



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



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# VIRGINIA SEAFOOD

Agricultural Research and Extension Center

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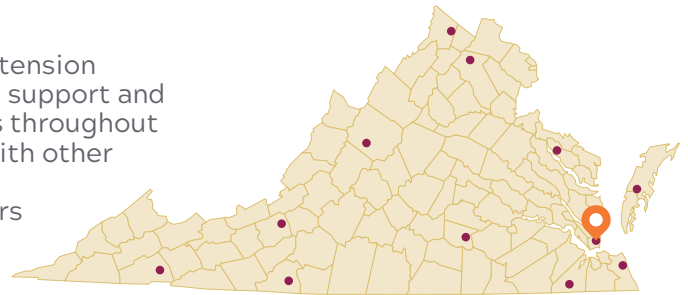
[arec.vaes.vt.edu/arec/virginia-seafood](http://arec.vaes.vt.edu/arec/virginia-seafood)



VIRGINIA AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATION  
VIRGINIA SEAFOOD AGRICULTURAL  
RESEARCH AND EXTENSION CENTER  
VIRGINIA TECH

## ABOUT THE VIRGINIA SEAFOOD AREC

The mission of the Virginia Seafood Agricultural Research and Extension Center is to provide education, scientific and technical guidance, support and leadership to the commercial seafood and aquaculture industries throughout Virginia and the United States. Our faculty work collaboratively with other researchers, Extension agents, and the industry to address the challenges and needs of our seafood and aquaculture stakeholders to ensure safe, sustainable, and wholesome seafood for all of us to enjoy.



## RESEARCH AND EXTENSION PROGRAMS

- Food quality, safety, and security
- Process validation and engineering
- Cellular agriculture and alternative proteins
- Aquaculture
- Green energy
- Economics and marketing
- Public policy and regulatory impact assessment

## INDUSTRY PARTNERS

- Aquaculture, including hydroponics, aquaponics
- Seafood producers, processors, distributors, and retailers
- Seafood end-users and consumers

## FACILITIES

- Recirculating aquaculture systems
- Aquatic habitat systems
- Microbiology lab
- Cell culture lab
- Classroom for teaching and training

## INNOVATIVE TECHNOLOGIES

- Controlled environmental agriculture
- Developing blue catfish seafood economy
- Microbiome and nanobubble technologies
- AI, machine learning, and robotics

**Turning a Chesapeake Bay Challenge into Economic Opportunity:** Expansion of blue catfish processing capacity to 50 million pounds annually contributes more than \$200 million in economic impact through harvesting, processing, distribution, and retail.

**Safeguarding Virginia's Food Supply:** We issued 102 food safety compliance certificates in 2024, helping processors implement sanitation and risk-prevention practices that protect consumer health statewide.

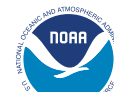
**New Business Development and Technical Assistance:** We supported 14 emerging businesses in adopting labor saving, value added technologies, such as converting waste into new products, since 2021—resulting in 75 new jobs and generating \$3.8 million in economic impact.

LEARN MORE



[bit.ly/4nrZ05w](https://bit.ly/4nrZ05w)

OUR COLLABORATORS INCLUDE:



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VT/0326/AREC-304