VIRGINIA AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATION
ALSON H. SMITH JR. AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AND EXTENSION CENTER
VIRGINIA TECH

Virginia Cooperative Extension
Virginia Tech • Virginia State University

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 3,600 associate, undergraduate, and graduate students in 68 unique programs of study.

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

LEARN MORE

cals.vt.edu

ALSON H. SMITH JR.
Agricultural Research and Extension Center

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arec.vaes.vt.edu/arec/alson-h-smith

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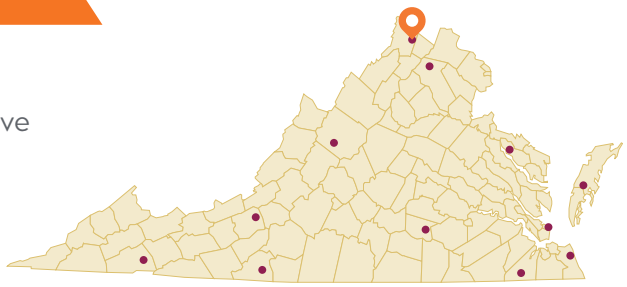
ABOUT THE ALSON H. SMITH JR. AREC

The Alson H. Smith Jr. Agricultural Research and Extension Center serve Virginia's horticultural fruit industries through research, educational programs, student training, and the development of tools and technologies that increase sustainability and resiliency of commercial producers.



RESEARCH AND EXTENSION PROGRAMS

- Tree fruit entomology
- Tree fruit and specialty crop horticulture
- Tree fruit and specialty crop pathology
- Grape pathology
- Viticulture
- Enology

INDUSTRY PARTNERS

- Virginia Agribusiness Council
- Wine Industry
- Apple Industry
- Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services

FACILITIES

- 124 acres on the farm with over 40 field plots
- 6 modern labs
- 24,500 square foot complex
- 100 person auditorium

INNOVATIVE TECHNOLOGIES

- Membrane-based grapevine virus sampling kit
- Molecular tools to detect and identify major grape pathogens
- Marker-Assisted Breeding (MAB) of apple
- CRISPR/Cas9-mediated gene editing of apple
- Weather-based prediction models for managing crop load in apple
- Partial canopy rain shelters for grapevine
- Novel fungicide chemistry for grape disease management

Protecting Wine Quality from Spotted Lanternfly: Research on spotted lanternfly impacts on grapes and wine led to action thresholds that help growers protect fruit quality while avoiding unnecessary insecticide applications.

Detecting Spotted Lanternfly with Dogs: Trained dogs can detect spotted lanternfly egg masses, offering a scalable, cost-effective tool for earlier detection of this destructive invasive pest.

Pioneering Codling Moth Control: Our team is the only lab in the world investigating releases of sterile, genetically modified codling moths, positioning Virginia fruit growers to benefit early from an emerging pest-control technology.

LEARN MORE
bit.ly/3XOsDDS

OUR COLLABORATORS INCLUDE: USDA, Virginia Agribusiness Council, Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services

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