

BOARD OF AGRICULTURE AND CONSUMER SERVICES

**Patrick Henry Building
East Reading Room
1111 E. Broad Street
Richmond, Virginia**

Thursday, March 26, 2026

9 A.M.

1. Call to order
2. Roll call
3. Approval of draft Board meeting minutes from December 11, 2025
4. Commissioner's Report to Board – Charles Green, Commissioner of Agriculture and Consumer Services
5. Board member reports
6. Preliminary legislative update – Kevin Schmidt, Director, Office of Policy, Planning, and Research
7. Agricultural Stewardship Act overview – Darrell Marshall, Agricultural Stewardship Program Manager
8. Deer management strategies – Justin Folks, Deer Project Leader, Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources
9. Options for future Board member reports – Margaret Ann Smith, Board President
10. New business
11. Future Board meetings
12. Public comment period
13. Adjourn

Board of Agriculture and Consumer Service

December 11, 2025

Page 1

DRAFT MINUTES

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

Thursday, December 11, 2025

The meeting of the Board of Agriculture and Consumer Services (Board) convened at approximately 9:05 a.m. on Thursday, December 11, 2025, at the Patrick Henry Building. President Smith called the meeting to order.

ROLL CALL

The Board Secretary called the roll:

PRESENT

Keith Harris
William Gwaltney
Raymond Keating
Brittany Jones
Margaret Ann Smith
Dr. Amanda Weakley-Scott
Brantley Ivey
Tyler Wegmeyer
Renee Munasifi
Ginny Barnes
Charles Church
Dr. Mary Burrows

Dr. Jewel Bronaugh

ABSENT

Cecil Shell
Kailee M. Tkacz Buller

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

1st
2nd
3rd
4th
6th
7th
9th
10th
11th
Pesticides – Commercial Agricultural
Pesticides – Commercial Structural
Representing Dr. Timothy D. Sands, President,
Virginia Tech
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. Harris moved that the draft minutes of the August 5, 2025, meeting be approved. Dr. Weakley-Scott seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously to approve the motion.

COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

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.

Following his report, Commissioner Guthrie responded to a question from Mr. Harris regarding VDACS's preparedness to administer a similarly-sized emergency block grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) in the future. Commissioner Guthrie responded that, while the recent USDA block grant required significant upfront creativity and staff effort, VDACS now has a template to adapt to a similar program in the future.

REPORTS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

Charles Church

Mr. Church reported that the Virginia Pest Management Association (VPMA) concluded a strong year, highlighted by its rebranded annual conference and collaboration with the Office of Pesticide Services on a Category 8 preparatory course and exam, through which more than 820 individuals were trained at 14 events. He noted that VPMA leadership established 2026 priorities focused on educational growth and legislative relationships and informed the Board that VPMA submitted a petition for rulemaking seeking creation of a separate public health pesticide certification category to distinguish public and private sector applications.

Virginia Barnes

Ms. Barnes reported ongoing uncertainty within the agricultural community, particularly among retailers, due to the lack of a final decision from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency on dicamba. She also noted that, by far, the most pressing issue is low commodity prices and that small- and medium-sized farm operations are facing challenges related to succession planning. She highlighted severe processing capacity shortages in Virginia, especially limited availability for meat processing appointments, which she indicated is driving interest among farmers in diversification while also creating barriers for new and transitioning producers. Ms. Barnes further conveyed feedback from farmers requesting that the Board consider opportunities to streamline or provide flexibility within inspection and regulatory processes to better support farm viability and access to processing infrastructure.

Keith Harris

Mr. Harris reported on challenging growing conditions across parts of the Commonwealth, noting significant variability due to hot and dry weather and the resulting impacts on crop performance. He expressed concern regarding high input costs. Mr. Harris also expressed concern that some government assistance programs may contribute to higher input prices and encouraged consideration of whether the Commonwealth could explore options to help mitigate input cost pressures for farmers.

William Gwaltney

Mr. Gwaltney thanked VDACS for its good work inspecting peanuts during the harvest season. He echoed the concerns on high inputs costs and mentioned that the U.S. produced the biggest peanut crop ever this year and that two big new players, Argentina and Brazil, are also now producing peanuts for the global market.

Raymond Keating

Mr. Keating reported that rail and truck shipments into Norfolk have remained strong since late summer, despite earlier uncertainty related to international trade and tariff conditions. He noted price volatility in key commodities, including soybeans and corn, and explained that shifts in global demand have resulted in redistribution of export markets, with countries such as Argentina and Brazil capturing a larger share of sales to China. Mr. Keating emphasized that containerized exports through the Port of Virginia continue to perform well, highlighting the port's ample container availability and its reputation as the best place in the country to load containers and export.

Brittany Jones

Ms. Jones reported significant variability in crop yields and noted that dairy prices and replacement heifer prices have declined slightly but remain at satisfactory levels. She highlighted a recent Dairy Alliance initiative to install milk dispensers in local schools that has increased milk consumption and reduced waste and mentioned that additional planned installations are being supported by private donations. Ms. Jones also relayed constituent feedback regarding challenges in obtaining pesticide license documentation and raised concerns about inconsistent soybean grading practices across locations, particularly related to color-related discounts, prompting discussion regarding contract terms and grading standards.

MEETING RECESS

At 9:54 a.m., President Smith recessed the meeting to hold a public hearing on the Box Tree Moth Quarantine.

PUBLIC HEARING – BOX TREE MOTH QUARANTINE

At 10:03 a.m., President Smith opened the public hearing on the Box Tree Moth Quarantine. She then called on David Gianino, Program Manager, Office of Plant Industry Services, to update the Board on the Commissioner's temporary Box Tree Moth quarantine.

Mr. Gianino briefed the Board on the quarantine, advising the Board that the hearing is being held pursuant to Va. Code § 3.2-703, which requires that a public hearing be held (i) if it appears that a quarantine for more than the 90-day period that the Commissioner is authorized to impose will be necessary to prevent or retard the spread of the pest and (ii) before a quarantine is adopted by the Board.

Becky Hall, Virginia Nursery and Landscape Association, thanked VDACS for working with VNLA to inform VNLA's members about the Box Tree Moth and efforts to slow the moth's spread. There being no public comment or questions, President Smith adjourned the public hearing at 10:07 a.m. and reconvened the Board meeting

Dr. Amanda Weakley-Scott

Dr. Weakley-Scott highlighted recent agricultural outreach and engagement efforts in the 7th Congressional District, including the Virginia Ag Expo, field days, and farm tours involving state and federal officials to increase understanding of agricultural operations and infrastructure as well as participation in community education events such as the Virginia Poultry Federation Centennial celebration. She thanked VDACS staff for their support at the State Fair and acknowledged state leadership for ongoing engagement with the agricultural community. Dr. Weakley-Scott also provided an update regarding preparedness for a potential New World

screwworm outbreak, noting the conditional approval of two products and their associated use limitations and withdrawal requirements.

Brantley Ivey

Mr. Ivey reported that the Virginia Cattlemen's Association has started a new leadership development initiative, the Young Cattlemen's Conference, which is scheduled to begin in January, and noted that the incoming National Cattlemen's Beef Association (NCBA) president, Mr. Gene Copenhaver, will be the first NCBA president from Virginia.

Tyler Wegmeyer

Mr. Wegmeyer reported that Virginia's strawberry industry experienced one of its most challenging seasons due to the emergence of *Neopestalotiopsis*, a disease originating in Canada and for which no solution is yet available, though efforts are underway to develop resistant varieties. He noted that producers have begun planting for the next season and successfully shifted plant sourcing from western states rather than Canada, contributing to cautious optimism for improved outcomes, subject to weather conditions. Mr. Wegmeyer also highlighted strong retail and agritourism performance during the fall as well as above-average Christmas tree sales across the Commonwealth.

Renee Munasifi

Ms. Munasifi reported that, in response to ongoing challenges related to low crop prices and high input costs, the USDA is implementing a bridge payment assistance program totaling approximately \$12 billion to support row crop producers, including those producing rice, soybeans, corn, sunflowers, and peanuts, with \$1 billion reserved for specialty crops. She noted that producers must ensure their 2025 acreage reports are accurate by December 19, with payment rates to be determined by commodity by the end of the month and anticipated distribution of payments by late February 2026.

Dr. Mary Burrows

Dr. Burrows reported highlights from Virginia Tech's College of Agriculture and Life Sciences fiscal year 2025 annual report, noting steady enrollment trends, strong graduation rates, and demand for graduates remains high. She emphasized significant growth in the research enterprise, including a substantial increase in sponsored research expenditures and faculty grant submissions, driven in part by major awards supporting advanced agricultural research. Dr. Burrows also highlighted progress in infrastructure and innovation. Dr. Burrows mentioned upcoming strategic planning efforts to align priorities in graduate education, interdisciplinary research, and workforce development.

Dr. Jewel Bronaugh

Dr. Bronaugh reported on significant leadership transitions at Virginia State University's College of Agriculture, including new appointments within college administration, extension leadership, and research, and noted continued stability and strong enrollment outcomes, with high retention rates. She highlighted ongoing efforts to realign academic, research, and extension programs toward a systems-based approach, with increased focus on partnerships, small- and medium-sized farm operations, livestock research, and nutraceutical crop development. Dr. Bronaugh also emphasized emerging research priorities related to food and mental health and expressed appreciation for VDACS's support for disaster relief initiatives benefiting producers across the Commonwealth.

Margaret Ann Smith

President Smith reported on current conditions in the 6th Congressional District, noting recent market volatility in the cattle sector following international trade developments and historically high cattle prices driven by declining herd numbers. She emphasized that elevated prices do not necessarily translate into profitability due to persistently high input costs and interest rates. Ms. Smith also highlighted three successful bovine emergency response plan trainings held across the Commonwealth in collaboration with the Virginia Farm Bureau Federation and other partners.

NOTICE OF INTENDED REGULATORY ACTION – 2 VAC 5-105 (REGULATIONS PERTAINING TO PET SHOPS SELLING DOGS OR CATS)

President Smith called on Dr.Carolynn Bissett, Program Manager, Office of Veterinary Services, who briefed the Board on the proposed Notice of Intended Regulatory Action to amend 2 VAC 5-105.

President Smith asked about the anticipated administrative timeline for the regulatory process, and VDACS staff responded that the standard three-step regulatory process typically takes approximately two to two-and-a-half years, including multiple levels of review and public comment periods, with the possibility of additional delays due to administrative transitions.

Mr. Church 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 2 VAC 5-105, Regulations Pertaining to Pet Shops Selling Dogs or Cats, as presented by staff. Dr. Bronaugh seconded this motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

PROPOSED EXEMPT ACTION TO AMEND 2 VAC 5-490 (REGULATIONS GOVERNING GRADE “A” MILK)

President Smith called on Hunter Moyer, Program Supervisor, Office of Dairy Services, who briefed the Board on the proposed exempt action to amend 2 VAC 5-490.

Mr. Harris moved that the Board of Agriculture and Consumer Services adopt 2 VAC 5-490, Regulations Governing Grade "A" Milk, as presented by staff 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 3.2-5206 of the Virginia Milk, Milk Products, and Dairies Law and to file this proposed regulation for public comment as required therein. Mr. Church seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

FAST-TRACK ACTION TO AMEND 2 VAC 5-501 (REGULATIONS GOVERNING THE COOLING, STORING, SAMPLING AND TRANSPORTING OF MILK)

President Smith called on Hunter Moyer, Program Supervisor, Office of Dairy Services, who briefed the Board on the fast-track action to amend 2 VAC 5-501.

Mr. Gwaltney moved that the Board of Agriculture and Consumer Services adopt 2 VAC 5-501, Regulations Governing the Cooling, Storing, Sampling and Transporting of Milk, as presented by staff and that the Board authorize staff to take any and all steps necessary to amend this regulation through a fast-track regulatory action. Dr. Weakley-Scott seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

FINAL EXEMPT ACTION TO AMEND 2 VAC 5-600 (REGULATIONS PERTAINING TO FOOD FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION)

President Smith called on Pam Miles, Program Manager, Office of Dairy and Foods, who briefed the Board on the final exempt action to amend 2 VAC 5-600.

Mr. Church moved that the Board of Agriculture and Consumer Services adopt 2 VAC 5-600, Regulations Pertaining to Food for Human Consumption, as presented by staff and that the Board authorize staff to take any and all steps necessary to have this regulation become a final regulation of the Board through an exempt regulatory action as authorized by Section 3.2-5121 of the Virginia Food and Drink Law. Ms. Barnes seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

MEETING RECESS

At 10:41 a.m., President Smith recessed the meeting until 10:54 a.m. for a break.

FINAL EXEMPT ACTION TO PROMULGATE 2 VAC 5-332 (RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR ENFORCEMENT OF THE VIRGINIA TREE AND CROP PESTS LAW – BOX TREE MOTH QUARANTINE)

President Smith called on David Gianino, Program Manager, Office of Plant Industry Services, who briefed the Board on the final exempt action to promulgate 2 VAC 5-332.

Following the presentation on the proposed Box Tree Moth Quarantine, Board members asked a series of questions regarding compliance agreements, public outreach, pest behavior, treatment options, and coordination with other states. VDACS staff explained that compliance agreements would require documented training, monitoring, and verification prior to plant movement; outlined plans for public education and outreach, including engagement with historic sites and stakeholders; and noted that the box tree moth spreads relatively slowly through natural movement, allowing for targeted containment efforts. Staff also discussed available treatment options, including registered chemical controls, management plan development for growers, and lessons learned from neighboring and northern states, emphasizing that Virginia's early detection and quarantine approach is intended to improve the likelihood of effective control.

After this discussion, Mr. Harris moved that the Board of Agriculture and Consumer Services adopt 2 VAC 5-332, Rules and Regulations for Enforcement of the Virginia Tree and Crop Pests Law - Box Tree Moth Quarantine, as presented by staff and that the Board authorize staff to take any and all steps necessary to promulgate this regulation through an exempt regulatory action as authorized by Section 3.2-703 of the Virginia Tree and Crop Pests Law and to have this regulation become a final regulation of the Board. Dr. Weakley-Scott seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

RESPONSE TO PETITION FOR RULEMAKING FROM THE VIRGINIA PEST MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION

President Smith called on Secretary Schmidt, who advised the Board that the Code of Virginia provides specific directions on how an agency responds to a citizen's petition for rulemaking. Secretary Schmidt summarized the agency's actions in response to receiving the Virginia Pest Management Association's (VPMA) Petition for Rulemaking.

Following the overview of the petition for rulemaking process by Secretary Schmidt, President Smith called on VPMA . Shannon Harlow-Ellis, VPMA President, presented to the Board the petition requesting that the Board promulgate regulations that (i) create a new category or subcategory of pesticide certification for commercial applicators who conduct public health pest control measures in non-public applications and (ii) adjust training and examination requirements between this new category or subcategory and the area-wide applications made or directed by public agencies.

President Smith then called on Nicole Wilkins, Program Manager, Office of Pesticide Services, who provided comments on behalf of VDACS regarding implementation considerations, including the anticipated timeframe, training and enforcement impacts, and potential resource implications associated with creating a new certification category.

After discussion, Mr. Harris moved that, having considered the petition, public comments received, and staff recommendations, the Board grant the petition to amend 2 VAC 5-685, Regulations Governing Pesticide Applicator Certification under the Authority of the Virginia Pesticide Control Act, to create a new certification category, and authorize staff to take all necessary steps to effectuate the Board's decision. Mr. Gwaltney seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion. Mr. Church abstained.

Mr. Gwaltney moved that the Board authorize staff to take any and all steps necessary to file for public comment a Notice of Intended Regulatory Action to amend 2 VAC 5-685, Regulations Governing Pesticide Applicator Certification under Authority of Virginia Pesticide Control Act, as discussed by the Board. Dr. Weakley-Scott seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion. Mr. Church abstained.

PESTICIDE CONTROL FUND REPORT

President Smith called on Nicole Wilkins, Program Manager, Office of Pesticide Services, who delivered the 2025 Pesticide Control Fund report.

NEW BUSINESS

Dr. Weakley-Scott reported declining wine consumption and related market challenges affecting vineyard operators, including unharvested grapes and rising bottling costs, and suggested exploring a grape concentrate facility as a value-added option. Commissioner Guthrie acknowledged broader beverage market trends and indicated VDACS would be open to discussing potential AFID grant support, partnerships, and marketing opportunities to support the industry.

FUTURE BOARD MEETINGS

President Smith announced that the Board meetings for 2026 will be held on March 26, May 21, and December 10 in Richmond and that staff is exploring options for a host and location for the summer meeting and tour. Mr. Wegmeyer offered to host the summer meeting in his district, potentially in conjunction with the Virginia Agricultural Council annual meeting.

President Smith again mentioned that she would like the Board to provide any feedback regarding member reports for future Board meetings.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

President Smith invited public comment, though none was given.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the Board adjourned at approximately 12:28 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Margaret Ann Smith
Board President

Kevin Schmidt
Board Secretary

COMMISSIONER'S REPORT TO
BOARD OF AGRICULTURE AND CONSUMER SERVICES
March 26, 2026

AGENCY OPERATIONS

Commissioner's Office

The agency is currently celebrating Virginia Agriculture Literacy Week, March 23-27, by reading National Agriculture in the Classroom's 2026 book of the year, *Farm Boots* by Lisl H. Detlefsent, to young children around the Commonwealth. *Farm Boots* offers a delightful snapshot of farm life and the many different varieties of boots needed to complete farm chores. This year, more than 40 VDACS staff are reading to children from pre-school through second grade. They will be joined by Governor Abigail Spanberger and Secretary of Agriculture and Forestry Frazier, who will read to students at McSwain Elementary in Staunton, and Commissioner Green, who will read to students at Tuckahoe Elementary in Henrico County.

VDACS is celebrating National Peanut Month by helping central Virginia residents in need. The agency is accepting peanut butter donations until March 27, which will be delivered to Feed More of Richmond. Donations of crunchy, creamy, natural, honey-flavored, chocolate, and peanut butter & jelly mix are requested, along with staple items to include canned tuna and chicken, low-sodium canned vegetables, and fruits packed in juice.

Division of Marketing and Development (DMD)

Market News staff participated in the 36th annual Eastern Shore Agricultural Conference and Trade Show on January 14-15. The conference was held in Belle Haven and was attended by over 150 participants. The Market News Program Supervisor presented a potato market outlook that included information on prices, shipments and production in the United States and Canada. Information on chipstock potato contracts was also provided to assist producers in upcoming negotiations.

On December 2-3 in Bath County, the Office of Agriculture and Forestry Development (OAFD) staff attended the Virginia Farm Bureau Federation's Annual Convention and served as a judge for the Virginia FAIRS Agricultural and Forestry Innovation Challenge "Bull Pen" – an entrepreneurial and innovation competition for eligible businesses across the Commonwealth. The annual competition provides a platform to help contestants develop and promote their business ventures, present their proposals for professional review and critique, and compete for a total of \$30,000 in cash prizes. Agricision, Inc. of Sedley, Virginia, was the grand prize winner of \$10,000. The ag tech start-up uses autonomous technology for pest detection, providing real-time results that enable farmers to respond quickly with spray applications.

On January 29 in Luray, OAFD staff participated as an exhibitor at the Page County Business Resource Fair, where they had the opportunity to share with a number of attendees about the marketing and development programs and resources available through VDACS.

On February 12, OAFD staff participated in a virtual application workgroup session by the Department of Housing and Community Development to review a GO Virginia Region 9 application submitted by Nelson County. The application proposes the creation of a wine industry coalition and specialized services for wine businesses in the region.

In December 2025, the Office of Food Distribution received approval to award 12 Resilient Food Systems Infrastructure (RFSI) and Simplified Equipment Only (SEO) grant projects totaling more than \$4.9 million. Virginia's RFSI awards support projects that expand capacity for processing, aggregation, and distribution of agricultural products, helping to build a more robust and reliable food system. Funded initiatives include infrastructure improvements on local farms and at aggregation centers as well as the construction of new facilities and upgrades to existing facilities.

Domestic Marketing and Promotions (ODMP) staff conducted 15 commodity board meetings. The commodity boards that met since the last Board meeting were the Apple Board, Cattle Industry Board, Corn Board, Cotton Board, Horse Industry Board, Marine Products Board, Potato Board, Sheep Industry Board, Virginia Spirits Board, and Tobacco Board. The FY 2025 annual reports for all commodity boards are available for your review on VDACS's webpage: <https://www.vdacs.virginia.gov/boards-virginias-agricultural-commodity-boards.shtml>. Please let Secretary Schmidt know if you would like any of these commodity boards to report their activities to the Board at a future meeting.

The 36th Annual Eastern Shore Ag Conference was held on January 14-15 in Belle Haven. The event drew 205 people on the first day. Speakers at the conference included Dr. Robert Thompson, an economist at John Deere; Robert Harper from Virginia Farm Bureau; outgoing Commissioner Guthrie; and incoming Commissioner Green.

ODMP Staff participated in the Agribusiness Council Legislative Reception on January 15, hosting the Virginia's Finest Happy Hour before the dinner. Sixteen companies sampled their products to over 1,000 attendees including newly inaugurated Governor Spanberger. Additionally, PrePOPsterous Gourmet Popcorn and Salsa Don Sebastian were two small, female-owned Virginia's Finest companies that were honored to exhibit at the Made in Virginia Market Governor Spanberger held on January 16.

On December 31, 2025, Marketing staff announced the opening of the pre-application process for the 2026 round of U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Specialty Crop Block Grant Program (SCBGP) funding. The SCBGP is a pass-through federal grant program designed to enhance the competitiveness of specialty crops through grants of up to \$100,000 over a two-year term beginning October 1. Virginia received approximately \$620,000 in 2025, funding seven projects throughout Virginia. The 2026 grant round is underway and is currently in the review panel process. VDACS received double the average number of applications this year as the agency shifted to a pre-proposal system and deployed a new online portal, WebGrants.

From late-November to mid-March, the Office of International Marketing (OIM) supported over 25 Virginia companies through trade shows, market visits, and lead generation. Tradeshow included: Vietnam Wood (Ho Chi Mihn), which featured six Virginia sawmills; VIV Middle East Africa (Abu Dhabi) and International Production and Processing Expo (Atlanta), which are two animal health and nutrition shows that featured eight Virginia companies; and Restaurants Canada (Toronto), Seafood

Expo North America (Boston), and International Food Exhibition (London), which are three specialty food and beverage tradeshow that featured 18 Virginia companies with heavy focus on blue catfish.

Division of Commodity Services (DCS)

Since the last Board meeting in December, Division of Commodity Services (DCS) staff:

- Conducted terminal market and shipping point inspections on approximately 1,333,440 pounds of fresh fruits and vegetables, processed food inspections on approximately 386,500 pounds of processed products, and completed two Good Agricultural Practices audits for Virginia fruit and vegetable growers. DCS also inspected and certified grain commodities (soybeans, corn, wheat) with a total value of more than \$377 million destined for 32 countries.
- Provided livestock evaluation services on approximately 33,179 cattle, 498 lambs and goats, and 5,853 head of field cattle.
- Provided 105 Market News Reports on 45,282 head of livestock at livestock markets and 1,000 bales of hay or straw.
- Inspected and certified approximately 109,013,343 pounds of Farmers' Stock peanuts, 40,765,552 pounds of shelled and in-shell milled peanuts, and 4,123,350 pounds of imported peanuts from Argentina and Paraguay and analyzed approximately 1,149 samples of peanuts for aflatoxin levels.
- Certified 1,274,951 pounds of various poultry parts for the USDA Feeding Program for School Lunch Products.
- Graded, via contracted full-time grading services, 60,297,325 pounds of chicken and 22,670,757 pounds of turkey for the Virginia poultry and egg industry.
- Provided non-contract fee grading and certification services for 903,883 pounds of poultry based on U.S. Consumer Grades to fulfill necessary specifications and contract requirements for the Virginia poultry and egg industry.
- Performed four USDA Food Defense Audits.

Division of Consumer Protection (DCP)

On February 23, work on the Charitable Solicitation Program's new Evoke online platform was completed and opened to the public. More than 13,000 charities, professional solicitors, and fundraising counsels are registered to solicit contributions in the Commonwealth. Previously, registration had to be filed on paper and the charities' records could be requested by contacting VDACS. In the Evoke platform, charities can now file their registration documents electronically and the records will be available in the online database for members of the public to easily access and search.

During the week of January 26, the Office of Pesticide Services notified 2,656 licensed pesticide businesses of the upcoming expiration of their pesticide business license. Annual pesticide business licenses expire March 31 each year.

On January 13 - 14, Office of Plant Industry Services (OPIS) staff conducted surveys for beach vitex, which is listed as a Tier 2 noxious weed in VDACS regulations, in collaboration with staff from the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR), Department of Forestry, and Department of Wildlife Resources at several locations on Virginia's Eastern Shore. During the survey, staff identified two positive sites in Kiptopeke State Park and three positive sites on Chincoteague Island. OPIS staff removed beach vitex from one property, with plans to revisit the site in the future to ensure the plants were eradicated. OPIS plans to treat and remove the beach vitex from the remaining sites on Chincoteague Island. DCR staff committed to performing herbicide treatments and removal of the beach vitex infestations in the state park. Beach vitex is an invasive vine affecting beaches along the east coast.

On December 9, OPIS staff confirmed the presence of box tree moth (*Cydalima perspectalis*) in Loudoun County. OPIS staff originally confirmed box tree moth in Loudoun County in July 2025 and treated that location. Follow up surveys were conducted around the Loudoun County location, and no box tree moth was found until the December 9 detection. OPIS staff will treat all locations in Loudoun and conduct follow-up surveys in the area

On December 11, OPIS staff completed the 2025 cotton boll weevil trapping season. Beginning on August 18, 2025, three seasonal trappers, with assistance from OPIS employees, placed 773 traps on 79,357 acres of cotton in 13 counties and cities. Traps were monitored every 21 days, with no cotton boll weevils detected. Anticipated cotton acreage for the 2026 season is 65,000 acres.

On December 16, OPIS received notification from the USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) Plant Protection and Quarantine (PPQ) that the OPIS plant pathology laboratory had received certification in the *Phytophthora ramorum* (sudden oak death) Interpretive Proficiency Test. The certification allows *P. ramorum* testing to be conducted at the laboratory, independent from USDA. VDACS receives federal funding to survey for the plant pathogen in nurseries, which, if established in Virginia, could cause significant economic losses to the nursery industry.

On December 29 -30, OPIS staff identified 124 containers of urea-based ice-melt products at several retail locations in northern Virginia. Staff placed the containers under a Stop Sale Order, as Virginia's Fertilizer Law prohibits the sale of urea-based ice-melt products in the Commonwealth. De-icer containing urea is prohibited in Virginia to protect the Chesapeake Bay and other state waters from nitrogen and phosphorus runoff.

During the week of January 19 - 23, OPIS staff travelled to Gainesville, Florida, for training by the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services on invasive insect identification to assist VDACS's Invasive Species Coordinator with the skills needed to identify the pests targeted in VDACS's Cooperative Agricultural Pest Survey program.

On February 19, OPIS staff participated in the annual planning meeting of the Spongy Moth Slow the Spread (STS) Foundation. During the meeting, the USDA Forest Service (FS) provided an update on funding availability and timing for fiscal year (FY) 2026. While the USDA FS communicated that

funding levels are expected to be similar to FY 25 (\$6.5 million for the STS Foundation), they have not yet received approval to award funds to the STS Foundation for the upcoming year. VDACS's current STS grant will provide program funding through May 31, 2026.

Staff from the Office of Weights and Measures (OWM) attended the National Conference on Weights and Measures (NCWM) Interim Meeting, from January 11 - 14 in Mobile, Alabama. The NCWM interim meeting provides an opportunity for member states, weights and measures officials, and industry stakeholders to convene and consider proposed changes to model laws and regulations found in the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) Handbook 44, Handbook 130, and Handbook 133. These handbooks have been adopted by the Code of Virginia for OWM to use as guidance in the performance of inspection activities. A proposal was submitted to amend the NIST Handbook 133 to provide a moisture allowance for fruits and vegetables at six percent, which addresses the high volume of moisture loss upon harvesting. The moisture allowances proposal will be voted on by the NCWM at the July 2026 meeting.

Staff from OWM participated in the Staunton Farmers Market Annual Meeting on January 20 and the Williamsburg Farmers Market Vendor Meeting on January 22. OWM was invited to test and inspect scales, answer questions, provide clarification about methods of sale, and provide technical assistance with National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) Handbook 44 and Handbook 133. OWM approved 37 vendor scales at these meetings.

Division of Animal and Food Industry Services (AFIS)

From November to February, the Office of Dairy and Foods (ODF) Food Safety Program conducted 3,942 inspections, investigated 257 consumer complaints, collected 155 food samples, and supported the opening of 354 new food businesses. In December, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) awarded the Food Safety Program a Certificate of Accomplishment to commemorate the Program's work and leadership towards a nationally-integrated food safety system through its Domestic Mutual Reliance Partnership Agreement with the FDA.

From October to January, ODF's Dairy Services Program conducted 393 dairy farm and 99 plant inspections, collected 1,406 product samples, and received notice of the award of a grant in the amount of \$6,846 from the Association of Food and Drug Officials to secure funding for dairy-related training and participation in annual industry conferences.

Since July 1, the ODF Produce Safety Program has conducted 84 inspections and completed 117 visits. On February 1, the Program provided a presentation to the National Association of State Departments of Agriculture Foundation Board on the new Good Agricultural Practices alternate pathway project for the farm to school program that the Program has been working on in conjunction with colleagues at the Department of Education and Virginia Tech.

Since October 1, ODF's Rapid Response Team has responded to 33 food emergency related incidents (five fires, 28 truck wrecks) involving over 791,000 pounds of food, helping prevent adulterated food products from entering into commerce.

Since July 1, 2025, the Office of Hemp Enforcement (OHE) has reviewed more than 7,913 edible hemp products and 3,483 inhalable hemp products, conducted over 606 inspections and 472 informal fact-finding conferences to ensure compliance with Virginia's laws and regulations, and issued 477 civil penalty packages to retailers totaling \$10,572,000 in total assessed penalties. OHE has partnered with the Virginia State Police and the Office of Attorney General to send a law enforcement referral for any products that are being offered for sale that meet the legal definition of marijuana, which is a criminal violation. So far, the program has collected over 21 inhalable hemp product samples that have all tested significantly higher than the allowable limit of 0.3% total THC.

On January 11, USDA Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) assumed inspection responsibilities of both facilities of Monogram Meat Snacks in Martinsville and Buitoni in Danville. These establishments had been previously inspected by the VDACS Office of Meat and Poultry Services (OMPS). OMPS was notified in late 2025 of the change of inspection responsibilities by FSIS. The reasoning for the change was due to the classification of establishment size according to FSIS. Monogram Meat Snacks had grown to become the only Large classed meat producing plant in the nation inspected by a state operating under the Talmage Aiken Act, which allows a state inspection program to conduct federal inspections. This decision was made at the FSIS Headquarters in Washington, D.C. OMPS worked with FSIS to ensure a smooth transition.

The FSIS District Office in Raleigh, North Carolina, completed the Front Line Supervisor (FLS) reviews in the Talmadge Aiken establishments inspected by OMPS during the week of February 2. FSIS conducts these onsite inspections annually to verify OMPS is operating in compliance with the Federal Meat Inspection Act and the Poultry Products Inspection Act. There were no findings of any major violations at these establishments.

During the week of February 9-13, the Office of Laboratory Services Program Manager hosted the annual Director's Meeting, annual Management Review Meeting, and Biannual Microbiologist Supervisor's Meeting in Harrisonburg. The purpose of these meetings was to bring all directors to one location to discuss personnel issues, pathology changes, workload and business trends, needs for the program, and opportunities for improvement. From February 24 to February 26, pre-bid site visits were held at the sites of the future capital expansion projects in Warrenton, Harrisonburg, and Lynchburg. General contractors, other personnel, and subcontractors were given the opportunity to review the site's interior and exterior affected spaces for applicable needs prior to placing a bid on the project.

On December 30, 2025, the Office of Veterinary Services (OVS) responded to a detection of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) in a backyard flock in Isle of Wight County. The farm lost approximately 50 percent of its domestic poultry before notifying VDACS. The flock tested positive for HPAI on December 29, 2025, and the remaining ill poultry were euthanized on December 30. The premises will remain fallow and under quarantine for 120 days. In January, OVS staff conducted and additional staff attended a captive bolt euthanasia training held at the Harrisonburg and Wytheville Regional Animal Health Labs. Beginning January 24, the OVS Program Manager and Emergency Coordinator virtually staffed Emergency Support Function #11 during the winter storm activation. Additionally, the Program Manager communicated with the Virginia Poultry Federation and several poultry companies regarding collapsed poultry houses due to the snow and ice accumulations. At last count in February, over 25 poultry houses collapsed or partially collapsed due to the winter weather. The

OVS Program Manager worked with Virginia Cooperative Extension on initial damage assessments. The initial damage is estimated at over \$19 million dollars, but future economic impact assessment is ongoing.

****BOARD 3-26-2026**

Bill	Committee	Last Action	Date
HB65 - Helmer - Apple Board; repealing Board and Apple Fund effective July 1, 2028, report.	(H) Agriculture, Chesapeake and Natural Resources (S) Agriculture, Conservation and Natural Resources	Governor's Action Deadline 11:59 p.m., April 13, 2026	03/10/26
HB109 - Seibold - Noxious weeds; amends definition, commercial viability, phase-out period, report.	(H) Agriculture, Chesapeake and Natural Resources (S) Agriculture, Conservation and Natural Resources	Governor's Action Deadline 11:59 p.m., April 13, 2026	03/10/26
HB322 - Glass - Misbranded food; manufactured-protein food products, civil penalty.	(H) Agriculture, Chesapeake and Natural Resources (S) Finance and Appropriations	(H) Fiscal Impact Statement from Department of Planning and Budget (HB322)	03/16/26
HB402 - Callsen - Cottage food laws; sale of certain food over phone and internet, report.	(H) Agriculture, Chesapeake and Natural Resources (S) Agriculture, Conservation and Natural Resources	(H) Fiscal Impact Statement from Department of Planning and Budget (HB402)	03/16/26
HB512 - Pope Adams - Virginia Farm and Forest Prosperity Plan; OSAF to develop and implement comprehensive Plan, report.	(H) Agriculture, Chesapeake and Natural Resources (S) Agriculture, Conservation and Natural Resources	Governor's Action Deadline 11:59 p.m., April 13, 2026	03/10/26
HB642 - Krizek - Cannabis control; establishes framework for creation of retail marijuana market, penalties, report.	(H) Appropriations (S) Finance and Appropriations	(H) Conference report agreed to by House (64-Y 32-N 0-A)	03/14/26
HB710 - Pence - Invasive plant species installation; written notification to property owners, civil penalty.	(H) Agriculture, Chesapeake and Natural Resources (S) Agriculture, Conservation and Natural Resources	Governor's Action Deadline 11:59 p.m., April 13, 2026	03/10/26
HB749 - Runion - Fertilizer and lime; amends provisions governing permit requirements..	(H) Agriculture, Chesapeake and Natural Resources (S) Agriculture, Conservation and Natural Resources	(H) Senate amendment agreed to by House (99-Y 0-N 0-A)	03/10/26
SB163 - McDougle - Pesticide control; agencies or persons exempt or partially exempt.	(H) Agriculture, Chesapeake and Natural Resources (S) Agriculture, Conservation and Natural Resources	Governor's Action Deadline 11:59 p.m., April 13, 2026	03/10/26

SB186 - Williams Graves - Misbranded food; manufactured-protein food products, civil penalty.	(H) Agriculture, Chesapeake and Natural Resources (S) Agriculture, Conservation and Natural Resources	Governor's Action Deadline 11:59 p.m., April 13, 2026	03/10/26
SB302 - Jordan - Peanuts; excise tax, sunset extended.	(H) Appropriations (S) Agriculture, Conservation and Natural Resources	(S) House substitute agreed to by Senate (39-Y 1-N 0-A)	03/10/26
SB383 - French - Invasive plant species installation; written notification to property owners, civil penalty.	(H) Agriculture, Chesapeake and Natural Resources (S) Agriculture, Conservation and Natural Resources	Governor's Action Deadline 11:59 p.m., April 13, 2026	03/10/26
SB390 - French - Apple Board; repealing Board and Apple Fund effective July 1, 2028, report.	(H) Agriculture, Chesapeake and Natural Resources (S) Agriculture, Conservation and Natural Resources	Governor's Action Deadline 11:59 p.m., April 13, 2026	03/10/26
SB542 - Aird - Cannabis control; establishes framework for creation of retail marijuana market, penalties, report.	(H) Appropriations (S) Finance and Appropriations	(H) Conference report agreed to by House (64-Y 32-N 0-A)	03/14/26
SB543 - Aird - Marijuana and hemp products; enforcement.	(H) General Laws (S) Finance and Appropriations	(S) Fiscal Impact Statement from Department of Planning and Budget (SB543)	03/24/26
SB707 - Diggs - Dogs; devocalization, prohibited, exception, penalty.	(H) Agriculture, Chesapeake and Natural Resources (S) Finance and Appropriations	Governor's Action Deadline 11:59 p.m., April 13, 2026	03/10/26
SB719 - Marsden - Virginia Farm and Forest Prosperity Plan; OSAF to develop and implement comprehensive Plan, report.	(H) Agriculture, Chesapeake and Natural Resources (S) Agriculture, Conservation and Natural Resources	Governor's Action Deadline 11:59 p.m., April 13, 2026	03/10/26

Counts - HB: 8, HJ: 0, HR: 0, SB: 9, SJ: 0, SR: 0

****BOARD 3-26-2026**

HB 65 - Apple Board; repealing Board and Apple Fund effective July 1, 2028, report.

Chief Patron: Helmer

Status: Awaiting Governor's Action

Title

An Act to amend and reenact §§ 2.2-3705.6, 2.2-3711, as it is currently effective and as it shall become effective, 3.2-1100, 3.2-1104, 3.2-1105, 3.2-1106, 10.1-1458, and 15.2-2103.1 of the Code of Virginia and to repeal Chapter 12 (§§ 3.2-1200 through 3.2-1217) of Title 3.2 of the Code of Virginia, relating to Apple Board; repeal.

SUMMARY AS PASSED

Apple Board; repeal. Repeals the Apple Board and Apple Fund effective July 1, 2028, and provides that any funds remaining in the Apple Fund as of July 1, 2028, shall be transferred to the Governor's Agriculture and Forestry Industries Development Fund. The bill provides that the excise tax levied on apples grown in the Commonwealth shall not be collected for the 2026 harvest season and requires the chair of the Apple Board to file a report with the Commissioner of Agriculture and Consumer Services no later than June 30, 2028, with a statement of total receipts and disbursements of the Apple Board for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2028. This bill is identical to SB 390.

5 Last Events

03/10/2026	Governor	Governor's Action Deadline 11:59 p.m., April 13, 2026
03/10/2026	House	Enrolled Bill communicated to Governor on March 10, 2026
03/09/2026	House	Fiscal Impact Statement from Department of Planning and Budget (HB65)
03/06/2026	Senate	Signed by President
03/06/2026	House	Signed by Speaker

HB 109 - Noxious weeds; amends definition, commercial viability, phase-out period, report.

Chief Patron: Seibold

Status: Awaiting Governor's Action

Title

An Act to amend and reenact §§ 3.2-800 and 3.2-802 of the Code of Virginia, relating to Board of Agriculture and Consumer Services; noxious weeds; commercial viability.

SUMMARY AS PASSED

Board of Agriculture and Consumer Services; noxious weeds; commercial viability; report. Amends the definition of noxious weed to remove the exclusion for living plants or parts thereof that are commercially viable or commercially propagated in Virginia and removes the requirement that the Noxious Weeds Advisory Committee include in its recommendations to the Board of Agriculture and Consumer Services an analysis of the current and potential in-state commercial viability of a plant species. The bill requires a plant that is designated by the Board as a noxious weed and commercially propagated in Virginia to be subject to a phase-out period of two years for grasses, forbs, and vines; four years for shrubs; and seven years for trees. The bill directs the Commissioner of Agriculture and Consumer Services to conduct a review of the legislative and regulatory authority of the Board pertaining to the control of noxious weeds and report his findings and recommendations to the Chairs of the House Committee on Agriculture, Chesapeake and Natural Resources and the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Natural Resources by November 1, 2026.

5 Last Events

03/10/2026	Governor	Governor's Action Deadline 11:59 p.m., April 13, 2026
03/10/2026	House	Enrolled Bill communicated to Governor on March 10, 2026
03/04/2026	Senate	Signed by President
03/04/2026	House	Signed by Speaker
03/04/2026	House	Fiscal Impact Statement from Department of Planning and Budget (HB109)

HB 322 - Misbranded food; manufactured-protein food products, civil penalty.

Chief Patron: Glass

Status: Pending Governor's Communication

Title

An Act to amend and reenact §§ 3.2-5415 and 59.1-200 of the Code of Virginia and to amend the Code of Virginia by adding a section numbered 3.2-5402.1, relating to misbranded meat food products prohibited; civil penalty.

SUMMARY AS PASSED

Misbranded food; manufactured-protein food products; civil penalty. Provides that a food is misbranded if it purports to be or is represented as a meat food product or poultry product and such food product (i) bears or contains a manufactured-protein food product, as defined in the bill; (ii) is offered for sale; and (iii) has a label that is part of or placed on the food product package or other container storing such product that identifies the food as a meat food product or poultry product, unless such label bears a conspicuous and prominent qualifying term and is in close proximity to an identifying meat term, as such terms are defined in the bill. The bill exempts a meat food product that the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services determines contains a trace amount of a manufactured-protein food product, prohibits the sale or offering for sale of a food product that is misbranded pursuant to the provisions of the bill, and makes doing so a violation of the Virginia Consumer Protection Act. The bill provides that a person who violates the provisions of the bill is subject to a civil penalty not to exceed \$500 and allows the Board of Agriculture and Consumer Services to adopt increased civil penalties not to exceed \$500 for first, second, and subsequent violations of the bill. This bill is identical to SB 186.

5 Last Events

03/16/2026	House	Fiscal Impact Statement from Department of Planning and Budget (HB322)
03/14/2026	Senate	Signed by President
03/14/2026	House	Signed by Speaker
03/14/2026	House	Bill text as passed House and Senate (HB322ER)
03/14/2026	House	Enrolled

HB 402 - Cottage food laws; sale of certain food over phone and internet, report.

Chief Patron: Callsen

Status: Pending Governor's Communication

Title

An Act to amend and reenact § 3.2-5130 of the Code of Virginia, relating to cottage food laws; sale of certain food over phone and internet.

SUMMARY AS PASSED

Cottage food laws; sale of certain food over phone and internet; work group; report. Expands the exemption from state inspection requirements for private homes where the resident processes and prepares certain food products, including pickles and other acidified vegetables, to allow for such person to sell such products at any location, through the internet, or by telephone to an individual in the Commonwealth for his own consumption and deliver such products in person, by mail, or by delivery service subject to certain restrictions. Current law only allows for the sale to take place in person at the private home, a temporary

event, or a farmer's market. The bill also directs the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services to convene a work group to examine the structural, equipment, and facility standards for private homes in the Commonwealth producing products that do not meet the cottage food law exemptions. The bill requires the work group to complete its meetings by November 1, 2026, and report its findings and recommendations to the Chairs of the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Natural Resources and the House Committee on Agriculture, Chesapeake and Natural Resources by the first day of the 2027 Regular Session of the General Assembly.

5 Last Events

03/16/2026	House	Fiscal Impact Statement from Department of Planning and Budget (HB402)
03/14/2026	Senate	Signed by President
03/14/2026	House	Signed by Speaker
03/14/2026	House	Bill text as passed House and Senate (HB402ER)
03/14/2026	House	Enrolled

HB 512 - Virginia Farm and Forest Prosperity Plan; OSAF to develop and implement comprehensive Plan, report.

Chief Patron: Pope Adams

Status: Awaiting Governor's Action

Title

An Act to amend the Code of Virginia by adding in Article 2.1 of Chapter 2 of Title 2.2 a section numbered 2.2-203.4, relating to Secretary of Agriculture and Forestry; Virginia Farm and Forest Prosperity Plan; report.

SUMMARY AS PASSED

Secretary of Agriculture and Forestry; Virginia Farm and Forest Prosperity Plan; report. Directs the Secretary of Agriculture and Forestry, during the first year of each new gubernatorial administration, to develop and implement a written comprehensive Virginia Farm and Forest Prosperity Plan that is designed to be enacted over the course of such gubernatorial administration's term. The Secretary is directed to submit a report detailing the progress made toward the development and implementation of the Plan to the Governor and to the Chairs of the House Committee on Agriculture, Chesapeake and Natural Resources and the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Natural Resources by December 1 of the first year of each new gubernatorial administration. This bill is identical to SB 719.

5 Last Events

03/10/2026	Governor	Governor's Action Deadline 11:59 p.m., April 13, 2026
03/10/2026	House	Enrolled Bill communicated to Governor on March 10, 2026
03/04/2026	Senate	Signed by President
03/04/2026	House	Signed by Speaker
03/04/2026	House	Fiscal Impact Statement from Department of Planning and Budget (HB512)

HB 642 - Cannabis control; establishes framework for creation of retail marijuana market, penalties, report.

Chief Patron: Krizek

Status: Passed

Title

A BILL to amend and reenact §§ 2.2-2499.8, 2.2-2818, 2.2-2905, 2.2-3114, 2.2-3711, as it is currently effective and as it shall become effective, 2.2-3802, 2.2-4024, 3.2-4113, 4.1-352, 4.1-600, 4.1-601, 4.1-603, 4.1-604, 4.1-606, 4.1-607, 4.1-611, 4.1-614, 4.1-621, 4.1-1100, 4.1-1101, 4.1-1121, 4.1-1402, 4.1-1500, 4.1-1501, 4.1-1502, 4.1-1600, 4.1-1601, 4.1-1602, 4.1-1603, 4.1-1603.1, 4.1-1603.2, 4.1-1604, 5.1-13, 9.1-1101, 16.1-69.40:1, 16.1-260, 16.1-273, 16.1-278.9, 18.2-46.1, 18.2-247, 18.2-248, 18.2-248.01, 18.2-251, 18.2-251.03, 18.2-251.1:1, 18.2-251.1:2, 18.2-251.1:3, 18.2-252, 18.2-254, 18.2-255, 18.2-255.1, 18.2-

255.2, 18.2-258, 18.2-258.02, 18.2-258.1, 18.2-265.1, 18.2-265.2, 18.2-265.3, 18.2-287.2, 18.2-308.012, 18.2-308.4, 18.2-460, 18.2-474.1, 19.2-66, 19.2-81, 19.2-81.1, 19.2-83.1, 19.2-188.1, 19.2-303.01, 19.2-386.22 through 19.2-386.25, 19.2-389, as it is currently effective and as it shall become effective, 19.2-389.3, 19.2-392.02, 19.2-392.6, 19.2-392.12:1, 22.1-206, 22.1-277.08, 23.1-1301, 46.2-105.2, 46.2-347, 48-17.1, 53.1-231.2, 54.1-2903, 54.1-3443, 58.1-301, and 59.1-200 of the Code of Virginia; to amend the Code of Virginia by adding in Subtitle II of Title 2.2 a part labeled D, containing a chapter numbered 61, consisting of a section numbered 2.2-6100, by adding in Chapter 6 of Title 4.1 sections numbered 4.1-629 and 4.1-630, by adding in Title 4.1 chapters numbered 7 through 10, consisting of sections numbered 4.1-700 through 4.1-1010, by adding sections numbered 4.1-1102 through 4.1-1105, 4.1-1106, 4.1-1113, 4.1-1114, 4.1-1115, 4.1-1117, 4.1-1118, and 4.1-1119, by adding in Title 4.1 a chapter numbered 12, consisting of sections numbered 4.1-1200 through 4.1-1206, by adding in Chapter 13 of Title 4.1 sections numbered 4.1-1300, 4.1-1301, and 4.1-1303 through 4.1-1309, by adding in Chapter 14 of Title 4.1 sections numbered 4.1-1403 through 4.1-1407, by adding a section numbered 4.1-1602.1, by adding in Article 2 of Chapter 1 of Title 6.2 a section numbered 6.2-108, and by adding in Chapter 44 of Title 54.1 a section numbered 54.1-4426; and to repeal §§ 4.1-1101.1, 4.1-1105.1, 18.2-248.1, and 18.2-251.1 of the Code of Virginia, relating to cannabis control; retail market; penalties.

SUMMARY AS PASSED HOUSE

Cannabis control; retail market; penalties. Establishes a framework for the creation of a retail marijuana market in the Commonwealth, to be administered by the Virginia Cannabis Control Authority. The bill provides that no retail sales may occur prior to November 1, 2026.

5 Last Events

03/14/2026	House	Conference report agreed to by House (64-Y 32-N 0-A)
03/13/2026	Senate	Conference report agreed to by Senate (21-Y 18-N 0-A)
03/13/2026	House	Fiscal Impact statement From VCSC (3/13/2026 7:28 pm)
03/13/2026	Conference	Conference Report released
03/09/2026	Senate	Conferees appointed by Senate

HB 710 - Invasive plant species installation; written notification to property owners, civil penalty.

Chief Patron: Pence

Status: Awaiting Governor's Action

Title

An Act to amend and reenact § 3.2-809 of the Code of Virginia, relating to Board of Agriculture and Consumer Services; invasive plant species installation; written notification to property owners; civil penalty.

SUMMARY AS PASSED

Board of Agriculture and Consumer Services; invasive plant species installation; written notification to property owners; civil penalty. Provides that the Board of Agriculture and Consumer Services may assess a civil penalty in an amount of not more than \$250 for a first violation, \$500 for a second violation, and \$1,000 for each subsequent violation to any tradesperson involved with proposing or installing plants who fails to provide written notification to property owners when such plants are on the Department of Conservation and Recreation's list of invasive plant species. Current law provides that any such tradesperson who fails to provide such written notice is guilty of a Class 1 misdemeanor. This bill is identical to SB 383.

5 Last Events

03/10/2026	Governor	Governor's Action Deadline 11:59 p.m., April 13, 2026
03/10/2026	House	Enrolled Bill communicated to Governor on March 10, 2026
03/04/2026	Senate	Signed by President
03/04/2026	House	Signed by Speaker
03/04/2026	House	Fiscal Impact Statement from Department of Planning and Budget (HB710)

HB 749 - Fertilizer and lime; amends provisions governing permit requirements..

Chief Patron: Runion

Status: Passed

Title

A BILL to amend and reenact §§ 3.2-3700 and 3.2-3704 of the Code of Virginia, relating to fertilizer and lime permit requirements.

SUMMARY AS INTRODUCED

Fertilizer and lime permit requirements. Amends the provisions governing the permit requirements for bulk lime materials to add a distributor who holds a valid license to distribute a regulated product, as defined in the bill, to the list of people who can sell bulk liming material. The bill also removes duplicative language relating to (i) when a permit expires, (ii) the cost of obtaining a permit, and (iii) the authority of the Commissioner of Agriculture and Consumer Services to issue written notices and collect fees for failing to obtain a permit.

5 Last Events

03/10/2026	House	Senate amendment agreed to by House (99-Y 0-N 0-A)
03/09/2026	Senate	Passed Senate with amendment Block Vote (40-Y 0-N 0-A)
03/09/2026	Senate	Engrossed by Senate as amended
03/09/2026	Senate	Agriculture, Conservation and Natural Resources Amendment agreed to
03/09/2026	Senate	Read third time

SB 163 - Pesticide control; agencies or persons exempt or partially exempt.

Chief Patron: McDougle

Status: Awaiting Governor's Action

Title

An Act to amend and reenact § 3.2-3931 of the Code of Virginia, relating to pesticide control; agencies or persons exempt or partially exempt.

SUMMARY AS PASSED

Pesticide control; agencies or persons exempt or partially exempt. Provides that volunteers associated with state agencies, municipal corporations, or other governmental agencies shall be certified as commercial applicators or registered technicians for the use of pesticides, provided that such certification is valid only when applying or supervising application of pesticides used by such governmental agencies. The bill also exempts from applicator certification requirements any unpaid volunteer who uses any nonrestricted herbicide with the express authorization of a state agency for the sole purpose of controlling invasive plants or noxious weeds on properties owned by such state agency.

5 Last Events

03/10/2026	Governor	Governor's Action Deadline 11:59 p.m., April 13, 2026
03/10/2026	Senate	Enrolled Bill communicated to Governor on March 10, 2026
03/05/2026	Senate	Signed by President
03/05/2026	House	Signed by Speaker
03/05/2026	Senate	Fiscal Impact Statement from Department of Planning and Budget (SB163)

SB 186 - Misbranded food; manufactured-protein food products, civil penalty.

Chief Patron: Williams Graves

Status: Awaiting Governor's Action

Title

An Act to amend and reenact §§ 3.2-5415 and 59.1-200 of the Code of Virginia and to amend the Code of Virginia by adding a section numbered 3.2-5402.1, relating to misbranded meat food products prohibited; civil penalty.

SUMMARY AS PASSED

Misbranded food; manufactured-protein food products; civil penalty. Provides that a food is misbranded if it purports to be or is represented as a meat food product or poultry product and such food product (i) bears or contains a manufactured-protein food product, as defined in the bill; (ii) is offered for sale; and (iii) has a label that is part of or placed on the food product package or other container storing such product that identifies the food as a meat food product or poultry product, unless such label bears a conspicuous and prominent qualifying term and is in close proximity to an identifying meat term, as such terms are defined in the bill. The bill exempts a meat food product that the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services determines contains a trace amount of a manufactured-protein food product, prohibits the sale or offering for sale of a food product that is misbranded pursuant to the provisions of the bill, and makes doing so a violation of the Virginia Consumer Protection Act. The bill provides that a person who violates the provisions of the bill is subject to a civil penalty not to exceed \$500 and allows the Board of Agriculture and Consumer Services to adopt increased civil penalties not to exceed \$500 for first, second, and subsequent violations of the bill. This bill is identical to HB 322.

5 Last Events

03/10/2026	Governor	Governor's Action Deadline 11:59 p.m., April 13, 2026
03/10/2026	Senate	Enrolled Bill communicated to Governor on March 10, 2026
03/05/2026	Senate	Signed by President
03/05/2026	House	Signed by Speaker
03/05/2026	Senate	Fiscal Impact Statement from Department of Planning and Budget (SB186)

SB 302 - Peanuts; excise tax, sunset extended.

Chief Patron: Jordan

Status: Passed

Title

A BILL to amend and reenact § 3.2-1905 of the Code of Virginia, relating to excise tax on peanuts; sunset extended.

SUMMARY AS INTRODUCED

Excise tax on peanuts; sunset extended. Extends from July 1, 2026, to July 1, 2031, the sunset date of the excise tax on all peanuts grown in and sold in Virginia for processing.

5 Last Events

03/10/2026	Senate	House substitute agreed to by Senate (39-Y 1-N 0-A)
03/09/2026	Senate	Passed by for the day
03/05/2026	House	Passed House with substitute (95-Y 0-N 0-A)
03/05/2026	House	Engrossed by House - committee substitute
03/05/2026	House	committee substitute agreed to

SB 383 - Invasive plant species installation; written notification to property owners, civil penalty.

Chief Patron: French

Status: Awaiting Governor's Action

Title

An Act to amend and reenact § 3.2-809 of the Code of Virginia, relating to Board of Agriculture and Consumer Services; invasive plant species installation; written notification to property owners; civil penalty.

SUMMARY AS PASSED

Board of Agriculture and Consumer Services; invasive plant species installation; written notification to property owners; civil penalty. Provides that the Board of Agriculture and Consumer Services may assess a civil penalty in an amount of not more than \$250 for a first violation, \$500 for a second violation, and \$1,000 for each subsequent violation to any tradesperson involved with proposing or installing plants who fails to provide written notification to property owners when such plants are on the Department of Conservation and Recreation's list of invasive plant species. Current law provides that any such tradesperson who fails to provide such written notice is guilty of a Class 1 misdemeanor. This bill is identical to HB 710.

5 Last Events

03/10/2026	Governor	Governor's Action Deadline 11:59 p.m., April 13, 2026
03/10/2026	Senate	Enrolled Bill communicated to Governor on March 10, 2026
03/05/2026	Senate	Signed by President
03/05/2026	House	Signed by Speaker
03/05/2026	Senate	Fiscal Impact Statement from Department of Planning and Budget (SB383)

SB 390 - Apple Board; repealing Board and Apple Fund effective July 1, 2028, report.

Chief Patron: French

Status: Awaiting Governor's Action

Title

An Act to amend and reenact §§ 2.2-3705.6, 2.2-3711, as it is currently effective and as it shall become effective, 3.2-1100, 3.2-1104, 3.2-1105, 3.2-1106, 10.1-1458, and 15.2-2103.1 of the Code of Virginia and to repeal Chapter 12 (§§ 3.2-1200 through 3.2-1217) of Title 3.2 of the Code of Virginia, relating to Apple Board; repeal.

SUMMARY AS PASSED

Apple Board; repeal. Repeals the Apple Board and Apple Fund effective July 1, 2028, and provides that any funds remaining in the Apple Fund as of July 1, 2028, shall be transferred to the Governor's Agriculture and Forestry Industries Development Fund. The bill provides that the excise tax levied on apples grown in the Commonwealth shall not be collected for the 2026 harvest season and requires the chair of the Apple Board to file a report with the Commissioner of Agriculture and Consumer Services no later than June 30, 2028, with a statement of total receipts and disbursements of the Apple Board for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2028. This bill is identical to HB 65.

5 Last Events

03/10/2026	Governor	Governor's Action Deadline 11:59 p.m., April 13, 2026
03/10/2026	Senate	Enrolled Bill communicated to Governor on March 10, 2026
03/05/2026	Senate	Signed by President
03/05/2026	House	Signed by Speaker
03/05/2026	Senate	Fiscal Impact Statement from Department of Planning and Budget (SB390)

SB 542 - Cannabis control; establishes framework for creation of retail marijuana market, penalties, report.

Chief Patron: Aird

Status: Passed

Title

A BILL to amend and reenact §§ 2.2-2499.8, 2.2-2818, 2.2-2905, 2.2-3114, 2.2-3711, as it is currently effective and as it shall become effective, 2.2-3802, 2.2-4024, 3.2-4113, 4.1-103, 4.1-105, 4.1-352, 4.1-600, 4.1-601, 4.1-603, 4.1-604, 4.1-606, 4.1-607, 4.1-611, 4.1-614, 4.1-621, 4.1-1100, 4.1-1101, 4.1-1121, 4.1-1402, 4.1-1500, 4.1-1501, 4.1-1502, 4.1-1600, 4.1-1601, 4.1-1602, 4.1-1603, 4.1-1603.1, 4.1-1603.2, 4.1-1604, 5.1-13, 9.1-1101, 16.1-69.40:1, 16.1-260, 16.1-273, 16.1-278.9, 18.2-46.1, 18.2-247, 18.2-248, 18.2-248.01, 18.2-251, 18.2-251.03, 18.2-251.1:1, 18.2-251.1:2, 18.2-251.1:3, 18.2-252, 18.2-254, 18.2-255,

18.2-255.1, 18.2-255.2, 18.2-258, 18.2-258.02, 18.2-258.1, 18.2-265.1, 18.2-265.2, 18.2-265.3, 18.2-287.2, 18.2-308.012, 18.2-308.4, 18.2-460, 18.2-474.1, 19.2-66, 19.2-81, 19.2-81.1, 19.2-83.1, 19.2-188.1, 19.2-303.01, 19.2-386.22 through 19.2-386.25, 19.2-389, as it is currently effective and as it shall become effective, 19.2-389.3, 19.2-392.02, 19.2-392.6, 19.2-392.12:1, 22.1-206, 22.1-277.08, 23.1-1301, 46.2-105.2, 46.2-347, 48-17.1, 53.1-231.2, 54.1-2903, 54.1-3443, 58.1-301, and 59.1-200 of the Code of Virginia; to amend the Code of Virginia by adding in Subtitle II of Title 2.2 a part labeled D, containing a chapter numbered 61, consisting of a section numbered 2.2-6100, by adding in Chapter 6 of Title 4.1 sections numbered 4.1-629 and 4.1-630, by adding in Title 4.1 chapters numbered 7 through 10, consisting of sections numbered 4.1-700 through 4.1-1010, by adding sections numbered 4.1-1102 through 4.1-1105, 4.1-1106, 4.1-1113, 4.1-1114, 4.1-1115, 4.1-1117, 4.1-1118, and 4.1-1119, by adding in Title 4.1 a chapter numbered 12, consisting of sections numbered 4.1-1200 through 4.1-1206, by adding in Chapter 13 of Title 4.1 sections numbered 4.1-1300, 4.1-1301, and 4.1-1303 through 4.1-1309, by adding in Chapter 14 of Title 4.1 sections numbered 4.1-1403 through 4.1-1407, by adding a section numbered 4.1-1602.1, by adding in Article 2 of Chapter 1 of Title 6.2 a section numbered 6.2-108, and by adding in Chapter 44 of Title 54.1 a section numbered 54.1-4426; and to repeal §§ 4.1-1101.1, 4.1-1105.1, 18.2-248.1, and 18.2-251.1 of the Code of Virginia, relating to cannabis control; retail market; penalties.

SUMMARY AS PASSED SENATE

Cannabis control; retail market; penalties. Establishes a framework for the creation of a retail marijuana market in the Commonwealth and provides that no retail sales may occur prior to January 1, 2028. The bill requires that no later than January 1, 2028, the Virginia Cannabis Control Authority (CCA) shall become a division of the Virginia Alcoholic Beverage Control Authority (ABC) to form the Virginia Alcoholic Beverage Cannabis Control Authority (ABCCA). No later than November 15, 2026, the bill requires ABC and CCA to submit a joint implementation plan to combine the two authorities to the Joint Commission to Oversee the Transition of the Commonwealth into a Cannabis Retail Market and the Chairs of the House Committee on Appropriations and the Senate Committee on Finance and Appropriations. The bill specifies that prior to the transition to the ABCCA, the CCA shall administer the licensing and regulation of the retail cannabis market and ABC shall be the primary authority responsible for enforcing laws related to the illegal sale and distribution of marijuana and marijuana products. This bill incorporates SB 671 and SB 826.

5 Last Events

03/14/2026	House	Conference report agreed to by House (64-Y 32-N 0-A)
03/13/2026	Senate	Conference report agreed to by Senate (21-Y 18-N 0-A)
03/13/2026	Senate	Fiscal Impact statement From VCSC (3/13/2026 7:32 pm)
03/13/2026	Conference	Conference Report released
03/04/2026	House	House Conferees: Krizek, Herring, Morefield

SB 543 - Marijuana and hemp products; enforcement.

Chief Patron: Aird

Status: Passed

Title

A BILL to amend and reenact §§ 3.2-4118, 3.2-4126, 4.1-226, 4.1-227, 4.1-604, 8.01-216.3, 9.1-102, and 58.1-3700 of the Code of Virginia and to amend the Code of Virginia by adding a section numbered 4.1-624.1, by adding in Chapter 12 of Title 4.1 a section numbered 4.1-1201, and by adding in Chapter 13 of Title 4.1 sections numbered 4.1-1304 and 4.1-1305, relating to marijuana and hemp products; enforcement.

SUMMARY AS PASSED SENATE

Marijuana and hemp products; enforcement. Amends various provisions of law to increase enforcement and penalties related to the illegal sale of marijuana or marijuana products by persons licensed by the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, the Virginia Alcoholic Beverage Control Authority, and the Virginia Cannabis Control Authority (CCA). The bill also requires the Board of Directors of the CCA to

create and require a decal for retail marijuana store licensees to prominently display on the premises of such store that allows consumers to electronically verify the validity of such store's license from the Board. The bill requires such decal to be displayed by licensees, with a civil penalty of \$10,000 for each day that such decal is not displayed in the establishment. The bill also creates a \$10,000 civil penalty for creating or falsifying such decal.

The bill allows the Board to issue a notice of violation and order to cease unlicensed activity to any person who is engaged in the cultivation, processing, distribution, or selling of marijuana or marijuana products in violation of current law, and if the Board issues such notice and order, it may also order the seizure of such marijuana or marijuana products. The bill requires the person receiving such notice and order to (a) cease all activities, (b) allow the Board to post a copy of such notice and order to the front window, door, or exterior wall of the location where such unlicensed activity is occurring, and (c) post one or more warning stickers at or near the front door or other opening to such location where customers enter from the street advising the public that the business is ordered to stop the unlawful activity and of the public health and safety concerns relating to illicit marijuana and marijuana products. Any person who intentionally removes such notice and order or sticker without authorization of the Board is subject to a civil penalty prescribed by the Board, not to exceed \$5,000. The bill also specifies that the Chief Executive Officer of the Board or investigators appointed by him shall be sworn to enforce the provisions of the Cannabis Control Act and Board regulations and have the authority to investigate violations of the statutes and regulations the CCA is required to enforce.

Lastly, the bill requires the Secretary of Public Safety and Homeland Security and the Secretary of Health and Human Resources to convene a work group to analyze the current efforts in the Commonwealth to combat the sale of illicit cannabis products and submit a report of its findings and recommendations to the Chairs of the House Committees on Appropriations, on General Laws, and for Courts of Justice and the Senate Committees on Finance and Appropriations, on General Laws and Technology, on Rehabilitation and Social Services, and for Courts of Justice by October 1, 2026.

5 Last Events

03/24/2026	Senate	Fiscal Impact Statement from Department of Planning and Budget (SB543)
03/14/2026	Senate	Conference report agreed to by Senate (22-Y 17-N 0-A)
03/14/2026	House	Conference report agreed to by House (65-Y 30-N 0-A)
03/14/2026	Conference	Conference Report released
03/12/2026	House	House Conferees: Krizek, Torian, Wiley

SB 707 - Dogs; devocalization, prohibited, exception, penalty.

Chief Patron: Diggs

Status: Awaiting Governor's Action

Title

An Act to amend and reenact § 54.1-3814 of the Code of Virginia, relating to devocalization of dogs prohibited.

SUMMARY AS PASSED

Devocalization of dogs prohibited. Makes it unlawful for any person engaged in the practice of veterinary medicine to perform a surgical devocalization procedure on a dog, except when such procedure is necessary to treat or relieve any injury, disease, or congenital defect that is causing or may cause the dog physical pain or harm.

5 Last Events

03/10/2026	Governor	Governor's Action Deadline 11:59 p.m., April 13, 2026
03/10/2026	Senate	Enrolled Bill communicated to Governor on March 10, 2026
03/05/2026	Senate	Signed by President
03/05/2026	House	Signed by Speaker
03/05/2026	Senate	Fiscal Impact Statement from Department of Planning and Budget (SB707)

SB 719 - Virginia Farm and Forest Prosperity Plan; OSAF to develop and implement comprehensive Plan, report.

Chief Patron: Marsden

Status: Awaiting Governor's Action

Title

An Act to amend the Code of Virginia by adding in Article 2.1 of Chapter 2 of Title 2.2 a section numbered 2.2-203.4, relating to Secretary of Agriculture and Forestry; Virginia Farm and Forest Prosperity Plan; report.

SUMMARY AS PASSED

Secretary of Agriculture and Forestry; Virginia Farm and Forest Prosperity Plan; report. Directs the Secretary of Agriculture and Forestry, during the first year of each new gubernatorial administration, to develop and implement a written comprehensive Virginia Farm and Forest Prosperity Plan that is designed to be enacted over the course of such gubernatorial administration's term. The Secretary is directed to submit a report detailing the progress made toward the development and implementation of the Plan to the Governor and to the Chairs of the House Committee on Agriculture, Chesapeake and Natural Resources and the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Natural Resources by December 1 of the first year of each new gubernatorial administration. This bill is identical to HB 512.

5 Last Events

03/10/2026	Governor	Governor's Action Deadline 11:59 p.m., April 13, 2026
03/10/2026	Senate	Enrolled Bill communicated to Governor on March 10, 2026
03/05/2026	Senate	Signed by President
03/05/2026	House	Signed by Speaker
03/05/2026	Senate	Fiscal Impact Statement from Department of Planning and Budget (SB719)

Counts: HB: 8 HJ: 0 SB: 9 SJ: 0

The Agricultural Stewardship Act Program

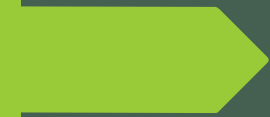


Board of Agriculture and Consumer Services
March 26, 2026

Darrell R. Marshall
ASA Program Manager



*VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT
OF AGRICULTURE AND
CONSUMER SERVICES*



The Agricultural Stewardship Act Program

- Agricultural Stewardship Act (ASA) passed in 1996.
- The ASA set the framework for a complaint driven, farmer friendly, commonsense, water quality program.
- Through the complaint response process, the ASA Program...
 - Identifies water quality issues (nutrient, sediment, toxins) caused by agricultural activities.
 - Gives the farmer/landowner the opportunity to correct the problem before any enforcement action is taken.
 - Educates all involved parties on agriculture, best management practices, and water quality.
 - Works closely with the local Soil and Water Conservation Districts.

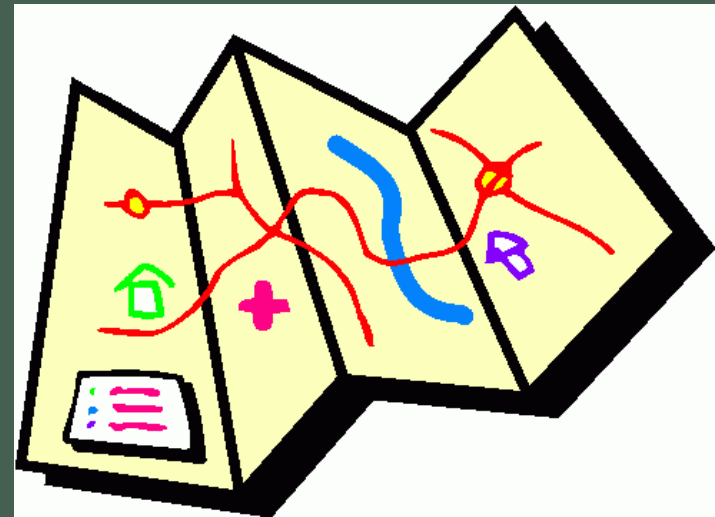
How Does the Program Work?

- ▶ Complaint received- verbal or written- can be anonymous
- ▶ Investigation performed by SWCD, VDACS, or jointly
- ▶ Findings presented to the Commissioner
- ▶ Complaint determined to be “founded”, “unfounded”, or “dismissed”
- ▶ If “founded”, the owner or operator must submit a plan to address the water quality concerns (within 60 days)
- ▶ Plan approved
- ▶ Plan implemented (within 18 months)
- ▶ Follow-up visits to check for implementation
- ▶ Appeals of aggrieved parties heard by the Va. Soil and Water Conservation Board and the local circuit court thereafter
- ▶ Enforcement for non-compliance- civil penalties



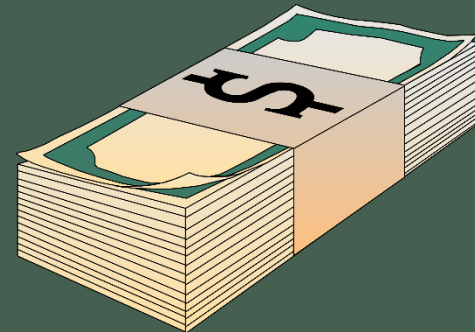
Agricultural Stewardship Plans

- Assistance in planning may be provided by:
 - Local Soil and Water Conservation District
 - USDA, NRCS
 - Virginia Cooperative Extension
 - VDACS
 - Private businesses (engineering, consulting firms)



Cost-Sharing/Financial Assistance

- Some operations qualify to participate in cost-share and/or financial assistance programs to implement Best Management Practices.
- Provided by:
 - Local SWCD (VACS)
 - USDA- NRCS (EQIP)
 - DEQ (Ag. BMP Loan Program)



FY-2026 VA Ag. BMP Program Funding

- The Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) provides state funding for agricultural best management practices (BMPs) through the Virginia Agricultural Best Management Practices Cost-Share (VACS) Program, offering reimbursements for implementing practices like cover crops, stream fencing, forest buffers, and nutrient management.
- **\$223 million** for FY 2026. Farmers apply through their local Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs).

Typical Complaints Received

- Runoff from feeding areas
- Runoff from denuded/overgrazed pastures
- Manure management issues
- Direct deposition of manure to waterways from animal access
- Sediment runoff from land clearing operations for agriculture
- Sediment runoff from crop fields

Activities Not Covered By The ASA

- Permitted operations/activities
 - Virginia Pollution Abatement permits
 - Biosolid applications
 - Poultry Litter End Users
- Forestry Activities
- Air Pollution
- Odor Concerns (nuisance issues)
- Water quality concerns not related to an agricultural activity

Before ASA Plan Implementation



After ASA Plan Implementation



Before ASA Plan Implementation



After ASA Plan Implementation



Chesapeake Bay Goals

- 77,990 linear feet of streambank protected (exclusion fencing) installed as a result of ASA Complaint sites without VACS (cost share) assistance
- 312.9 acres of buffer
- 67,492 linear feet of streambank protected (exclusion fencing) installed as a result of ASA Complaint sites with VACS (cost share)
- 258.4 acres of buffer





More Information

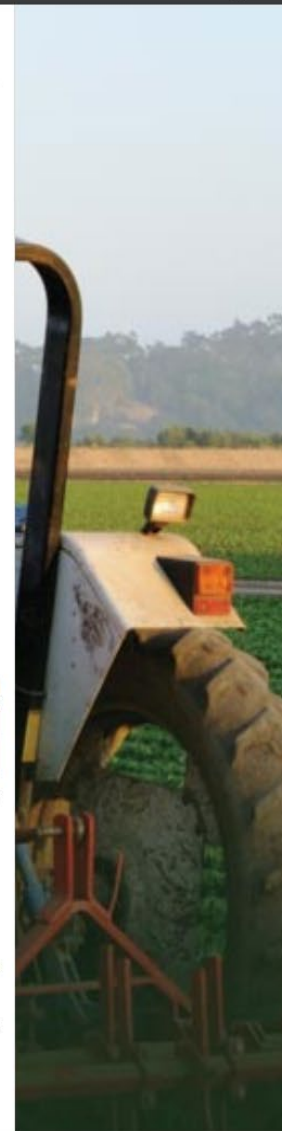
- [Agricultural Stewardship Act Annual Report \(pdf\)](#)
- [Agricultural Stewardship Act Guidelines \(pdf\)](#)

Contact

For questions regarding the Agricultural Stewardship Act Program or to file a complaint, please contact your regional coordinator.



VALLEY/NORTHERN REGION:	SOUTHWEST REGION:	CENTRAL/EASTERN REG
Tim Higgs	Joseph Maloskey	Darrell Marshall
<i>Agricultural Stewardship Program Coordinator</i> 261 Mount Clinton Pike Harrisonburg, VA 22802 Mobile: 804.837.9312 Fax: 804.371.7679 tim.higgs@vdacs.virginia.gov	<i>Agricultural Stewardship Program Coordinator</i> 250 Cassell Road Wytheville, VA 24382 Mobile: 804.837.9311 Fax: 804.371.7679 joseph.maloskey@vdacs.virginia.gov	<i>Agricultural Stewardship Progr Manager</i> P.O. Box 1163 Richmond, VA 23218 Office: 804.786.2658 Mobile: 804.382.0904 Fax: 804.371.7679 darrell.marshall@vdacs.virgi
SWCD/Localities: Natural Bridge - Rockbridge, (Buena Vista, Lexington) Headwaters - Augusta, (Staunton, Waynesboro) Shenandoah Valley - Rockingham, Page (Harrisonburg)	SWCD/Localities: Daniel Boone - Lee Scott County - Scott Lonesome Pine - Wise, Dickenson Big Sandy - Buchanan Clinch Valley - Russell Holston River - Washington	SWCD/Localities: Thomas Jefferson - Albemarl Nelson, Fluvanna, Louisa, (Charlottesville) Hanover-Caroline - Hanover, Caroline



ASA Cases since 1997

- **1,399 total complaints**
 - **321 Dismissed – 23%**
 - **508 Founded – 36%**
 - **566 Unfounded – 41%**
 - **4 Undecided**



Any Questions?



*VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT
OF AGRICULTURE AND
CONSUMER SERVICES*

Darrell Marshall (804) 786-2658
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DEER MANAGEMENT IN VIRGINIA

Justin Folks
Deer Project Leader, VDWR

VDACS Board Meeting – March 26, 2026



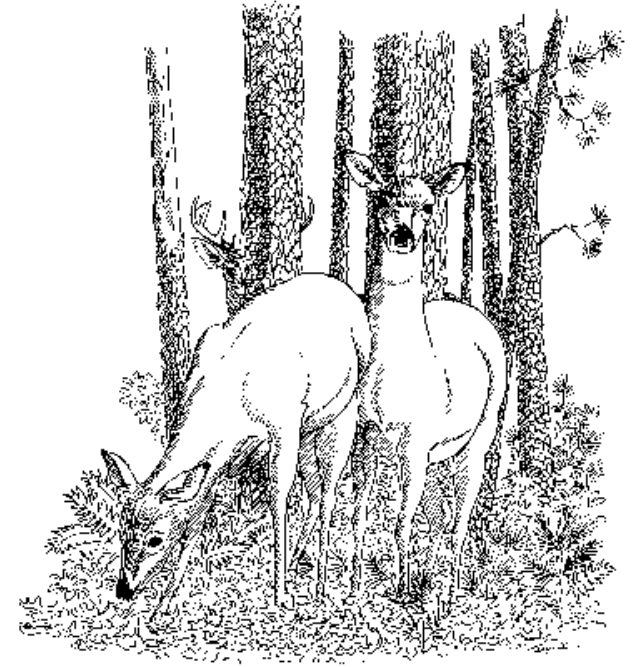
CONSERVE. CONNECT. PROTECT.

Deer Management Plan

- Plan developed through extensive public engagement process
 - Public surveys
 - Focus groups/Public Meetings
 - Public comment period
 - Stakeholder Committee
- Mission - sustainably manage white-tailed deer as a wild, free-roaming public resource to serve the needs and interests of all citizens of the Commonwealth.



Virginia Deer Management Plan 2015-2024



Cover art by Spike Knuth

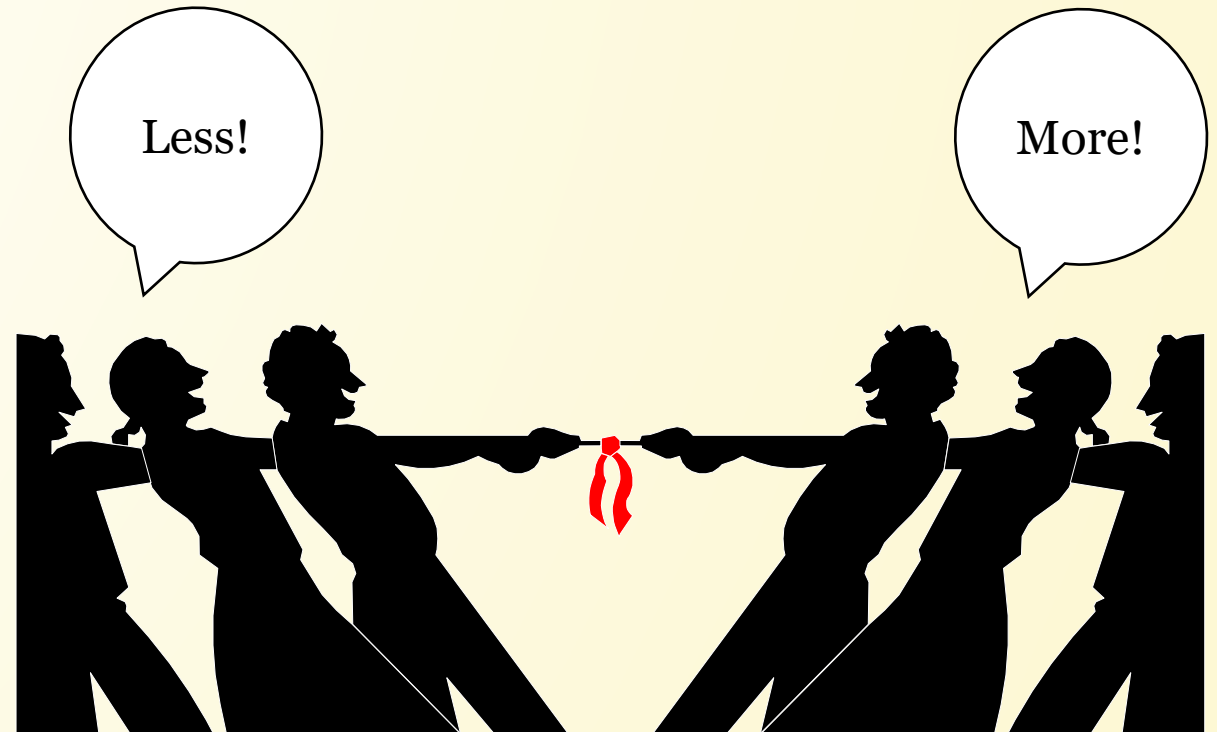
October 2015

Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries



What's in the Management Plan?

- Contents
 - History
 - Status
 - Demands
 - Future Goals
- Goals
 - Population Management
 - Conflict Management
 - Recreation
 - Habitat



What's in the Management Plan?

Current Private Land Deer Population Management Objective

- Contents
 - History
 - Status
 - Demands
 - Future Goals
- Goals
 - Population Management
 - Conflict Management
 - Recreation
 - Habitat

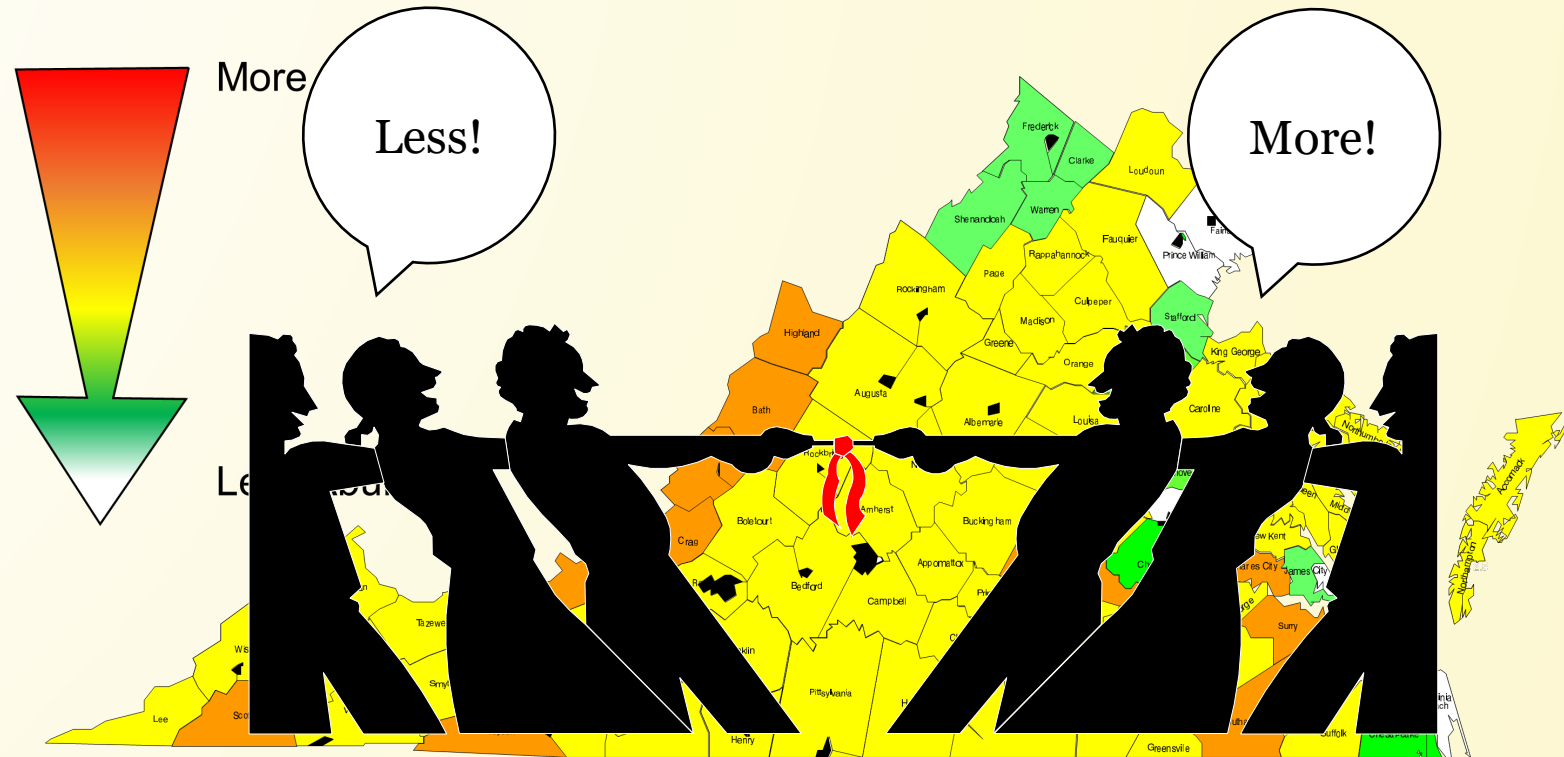
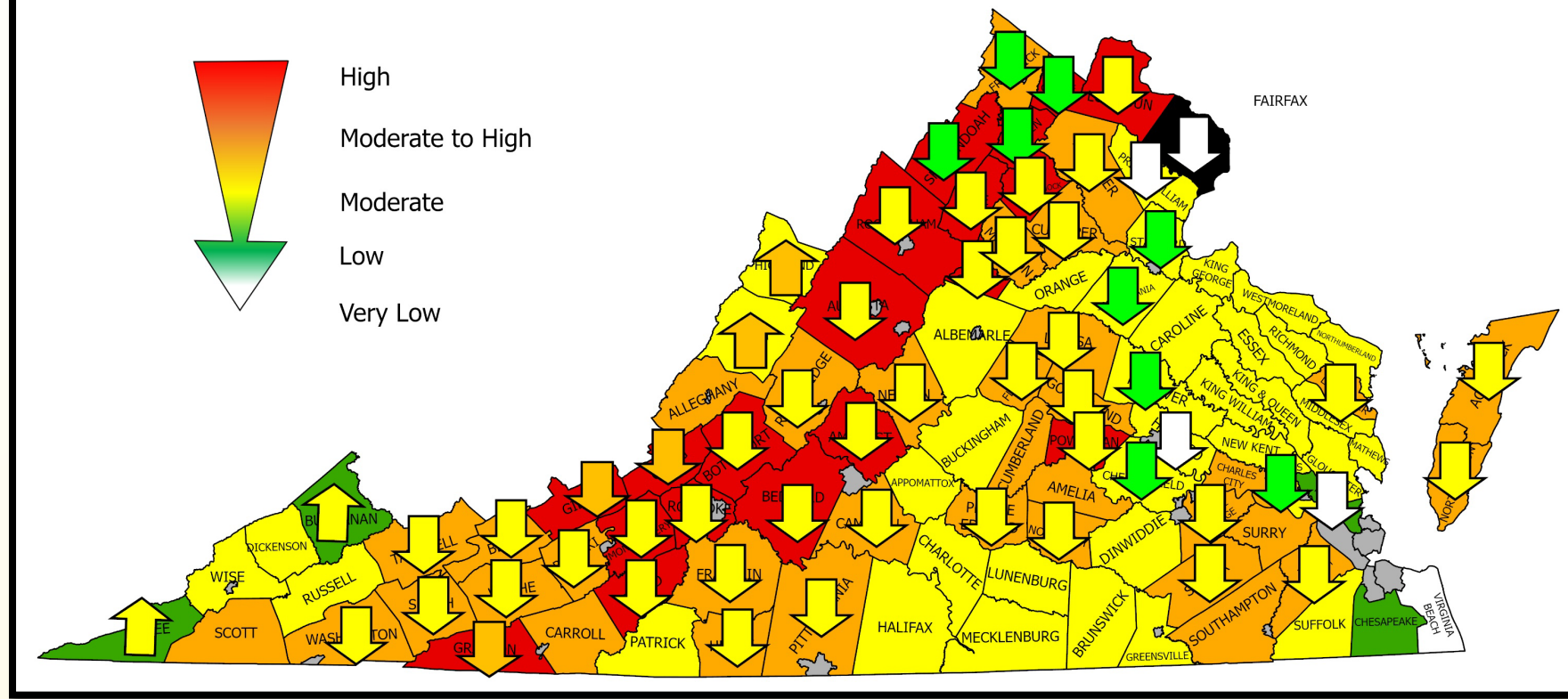


Figure 2. Private land deer population objective by management unit.
(<https://www.dgif.virginia.gov/wp-content/uploads/2019-Updated-Deer-Population-Objectives.pdf>)



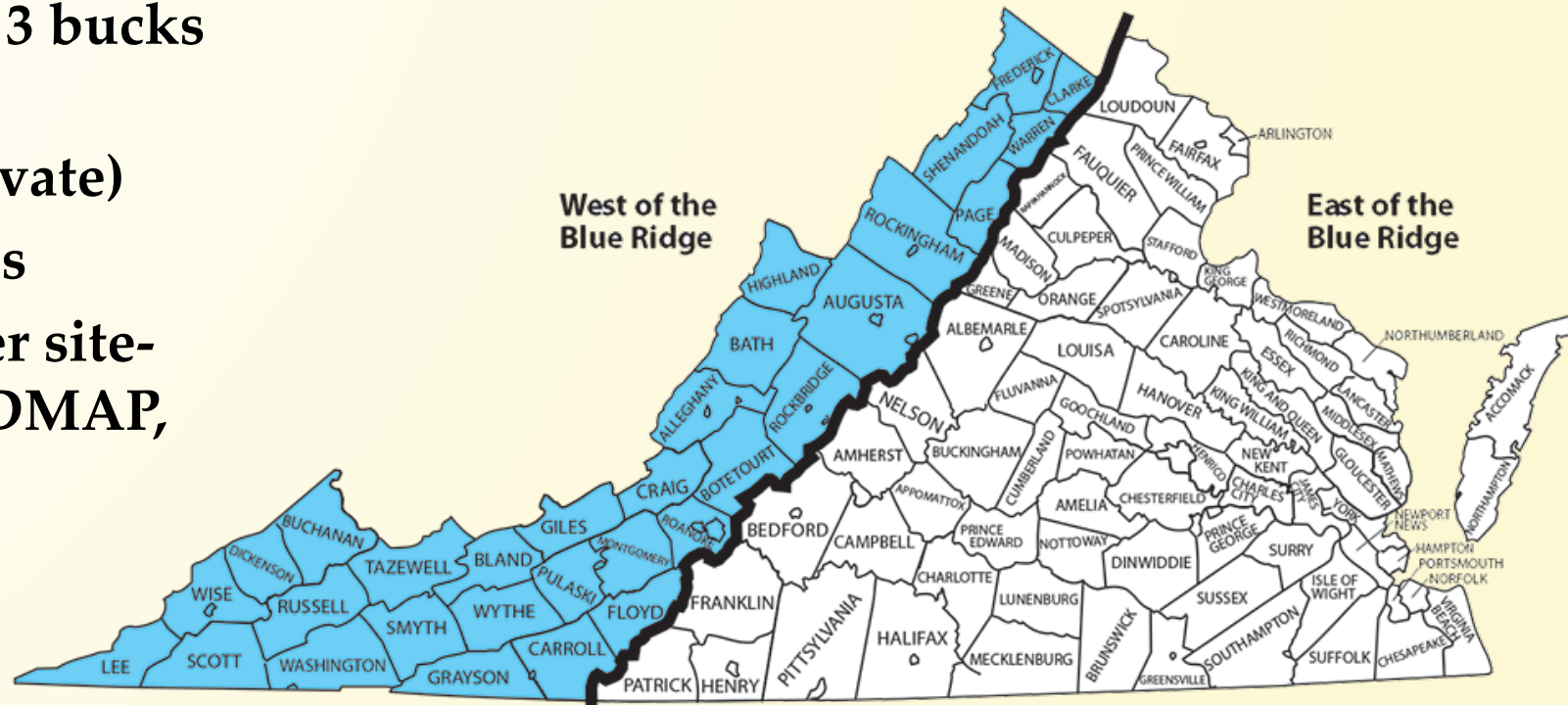
Current Deer Population Status

Deer Population Working Map, 2026



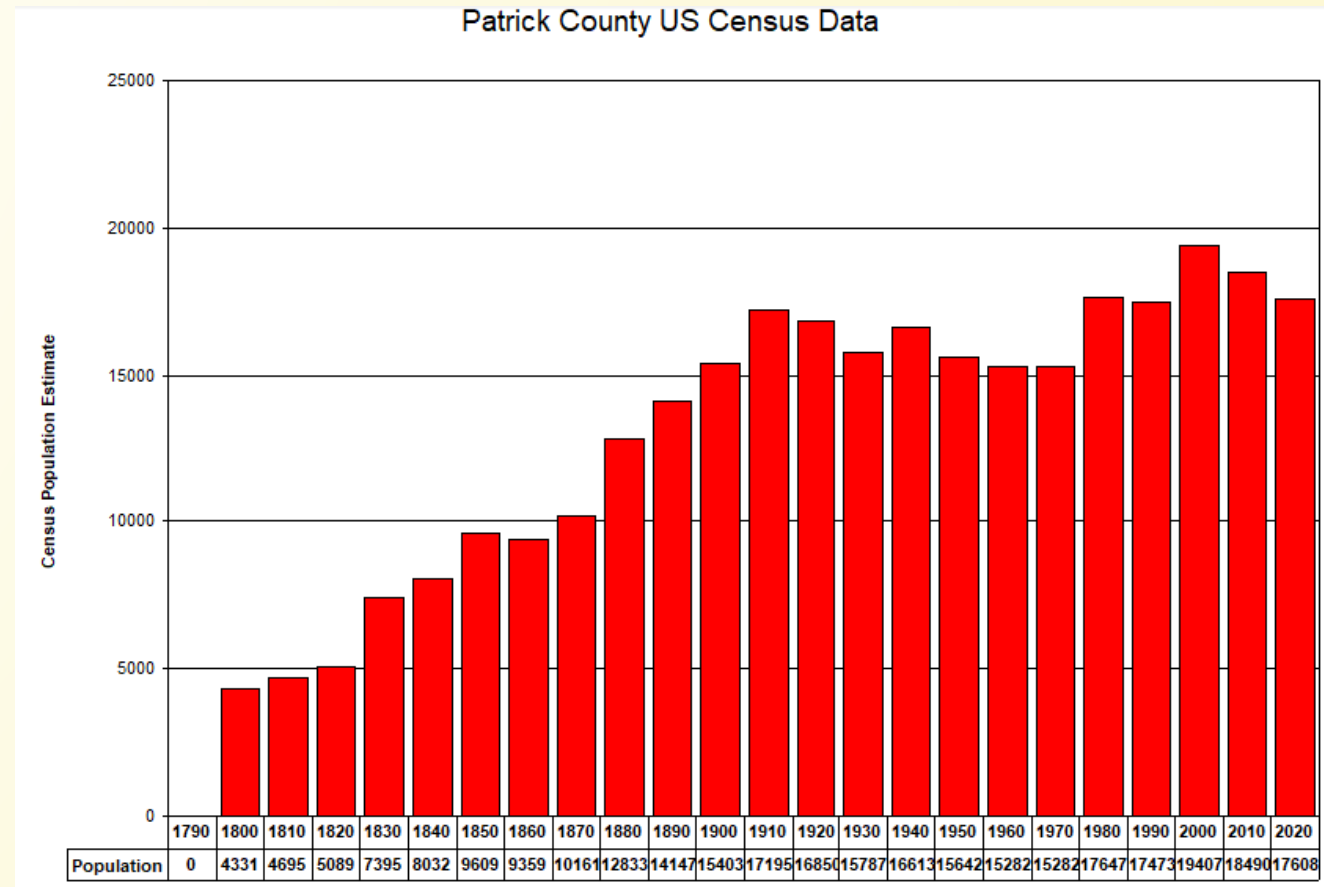
VIRGINIA'S DEER HUNTING FRAMEWORK

- **Seasons: most liberal in US**
- **Bag limits**
 - **Season: 6 EBR (max 3 bucks EBR)**
 - **2/day statewide (private)**
 - **1/day NF and WMAs**
 - **Bonus tags and other site-specific programs (DMAP, DCAP)**



CONSIDERATIONS WHEN SETTING COUNTY REGULATIONS

- Deer Population Index, bucks killed/sq mi habitat
- Deer-vehicle collisions (DVCs)
- Kill permits issued
- Human population
- And more

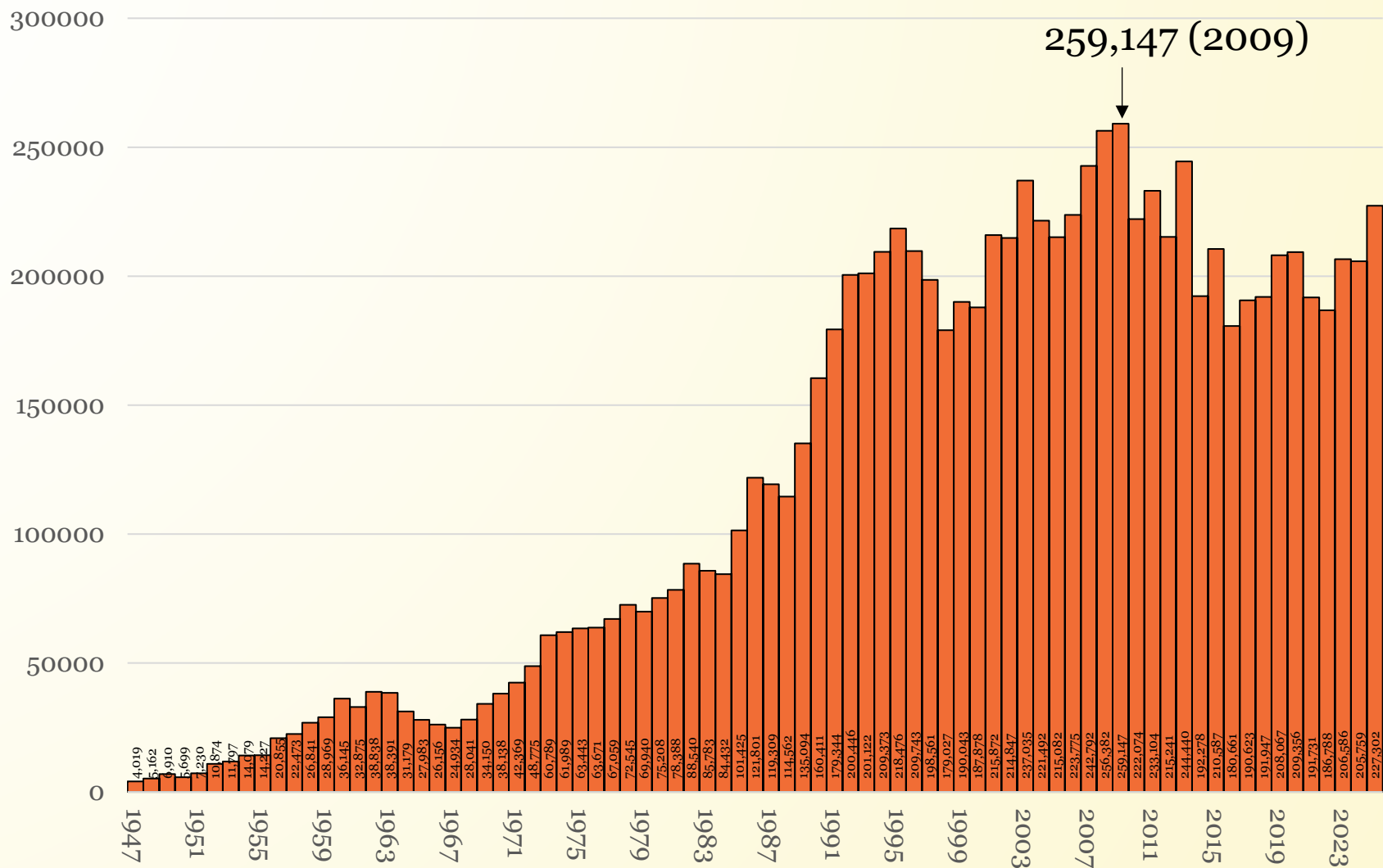


DWR Deer Management Levers

- Increase doe days 
- Earn-a-buck (EAB) 
- Extended Antlerless Only Firearms Seasons 
- Next? 



Deer Harvest Metrics



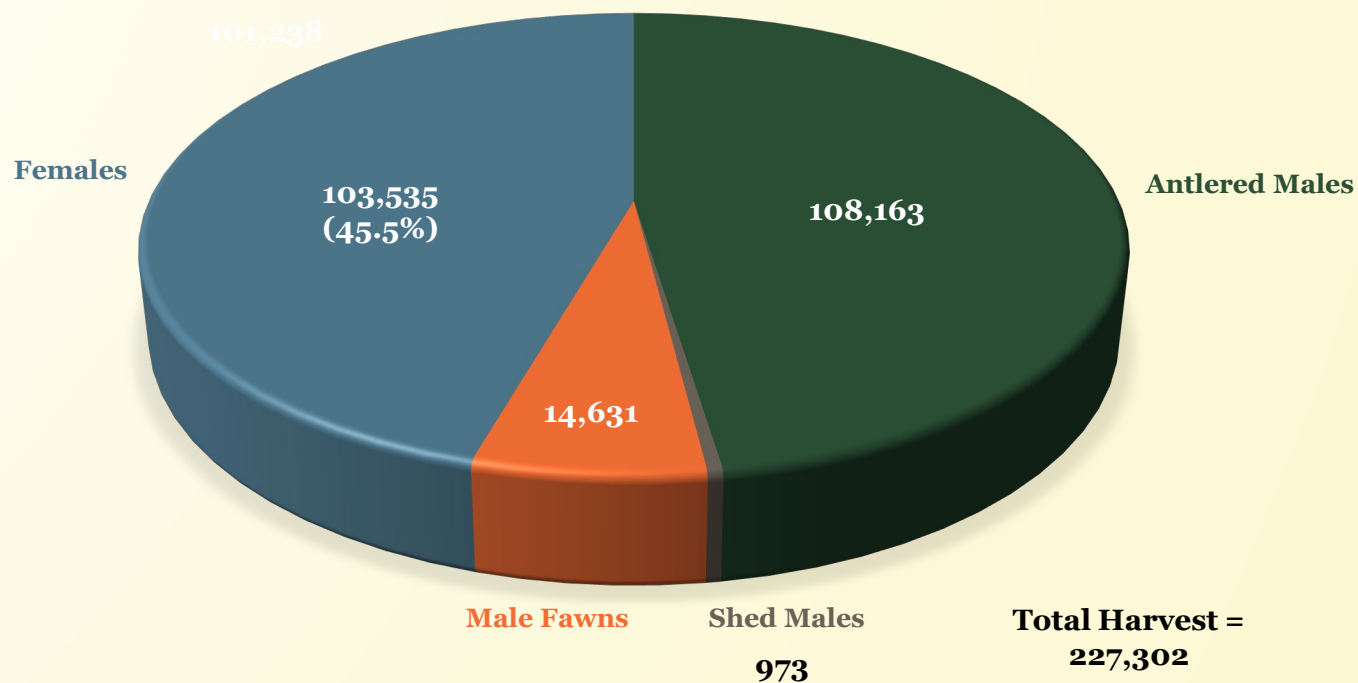
Virginia total deer kill 1947 to present.



Deer Harvest Metrics



2025 DEER HARVEST SUMMARY: 9/5/2025-1/3/2026

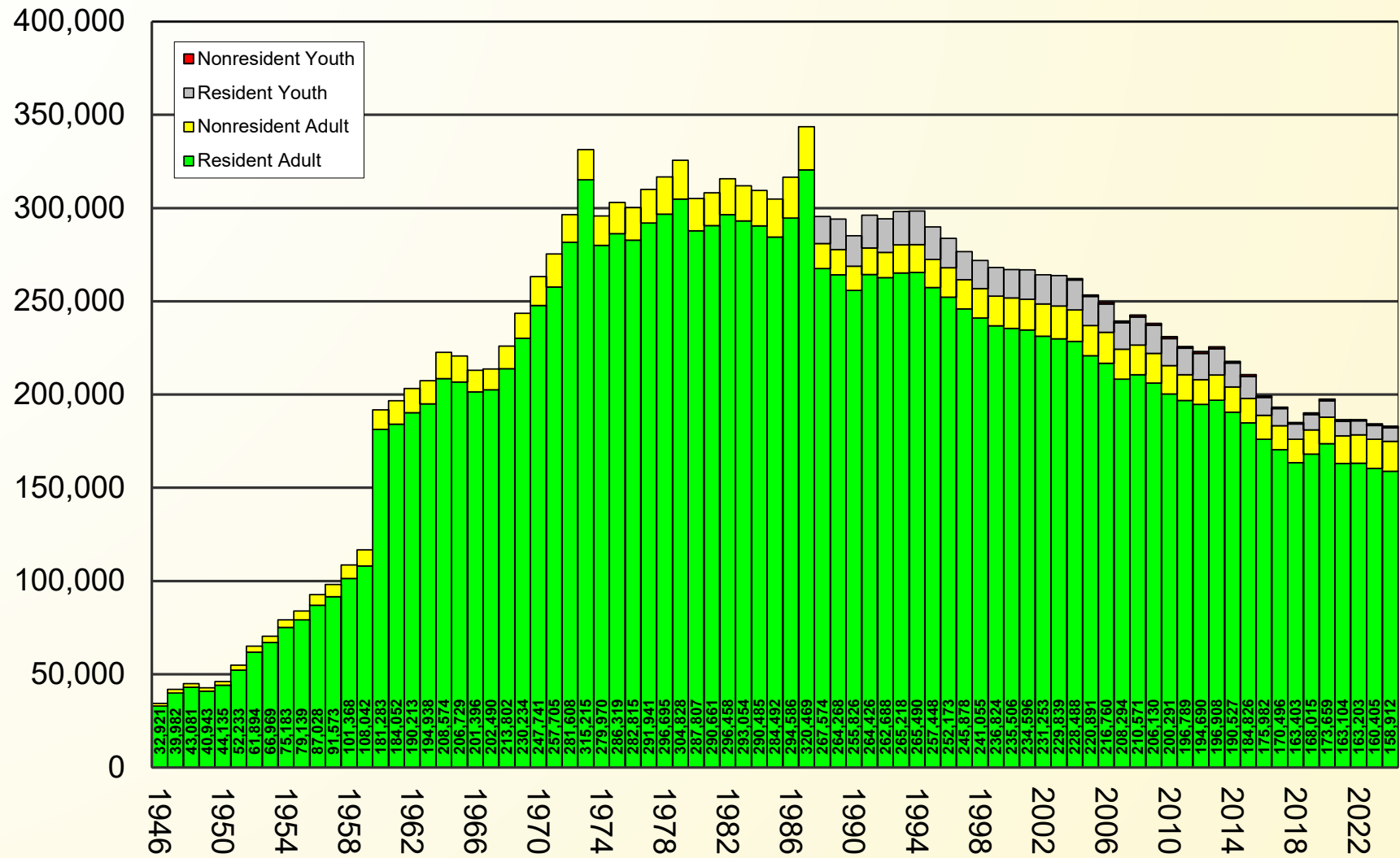


Deer Hunter Metrics

- **2024-2025 Hunting Season**
 - Licensed Hunters – 183,021 (peak > 343k, 1987)
 - Hunters not required to have license - ??????
 - Overall success – 57% took a deer
- Hunting license
 - 6 deer tags (3 either-sex; 3 antlerless only)
 - Average hunter takes 2 deer
 - Able to purchase bonus deer permits
 - DMAP, DCAP
- Challenges to deer harvest
 - Access to hunting land & deer processors
 - Development/urbanization
 - Hunter numbers
 - Hunter avidity (age, time)
 - Hunter selectivity
 - >82% of hunters pass up legal deer



Deer Hunter Metrics



DMAP, DCAP, Kill Permits



What is DMAP?

- Deer Management Assistance Program
- Site specific, but >1 property
- Hunting season, legal methods
- Additional antlerless harvest
 - Tags do not count toward bag limit
 - No limit
 - Can be used non doe days
- Biological data collection

21230_{KM}

DEER HARVEST DATA

Club or Landowner: _____

County: Augusta Season: _____

For Office Use Only: ☐ FIPS ☐ Type ☐ Coop ☐ Season

For Office Use Only	DEER NUMBER	HARVEST DATE			SEX	WEIGHT		SLOUGHING SPLITTING HOOVES?	MILK PRESENT?	ANTLER MEASUREMENTS			PUBLIC PRIVATE	HUNTER'S NAME	COMMENTS
		Month	Day	Year		Live	Dressed			# of Points	Diameter (mm)	Outside Spread			
☒ 1 Buck	15 01011	11	018	212	☒ 1 Buck	11110	11	☒ 1 Yes	☒ 1 Yes	018	311	116	☒ 1 Public		14926055
☒ 2 Doe	3 01012	11	110	212	☒ 2 Doe	11611	11	☒ 2 No	☒ 2 No	018	311	116	☒ 2 Private		14927492
☒ 1 Buck	3 01013	11	116	212	☒ 1 Buck	11515	11	☒ 1 Yes	☒ 1 Yes	018	315	115	☒ 1 Public		14946142
☒ 2 Doe	0 01014	11	119	212	☒ 2 Doe	01710	11	☒ 2 No	☒ 2 No	018	315	115	☒ 2 Private		14965120
☒ 1 Buck	16 01015	11	210	212	☒ 1 Buck	11115	11	☒ 1 Yes	☒ 1 Yes	018	315	115	☒ 1 Public		14965079
☒ 2 Doe	15 01016	11	211	212	☒ 2 Doe	11114	11	☒ 2 No	☒ 2 No	013	210	016	☒ 2 Private		14969688
☒ 1 Buck	16 01017	11	211	212	☒ 1 Buck	11312	11	☒ 1 Yes	☒ 1 Yes	015	212	010	☒ 1 Public		14969709
☒ 2 Doe	0 01018	11	211	212	☒ 2 Doe	01610	11	☒ 2 No	☒ 2 No	015	212	010	☒ 2 Private		14969720
☒ 1 Buck	4 01019	11	212	212	☒ 1 Buck	11310	11	☒ 1 Yes	☒ 1 Yes	015	212	010	☒ 1 Public		14975322
☒ 2 Doe	17 01110	11	212	212	☒ 2 Doe	11118	11	☒ 2 No	☒ 2 No	015	212	010	☒ 2 Private		14975325
☒ 1 Buck	3 01111	11	213	212	☒ 1 Buck	11010	11	☒ 1 Yes	☒ 1 Yes	015	212	010	☒ 1 Public		14978071
☒ 2 Doe	3 01112	11	214	212	☒ 2 Doe	11217	11	☒ 2 No	☒ 2 No	015	212	010	☒ 2 Private		14983648
☒ 1 Buck	15 01113	11	215	212	☒ 1 Buck	11113	11	☒ 1 Yes	☒ 1 Yes	016	210	017	☒ 1 Public		15003948
☒ 2 Doe	0 01114	11	215	212	☒ 2 Doe	01514	11	☒ 2 No	☒ 2 No	016	210	017	☒ 2 Private		14989477
☒ 1 Buck	0 01115	11	219	212	☒ 1 Buck	01713	11	☒ 1 Yes	☒ 1 Yes	016	210	017	☒ 1 Public		15003101
☒ 2 Doe					☒ 2 Doe			☒ 2 No	☒ 2 No				☒ 2 Private		



Kill Permits

- Shall issue for commercial crop damage
- Antlerless deer while damage is occurring
- NOT HUNTING
- Limits set by LE
- HB129?

DCAP

- Damage Control Assistance Program
- Site specific
- Tied to ag damage
- Hunting season, legal methods
- Additional **antlerless** harvest
 - Tags do not count toward bag limit
 - 1 tag/25 acres
 - Can use on non doe days



	DMAP	DCAP	Kill Permits





Questions?

BOARD OF AGRICULTURE AND CONSUMER SERVICES
Future Meeting Dates

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Thursday, May 21, 2026

Patrick Henry Building
East Reading Room
1111 East Broad Street
Richmond

Summer 2026

TBD

Thursday, December 10, 2026

Patrick Henry Building
East Reading Room
1111 East Broad Street
Richmond