



Building on the land-grant commitment to develop leaders, share knowledge, and invest in ecological resilience with hands-on applications to help Virginia thrive, the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences strives to enhance:



Workforce Development for Economic Prosperity. Drive economic resilience with student learning experiences, educating career-ready graduates who support Virginia’s #1 industry: agriculture.



Resource Stewardship. Protect Virginia’s vital natural resources through evidence-based stewardship, leaving healthier land, water, and air for future generations.



Human and Ecological Health. Improve health and resilience of people, communities, plants, and animals across Virginia from the scientific front line.



Understanding and Communication. Confront Virginia’s most pressing challenges through research in agriculture, life sciences, and community engagement.

CALS supports a collaborative network of:



11 Agricultural Research and Extension Centers (AREC), 107 Virginia Cooperative Extension offices, and six 4-H educational centers throughout Virginia in cooperation with Virginia Agricultural Experiment Station and Virginia Cooperative Extension.



10 Academic Departments for 2,700 undergraduate, graduate, and professional students within 68 unique programs of study.



Over \$500,000 in **public-private partnership** support annually.

LEARN MORE



SOUTHERN PIEDMONT

Agricultural Research and Extension Center

2375 Darvills Road Blackstone, VA 23824 | (434) 292-5331

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VIRGINIA AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATION
SOUTHERN PIEDMONT AGRICULTURAL
RESEARCH AND EXTENSION CENTER
VIRGINIA TECH

ABOUT THE SOUTHERN PIEDMONT AREC

The Southern Piedmont AREC near Blackstone, Virginia was established in 1974 and conducts strong commodity-oriented research and Extension programs to provide information and technology to the agricultural industry. Programs enhance the economic viability and environmental stewardship of tobacco, forage crops, beef cattle, small fruit, and other field and specialty crops.



RESEARCH AND EXTENSION PROGRAMS

- Agricultural and Applied Economics
- Cropping Systems and Organic Production
- Entomology and Pest Management
- Field and Specialty Crops
- Forages and Livestock
- Plant Pathology
- Tobacco Agronomy



INDUSTRY PARTNERS

- Tobacco growers and industry
- Agrichemical industry
- Forage and livestock industry
- Virginia Farm Bureau, SWCD, NRCS, VDACS, USDA



FACILITIES

- 1,180-acre farm with 130 acres of crop research plots (including 16 acres of certified organic), 120 acres of fenced grazing land, 40-acres of silvopasture, and >850 acres of woodland
- Specialized tobacco curing facilities
- Extensive greenhouse facilities and high tunnels
- 150-person auditorium
- Multiple fully-equipped laboratory facilities, including the Cox Road Lab

INNOVATIVE TECHNOLOGIES

- Tobacco curing, monitoring, and automation
- Spore trapping and predictive model development
- Aerial imaging technology to assess crop development and pest detection

Reducing Labor Costs in Tobacco Production: Spray drone technology lowered labor costs by \$230 per acre through chemical sucker control, eliminating the need for manual removal.

Protecting Strawberry Yields Under Disease Pressure: Strawberry disease diagnostics have prevented an estimated \$600,000 in losses over three years, supporting more than 70 Virginia growers during periods of high disease pressure.

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OUR COLLABORATORS INCLUDE:



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