



Connecting Children to Agriculture



ANNUAL REPORT

2023-2024 VIRGINIA FOUNDATION FOR AGRICULTURE IN THE CLASSROOM



AGRICULTURE IN THE CLASSROOM

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in the Classroom Staff

Tammy Maxey
Executive Director

Kelly Roberts
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Christy Murphy
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Fundraising Specialist

Brian Walsh
Fundraising Specialist
District Field Service
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Lynn Black
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Miriam Thomas
Education Outreach Coordinator

Sam Norman
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Phoebe McLaughlin
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Contributors & Writers:
Farm Bureau Federation
Communications Department
Agriculture in the Classroom Staff

Photographers:
Farm Bureau Federation
Communications Department
Agriculture in the Classroom Staff

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This report recognizes gifts made to the Virginia Foundation for Agriculture in the Classroom between July 1, 2023, and June 30, 2024. Gifts made after that time will be acknowledged in the 2024-2025 Honor Roll of Donors. Every effort has been made to compile an accurate list. If, however, you discover an error or omission, please accept our apologies and bring it to our attention by calling 804-290-1030. Thank you!

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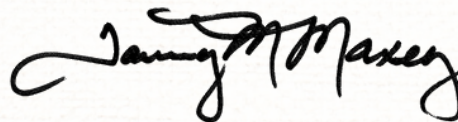
Thank you! Without your support, the work that Virginia Agriculture in the Classroom (AITC) has done and is doing would not be possible. Our 2023/2024 fiscal year was a record-breaking one, and we did not do it alone. Enjoy looking back at what we have accomplished together in this snapshot of our year.

Throughout the year, we connected over **700,000** children to agriculture through grants, scholarships, and Agriculture Literacy Week. We partnered with over **17,000** educators through CARES packages, professional developments, online resources and a new curriculum book. Ag Literacy week saw over **3,100** books distributed reaching over **70,000** students. Additionally, **75** grants were awarded to teachers around the state, enabling experiential learning in classrooms.

For all of our special events throughout the year, you stepped up and made them a success. Thank you. This year, two new special events were added, the Eastern Virginia Clay Shoot and Taste of Virginia. Special events help us spread the word as well as raise necessary funds.

Virginia Agriculture in the Classroom continues to stay true to our mission of **connecting children to agriculture**. We are incredibly proud of what has been accomplished this year and look forward to more to come. If you believe in this mission, please continue to keep AITC in the forefront of your donation list. Agricultural literacy truly takes everyone.

With thanks,



Tammy Maxey
Executive Director



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AGRICULTURE FOR CHILDREN



School Grant Program

In 2023/2024 Virginia Agriculture in the Classroom awarded 75 grants in 51 localities across the state. These grants went to public schools, private schools, 4-H chapters and various centers representing 30,000 preschool through high school students. Grants funded a wide variety of projects including gardens, hydroponics and embryology. These grants gave students the opportunity to learn about agriculture in a hands-on way and helped to foster leadership, honed skills, and offered insight into career opportunities.

I just wanted to share that it literally brought me to tears seeing how PROUD the kids were to grow veggies to eat. I had a child that could not process how small a lettuce seed is and literally asked the same question 3 different ways "So, you mean to tell me lettuce will grow from this?"; "So, the lettuce I can eat comes from this seed?"; "So, I don't have to buy lettuce at the store if this grows?"
 St. John the Apostle Catholic School, Virginia Beach

"The AITC project brought the students a sense of unity, no student is isolated. The students understand the value of the garden at home, in the community, and school. They appreciate the changes that agriculture brings to the world."
 Huguenot High School, Richmond

Doug Stoughton Scholarship

Agriculture in the Classroom proudly established the Doug Stoughton Scholarship this year in memory of the late Doug Stoughton, a former Virginia Farm Bureau Federation special programs director who was dedicated to advancing agricultural education for youth. He made a significant impact on both Agriculture in the Classroom and Virginia Farm Bureau Federation. According to Tammy Maxey, executive director of Agriculture in the Classroom, "Doug played a key role in supporting AITC and promoting agricultural literacy." This scholarship serves as a tribute to his legacy and the influence he had, while offering opportunities to students pursuing careers in agriculture or education. The scholarship is open to students enrolled in 2- or 4-year college or university programs focusing on agriculture or education.

"Growing up on a fifth generation family farm in Louisa, Virginia, I have learned the true significance agriculture has in the sustainability of our society, prompting me to pursue a career in agriculture while also growing my family's farm so that I can serve as a future leader in agriculture. I hope to inspire others to pursue a career in agriculture."

-Zachary Coleman, 23/24 recipient

AGRICULTURE THROUGH EDUCATORS



Eastern Shore Bus Trip

August brought another new event for AITC, this time a bus tour to the Eastern Shore. The trip brought the opportunity for educators to gather and learn about agriculture in their community. Participants visited the Virginia Institute of Marine Science, the Eastern Shore Agricultural Research and Extension Center, and Shore Breeze Farms.

Educators enjoyed gaining insight into aquaculture, hydroponics, local crop cultivation and many other topics. This event was open to the entire state, but most of the attendees were local. However, several took advantage of the chance to travel and learn about other areas of the state. "It was a great event," said Spotswood High School agriculture teacher Elizabeth Lam, who traveled from Rockingham County. "I was interested in the Virginia Institute of Marine Science. My classes do several programs with the Chesapeake Bay Foundation throughout the year, and this looked like something we could introduce for a different impact to the students."

With the success of the inaugural trip, another bus trip will take place again in August, providing more opportunities for educators to connect with each other and gain professional development experience.

New Curriculum

As part of the commitment to increasing agricultural literacy, Agriculture in the Classroom continues to provide teachers with the updated tools they need to incorporate agriculture into their classrooms. New curriculum books were created this year and have already been distributed to over 1,000 educators. This curriculum uses Virginia agriculture to support state standards and emphasizes STEM activities as well as agricultural career paths.



AGRICULTURE THROUGH EDUCATORS



National Conference

In June, Tammy Maxey, AITC executive director, and Miriam Thomas, education outreach coordinator, represented Virginia at the National Agriculture in the Classroom Conference in Salt Lake City. While there, they were able to lead a workshop and watch two Virginia educators bring home national recognition.

Amy Goodyear, a biology teacher at Heritage High School, was one of two secondary teachers awarded the 2024 National Excellence in Teaching about Agriculture Award. These national honors are given by National Agriculture in the Classroom Organization, U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Institute of Food and Agriculture, and Farm Credit.

Carter Humphries was selected as the Partnership in Agricultural Literacy Award winner. This award is especially exciting because only one is given away each year. The PALs award recognizes an individual who shows excellence in their agricultural literacy efforts for PreK-12 students. Carter is a Virginia Cooperative Extension agent in Chesterfield County and utilizes many AITC programs to help connect students to agriculture.

Another exciting opportunity for Virginia was the chance to lead a workshop at the conference. Virginia Agriculture in the Classroom led the "Seeds, Flowers, and STEM" workshop. AITC staff presented lessons from the new *Curriculum Connections* book to 100 educators from across the country and were able to demonstrate how to incorporate cross-curricular standards using agriculture concepts. Workshop attendees engaged in hands-on activities like "Discover an Acre." This activity involved finding the perimeter and area of a garden, and determining how many seeds of a particular produce item could be planted per square foot. Using their measurements of perimeter and area, they were encouraged to think about fencing costs, and then use that knowledge to plan a school garden.



AGRICULTURE WITH VOLUNTEERS



Cultivate the 88

For the third year in a row, Agriculture in the Classroom partnered with all 88 Virginia county Farm Bureaus to complete the “Cultivate the 88” campaign. With this campaign, AITC has been able to see an increase in support from other donors, added participation in special events, increased application for grants and requests for CARE kits, and ticket sales for raffles. We are very grateful to the 88 counties for their continued support and 100% participation in this campaign.



Women’s Conference

A large portion of the volunteers for AITC stem from Farm Bureau Women’s Committees. At their annual conference in April, AITC staff were able to lead a workshop. During this workshop, a new “Ag in a Bag” resource kit was unveiled. The ladies could sign up to receive one of these free resource kits for their county, to be used at festivals and community events. The kit contains a brand-new “Agriculture is Everywhere” tablecloth, items corresponding to the commodities on the tablecloth, and a toolkit containing the directions to the activity, along with suggested extension and commodity trivia. The ladies were also given volunteer activity cards with a QR code to scan. The link directed them to the AITC website where the volunteer activities had been updated. Workshops like this are crucial in supporting and putting more resources in the hands of volunteers who work very hard to further the AITC mission.

Lawn Tractor Raffle

In 2023, from July–November Agriculture in the Classroom held a raffle for a X380 Lawn Tractor sponsored by James River Equipment. The raffle successfully raised over \$10,000, and Ray Leonard was the lucky winner when the ticket was drawn. A big thank you goes out to James River Equipment for their ongoing support and to all those who purchased a ticket!





AGRICULTURE WITH VOLUNTEERS



Agriculture Literacy Week

Nothing brings the agricultural community together like the opportunity to help students engage in learning about the food they eat and the farmers who grow it. That's what Virginia Agriculture in the Classroom's annual Agriculture Literacy Week provides. In its 14th year, over 1,500 volunteers reached over 70,000 students during March 18-22, 2024. *Logan's Greenhouse* by JaNay Brown-Wood was the 2024 book selection. The story follows Logan as he searches his greenhouse for carrots for a pet play date. Along the way he learns about a variety of produce before he finds his carrots.

"This was a record-breaking year with the most books donated so far," said Tammy Maxey, AITC executive director. Over 3,100 books were donated across the state to schools, libraries and community groups.

Along with a story, most of the volunteers also led hands-on activities to help connect the children to what they had read. Brandy Compton, an Isle of Wight County Extension program assistant, said "Ag Literacy Week helps bridge the gap between farming and youth. A lot of youth will never step foot on a farm. It's incredibly important that children and future generations know that food just doesn't appear at the grocery store-a lot of faith, stewardship and man hours are behind it all."

Volunteers included Virginia's First Lady, Suzanne Younkin; Virginia Secretary of Agriculture and Forestry Matthew Lohr; Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services Commissioner Joseph Guthrie; county Farm Bureau leaders; members of Virginia's legislature; FFA and 4-H club members; employees of VDACS and Farm Credit; and many other agricultural businesses and organizations.



AGRICULTURE AMIDST SPECIAL EVENTS



Taste of Virginia

New for 2023 was the Taste of Virginia event held during the State Fair of Virginia. This culinary experience featured seven celebrity chefs, 14 farms, three wineries, two breweries, and one distillery, all hailing from the state.

Located in historic Meadow Hall at The Meadow Event Park, attendees were able to follow a “map” of stations and sample some of Virginia’s best grown products. Each chef was paired up with Virginia farms to provide the ingredients for their dishes, as well as highlighting other farms in individual stations. Christy Murphy, AITC fundraising manger and creator of Taste of Virginia, said, “This truly was a taste of Virginia, we had people representing a good part of the state. I think it’s important for us to demonstrate how big of an industry agriculture is here.” The menu included a variety of things, like oysters from Ruby Salts in Cape Charles; Chef Mike Lindsey’s Braised Beef Egg Rolls with beef from Studley Farm; ice cream from Moo Thru; and Chef Leah Branch’s Confit Turkey with Urfa Gravy featuring Kellys Turkey from Crozet along with many other tasty bites. Attendees to the event also gained access to the fair and the evening’s live music.

The event raised over \$15,000 for AITC programs. A huge thank you to everyone who participated, sponsored, and attended for making the inaugural event a success.

Taste of Virginia will return to the State Fair on October 3, 2024. Don't miss your chance to savor the best of Virginia's culinary scene, support local agriculture, and enjoy a fantastic day at the fair!



AGRICULTURE AMIDST SPECIAL EVENTS



Clay Shoots

Clay Shoots proved to be a big hit again for 2023/2024. In March, AITC took over Flying Rabbit Sporting Clays in Mt. Crawford, and raised over \$15,000. In November, the first Eastern VA Clay Shoot took place at Old Forge Sporting Clays in Providence Forge. It was another great day. A big thank you to all of the teams, supporters, and sponsors. We couldn't do it without you!

A new Clay Shoot will take place at Arrowhead Gun Club in Victoria on September 20th. Watch for information about this new event and returning shoots!



Golf Tournament

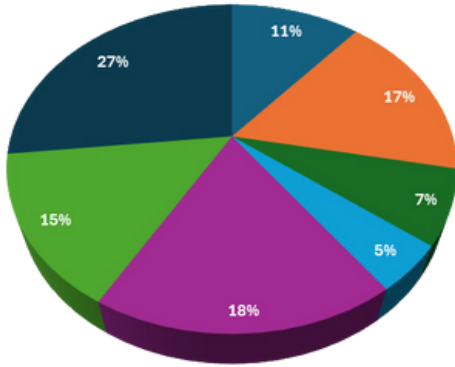
Golfers came together once again in May for the 27th annual golf tournament held at The Dominion Club in Glen Allen. The golfers had a beautiful day and raised over \$72,000 to help connect children to agriculture. Thank you to all the sponsors and participants for making this a success!

Our 2025 golf tournament will be held on May 5 at The Old Dominion Club. Don't miss out on the fun!



AGRICULTURE INVOLVES EVERYONE

Agriculture in the Classroom would be nothing without our donors. You make the work that we do possible. 700,000 more students got connected to agriculture this year because of your generosity. Thank you!



- Ag Organizations
- Private Foundations
- Special Events
- In Kind
- Corporations
- Individuals
- Farm Bureaus & Committees

Direct Revenue: \$564,690

Contributions and Grants: \$508,199
 Gross Profits from Sales: \$18,010
 Investment Income: \$38,481

Direct Expense: \$389,523.75

Educator Programs & Resources: \$295,809
 Classroom Grants: \$42,515
 Direct Development: \$51,199.75

In-Kind: \$219,540

Virginia Farm Bureau Federation: \$196,685
 Other In-Kind Gifts: \$22,855

Steward \$50,000+

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CFB- County Farm Bureau

CFBWLC- County Farm Bureau Women's
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SWCD- Soil & Water Conservation District

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Berry Hill Plantation and Resort
Birdie's Pimento Cheese
Blanchard's Coffee Company
Capital Chips
CDW
Cirrus Vodka
Colonial Farm Credit
Culinary Concepts AB
Donnie E. and Anne P. Knowlson
Eastern Shore Custom Carts
Graduate Hotels-Charlottesville
Graves Mountain Farm Lodges
Harris Creek Flower Farm
Hilton Norfolk The Main
Holly Fork Farm
Hotel 24 South
Hotel Madison
Hotel Roanoke and Conference Center
Hotel Weyanoke
James D. and Glenda Jervey
James River Equipment, Inc.
KC's Buttercream Sweet Shoppe LLC
Kingsmill Resort
Lar-Lyn Farm Supplies LLC
LexisNexis Risk Solutions
Lindsey Food Group
Millers Greenhouses, Inc.
Old Forge Sporting Clays
Patch Brewing Company
Publix Super Markets, Inc.
R.M. Felts Packing Company
Richmond Marriott Downtown
Smithfield
Stanley Black and Decker
The CROP Foundation
The Dominion Club
The Estate at White Hall Vineyard
The Good Earth Peanut Company
The Green Kitchen
The Roosevelt
The Shanty
The Underground Kitchen
Total Wine & More
Trader Joe's
VFB- Farm Safety Committee
VFB Mutual Ins. Co.
VFB- Products Division
Virginia Peanut Growers Association
Wind Vineyards
Woodbine Vineyards

Tributes-In Memory

Alice E. Forrest
R. Craig and Kim Jebson

Andy Cornett
Richard L. and Brenda R. Sutherland

Ann-Marie Lunsford
Melinda McCall, DVM

Arthur & Frances Shiley
Adonica Miller

Beverly Lamb
Greene CFB

Billy Yates
Wise-Dickenson CFB

Charles Moyer
Forrest Nuckols

Dorothy Stevenson
Wise-Dickenson CFB

Evelyn Janney
Debbie Brubaker
Emily Fisher Edmondson
Thomas E. Graves, Jr.
Carroll CFB
Pulaski CFB
Floyd CFB
Montgomery CFB
David Rundgren
Stonewall Church of the Brethren

Frances "Tee" White
Brenda King Melton

Glenn H. Updike
Lynda Updike

Jean Broaddus
Candace Broaddus

Joyce Pittman
Greene CFB

Judy Hill
Floyd CFB

Kathryn Williams
Michael P. Williams, II

Lisa M. Lohr
Allen R. and Mary Jane Miller

Madge Boggs
Wise-Dickenson CFB

Marvin Birden Gunn Jr.
Everett Farms, Inc.

Melissa Flannery
Wise-Dickenson CFB

Miriam G Pendleton
Miriam Thomas

Mitch Cox
Richard L. and Brenda R. Sutherland

Mr. and Mrs. Steve Bostic
Bom Harris, DVM

Nancy Barlow
Lynwood and Becky Broaddus

Opie McAllister
Michael P. Williams, II

Patsy Reese
Halifax CFB

Richard H. Fiske
Loudoun CFB

Ruth Ann Ingram
Floyd CFB

Sylvia H. Miller
Allen R. and Mary Jane Miller

Terry Mason
Tazewell CFB

Tom Tabor
Richard L. and Brenda R. Sutherland

Tommy Barham
Jemar LLC

Woodford and Jean Broaddus
Danny and Mary Hunley

Tributes-In Honor

**Family of James Bennet
Knoll Crest Farm, Red House VA**
Larry L. Owen

Faye Hundley
Lisa Mountcastle

Karen and John Fleishman
Martha Allen

Scott Winslow, Barn at Edgewood
Greene CFB

Terry Dickenson
Teresa Phillips

Wesley Santana
Scott Fox

General Tributes

Surry CFB



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