest season. Much of the data from our trials at the center and on-farm are now available online. These links are available in the research spotlight on page 3. We seem to be (hopefully) past the “heat dome” we experienced in early July. With that we have had many storms resulting in nearly 9 in. of rain so far in July. As a result of the rain, much of our corn and soybean crops look great. We appreciate your continued support and hope the remainder of your summer is productive and safe!

*- Joseph*



# Around the Center



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Top row, left to right: Chandler Jett and Jasleen Makkar plant soybean plots at the center; small grain harvest; bottom row, left to right: Joseph Oakes and Austin Gulasky with a group of VT Ag Tech students who visited the AREC; on farm wheat plot harvest in King William County; summer employees Ali Steele and Macon Pierson collect height data in small grain plots.

Eastern Virginia Crop Talk



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Virginia  
Cooperative  
Extension  
Virginia Tech • Virginia State University

Check out Eastern Virginia Crop Talk, a new podcast brought to you by Eastern Virginia AREC and Essex County Cooperative Extension. The podcast is hosted by EVAREC Superintendent Joseph Oakes and Essex County ANR Agent Robbie Longest. The podcast features discussion on current research and management of the grain crops in the Northern Neck and Middle Peninsula. Listen and subscribe on Spotify.



# Research Spotlight

## 2025 Wheat Harvest Data Now Available

In late June, we wrapped up wheat harvest for our research trials both here at the center and on-farm. Overall, despite the challenging fall with dry weather, yields were great averaging 90-100 bu/ac across many trials. Test weights were also good given the conditions of the season. Data from both the State OVT (Warsaw, Painter, Orange, Suffolk, Blackstone, Blacksburg) and the On-Farm Wheat Variety Trials (Charlotte, King and Queen, Prince George, Virginia Beach, EVAREC) are now available. Thanks to Nicholas Santantonio and Robbie Longest for compiling this data! We encourage growers to look at multiple years of data from both the state OVT and the on-farm trials before selecting a variety.

- ♦ OVT data : [bit.ly/25WheatOVT](https://bit.ly/25WheatOVT)
- ♦ On-Farm Wheat Variety Trials data: [bit.ly/OnFarmWheat25](https://bit.ly/OnFarmWheat25)

Results from the 2025 small grain Virginia official variety trials

Nicholas Santantonio, Limei Liu, Alexis Perry, John Seago,  
Joseph Oakes, Caleb Bishop and Olga Walsh

July 11, 2025

### Soft Red Winter Wheat in 2025

These are preliminary result tables and are not final or official. Some small changes may occur if poor data is found or other issues that require re-running of the analysis. Official results will be distributed by Mid-July. The Shenandoah Valley location has yet to be harvested due to rain.



### 2025 Virginia On-Farm Wheat Variety Trials Preliminary Results

July 11, 2025

*Contributors:*

*Robbie Longest, Joseph Oakes, Turner Minx, Roy Flanagan, Nathan Sedghi, Bruce Jones,  
Joanne Jones, Scott Reiter, Trent Jones*

Thank you to the participating seed companies and producer-cooperators for your continued support of this research, as well as the Virginia Small Grains Checkoff Board for funding this project!

We also wrapped up a multi year and location planting date study in June to pinpoint plant dates due to our warmer falls. Across six site-years, there was no yield penalty when shifting plant dates from Oct. 15 to Oct. 30. The complete data from this growing season is available here: [bit.ly/WheatPD25](https://bit.ly/WheatPD25).

### Impact of Plant Date & Weather Patterns on Wheat Development, Freeze Susceptibility, and Yield

Joseph Oakes, Superintendent, Eastern Virginia AREC  
Robbie Longest, VCE – Essex County





# Event Recaps

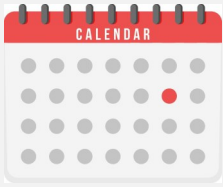
On May 22, 2025, we hosted the annual Virginia Small Grain Field Day in conjunction with the Virginia Grain Producers Association. Many were in attendance to observe the latest lines from the Small Grain Breeding Team as well as the latest agronomic research. Speaker included: Nicholas Santantonio, Lexi Perry, Joseph Oakes, Robbie Longest, Arash Rashed, and Doug Higgins.



On May 29, we hosted the Virginia Farm Bureau / Virginia Cooperative Extension wheat tour dinner, which featured speakers including Dean Mario Ferruzzi, VAES director Mary Burrows, and VCE director Mike Gutter.







## Save the Date!

- Virginia Soybean Field Day: September 11, 2025
- Click here to register: [bit.ly/SoybeanFieldDay](https://bit.ly/SoybeanFieldDay)
- Look for more info soon!



## Welcome New Faces!

Eastern Virginia AREC welcomes three interns to the AREC for the summer: Alexandra Steele, Macon Pierson, and Macie Vaughn. Alexandra is a student at Elon University, Macon at Randolph-Macon University, and Macie at Liberty University.



follow us:



YouTube

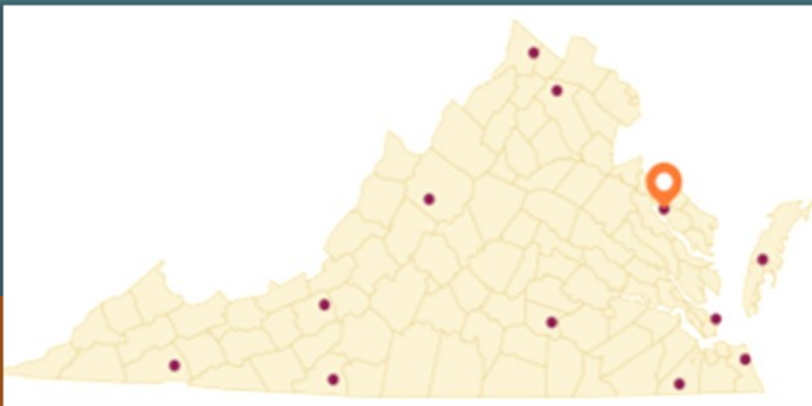
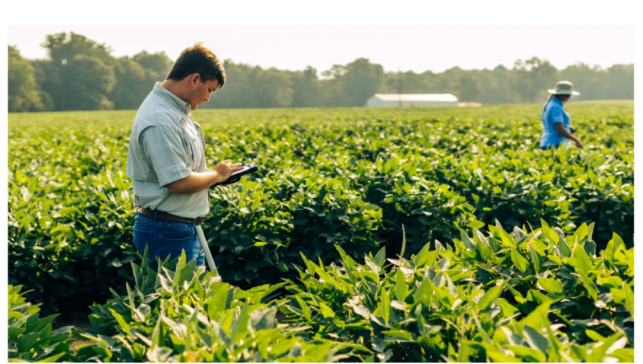


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Eastern Virginia AREC's mission is to serve Virginia's grain and soybean industries through research and educational programs leading to improved varieties and crop management practices. Our research objectives are to support the Virginia Tech soybean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