



VIRGINIA AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATION  
EASTERN VIRGINIA AGRICULTURAL  
RESEARCH AND EXTENSION CENTER  
VIRGINIA TECH.

# EASTERN VIRGINIA AREC NEWSLETTER

VOLUME IV, ISSUE II

August 2023

Dr. Joseph Oakes,  
Superintendent



Greetings from Eastern Virginia  
AREC!

Despite nine straight days of rain in mid-June, we had a successful small grain harvest season as harvest wrapped up on June 30. Cool temperatures in late May and early June extended our grain fill period. Yields reflected this as our average yield in the state variety test was 118 bu/ac. Data from the state wheat OVT and on-farm wheat tests are now available and are linked on page 5. Please take a look as you plan for your 2024 wheat crop!

We have officially hit the “dog days of summer” here in Eastern Virginia as temps have been in the 90s the last few days of July. Soybean is fully flowering and early lines are starting to show pods.

*-Joseph*

follow us:





# Research Spotlight

Eastern Virginia AREC has partnered with the Virginia Biosolids Council in 2023 on a soybean research plot. The project, looking at the impact of biosolids application and PFAS in soils, is part of a national PFAS study conducted by Dr. Ian Pepper at the University of Arizona. The plot is divided into three areas: a control section and two different sections where Bloom was applied at differing rates.

“Biosolids were applied in mid-May and the soybean were planted a couple days after. We are looking forward to seeing both the results on soybean yield as well as the PFAS information,” said Dr. Joseph Oakes, EVAREC superintendent.

United Soybean Board Director Shannon Ellis said, “Virginia soybean growers look forward to viewing the results of the VBC soybean yield trials at the EVAREC in Warsaw, VA. We are committed to producing the highest quality soybeans while utilizing the most sustainable production methods. These research trials will provide valuable information for our producers to make informed soybean production decisions.”

Check out the interview with Chris Peot from Bloom regarding the research plot. Peot said, “There is no such thing as waste; only wasted resources.”

[Chris Peot, Bloom, VBC Eastern Virginia Research Test Plot Interview - YouTube](#)





# Center Renovations



Renovations at the center are now complete. Check out the pictures of our new conference room and office space! The conference room will not only be used for AREC meetings and functions, but will also be utilized by local VCE agents for extension meetings and programs.





# Around the Center



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Summer employees Harrison Patton and Luke Parry collecting height and lodging data in wheat yield trials before harvest. These summer employees are funded with grants from the Virginia Small Grain Board and the Virginia Soybean Board.



Nearly 100 individuals showed up in May for the Virginia Small Grains Field Day!



Wheat yield plot harvest



EVAREC's Mark Vaughn applying herbicide to soybean progeny rows



## Recent Awards & Publications

### Grants and Awards:

- Impact of Planting Date on Wheat Development, Freeze Susceptibility, and Yield. \$4,000. Joseph Oakes, Robbie Longest. Virginia Small Grains Board
- Small Grain Research Program Support. \$10,000. Joseph Oakes. Virginia Small Grains Board

### Publications:

- Dhakal, K.; Sivaramakrishnan, U.; Zhang, X.; Belay, K.; Oakes, J.; Wei, X.; Li, S. Machine Learning Analysis of Hyperspectral Images of Damaged Wheat Kernels. *Sensors* 2023, 23, 3523. <https://doi.org/10.3390/s23073523>

## 2023 Wheat Data

Yield and test weight summary preliminary data is now available for the 2023 Virginia State Official Variety Test (OVT), as well as for the 2023 Virginia On-Farm Wheat Variety Test Plots. If you are interested in hosting a wheat test plot location at your farm, please contact Essex County VCE agent, Robbie Longest at 804-443-3551 or [robbiel7@vt.edu](mailto:robbiel7@vt.edu).

→ 2023 OVT Data: <https://bit.ly/23WheatOVT>

→ 2023 On-Farm Data: <https://bit.ly/23OnFarmWheat>

**Did you know**



The Eastern Virginia AREC was founded in Williamsburg in 1912 and moved to Warsaw in 1950.



## Dr. Mary Burrows named new director of the Virginia Agricultural Experiment Station



We would like to welcome Dr. Mary Burrows as the new director of the AREC system. Burrows comes to the university from Montana State University, where she spent 17 years as an Extension plant pathologist and the past three years as the associate director of Montana Agricultural Experiment Station and Research Development. “Mary brings a wealth of research, Extension, and administrative experience to Virginia Tech and the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences. We are excited to support her in her new role as the director of the Virginia Agricultural Experiment Station, our college’s research enterprise,” said Alan Grant, dean of the college. Burrows said she understands the importance of communication and collaboration among producers and other stakeholders. Building and maintaining those relationships will be one of her top priorities as director of the state’s experiment station. “We have to make sure stakeholders know what impact we are having in their day-to-day operations,” she said.

Read more about Dr. Burrows here: <https://bit.ly/3DBhgon>

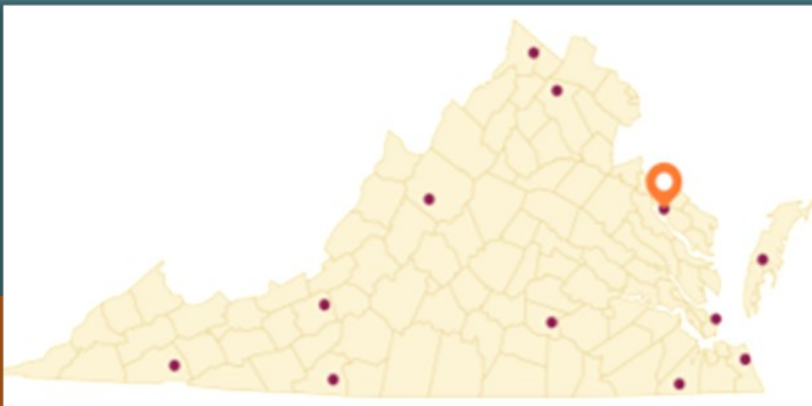


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Eastern Virginia AREC's mission is to serve Virginia's grain and soybean industries through research and educational programs leading to improved varieties and crop management practices. Our research objectives are to support the Virginia Tech soybean and small grain breeding programs, and to conduct agronomic research that contributes to economically and environmentally

## A COLLABORATIVE NETWORK

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



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