

TIDEWATER

Agricultural Research and Extension Center



The faculty, staff and students at Virginia Tech Tidewater Agricultural Research & Extension Center welcome you to our facility. In 2025, we have nine faculty, 13 graduate students, 21 staff members and two postdoctoral research associates that conduct over 150 applied research projects annually with research expenditures of approximately \$1.9 million annually. The Tidewater AREC in Suffolk, Virginia, was established in 1914 and is committed to applied research and educational programs that support profitable agriculture while improving the quality of life in the Tidewater region of Virginia and North Carolina and beyond. Research and Extension programs include row crop agronomy, soil fertility/health (including cover crops), variety trials, pest/pathogen management, precision agriculture and data management, as well as swine production. We welcome visitors from across our community at Tidewater AREC and look forward to forging new collaborations with you in the future. For updates on events and impacts, please subscribe to our Facebook, Instagram, and/or LinkedIn social media pages.

Hunter Frame, Extension cotton production specialist, sorts seed samples on a plot at the Tidewater AREC.

PARTNER WITH US

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www.arec.vaes.vt.edu/arec/tidewater



“The most gratifying aspect of my job is when we get a call or visit from a local grower who has a problem in the field that they just can’t get on top of. They usually present the problem as a possible disease or nematode issue, and we get to work figuring out if that is the case. If it isn’t, we can pull in our TAREC colleagues from entomology, agronomy, etc. and it becomes a team effort to get an answer for that grower. I believe that service has created a strong bond of appreciation that runs both ways between our local farming community and us.”



LINDA BYRD-MASTERS
LEAD TECHNICIAN-TAREC PLANT PATHOLOGY AND
NEMATODE DIAGNOSTIC LABORATORY

“When it comes to peanuts, all of our significant state research, both past and present, originates from Virginia Tech’s Tidewater AREC. Besides important research projects conducted annually and financed at least in part by the Virginia Peanut Board/Virginia Peanut Growers Association, TAREC is also home to the Peanut Variety and Quality Evaluation Project (PVQE), an extension of the NC State breeding program which is an essential part of the effort to develop new peanut varieties.”



DELL COTTON
VIRGINIA PEANUT GROWERS ASSOCIATION

TIDEWATER AREC AT A GLANCE



DISCIPLINES

- Cotton, peanut, and soybean agronomy
- Plant pathology of vegetables and agronomic crops
- Row crop entomology
- Plant physiology
- Precision agriculture and data management
- Swine reproductive physiology and management
- Plant parasitic nematode management
- Plant breeding and variety testing

INNOVATIVE TECHNOLOGIES

- Drones for precision spraying and to assess plant stress
- Variable rate and micro-irrigation for row crops
- Soil and atmospheric monitoring to improve input management that optimizes yield response

FACILITIES

- 465-acre farm
- 228-person auditorium
- 34 buildings

INDUSTRY PARTNERS

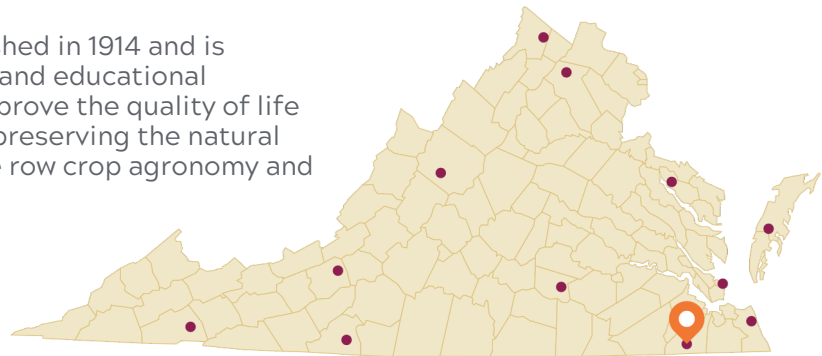
- Peanut, cotton, corn, soybean, and small grain associations
- Swine industry
- Agricultural chemical, seed, and fertilizer industries

ABOUT THE TIDEWATER AREC

The Tidewater AREC in Suffolk, Virginia, was established in 1914 and is committed to developing and delivering technology and educational programs that support profitable agriculture and improve the quality of life in the Tidewater area and the commonwealth, while preserving the natural resources. Research and Extension programs include row crop agronomy and pest management, as well as swine production.

A COLLABORATIVE NETWORK

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



Virginia Cooperative Extension is a partnership of Virginia Tech, Virginia State University, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and local governments. Its programs and employment are open to all, regardless of age, color, disability, sex (including pregnancy), gender, gender identity, gender expression, genetic information, ethnicity or national origin, political affiliation, race, religion, sexual orientation, or military status, or any other basis protected by law.



VIRGINIA AGRICULTURAL
EXPERIMENT STATION
VIRGINIA TECH.

