

BOARD OF AGRICULTURE AND CONSUMER SERVICES
Courtyard Fredericksburg Historic District
Mary Washington Room
620 Caroline Street
Fredericksburg, Virginia 22401

Tuesday, August 5, 2025

1 P.M.

1. Call to order
2. Roll call
3. Approval of draft Board meeting minutes from May 22, 2025
4. Board member reports
5. Commissioner's Report to Board – Joseph Guthrie, Commissioner of Agriculture and Consumer Services
6. Final stage to promulgate 2 VAC 5-455 (Regulations for Tradespersons Installing Invasive Plant Species) – David Gianino, Program Manager, Office of Plant Industry Services
7. Proposed stage to amend 2 VAC 5-360 (Regulations for the Enforcement of the Virginia Commercial Feed Act) – David Gianino, Program Manager, Office of Plant Industry Services
8. Expansion of the Regulated Area of 2 VAC 5-315 (Virginia Imported Fire Ant Quarantine for Enforcement of the Virginia Pest Law) – David Gianino, Program Manager, Office of Plant Industry Services
9. Annual electronic meeting policy adoption – Kevin Schmidt, Director, Office of Policy, Planning, and Research
10. New business
11. Future Board meetings
12. Public comment period
13. Adjourn

DRAFT MINUTES

Board of Agriculture and Consumer Services
Patrick Henry Building
East Reading Room
1111 E. Broad St
Richmond, Virginia

Thursday, May 22, 2025

The meeting of the Board of Agriculture and Consumer Services (Board) convened at approximately 9:01 a.m. on Thursday, May 22, 2025, at the Patrick Henry Building. President Horsley called the meeting to order.

ROLL CALL

The Board Secretary called the roll:

PRESENT

Keith Harris
Donald Horsley
Raymond Keating
Brittany Jones
Cecil Shell
Margaret Ann Smith
Jacquelin Easter Link
James S. Huffard, III
Richard Sellers
Ginny Barnes
Charles Church
Dr. Tom Thompson

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

1st
2nd
3rd
4th
5th
6th
7th
9th
11th
Pesticides – Commercial Agricultural
Pesticides – Commercial Structural
Representing Dr. Timothy D. Sands, President,
Virginia Tech

ABSENT

Kailee M. Tkacz Buller
Tyler Wegmeyer
Dr. Derrick Scott

8th
10th
Representing Dr. Makola Abdullah, President,
Virginia State University

STAFF PRESENT

Joseph Guthrie, Commissioner, Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (VDACS)
Kevin Schmidt, Secretary, Board of Agriculture and Consumer Services
Nicolas Robichaud, Policy Assistant, VDACS

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Sellers moved that the draft minutes of the March 20, 2025, all-virtual meeting be approved. Mr. Shell seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously to approve the motion.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

President Horsley called for nominations for President from the Board. Jacquelin Easter Link nominated Margaret Ann Smith. There being no other nominations, President Horsley closed

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the nomination and called for a vote on the nominee. The Board elected Ms. Smith as President by a unanimous vote.

President Horsley opened the floor for nominations for Vice President. Raymond Keating nominated Charles Church. There being no other nominations, President Horsley closed the nomination and called for a vote on the nominee. The Board elected Mr. Church as Vice President by a unanimous vote.

President Horsley then called for nominations for Secretary. Richard Sellers nominated Kevin Schmidt. There being no other nominations, President Horsley closed the nomination and called for a vote on the nominee. The Board elected Mr. Schmidt as Secretary by a unanimous vote.

All three officer positions become effective July 1, 2025, and run through June 30, 2026.

REPORTS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

Richard Sellers

Mr. Sellers reported the recent and unfortunate passing of Congressman Gerry Connolly. Mr. Sellers reflected on Congressman Connolly's extensive career in public service, praising his dedication and presence in the community. He also commented on local farmers markets, noting that many vendors come from Pennsylvania and West Virginia. He concluded by noting that the current congressional district is now fully contained within Fairfax County, including Fairfax City and parts of Alexandria.

James S. Huffard, III

Mr. Huffard reported that a cool spring has delayed planting in Southwest Virginia, though some early corn has been planted. He raised concerns about falling milk prices and market instability but noted that his operation has resumed with over 600 cows. The expansion of Duchess Dairy is set to begin next month, and while earlier funding freezes affected agricultural grants, some have now been reinstated. He concluded that, overall, things are going well in the region following recent natural disasters.

Jacquelin Easter Link

Ms. Easter Link reported on a turbulent planting season marked by unpredictable weather patterns that have delayed planting efforts and led to thin hay yields. She noted that local poultry growers are coming to terms with Tyson Foods' permanent departure and expressed concern over the high costs of alternative ventures, which she and her son are still evaluating. She highlighted broader issues in agriculture, including an aging farming population, succession challenges, and the growing inaccessibility of farming for younger generations. Ms. Link also raised concerns about the burdensome requirements for obtaining a Commercial Driver's License (CDL), warning that without changes, rural communities may soon face a shortage of qualified drivers.

Margaret Ann Smith

Ms. Smith reported that rain has finally reached the 6th Congressional District, though hay yields remain low. Corn planting is progressing well in the Valley, and cattle prices remain exceptionally high, though future volatility is a concern. She warned of the reemergence of the New World Screwworm, now 700 miles from the U.S.-Mexico border, which prompted a halt in live cattle imports from Mexico. The pest poses risks not just to livestock, but also to humans

and pets, and she urged public awareness. Smith concluded by encouraging nominations from Virginia for the National Beef Quality Assurance Awards, which honor producers, processors, and retailers for excellence in implementing quality standards.

Cecil Shell

Mr. Shell reported on erratic weather in his region that has complicated agricultural production. Tobacco, corn, and soybean planting are progressing, with most tobacco already in the ground. He also highlighted changes in timber activity, noting a shift from harvesting large timber to smaller timber and chips. He expressed concern over the Georgia Pacific plant closure in Emporia, which caused job losses and marketing challenges for large timber. He also highlighted growing interest in solar energy, with both small and large projects emerging in the area.

Brittany Jones

Ms. Jones echoed reports of volatile weather conditions. Her district experienced a dry April followed by intense rainfall in May. Corn, cotton, and peanuts are mostly planted, but soybean work continues, with some fields requiring replanting due to poor emergence. Her district currently has an abundance of hay, though its quality is subpar. Fieldwork has been slow in the southern part of the district due to excess moisture, prompting some to consider aerial spraying as a workaround. There are also concerns about poor crop emergence due to wet conditions, which may require soybean replanting. Wet pastures are creating livestock challenges, and dairy farmers are facing falling milk prices, though activity in the cull and replacement markets offers some relief.

Raymond Keating

Mr. Keating provided an update on the grain market, noting that while global prices have shown slight improvement, there is still significant uncertainty. Much of the market remains focused on short-term transactions due to widespread confusion about international buyers and shipping logistics. This unpredictability, compounded by concerns over potential reciprocal tariffs from countries like China, Italy, or Mexico, has limited planning and long-term sales confidence. Mr. Keating reported favorable weather in eastern Virginia, where timely rainfall has supported a strong start to corn planting and early crop development.

Keith Harris

Mr. Harris reported weather-related setbacks, including high winds and dry conditions, though the malting barley crop is performing well. He raised concerns about tariffs and criticized restrictive Virginia ABC regulations hurting small craft beverage businesses. Mr. Harris thanked Commissioner Guthrie for his proactive efforts in addressing grain transport issues at the Cargill facility in Harrisonburg, helping secure a temporary parking solution to ease congestion and support local producers. He emphasized the broader economic strain following the Tyson plant closure, which forced farmers to haul grain much farther at greater cost. Mr. Harris closed by sharing noting praise from a Virginia Tech professor for Commissioner Guthrie's student engagement.

Ginny Barnes

Ms. Barnes reported good planting progress in Eastern Virginia despite persistent wind challenges. She raised concerns about rising shipping costs, CDL driver shortages, and delays in farm input distribution. Ms. Barnes highlighted legal and regulatory uncertainty surrounding glyphosate (Roundup), warning its potential discontinuation could sharply raise costs, increase

use of more harmful alternatives, and reverse decades of no-till farming progress, which would risk millions of tons of carbon emissions. She stressed the urgency and complexity of the issue and invited attendees to the Virginia Crop Production Association's summit in January 2026 for further discussion.

Charles Church

Mr. Church reported that the Virginia Pest Management Association (VPMA) has offered 10 new training opportunities this year, with growing participation from non-member companies. VPMA has trained 230 technicians this quarter, with four more sessions planned before the June 30 recertification deadline. Virtual training remains popular, and the final in-person recertification course will be held in Richmond this June. VPMA has also secured the Omni Richmond Hotel for its 2025 state conference, scheduled for November 11-13, 2025.

Dr. Tom Thompson

Dr. Thompson reported on behalf of Dean Mario Ferruzzi, noting the graduation of 800 new College of Agriculture and Life Sciences students. He highlighted concerns over federal budget cuts impacting agricultural research and extension, with \$16 million in grants already canceled. Dr. Thompson provided an update on the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) -Natural Resources Conservation Service Partnerships for Climate-Smart Commodities program, a \$3 billion initiative to support conservation practices among farmers. Of 146 funded projects, only 19, including Virginia Tech's \$80 million Alliance to Advance Climate-Smart Agriculture, met all federal criteria and are moving forward. Implementation is underway in several Virginia conservation districts. While administrative delays previously halted payments to enrolled farmers, Dr. Thompson was pleased to report that reimbursements and new enrollments are set to resume within weeks.

Donald Horsley

Mr. Horsley reported an unusual winter and spring in the 2nd Congressional District, where heavy snowfall helped offset what could have been a record-dry start to the year. He echoed concerns about farm succession, not for his own operation, but for land they own, which may be sold when passed to heirs, threatening future access to farmland. He praised Virginia Beach's successful use of its Agricultural Reserve Program to protect land from development. Corn and soybean planting are progressing despite earlier dry conditions, and wheat harvest is expected soon, though yields may be down. His show pig and research operations remain stable.

COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

Before Commissioner Guthrie's report, he highlighted the distribution of *Virginia Agriculture* magazine, funded by sponsors and showcasing the state's farms and craft beverages. He also addressed several items from Board member's reports. He credited VDACS staff for helping address grain transport issues and identifying future facility sites for Cargill and George's. Commissioner Guthrie emphasized youth engagement and career opportunities in agriculture, noting a recent student visit to VDACS labs. He also acknowledged the department is closely monitoring the glyphosate issue.

During Commissioner Guthrie's presentation of his report, he briefed the Board on recent events and other matters relating to VDACS. A copy of the written report on which his presentation was based was included in the Board meeting agenda and materials.

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Concluding his report, Commissioner Guthrie remarked on the expiring terms of Mr. Horsley, Mr. Huffard, and Mr. Sellers from the Board. Secretary Schmidt presented them with plaques commemorating their service.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

President Horsley called on Kevin Schmidt, Director, Office of Policy, Planning, and Research, to deliver an update on bills that VDACS tracked during the 2025 Session of the General Assembly.

Mr. Sellers asked VDACS staff if there are any baby food facilities currently operating in Virginia. Dr. Broaddus clarified that there are no major facilities, though there are some smaller operations.

BUDGET UPDATE

President Horsley called on Dr. Dewey Jennings, Director, Administration and Finance, to deliver an update on VDACS's budget for fiscal year 2026.

Mr. Harris asked for clarification regarding the nature of corn and soybean commodity board funds, which Dr. Jennings and Deputy Commissioner Charles Green addressed. Mr. Harris also asked whether money in the commodity board budget can be moved by the General Assembly, which Deputy Commissioner Green addressed. Ms. Smith asked if USDA has a similar level of involvement in the checkoff process in these boards as they are in other commodity boards, which Commissioner Guthrie addressed.

MEETING RECESS

At 10:51, President Horsley recessed the meeting.

At 11:02, President Horsley resumed the meeting.

NOTICE OF INTENDED REGULATORY ACTION – 2 VAC 5-320 (REGULATIONS FOR THE ENFORCEMENT OF THE ENDANGERED PLANT AND INSECT SPECIES ACT)

President Horsley called on David Gianino, Program Manager, Office of Plant Industry Services, to brief the Board on the Notice of Intended Regulatory Action for 2 VAC 5-320.

Mr. Sellers moved that the Board of Agriculture and Consumer Services authorize staff to take any and all steps necessary to file for public comment a Notice of Intended Regulatory Action to amend the species declared as endangered or threatened in 2 VAC 5-320, Regulations for the Enforcement of the Endangered Plant and Insect Species Act, as presented by staff today. Mr. Shell seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

FINAL EXEMPT ACTION TO REPEAL 2 VAC 5-380 (RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR THE ENFORCEMENT OF THE VIRGINIA DEALERS IN AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS LAW) FINAL STAGE TO AMEND 2 VAC 5-390 (RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR THE ENFORCEMENT OF THE VIRGINIA SEED LAW)

President Horsley called on David Gianino, Program Manager, Office of Plant Industry Services, to brief the Board on the final exempt action to repeal 2 VAC 5-380.

Mr. Keating asked for clarification regarding the impact of this action, which Commissioner Guthrie addressed. Ms. Smith asked if there would be any impact on the bonding requirements for dealers, which Mr. Gianino addressed.

Mr. Sellers moved that the Board of Agriculture and Consumer Services repeal 2 VAC 5-380, Rules and Regulations for the Enforcement of the Virginia Dealers in Agricultural Products Law, as presented by staff today, and that the Board authorize staff to take any and all steps necessary to repeal this regulation through an exempt regulatory action as authorized by Section 2.2-4006 of the Virginia Administrative Process Act. Mr. Church seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

FINAL STAGE TO AMEND 2 VAC 5-390 (RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR THE ENFORCEMENT OF THE VIRGINIA SEED LAW)

President Horsley called on David Gianino, Program Manager, Office of Plant Industry Services, to brief the Board on the proposed final stage action to amend 2 VAC 5-390.

Mr. Harris asked for clarification regarding the impact of this action on cotton growers, which was addressed by Commissioner Guthrie and Mr. Gianino.

Mr. Shell moved that the Board of Agriculture and Consumer Services adopt 2 VAC 5-390, Rules and Regulations for the Enforcement of the Virginia Seed Law, as presented by staff today, and that the Board authorize staff to take any and all steps necessary to have this regulation become a final regulation of the Board. Ms. Jones seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

Mr. Gianino briefly updated the Board on the status of the Spangly Moth stop the spread program.

PROPOSED EXEMPT ACTION TO AMEND 2 VAC 5-595 (REGULATIONS GOVERNING THE MANUFACTURING AND SALE OF PRODUCTS THAT CONTAIN INDUSTRIAL HEMP EXTRACTS INTENDED FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION)

President Horsley called on Nikeya Thomas, Program Manager, Office of Hemp Enforcement, to brief the Board on the proposed exempt action to amend VAC 5-595.

Mr. Sellers asked for clarification regarding the heavy metal testing requirements, which Ms. Thomas addressed. He suggested looking at National Institute of Health reports on tolerance levels and microbial contaminations. Ms. Barnes asked for clarification on the container instructions, which Ms. Thomas addressed. Mr. Keating asked a request regarding the regulation of oil additives, which Ms. Thomas addressed.

Mr. Sellers moved that the Board of Agriculture and Consumer Services amend 2 VAC 5-595, Regulations Governing the Manufacturing and Sale of Products That Contain Industrial Hemp Extracts Intended for Human Consumption, as presented by staff today, and that the Board authorize staff to take any and all steps necessary to amend this regulation through an exempt regulatory action as authorized by Section 3.2-5145.5 of the Virginia Food and Drink Law and to file this proposed regulation for public comment as required therein. Mr. Huffard seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

VIRGINIA WINERY DISTRIBUTION COMPANY BOARD APPOINTMENTS

President Horsley called on Commissioner Guthrie to introduce recommendations for appointments to the board of directors of the Virginia Winery Distribution Company.

Mr. Sellers moved that the Board of Agriculture and Consumer Services reappoint David Drillock, Fifty-Third Winery & Vineyard, to fill a term from July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2029, on the board of directors of the Virginia Winery Distribution Company as an owner or manager of a winery or farm winery licensee that produces no more than 10,000 cases per year. He also moved that the Board of Agriculture and Consumer Services reappoint Jay W. Colston, III, Virginia Imports, to fill a term from July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2029, on the board of directors of the Virginia Winery Distribution Company as an owner or manager of a wine wholesaler licensee. Mr. Huffard seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business brought before the Board

FUTURE BOARD MEETINGS

President Horsley asked Commissioner Guthrie to provide information regarding the summer meeting and tour to be held August 5-6, 2025, in Fredericksburg.

President Horsley also announced that the last meeting of the year will be held December 11 in Richmond.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Joseph Domino commented on the impact of industrial hemp regulations on small businesses and manufacturers.

Before adjourning, Mr. Horsley, Mr. Huffard, and Mr. Sellers each provided final remarks to the Board, voicing appreciation for their time served and for VDACS staff for their support.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the Board adjourned at approximately 12:17 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Donald Horsley
Board President

Kevin Schmidt
Board Secretary

COMMISSIONER’S REPORT TO
BOARD OF AGRICULTURE AND CONSUMER SERVICES
August 5, 2025

PERSONNEL NEWS

E.L. Knicely, Division Director of Commodity Services, retired July 1. E.L. joined VDACS as a part-time poultry and egg inspector in the summer of 1988. Over the years, he advanced through roles, eventually becoming Deputy Director of Marketing and Development in 2011 and then Director of the newly formed Division of Commodity Services in 2019. Known for his focus on relationship-building and problem-solving, E. L. has played a key role in growing programs and maintaining industry trust. He has left behind a strong team and a legacy of leadership built on decades of service and integrity.

On June 25, Anthony Ramsey began his new role as the Program Manager for the Office of Weights and Measures. Anthony previously served as a weights and measures inspector. Prior to that role, he accumulated more than 20 years of experience in public safety and emergency communications, including serving as the Director of Public Safety Communications for Augusta County.

On July 10, Michael “Scott” Banks joined the Office of Domestic Marketing and Promotions (ODMP) as the Southeast Regional Marketing Specialist. Mr. Banks previously served as a Meat and Poultry Inspector for the Office of Meat and Poultry Services. Mr. Banks joins ODMP with a deep understanding of VDACS operations and a sincere interest in meeting with farmers and producers in the Southeast Region and helping them grow their businesses.

GOVERNOR’S PRIORITIES

Based on eligibility criteria established by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), VDACS submitted a request for the Farm Recovery Block Grant program as authorized by the American Relief Act, 2025 (HR 10545 – 118th). This block grant program will allow VDACS to provide direct payments to eligible producers in 21 counties and six independent cities in Southwest Virginia for losses associated with Hurricane Helene not covered by other USDA disaster programs. VDACS has been awarded approximately \$60 million and has prioritized the implementation of an online grant management system to support the Governor’s Office request to administer a disaster recovery block grant from the USDA. The disaster recovery block grant is expected to go live late this summer.

On June 26, during Virginia Agriculture Week, Governor Youngkin, along with Secretary Lohr and Commissioner Guthrie, visited Bowmont Farm, an 8-generation dairy and crop farm in Franklin County. The Governor announced proclamations of Virginia Agriculture Week and Dairy Month.

AGENCY OPERATIONS

Commissioner’s Office

In June, Commissioner Guthrie and Deputy Commissioner Green participated in the Southern Association of Southern Departments of Agriculture and Southern United States Trade Association annual meetings in Nashville, Tennessee.

In June, Commissioner Guthrie and leadership from the Division of Animal and Food Industry Services and the Office of Meat and Poultry Services (OMPS) met with meat processing plant representatives in a series of meetings in Wytheville, Lynchburg, Richmond, and Harrisonburg to introduce OMPS's new Program Manager, Gary Milton, and hear feedback on inspection processes. Hosted by Virginia Farm Bureau Federation, the meetings included a number of representatives from plants at each location.

On July 3 and 4, Commissioner Guthrie gave presentations on Virginia agriculture, an overview of VDACS, and Virginia agricultural policy to the Virginia Governor's School for Agriculture (VGSA) at Virginia Tech. The VGSA brought together over 90 of the top high school students from across the Commonwealth for a month-long immersion in agricultural topics.

Division of Marketing and Development (DMD)

On June 6 in Prince William County, Office of Agriculture and Forestry Development (OAFD) staff joined Secretary Lohr and Secretary of Commerce and Trade Segura to celebrate the opening of Murlarkey Distilled Spirits. This project was awarded a \$250,000 Agriculture and Forestry Industry Development (AFID) grant in 2022. The company has committed to invest more than \$8 million, create 42 jobs, and purchase \$430,000 in agriculture products, all of which will be Virginia-grown.

On June 16, OAFD staff attended a ground-breaking and check presentation for the latest AFID Facility Grant recipient, Augusta County and Stone Ledge Cider. The company will construct a new craft cider production facility and tasting room on the grounds of its 20-acre agritourism farm. The cidery will be a new amenity to visitors and guests of the farm's Cider House Bed and Breakfast.

On June 26, Governor Youngkin announced 12 AFID Infrastructure Grant awards to support local food production and agricultural facilities across Virginia. Awardees include the Town of Pulaski for a new farmers market home, the City of Roanoke for new awnings at its historic market, and the Town of Tazewell for a new pavilion on the Clinch River. Additional grants will fund projects such as commercial kitchens in Charlottesville, Winchester, Shenandoah County, and New Market; a food hub in Crewe; an abattoir in Spotsylvania; on-farm meat processing in Pulaski County; and equipment or facility upgrades in Fluvanna, Cumberland, and other localities.

On July 14, Governor Youngkin announced a \$20,000 AFID Planning Grant to Russell County supporting the development of an incentive program to attract large animal veterinarians to the region. Recognizing the critical need for accessible large-animal health care in Southwest Virginia, the grant will also be used to develop plans for a shared use veterinary clinic. This project also received \$20,000 in support from the Virginia Tobacco Commission and a donation of 2.3 acres from Russell County to house facilities and equipment leased to prospective veterinarians.

The Office of Domestic Marketing and Promotion (ODMP) has participated in several agriculture marketing and educational events since mid-May. These included the Virginia Christmas Tree Growers Association's quarterly board meeting; Pittsylvania County Soil & Water District's Ag Day; the Eastern Shore Soil & Water Conservation District monthly meeting; the National Cotton Board virtual meeting of Certified Producer Organization; UVA's Sustainability Lab's summer business class "Sustainable Ventures in Working Landscapes"; and the Chesapeake Agritourism Workshop.

From June 29 to July 1, Virginia's Finest hosted a Virginia Pavilion at the Summer Fancy Food Show in New York City where 10 member companies showcased their products to over 7,700 industry buyers and 850 media representatives. This national event offered a valuable opportunity for Virginia businesses to connect with new markets and highlight specialty food and beverage products.

In May, OAFD joined Secretary Lohr and his staff, along with the State Forester, Senator Jordan, and Delegate Wachsmann, at a meeting in Emporia regarding the closure of the Georgia Pacific plant. Representatives of the industry composed of landowners, land management companies, loggers, and sawmill operators voiced their concerns about the future of the industry. The Georgia Pacific plant used approximately 100 loads a week of pine logs and was the northern most plywood plant. This closure affects 554 plant employees and 576 jobs throughout the supply chain.

On June 12, OAFD held the final meeting of the Blue Catfish Work Group and will now begin finalizing the report for the General Assembly. The work group included key stakeholders from across the Commonwealth and focused on reviewing and reaching consensus on the recommendations for the report due in September.

On July 7, DMD submitted the 2025 Specialty Crop Block Grant Program (SCBGP) state plan to the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), aiming to enhance the competitiveness of specialty crops like fruits, vegetables, and nursery products. Once approved, VDACS will administer \$610,000 to support seven projects selected through an internal grant process. Funded partners include Virginia Tech, Appalachian Sustainable Development, and the Institute for Advanced Learning and Research, with projects focused on research, marketing, and increasing access to specialty crops.

On May 27, Market News staff attended the Virginia Land Use-Value Assessment Program Technical Advisory Committee meeting. Topics included ordinance and manual updates and open-space values. The committee expects lower use values next year due to declining crop prices and high input costs.

The Office of Food Distribution awarded \$990,448 through the Virginia Food Access Investment Fund (VFAIF) to 11 organizations for projects that expand fresh food access in underserved communities by supporting grocery stores and innovative food retail. Also, OFD received \$4.26 million in bonus food offerings from USDA for distribution through the Emergency Food Assistance Program, which will be delivered to food-insecure Virginians via partner agencies in the Federation of Virginia Food Banks.

From May to mid-July, the Office of International Marketing (OIM) supported Virginia companies in expanding their global reach through trade shows, market visits, and lead generation. At Interzum Cologne in Germany, three Virginia hardwood companies reported over \$2.8 million in sales, with more expected. Two feed additive companies made sales at the China Animal Husbandry Expo with OIM's in-market support. In July, OIM facilitated a market visit for two hardwood companies in China, resulting in renewed business interest and plans to exhibit at Interzum Guangzhou in 2026. OIM also connected 12 Virginia companies with 55 new trade leads, conducted a market research study on pine lumber imports into Vietnam, and helped two softwood companies prepare for VietnamWood 2025.

Division of Commodity Services (DCS)

Since May 23, CS Staff:

- Conducted Terminal Market and Shipping Point Inspections on over 9,500,000 pounds of fresh fruits and vegetables; conducted Processed Food Inspections on over 620,000 pounds of processed products; completed 18 Good Agricultural Practices Audits for Virginia fruit and vegetable growers; performed six Country of Origin Labeling reviews at full-line grocery stores, supermarkets, club warehouse stores, etc.; and provided seasonal potato inspection services on the Eastern Shore, working closely with Virginia potato growers.
- Inspected and certified grain commodities including soybeans, corn, wheat, soybean hull pellets, and dried distiller's grain with a value of over \$91 million destined for 23 countries.
- Conducted four compliance visits with grain dealers.
- Provided livestock evaluation for 31,660 cattle and 857 lambs/goats; issued 52 Market News Reports covering 16,299 non-graded livestock and 189 hay bales; evaluated approximately 264 head of livestock for 4-H & FFA youth shows; and hosted the annual USDA/AMS Grading and Market News Correlation training on June 26.
- Inspected and certified approximately 73.9 million pounds of Farmers' Stock peanuts and regrades, 55.1 million pounds of shelled and in-shell milled peanuts, and 4.2 million pounds of imported peanuts from Argentina and Paraguay, along with grading one container of hazelnuts; hosted the National Peanut Supervisor's Conference in Williamsburg; and began preparations for seasonal peanut inspection services at Farmers' Stock Buying Stations in Suffolk, Emporia, Courtland, and Wakefield.
- Analyzed approximately 1,436 samples of peanuts for the presence and levels of aflatoxin to determine if the peanuts were safe for human consumption.
- Certified 508,371 pounds of various poultry parts for the USDA Feeding Program for School Lunch Products.
- Graded, via contracted full-time grading services, 56,428,430 pounds of chicken and 24,468,608 pounds of turkey for the Virginia poultry and egg industry.
- Provided non-contract fee grading and certification services for 525,230 pounds of poultry based on U.S. Consumer Grades to fulfill necessary specifications and contract requirements for the Virginia poultry and egg industry.
- Performed 3 USDA Food Defense Audits (Poultry & Egg Services).
- Poultry & Egg (P&E) Services participated in the Virginia Egg Board and Council meeting (P&E Program Manager serves as an Ex-Officio on the Virginia Egg Council).
- P&E coordinated a plant tour with the Virginia Poultry Grower's Cooperative for a Virginia Department of Health (VDH) activity.

Division of Consumer Protection (DCP)

On August 5-8, the National Council on Weights and Measures will host its first Electric Vehicle Supply Equipment (EVSE) Training in Denver, Colorado, offering classroom and hands-on instruction for inspectors and service agents. This will prepare attendees to inspect EV charging stations and take the EVSE Registered Service Agent Exam. Several Office of Weights and Measures (OWM) staff will attend in preparation for future EVSE inspections.

On June 1-5, (OWM) staff attended the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) 78th Combined Regional Measurement Assurance Program (C-RMAP) in Portland, Oregon. This required

annual training for state metrology staff included technical instruction and proficiency testing review, fulfilling NIST Handbook 143 standards for participation in the RMAP program.

Only July 13-17, OWM staff attended the National Conference on Weights and Measures annual meeting in Reno, Nevada, where officials and industry stakeholders voted on proposed changes to NIST Handbooks, which are key regulatory guides adopted by Virginia for inspection activities.

The Office of Charitable and Regulatory Programs (OCRP) continues work on the new NexGen system project, which will allow charitable organizations to register online with the agency. The agency registers approximately 12,000 organizations annually in accordance with the Charitable Solicitation of Contributions Act. OCRP is conducting user testing and continues to discuss the conversion of data from the legacy system to the new system with the project's contractor.

On June 24-26, Office of Pesticide Services (OPS) staff attended the Pesticide Regulatory Education Program Senior Executive Program Management course in Fort Collins, Colorado, receiving advanced training on FIFRA grants, Endangered Species Act compliance, drone application regulations, and leadership strategies. The course, sponsored by EPA and hosted by Colorado State University, brought together about 30 senior regulatory officials from state, tribal, and federal agencies.

On May 12-15, Office of Plant Industry Services (OPIS) staff attended the Southern Plant Board annual meeting in Wilmington, North Carolina, where 55 participants from state agriculture departments, USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) Plant and Protection Quarantine (PPQ), and Customs and Border Patrol (CBP) discussed topics such as yellow-legged hornet eradication, Asian longhorned beetle updates, federal funding, and emerging citrus pests.

On June 11, Secretary Lohr, Commissioner Guthrie, and OPIS staff attended the Invasive Species Working Group meeting in Richmond, where state agencies shared updates on invasive species management efforts and upcoming changes. VDACS discussed new signage requirements for invasive plants sold at retail, the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation provided an update on the 2025 Invasive Species Management Plan, and Virginia Tech presented on its Invasive Species Collaborative. Member organizations also shared their ongoing work in this area.

On June 23, OPIS and USDA-APHIS-PPQ conducted spotted lanternfly treatments at newly detected sites in rest areas in New Kent and Goochland counties, with New Kent posing a high risk due to its proximity to the ports of Hampton Roads. Monitoring and treatment efforts will continue.

On June 12, OPIS participated in USDA Forest Service's aerial treatments for the 2025 Slow the Spread spongy moth project, assisting as weather observers to ensure safe and effective application. Five priority areas totaling 15,873 acres were treated with pheromone-based mating disruption to prevent the spread of new spongy moth populations.

On July 26-August 1, OPIS staff attended the National Plant Board Meeting in Honolulu, Hawaii, where discussions focused on plant pest management, the impact of tourism and port inspections on agriculture, federal funding updates, and regional breakout sessions on pest-related concerns.

Division of Animal and Food Industry Services (AFIS)

From April to June, the Office of Dairy and Foods (ODF) Food Safety Program conducted 3,482 inspections, investigated 202 consumer complaints, collected 177 food samples, and supported the opening of 308 new food businesses. In June, the program received \$117,810 in Food and Drug Administration (FDA) grant funding for Year 3 of the Manufactured Food Regulatory Program Standards Cooperative Agreement.

From April to June, ODF's Dairy Services Program conducted 350 dairy farm and 75 plant inspections; collected 1,116 product samples; and issued permits to new cow and goat dairies, cheese plants, and an ice cream plant. Staff also oversaw the installation of a robotic milking system and bulk tank upgrades, ensuring they met state and federal standards. Virginia currently has 357 permitted dairy farms.

From July 2024 to June 2025, ODF's Produce Safety Program conducted 119 inspections and 292 visits, engaged with growers statewide on FDA rules and water requirements, and launched a new Certificate of Inspection in May 2025. The program also participates in NASDA workgroups and received \$447,175 in FDA grant funding for Year 5 of the Produce Safety Cooperative Agreement.

Since January 1, the Rapid Response Team (RRT) has responded to 10 fires and 44 truck wrecks involving over 839,000 pounds of food, helping prevent adulterated products from entering commerce. The team also supports foodborne illness investigations in coordination with VDH and the Virginia Division of Consolidated Laboratory Services. In June, the RRT received \$78,750 in FDA funding for Year 3 of its Cooperative Agreement.

In fiscal year 2025, the Office of Hemp Enforcement (OHE) conducted 957 inspections and reviewed over 18,000 edible hemp products for compliance with Virginia laws and regulations. These efforts resulted in \$1.15 million in civil penalties, typically reduced from initial assessments to promote voluntary compliance. The program has also seen a decline in violative edible hemp products in retail, though interest in tetrahydrocannabinol-infused beverages is rising. OHE continues to work with industry stakeholders to ensure products meet regulatory standards before entering the market.

OHE is preparing for the upcoming renewal season for hemp product retail facility registrations, having processed over 1,300 applications since the requirement took effect in November 2024. The registration process will be updated to ensure a smooth renewal period. The voluntary registry of compliant products has been an effective tool in encouraging manufacturer compliance.

To strengthen enforcement and oversight, OHE has increased inspections of Virginia-based edible hemp product manufacturers. These inspections, conducted in coordination with the Food Safety Program, help evaluate compliance with the Virginia Food and Drink Law and good manufacturing practices.

On June 4, Office of Meat and Poultry Services (OMPS) and AFIS staff met with the Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) District Office and the North Carolina Department of Agriculture in Raleigh, North Carolina, to discuss reviews of Talmage/Aiken (T/A) meat and poultry plants. Hosted by FSIS, the meeting provided a forum to review the T/A program's status, share annual findings, and address concerns.

Summer interns have begun work in the Regional Animal Health Laboratories through a competitive, well-regarded program aimed at college students pursuing medical careers. The internships provide hands-on experience in diagnostic labs, with many participants continuing in the field.

From April to June, the Harrisonburg laboratory identified a spike in Infectious Laryngotracheitis (ILT) in commercial poultry in the Shenandoah Valley. This disease infects chickens and causes increased mortality and significant morbidity in flocks. Multiple samples were identified by a referral lab as a virulent wild-type virus. The Office of Laboratory Services (OLS) and Office of Veterinary Services (OVS) are collaborating with the Virginia Poultry Federation and industry partners to respond.

The Office of Laboratory Services (OLS) is strengthening its partnership with the ViTALS Lab at the Virginia-Maryland College of Veterinary Medicine. In April, the OLS Program Manager hosted the new department head from the college's Department of Biomedical Sciences and Pathobiology at the Harrisonburg Lab to tour the facility and explore future collaborations. Since then, OLS diagnosticians have participated in monthly pathology case rounds with ViTALS pathologists to share and analyze complex cases. These sessions have sparked valuable discussion and will soon be open to all OLS staff.

Virginia has achieved "unaffected" status from USDA for Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) in dairy cattle. Since January 2025, VDACS regional labs have tested bulk milk from about 75 percent of permitted dairies, along with additional samples for premovement, illness, or owner-requested testing. Monthly surveillance testing will continue as required by USDA.

OVS veterinarians completed training in the Secure Food Supply Train-the-Trainer program to help producers develop biosecurity plans for continuity during foreign animal disease outbreaks. OVS veterinarians also presented at the national Dairy Farmers Assuring Responsible Management Database Demo on Enhanced Biosecurity Plans for the Secure Milk Supply, which aims to prevent disruptions in milk movement during a Foot and Mouth Disease response.

On May 22, the Wytheville Regional Laboratory hosted 16 members of the Virginia Agricultural Leaders Obtaining Results program as part of their southwest Virginia tour. The visit included a lab tour and overview of services, along with a presentation on the OVS's role in protecting Virginia's livestock.

On June 25, OVS staff participated in the State Managed Shelter Full Scale Emergency Sheltering Exercise at Longwood University. Staff exercised registration and demobilization activities for a state managed pet shelter. State managed shelters are activated by the Governor in response to a mandatory mass evacuation of an area of Virginia.

New World Screwworm continues to spread northward in Mexico, posing a threat to the U.S. southern border. As of July 9, U.S./Mexico ports are closed to imports of Mexican cattle, bison, and horses. While the USDA manages international animal imports, VDACS is closely monitoring the situation and is prepared to implement interstate livestock movement restrictions if necessary.

Project 7681

Department of Agriculture And Consumer Services

**Promulgate regulations governing the installation of invasive plant species by
tradespersons in Virginia**

Chapter 455

Regulations for Tradespersons Installing Invasive Plant Species

2VAC5-455-10. Definitions.

The following words and terms when used in this chapter shall have the following meanings unless the context clearly indicates otherwise:

"Installing" or "installation" means the placement, replacement, or otherwise planting of outdoor plants.

"Invasive plant species" means a plant species included on the Virginia Invasive Plant Species List, established pursuant to § 10.1-104.6:2 of the Code of Virginia and maintained by the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation.

"Notification" means a communication provided by a tradesperson at the time of delivery of a proposal that includes an invasive plant species or prior to the installation of any invasive plant species that is acknowledged in writing by the property owner, manager, custodian, or other person responsible for the property on which an invasive plant species is proposed to be installed or is installed.

"Proposal" means a written landscape design plan.

"Propose" means to provide a proposal to a property owner, manager, custodian, or other person responsible for a property.

"Tradesperson" means any person who, for compensation, proposes plants for installation or installs plants.

2VAC5-455-20. Notification requirements.

A. A tradesperson shall provide written notification to the property owner, manager, custodian, or other person responsible for the property when the tradesperson proposes for installation or installs an invasive plant species.

B. A tradesperson who is required to provide notification pursuant to subsection A of this section shall provide the notification (i) at the time that the tradesperson proposes an invasive plant species for installation or (ii) prior to the installation of an invasive plant species. However, if the tradesperson who proposes an invasive plant species also installs the proposed invasive plant species, notification is only required at the time that the tradesperson proposes the invasive plant species.

C. A notification shall:

1. List each invasive plant species proposed for installation or being installed, identify the species as invasive, and state the invasiveness rank of the species on the Virginia Invasive Plant Species List; and
2. State that general information on the characteristics and management of invasive plant species is available in Virginia Cooperative Extension's Exotic Invasive Plants publication.

2VAC5-455-30. Recordkeeping.

A. A tradesperson who proposes plants for installation shall maintain a copy of the notification provided to a property owner, manager, custodian, or other person responsible for the property for a period of not less than [**two years one year**] from the date on which a proposal is accepted.

B. A tradesperson who installs plants shall maintain a copy of the notification provided to a property owner, manager, custodian, or other person responsible for the property for a period of not less than [~~two years~~ one year] from the date of the installation of an invasive plant species.

C. A tradesperson shall make notifications that the tradesperson provides pursuant to this chapter available for inspection by the Commissioner of Agriculture and Consumer Services upon request.

Project 8217

Department of Agriculture And Consumer Services

Addition of dietary fiber to pet food label requirements

2VAC5-360-10. Definitions.

A. Words used in the singular form in this chapter shall include the plural, and vice versa, as appropriate.

B. All terms used in this chapter shall have the meaning set forth for such in the Act. In addition, the following words and terms shall have the following meanings unless the context clearly indicates otherwise:

"Act" means Chapter 48 (§ 3.2-4800 et seq.) of Title 3.2 of the Code of Virginia, hereinafter known as the Virginia Commercial Feed Act.

"Animal" means any animate being which is not human.

"Adulteration" means a commercial feed is adulterated if:

1. Enough of any harmful or non-nutritive ingredient has been added to endanger animal health when used according to labeling directions.
2. Any part of an essential component has been omitted, removed, or replaced with an inferior substance.
3. The composition or quality of the feed fails to conform to its representation in the labeling.
4. It was prepared or held under unsanitary conditions.
5. It contains any filthy, putrid, decomposed, tainted, unsound or unwholesome substance.

6. Its container is composed of any substance which may cause the feed to endanger animal health.

"Board" means the Virginia Board of Agriculture and Consumer Services.

"Brand" means the term, design, or trademark and other specific designation under which an individual commercial feed is distributed in Virginia.

"Canned animal food" means all materials packed in any airtight container with a moisture content of 70% or more which are distributed for use as food for animals other than humans.

"Commercial feed" means all mixed or unmixed feed including concentrates, supplements, molasses, minerals, mineral mixtures, and all other materials used for their nutritional or physical properties for feeding to animals except those materials exempted by the Act.

"Commissioner" means the Virginia Commissioner of Agriculture and Consumer Services or his delegated assistant or agent.

"Distribute" means to offer or expose for sale, sell, warehouse, exchange, barter, furnish or otherwise supply.

"Distributor" means a person who distributes commercial feeds.

"Feed ingredient" means each of the constituent materials making up a commercial feed.

"Inert mineral matter" means mineral matter that has no nutritional value.

"Label" means a display of written, printed, or graphic matter upon or affixed to the container in which a commercial feed is distributed. The invoice or delivery slip with which a commercial feed is distributed in bulk is the label.

"Labeling" means any written, printed, graphic, electronic, or advertising information pertaining to the commercial feed which is:

1. On the commercial feed or any of its containers,

2. On the invoice or delivery slip,
3. Accompanying the commercial feed at any time, or
4. Otherwise provided to the consumer.

"Medicated feed" means a product obtained by mixing a drug, as defined in § 3.2-4800 of the Code of Virginia, and a commercial feed. It is subject to all provisions of the Virginia Commercial Feed Act.

~~"Misbranding" means a commercial feed is misbranded if:~~

~~1. The label does not include:~~

- ~~a. The name and principal address of the manufacturer, distributor, or person responsible for placing the commercial feed on the market.~~
- ~~b. The name, brand or trademark under which the commercial feed is sold.~~
- ~~c. An accurate quantity statement of the contents.~~
- ~~d. An accurate statement of the minimum percentage of crude protein.~~
- ~~e. An accurate statement of the minimum percentage of crude fat.~~
- ~~f. An accurate statement of the maximum percentage of crude fiber.~~
- ~~g. An accurate statement of the maximum percentage of moisture for all dog and cat foods.~~
- ~~h. The English name of each ingredient or conform to the requirements of 2VAC5-360-40.~~
- ~~i. Adequate warnings against use under normal or pathological conditions where its use may endanger animal health, or against unsafe use or application as necessary for the protection of animals.~~

~~2. Labeling is false or misleading in any particular.~~

~~3. It is distributed under the name of another commercial feed.~~

~~4. Its container is so made, formed or filled as to be deceptive or misleading as to the amount of contents.~~

~~5. Its labeling bears any reference to registration or license under the Act.~~

~~6. It is represented as containing a feed ingredient, unless such feed ingredient conforms to the definition prescribed by regulation of the board.~~

~~7. Any word, statement or other information required by the Act is not prominently placed upon the label so conspicuously (as compared with other words, statements, designs, or devices in the labeling) and in such terms as to make it likely to be read and understood by the ordinary individual under customary conditions of purchase and use.~~

"Official sample" means any sample of feed taken by the commissioner and designated as "Official" by the commissioner.

"Person" means an individual, partnership, association, corporation, firm, agent or authorized group of individuals whether incorporated or not.

"Prohibited noxious-weed seeds" means the seeds of perennial weeds which not only reproduce by seed but which also spread by underground roots and stems; and which, when established, are highly destructive and are not controlled in the Commonwealth by commonly used cultural practices. These include but are not limited to the seeds of Balloonvine-Cardiospermum halicacabum, Field bindweed-Convolvulus arvensis, Quackgrass-Agropyron repens, Canada thistle-Cirsium arvense, Johnson grass-Sorghum spp., perennial, Plumeless thistle, which includes Musk thistle and Curled thistle Carduus spp., Serrated tussock-Nassella trichotoma, and Sicklepod-Senna obtusifolia.

"Restricted noxious-weed seeds" means the seeds of weeds which are very objectionable in fields, lawns and gardens in this Commonwealth and are difficult to control by commonly used cultural practices. These include but are not limited to seeds of Dodder *Cuscuta* spp., Bermudagrass *Cynodon dactylon*, Wild onion bulblets, Wild garlic bulblets *Allium* spp., Wild mustard *Brassica* spp., Giant foxtail-*Setaria faberiana*, radish-*Raphanus*, and Annual bluegrass-*Poa annua*.

"Sell" means sales, barter, or exchange.

"Ton" means a net weight of 2,000 pounds, avoirdupois.

2VAC5-360-50. Labeling.

A. The information required in § 3.2-4806 of the Code of Virginia, with the exception of the quantity statement, shall appear in its entirety on one side of a label or on one side of the container. However, in case a tag is used, the directions for use and warnings against misuse may appear on the other side of the tag.

B. When ingredients are listed, the names of all feed ingredients shall be shown in letters or type of the same size.

C. When feeds carry label information in more than one position on the container, there shall be no variance with respect to name, ingredients, or guaranteed composition.

D. The term "degermed" must precede the name of any product from which the germ has been wholly or partially removed.

E. All printed or written information attached to or packed with feed must conform in all respects to the information printed on the principal label.

F. Labeling ~~which~~ that implies that added enzyme-bearing materials improve the utilization of a product is prohibited unless the claims are substantiated by scientific evidence.

G. The term "Bond Phosphate of Lime," "Bone Phosphate of Lime (BPL)," or "BPL" shall not be used in connection with the labeling of feed ingredients.

H. The label of a commercial feed, other than an individual ingredient or supplement with directions for further mixing, shall designate the species and may designate the animal class for which the feed is intended. For the purpose of this subsection, animal class may include, but is not limited to, weight range, sex, or age of the animal for which the feed is manufactured.

I. A commercial feed shall bear a label that, in addition to the information required in § 3.2-4806 of the Act, includes:

1. An accurate statement of the minimum percentage of crude protein.
2. An accurate statement of the minimum percentage of crude fat.
3. An accurate statement of the maximum percentage of crude fiber, if the commercial feed is not a pet food or a specialty pet food.
4. An accurate statement of the maximum percentage of dietary fiber, if the commercial feed is a pet food or a specialty pet food.
5. An accurate statement of the maximum percentage of moisture, if the commercial feed is a dog food or a cat food.
6. Adequate warnings against use under normal or pathological conditions where its use may endanger animal health or against unsafe use or application as necessary for the protection of animals.

J. Notwithstanding the requirements established in subdivisions I 3 and I 4 of this section, a commercial animal feed that is a pet food or a specialty pet food may bear a label that includes an accurate statement of the maximum percentage of crude fiber rather than dietary fiber through January 1, 2030.

2VAC5-360-55. Misbranding.

A. A commercial feed is misbranded if it is distributed in violation of § 3.2-4807 of the Act.

B. A commercial feed is misbranded if its container is so made, formed, or filled as to be deceptive or misleading as to the amount of its contents.

C. A commercial feed is misbranded if its labeling bears any reference to registration or license under the Act.

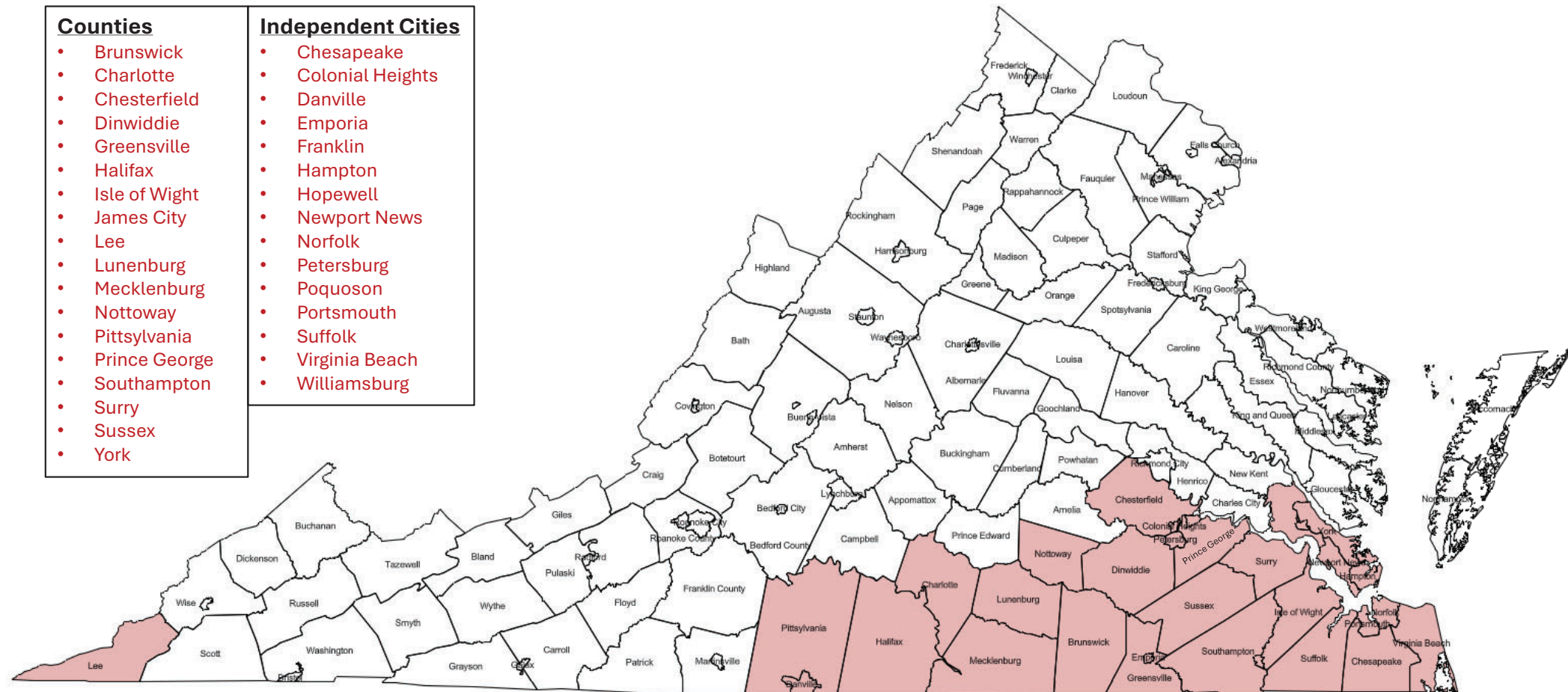
Imported Fire Ant Quarantine – Effective May 27, 2025

Counties

- Brunswick
- Charlotte
- Chesterfield
- Dinwiddie
- Greenville
- Halifax
- Isle of Wight
- James City
- Lee
- Lunenburg
- Mecklenburg
- Nottoway
- Pittsylvania
- Prince George
- Southampton
- Surry
- Sussex
- York

Independent Cities

- Chesapeake
- Colonial Heights
- Danville
- Emporia
- Franklin
- Hampton
- Hopewell
- Newport News
- Norfolk
- Petersburg
- Poquoson
- Portsmouth
- Suffolk
- Virginia Beach
- Williamsburg



BOARD OF AGRICULTURE AND CONSUMER SERVICES

POLICY ON PARTICIPATION IN BOARD OF AGRICULTURE AND CONSUMER SERVICES MEETINGS BY ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS PURSUANT TO VA. CODE § 2.2-3708.3

It is the policy of the Board of Agriculture and Consumer Services (Board) that individual members of the Board may participate in meetings of the Board by electronic communications as permitted by § 2.2-3708.3 of the Code of Virginia. This policy shall apply to the entire membership and without regard to the identity of the member requesting remote participation or the matters that will be considered or voted on at the meeting. This policy shall be adopted at least once annually.

Whenever an individual member wishes to participate from a remote location, the law requires a quorum of the Board to be physically assembled at the primary or central meeting location.

When such individual participation is due to a personal matter, such participation is limited by law to two meetings per calendar year or 25 percent of the meetings held per calendar year rounded up to the next whole number, whichever is greater.

Further, it is the policy of the Board that the Board may hold all-virtual public meetings pursuant to subsection C of § 2.2-3708.3. Such all-virtual public meetings are limited by law to two meetings per calendar year or 50 percent of the meetings held per calendar year rounded up to the next whole number, whichever is greater. Additionally, an all-virtual public meeting may not be held consecutively with another all-virtual public meeting.

Requests for remote participation or that the Board conduct an all-virtual public meeting shall be conveyed to the Secretary of the Board, who shall then relay such requests to the President of the Board.

Individual participation from a remote location shall be approved unless such participation would violate this policy or the provisions of the Virginia Freedom of Information Act (§ 2.2-3700 et seq. of the Code of Virginia). If a member's participation from a remote location is challenged, then the Board shall vote whether to allow such participation.

The request for remote participation or that the Board conduct an all-virtual public meeting shall be recorded in the minutes of the meeting. If the Board votes to disapprove of the member's participation because such participation would violate this policy, such disapproval shall be recorded in the minutes with specificity. The minutes shall include other information as required by §§ 2.2-3707 and 2.2-3708.3 depending on the type of remote participation or all-virtual public meeting.

This policy applies to all committees and subcommittees of the Board.

Version History		
Version	Date	Change Summary
1	12/10/2021	Original
2	3/24/2023	Revised to reflect electronic meeting changes to the Virginia Freedom of Information Act effective September 1, 2022
3	7/31/2024	Revised to reflect electronic meeting changes to the Virginia Freedom of Information Act effective July 1, 2024; annual approval of policy

BOARD OF AGRICULTURE AND CONSUMER SERVICES
Future Meeting Dates

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Thursday, December 11, 2025

Patrick Henry Building
East Reading Room
1111 E. Broad St.
Richmond, VA 23219