

VIRGINIA SEAFOOD

Agricultural Research and Extension Center



The VSAREC is dedicated to actively engaging with industry and research partners to identify and respond to emerging needs and support the future of the historic seafood industry – in Virginia and beyond. We help stakeholders ensure product quality, safety, and viability by providing training and technical assistance, value-added product development, and multidisciplinary research to ensure a sustainable and competitive aquaculture sector.

Recognized as a center of excellence for live feeds and hatchery production technologies, we work to advance aquaculture research and development. A new and expanded research facility opened in 2022 includes aquaculture research facilities that are highly adjustable with the capacity to operate freshwater, brackish, and saltwater systems.

Additional facilities include a training classroom and laboratories where researchers advance technology in sustainable food systems, controlled environment agriculture, and alternative proteins. Interwoven with other core center programs, research in economics and marketing covers areas of business development, regulatory impact assessment, and economic impact analysis for industry sectors.

VSAREC extension specialists work with and provide technical guidance to stakeholders in every level of the seafood supply chain.

PARTNER WITH US

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Hampton, VA 23669
(757) 727-4861
www.arec.vaes.vt.edu/arec/virginia-seafood

“The VSAREC food safety program provides technical assistance to the Virginia seafood industry. These services, including Spanish-language safety training, help processors comply with federal and state regulations. It is very rewarding to know that the program supports keeping people in business while providing high-quality, safe products for families here in Virginia.”



KATHERYN PARRAGA-ESTRADA
EXTENSION SPECIALIST - MUSCLE FOOD SAFETY

“We’ve been in business in Hampton since the 1930s, and Virginia Tech has helped us keep our business and the whole industry viable in an increasingly competitive global market. They’re neighbors we can turn to for expert guidance in everything from validation tests and employee training to HACCP planning and the latest market research.”



MEADE AMORY
OWNER OF L.D. AMORY & CO.

VIRGINIA SEAFOOD AREC AT A GLANCE



DISCIPLINES

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

INNOVATIVE TECHNOLOGIES

- Controlled environment agriculture
- Cell-based meat and bioprinting
- Nanogas

FACILITIES

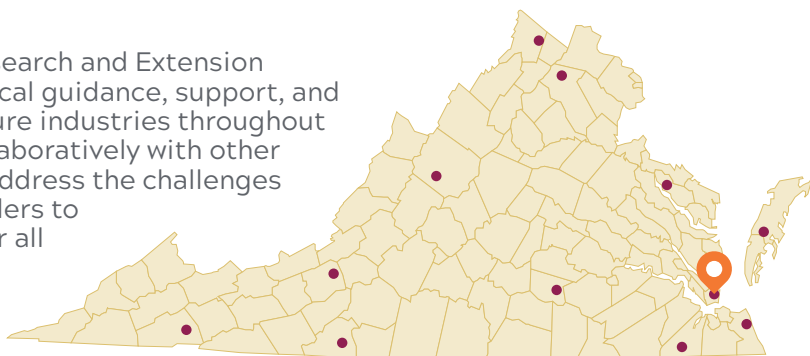
- Recirculating aquaculture systems
- Aquatic habitat systems
- BSL-2 microbiology lab
- Cell culture lab
- Classroom for teaching and training

INDUSTRY PARTNERS

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

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.



A COLLABORATIVE NETWORK

The ARECs are a network of 11 centers strategically located throughout the state that emphasize close working relationships between Virginia Agricultural Experiment Station, Virginia Cooperative Extension, and the industries they work with. The mission of the system is to engage in innovative, leading-edge research to discover new scientific knowledge and create and disseminate science-based applications that ensure the wise use of agricultural, natural, and community resources while enhancing quality of life.

Virginia Cooperative Extension programs and employment are open to all, regardless of age, color, disability, gender, gender identity, gender expression, national origin, political affiliation, race, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, veteran status, or any other basis protected by law. An equal opportunity/affirmative action employer. Issued in furtherance of Cooperative Extension work, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, Virginia State University, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture cooperating. Edwin J. Jones, Director, Virginia Cooperative Extension, Virginia Tech, Blacksburg; M. Ray McKinnie, Administrator, 1890 Extension Program, Virginia State University, Petersburg



VIRGINIA AGRICULTURAL
EXPERIMENT STATION
VIRGINIA TECH.

