VIRGINIA AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATION
SOUTHERN PIEDMONT 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

SOUTHERN PIEDMONT
Agricultural Research and Extension Center

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arec.vaes.vt.edu/arec/southern-piedmont | VTSPAREC | VIRGINIATECHSPAREC

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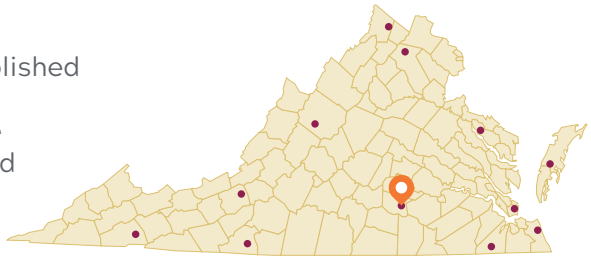
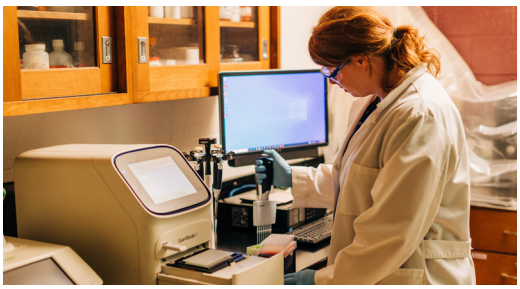
ABOUT THE SOUTHERN PIEDMONT AREC

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

Preparing Farmers for New Invasive Pests: USDA-funded research found that an invasive small-grain aphid can damage crops through feeding but does not spread a harmful virus, helping growers make better pest-control decisions.

Preventing Millions in Crop Losses: Faster diagnostics, surveillance, and science-based disease management helps more than 150 Virginia growers respond to emerging threats, including an estimated $2 million in avoided strawberry losses annually and $2-$12 million in annual benefits for tobacco operations.

Turning Hurricane Data into Farmer Relief: Agricultural loss estimates following Hurricane Helene helped inform $60.9 million in targeted compensation for 500 affected farmers – about $121,800 per recipient.

LEARN MORE
bit.ly/47C61Mp

OUR COLLABORATORS INCLUDE:

USDA · Farm Bureau Virginia · VCA Virginia Cattlemens Association · American Forage & Grassland Council · Altria · Piedmont SWCD Soil & Water Conservation District · CORESTA · Virginia Tobacco Board · JTI

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VT/1026/AREC-301