Virginia Foundation for Agriculture in the Classroom

2018–2019 ANNUAL REPORT

Connecting Children to Agriculture
Professional Development

Trainings provide educators with curriculum, resources and knowledge to bring agriculture to life for their students while also supporting core curriculum. Over 2,000 educators attended an AITC training event where they participated in hands-on lessons and activities to share agriculture’s story in their classrooms.

I have been able to use so many of your resources that I gained at the workshop. It has truly helped my city kids learn about all the different agriculture in Virginia.

–AITC Workshop Participant

Teacher of the Year

Chris Kniesly, a biology teacher at Mark Twain Middle School in Fairfax, was named Virginia Agriculture in the Classroom 2019 Teacher of the Year. The award recognizes a Virginia educator for incorporating agriculture into his core curriculum.

Chris has established a school farm including chickens, aquaculture and hydroponics which incorporate life science and biology. His goal is to provide students with an environmentally conscious introduction to agriculture concept and creating real life learning experiences. The school farm impacts all students of Mark Twain Middle School especially those who are in Kniesly’s biology classes.

Chris was also selected as a 2019 winner of the National Excellence in Teaching about Agriculture Award. He was recognized and honored at the 2019 National Agriculture in the Classroom conference in Little Rock, Arkansas.
Connecting with Volunteers

Agriculture Literacy Project

More than 1,500 volunteers read AITC’s Book of the Year, Right This Very Minute to over 63,000 children. The table-to-farm book about food and farming follows children as they discover what the farmer is doing Right This Very Minute to provide healthy meals for their table.

Agriculture Literacy Week volunteers included County Farm Bureau volunteers, Farm Bureau Women’s committees, local Young Farmer’s committees, FFA and 4H chapters, partners from the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services and other state agencies, and members of other agricultural organizations and businesses. Colonial Farm Credit, Farm Credit of the Virginias and Southern States Cooperative Inc. have been major supporters as well.

The 2020 Agriculture Literacy Week Project will take place March 9-13, 2020. Visit AgInTheClass.org for more information and to participate.

Franklin County Volunteer Named 2019 National Agriculture Advocate

Franklin County farmer Debbie Brubaker of was awarded the Agriculture Advocate Award at the National Agriculture in the Classroom conference in Little Rock, Arkansas on June 21, 2019. Debbie is a longtime volunteer for Virginia Agriculture in the Classroom reaching over 60,000 children with the message of the importance of agriculture over the years. She won the award for expanding her ‘Dairy Day’ event to encompass 20 different commodities to teach children about local agriculture and incorporating STEM activities.

“The impact in a small, rural community would be impressive in its own right, but it’s Debbie’s creativity in reaching children that makes her remarkable”, said Tammy Maxey, senior manager of Virginia Agriculture in the Classroom. “Her off-the-farm work as a graphic designer has brought vivid displays to her volunteer projects. She has created nearly life-sized replicas showing students a cow’s digestive system and a milking cow. These models have evolved over time thanks to her creativity, skill and eye for design.”

Virginia Agriculture in the Classroom depends on volunteers like Debbie Brubaker to deliver agriculture literacy outreach to schools and communities. Debbie regularly attends AITC volunteer training sessions at Virginia Farm Bureau conferences and uses lessons and volunteer tools from AgInTheClass.org, as a base for her local outreach.

Volunteers utilized AITC resources to connect with 107,000 children at over 100 events.

Debbie Brubaker, Agriculture Advocate Award

Debbie Brubaker
Connecting with Children

Farm Life 360
AITC’s latest resource allows you to bring an on-the-farm experience to children wherever you are. These virtual reality videos debuted at the State Fair of Virginia and have since been used in both classrooms and at outreach events. Check out the sights and sounds of the farm by visiting the Farm Life 360 channel on YouTube. You can step inside a chicken house, ride along in a tractor, or watch as dairy cows are milked all without leaving your home or school.

For many of our students, this was their first direct contact with Virginia agriculture outside of the grocery store. All students got to share their experiences with their families by bring home seedlings they had planted, and they donated seedlings to the school as well, which are now growing in our garden and will be shared with a local food pantry. The children were absolutely fascinated to learn that there is just SO MUCH agriculture in the area.

–AITC Grant Recipient

School Grant Program
Agriculture in the Classroom funded 83 school grant projects impacting 45,500 children. Grants were awarded in the categories of School Gardens, Agriculture Experiences, and STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math).
Connecting through Special Events

Record Breaking Golf Tournament

The 23rd Annual Golf Tournament was held on May 17 at The Dominion Club in Glen Allen. A record number of teams participated, along with many sponsors. The tournament was a huge success netting over $38,000 to support education and outreach. We are excited to announce that we will be returning to The Dominion Club for the 2020 tournament on May 18. Contact us for information on teams and sponsorship.

Drive 4UR Community Raised $6,000

Held at the Virginia Farm Bureau Federation Annual Convention on November 26, Ford sponsored a Drive 4UR Community event. Each test drive of a Ford vehicle earned Agriculture in the Classroom a $20 donation. With the support of the Virginia Farm Bureau Federation Women’s Committee, there were over 325 test drives resulting in a $6,000 donation from Ford.

3rd Annual “Clays Across the Commonwealth”

The 3rd annual Clay Across the Commonwealth events were held in October at the Flying Rabbit Sporting Clays, Mt. Crawford and Kettlefoot Rod & Gun Club in Bristol. Sportsmen participating in the two events raised more than $21,000.
**Donors**

**In-Kind**
- Boehringer Ingelheim Vetmedica, Inc.
- Cabelas' Cattlemen's Supply
- CDW
- Christie Young
- Chuy's Tex-Mex Restaurant
- Colonial Farm Credit
- Crabbe Aviation
- Crozet Running
- Dance's Sporting Goods
- Dominion Outdoors
- Farm Credit of the Virginias
- First Bank & Trust Company
- Flying Rabbit Sporting Clays
- Hethwood Market
- Highland Arms
- Homestead Creamery
- Hubbard Peanut Company, Inc.
- James H. and Alice Faye Hundley, III
- James River Equipment, Inc.
- Jim Jervey
- Jon's Guns
- Kelly and Kevin Pious
- Kent Feed
- Landcrafted Food
- LexisNexis Risk Solutions
- LNR Feed & Grain Systems
- Local Seed Co.
- Mahoney's
- McNett Angus Beef
- Michelle Kiser
- Peter J Bell
- Publix
- Purina
- R.M. Felts Packing Company
- Rockingham Cooperative
- Sheetz
- Sweet Frog Premium Frozen Yogurt
- Tapco Underwriters, Inc.
- The Country Club of Virginia
- The Dominion Club
- The Good Earth Peanut Company
- Tommy and Dee Dee Darden
- Tractor Supply
- Trader Joe's
- VCU Sports Properties
- Vertafore, Inc.
- VFB Membership and Field Services Department
- VFB Sales Department
- VFB State Women's Committee
- Virginia Poultry Federation
- Whitley's Peanut Factory
- Zoetis

**Tributes**
- Archie Bailey
- Alice C Beale
- Floyd R. Bennett
- Diane S. Lepisto Brammer
- Eva R Brammer
- Jean Broadus
- Charlotte CFB
- Kemp Bernard Clemens
- Roddy Crabtree
- Franklin Currin
- Larry W Duty
- Carol William Engel
- Alice Forrest
- David Gardner
- Angela Haskovec
- Mary Janes Jones
- Paul Jones
- Harry Knabe, Jr.
- Janis Lamb
- Lisa M. Lohr
- Opie McAllister
- Joyce McKinney
- Mecklenburg CFB
- Sylvia H. Miller
- June Morris
- Mr. & Mrs. John and Karen Fleishman
- Emily Neckols
- Tom & Bill Orrock
- Robert Respers, Sr.
- Margie Shortt
- Brenda Tackett
- Frank Wilcosky, Sr.
- Jay A. and Sonja Yankey, Jr.

**KEY**
- CFB= County Farm Bureau
- FBWC= Farm Bureau Women's Committee
- SWCD= Soil and Water Conservation District
- VFB= Virginia Farm Bureau

**Steward $50,000+**

**Shepherd $25,000–49,999**

**Harvester $10,000–24,999**

**Grower $5,000–9,999**
- BB&T Charitable Foundation
- Cargill, Inc.
- DuPont Pioneer
- Farm Credit of the Virginias
- Farm Credit Foundation for Agricultural Advancement
- Farmers & Merchants Bank
- Finys
- Ford Motor Company
- National Agriculture in the Classroom
- Publix Charities
- Rosemont of Virginia LLC
- The Universal Leaf Foundation
- Virginia Beef Industry Council
- Virginia Cotton Board
- VFB Young Farmers Committee

**Cultivator $1,000–4,999**
- Albemarle CFB
- American Agricultural Insurance Company
- Augusta Cooperative Farm Bureau, Inc.
- Augusta FBWC
- Ballyshannon Fund in the Charlottesville Area Community
- Bank of America
- Benchmark Tool & Supply, Inc.
- Birdsong Peanuts
- Carroll FBWC
- Charles City, James City, New Kent, York FBWC
- Chesterfield FBWC
- Colonial Farm Credit
- ColonialWebb Contractors
- Culpeper Farmers’ Cooperative, Inc.
- Dairy Alliance
- David L. & Chessie L. Hickman
- Dinwiddie CFB
- Doris M. Coleman
- Enterprise Holdings Foundation
- Farm Bureau Bank
- FBAlliance
- Floyd County FBWC
- Franklin P. & Arthur W. Perdue Foundation, Inc.
- Frederick “Freddy” W. & Charlotte Holland
- Greene County FBWC
- Greensville FBWC
- Halifax FBWC
- Hanover FBWC
- Holtzman Oil Corp.
- Houff Family Foundation
- Houff’s Feed & Fertilizer
- Hubner Seed
- Huffman Trailer Sales
- H undley Farms, Inc.
- H undley Seed Co., Inc.
- Insurance Auto Auctions
- James River Equipment
- Joe Wilcosky
- King William FBWC
- Land O'Lakes Foundation
- Lee FBWC
- LexisNexis Risk Solutions
- Lynwood & Becky Broaddus
- Madison Wood Preservers
- Middlesex CFB
- Northern Virginia Electric Cooperative
- Nutrien Ag Solutions
- Orange CFB
- Powhatan FBWC
- Prince William/Fairfax FBWC
- Richob USA
- Rockbridge FBWC
- Rockingham Cooperative
- Rockingham Petroleum Cooperative
- Shenandoah CFB
- Southern States Cooperative, Inc.
- Tazewell FBWC
- The Jane & Arthur Flippo Foundation
- Virginia Apple Board
- Virginia Cattlemen’s Association
- Virginia Dept. of Agriculture & Consumer Services
- Virginia Egg Council
- VFB Employee Participation Committee
- VFB Membership & Field Services Department
- VFB State Women’s Committee
- Virginia Peanut Growers Association, Inc.
- Virginia Pork Council
- Virginia Poultry Federation
- Virginia Soybean Association
- Washington FBWC
- Westmoreland FBWC

**Planter $500–999**
- Anthem
- Bedford CFB
- Binkley & Hurst
- Botetourt CFB
- Brunswick FBWC
- Buckingham FBWC
- Cargill
- Dropout CFB
- V_FBAlliance
- Farm Bureau Bank
- FBAlliance
- Franklin P. & Arthur W. Perdue Foundation, Inc.
- Frederick “Freddy” W. & Charlotte Holland
- Greene County FBWC
- Greensville FBWC
- Halifax FBWC
- Hanover FBWC
- Holtzman Oil Corp.
- Houff Family Foundation
- Houff’s Feed & Fertilizer
- Hubner Seed
- Huffman Trailer Sales
- H undley Farms, Inc.
- H undley Seed Co., Inc.
- Insurance Auto Auctions
- James River Equipment
- Joe Wilcosky
- King William FBWC
- Land O'Lakes Foundation
- Lee FBWC
- LexisNexis Risk Solutions
- Lynwood & Becky Broaddus
- Madison Wood Preservers
- Middlesex CFB
- Northern Virginia Electric Cooperative
- Nutrien Ag Solutions
- Orange CFB
- Powhatan FBWC
- Prince William/Fairfax FBWC
- Richob USA
- Rockbridge FBWC
- Rockingham Cooperative
- Rockingham Petroleum Cooperative
- Shenandoah CFB
- Southern States Cooperative, Inc.
- Tazewell FBWC
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- Virginia Peanut Growers Association, Inc.
- Virginia Pork Council
- Virginia Poultry Federation
- Virginia Soybean Association
- Washington FBWC
- Westmoreland FBWC
Financials

Giving By Donor Category
- 6.1% Individuals
- 12.5% Ag Organizations
- 16.7% Special Events
- 16% Corporations
- 3.7% Private Foundations
- 0% Government
- 11.9% Farm Bureaus & Programs
- 33.1% In-Kind

Direct Revenue
- Contributions & Grants: $351,593
- Gross Profit from Sales: $2,739
- Investment Income: $19,285

Direct Expenses
- Professional Educator Programs & Resources: $191,837
- Classroom Grants: $47,633
- Student & Community Initiatives: $43,692
- Direct Development: $55,482

In-Kind
- Virginia Farm Bureau Federation: $174,854
- Other In-Kind gifts: $6,498

Giving By Donor Category
- 6.1% Individuals
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- 3.7% Private Foundations
- 0% Government
- 11.9% Farm Bureaus & Programs
- 33.1% In-Kind

In-Kind
- Virginia Farm Bureau Federation: $181,352
- Other In-Kind gifts: $6,498

Board of Directors (2018–2019)

- Mr. Hobey Bauhan (16–19**)
  Chairman
  President, Virginia Poultry Federation

- Mr. Wayne F. Pryor (no term)
  President
  President, Virginia Farm Bureau Federation

- Mr. Bertsch Cox (17–20**)
  Vice Chairman
  CFO, James River Equipment

- Ms. Sandra Adams (18–21**)
  Retired, VDACS

- Mr. Justin Cruise (16–19*)
  Public Relations Specialist,
  Rappahannock Electric Cooperative

- Ms. Dee Dee Darden (16–19**)
  Agricultural Producer and Proprietor,
  Darden’s Country Store

- Ms. Diane Fowlkes (16–19*)
  CFO, Colonial Farm Credit

- Ms. Susan Gaston (17–20*)
  President and Owner, The Gaston Group, LLC

- Mr. Bill Henley (18–21*)
  Vice President, Production
  Montague Farms

- Ms. Ruth Hopke (16–19*)
  Technical Support Specialist,
  Cargill Feed & Nutrition

- Ms. Ashlie K. Howell (17–20**)
  Branch Manager, Farm Credit of the Virginias

- Ms. Faye Hundley (17–20*)
  Chairman, Virginia Farm Bureau State
  Women’s Program

- Ms. Rose Jeter (16–19**)
  Sales and Marketing Manager,
  Homestead Creamery

- Mr. David Moore (16–19*)
  Retired, Virginia Cooperative Extension

- Mr. Joey Riddle (17–20*)
  District Manager, Publix Super Markets, Inc.

- Mr. Ellis Walton (18–21**)
  District 12 Director, Virginia Farm Bureau
  Federation and Agricultural Producer

- Mr. Jay Yankey (16–19**)
  District Manager, Prince William Soil and
  Water District and Past Virginia Farm Bureau
  Young Farmers Chair

Board members may serve two consecutive terms,
with each term consisting of three years.
*denotes first term    **denotes second term

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