VIRGINIA AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATION
SHENANDOAH VALLEY 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

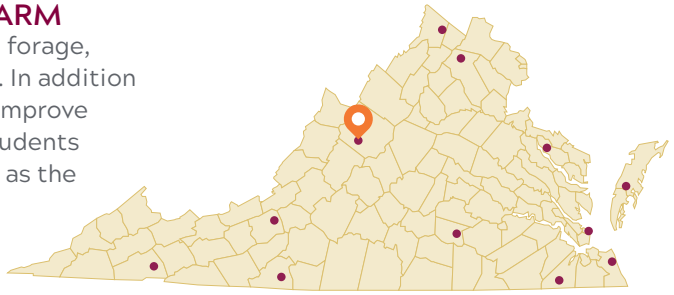
SHENANDOAH VALLEY
Agricultural Research and Extension Center

128 McCormick Farm Circle, Raphine, VA 24472 | (540) 377-2255
arec.vaes.vt.edu/arec/shenandoah-valley

VIRGINIA AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATION
SHENANDOAH VALLEY AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AND EXTENSION CENTER
VIRGINIA TECH

ABOUT THE SHENANDOAH VALLEY AREC, MCCORMICK FARM

The Shenandoah Valley AREC works to improve the viability of livestock, forage, and forestry production systems in Virginia and the mid-Atlantic region. In addition to our extension programs for farmers and landowners, we also seek to improve the understanding of agricultural and forestry production systems by students and other visitors to the farm. The Shenandoah Valley AREC, also known as the McCormick Farm, is the site of the development of the first mechanical reaper and is thus widely recognized as the birthplace of the modern mechanical revolution in production agriculture.



RESEARCH AND EXTENSION PROGRAMS

- Forestry and silvopasture
- Pasture systems
- Ram performance testing
- Beef cattle production

INDUSTRY PARTNERS

- Forage and livestock industries
- Forestry industry

FACILITIES

- Over 900 acres of owned and leased land
- Three barns (bank barn, feeding barn, sheep barn)
- A two-acre National Historic Landmark Memorial Plot, including a Grist Mill and Museum

INNOVATIVE TECHNOLOGIES

- Portable and fixed Calan feeding systems
- Novel tall fescue grazing systems
- Temple Grandin cattle handling facility
- Weather station with real-time weather data
- Solar-powered SmartScales
- Acoustic grazing detection systems

50 Years of Better Sheep Genetics: The Virginia Ram Lamb Performance Test has strengthened flock genetics across the Eastern U.S. for 50 years, generating more than $330,000 in ram sales over the past decade and more than $40,000 in gross ram and replacement-ewe sales for farmers in 2025.

Lowering Forage Costs and Inputs: Research on modern forage management helps farmers improve pasture productivity and nutrient cycling while avoiding unnecessary fertilizer costs and reducing environmental impacts.

Reducing Toxin Exposure for Grazing Livestock: After converting 70 acres of toxic, endophyte-infected tall fescue to novel endophyte varieties, researchers are measuring cow and calf performance to guide more productive grazing systems.

LEARN MORE

bit.ly/48M9Kbk

Our collaborators include: USDA, Alliance for Grassland Renewal, VCA Virginia Cattlemens Association, VFGC, Headwaters SWCD Soil & Water Conservation District, Natural Bridge SWCD Soil & Water Conservation District — We work with the people who work the land.

Virginia Agricultural Experiment Station is a partnership of Virginia Tech and the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and is an equal opportunity employer. For the full non-discrimination statement, please visit https://www.vaes.vt.edu/accessibility.html.

VT/1026/AREC-300