

INDICATORS OF FOOD SECURITY IN VIRGINIA

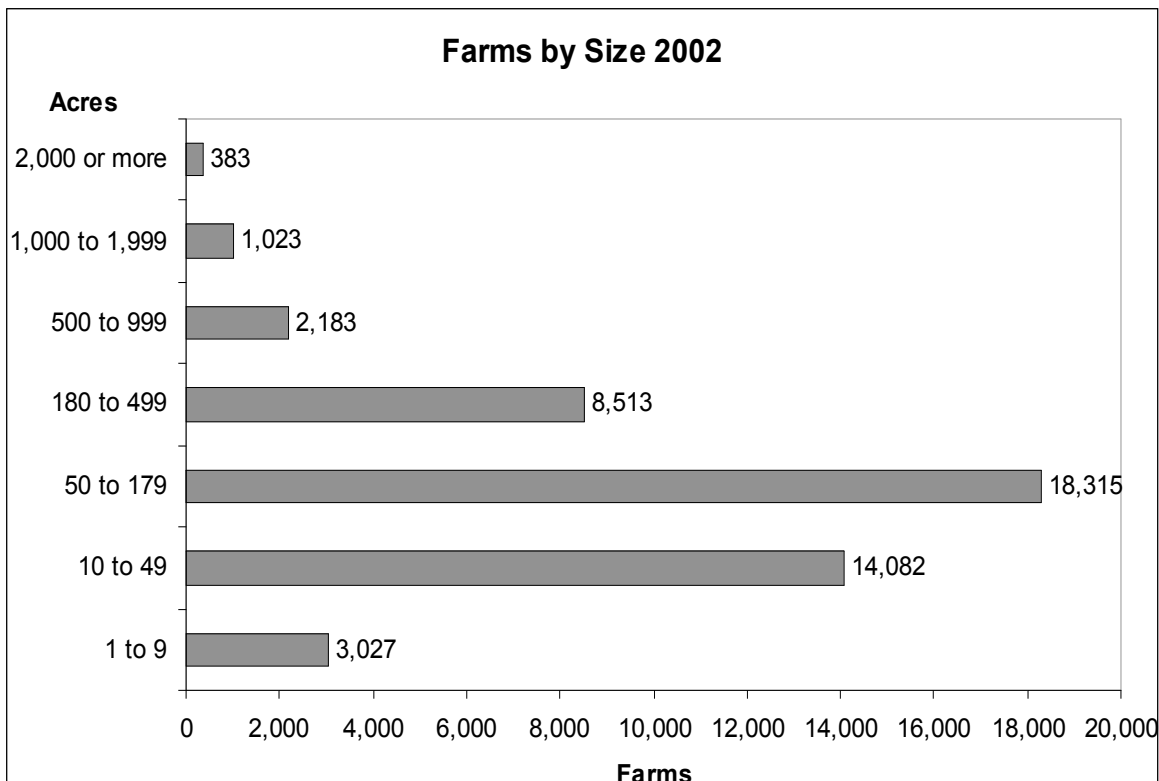
Virginia Agriculture Economic Impact

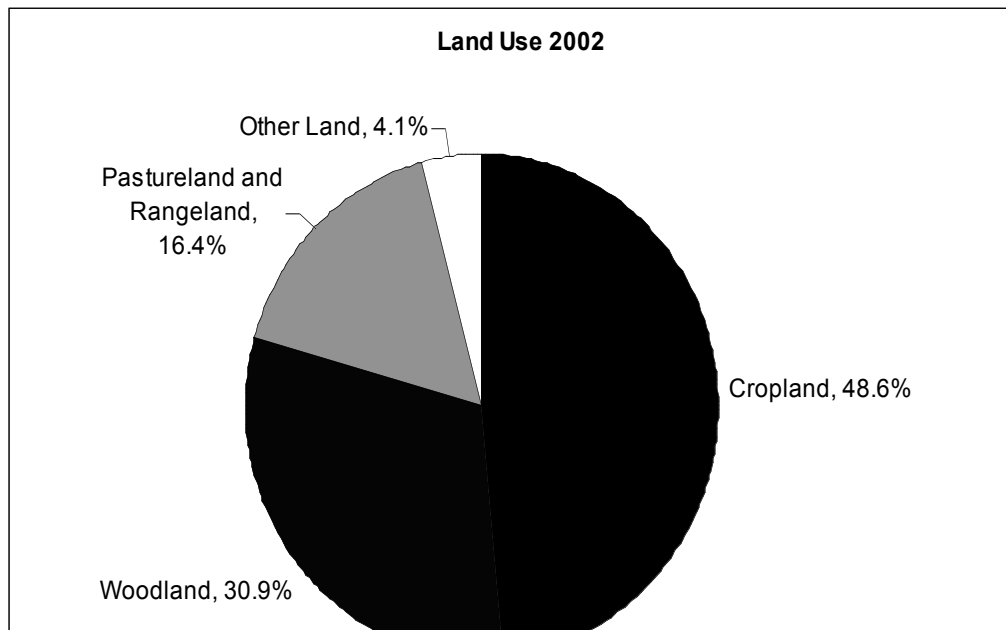
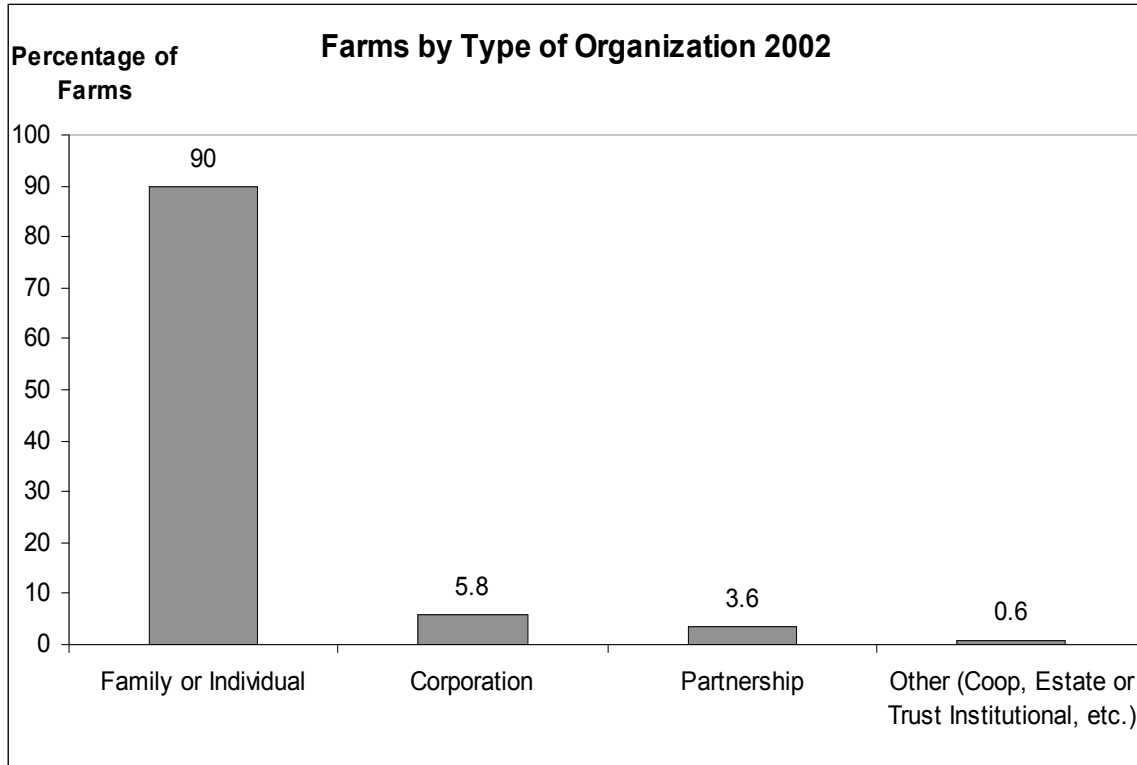
Virginia agriculture generates approximately \$36 billion annually in total sales for the state. Together, agriculture and forestry are Virginia's number one industry, contributing more than \$47 billion to the state economy annually and representing more than 15% of total employment. (Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, 2007)

Virginia Farmland

By 1960, only 13,500,000 of Virginia's approximately 25 million acres remained in farmland. In 2005, the total was about 8,500,000 acres, a loss of five million acres of Virginia farmland in less than 50 years. Statistics tell a similar story for Virginia's forests. In 2003, Virginia had 15.8 million acres of forestland which represents a decline of 180,600 acres since 1992. (<http://www.vdacs.virginia.gov/preservation/index.shtml>)

There also is strong competition for working farm and forest land in Virginia. According to USDA's National Resource Inventory (NRI), between 1992 and 1997, Virginia lost 23,260 acres per year of agricultural land to developed uses, and 44,640 acres per year of forest land to developed uses. Combined, this is almost 68,000 acres of working farm and forest land lost to developed uses per year during these five years. (VDACS Office of Farmland Preservation)





Graphs made using 2002 Census of Agriculture data from <http://www.nass.usda.gov/census/census02/volume1/va/index2.htm>

Virginia Farmland Trends (<http://www.ers.usda.gov/StateFacts/VA.HTM>)

	1992	1997	2002
Farms by size (percent)			
1 to 99 acres	52.5	56.7	56.8
100 to 499 acres	38.5	35.8	35.7
500 to 999 acres	6	5	4.6
1000 to 1,999 acres	2.3	1.9	2.1
2,000 or more acres	0.7	0.7	0.8
Average farm size (acres)	197	177	181
Total land area (million acres)	24.9	24.9	25.34
Total farmland (million acres)	8.3	8.75	8.62
Percent of total land area	33.3	35.2	34
Cropland (million acres)	4.31	4.53	4.19
Percent of total farmland	52	51.7	48.6
Percent in pasture	35.4	35.8	30.2
Percent irrigated	1.4	1.8	2.3
Harvested Cropland (million acres)	2.45	2.6	2.62
Woodland (million acres)	2.6	2.74	2.67
Percent of total farmland	31.3	31.3	30.9
Percent in pasture	25.4	23.5	23.9
Pastureland (million acres)	1.1	1.14	1.41
Percent of total farmland	13.3	13	16.4
Land in house lots, ponds, roads, wasteland, etc. (million acres)	0.28	0.35	0.35
Percent of total farmland	3.4	4	4.1
Conservation and organic practices			
Farmland in conservation or wetlands			
reserve programs (million acres)	0.06	0.1	0.11
Percent of total farmland	0.7	1.2	1.2

Virginia Farmers and Farm Operation

(Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, 2007)

- There are 47,600 farms in Virginia.
- The typical farmer in Virginia is 57 years old. Nearly 30% of farmers are 65 or more years of age.
- The average farm size is 181 acres and has assets worth about \$490,000.
- Approximately 14 percent of Virginia primary farm operators are female.
- About 4 percent of all Virginia farms are operated by minorities.
- Virginia farms employ more than 48,000 full-time and part-time workers.

- About 90 percent of Virginia farms are owned and operated by individuals or families.
- Nearly 54 percent of Virginia farmers consider farming their primary occupation.
- About 20 percent of Virginia farms share the farm income with multiple households.
- Approximately 34% of Virginia's farmer's utilize computers in their business and 46% have Internet access.

Financial Indicators (Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, 2007)

- The average market value of an acre of the family farm is \$2,675.
- Farms cover 8.6 million acres, or 34 percent of Virginia's total land area.
- About 8 percent of the farms in Virginia account for 82 percent of the total farm income.
- The average farm debt is \$49,500 per farm.

TRENDS (http://www.ers.usda.gov/StateFacts/VA.HTM)	1992	1997	2002
Farms by sales (percent)			
Less than \$9,999	60.1	65.9	67.3
\$10,000 to \$49,999	25	21	20.6
\$50,000 to \$99,999	4.6	4.2	3.9
\$100,000 to \$499,999	8.2	6.2	6
More than \$500,000	1.8	2.2	2.3
Tenure of farmers			
Full owner (farms)	26,492	31,995	31,814
Percent of total	62.7	64.8	66.8
Part owner (farms)	12,599	13,847	13,138
Percent of total	29.8	28	27.6
Tenant owner (farms)	3,131	3,524	2,654
Percent of total	7.4	7.1	5.6
Farm organization			
Individuals/family, sole proprietorship (farms)	36,866	43,445	42,851
Percent of total	87.3	88	90
Family-held corporations (farms)	1,160	1,603	1,531
Percent of total	2.7	3.2	3.2
Partnerships (farms)	3,786	3,866	2,757
Percent of total	9	7.8	5.8
Non-family corporations (farms)	167	184	192
Percent of total	0.4	0.4	0.4
Others - cooperative, estate or trust, institutional, etc. (farms)	243	268	275
Percent of total	0.6	0.5	0.6
Characteristics of principal farm operators			
Average operator age (years)	55.6	55.8	56.7
Percent with farming as their primary occupation	46.4	41.5	53.6
Men (persons)	37,993	43,591	40,825
Women (persons)	4,229	5,775	6,781

Top 5 agriculture commodities, 2005	Value of receipts (thousand \$)	Percent of State Total Farm Receipts	Percent of U.S. Value
1. Broilers	570,180	21.1	2.7
2. Cattle and calves	401,072	14.8	0.8
3. Dairy products	293,040	10.8	1.1
4. Turkeys	242,466	9	7.7
5. Greenhouse/nursery	235,778	8.7	1.5
All commodities	2,701,643		1.1
Top 5 agriculture exports, estimates, FY 2005	Rank among states	Value (million \$)	
1. Live animals and meat	14	111.9	
	8	89.3	
2. Poultry and products	24	71.8	
3. Wheat and products	4	61.7	
4. Tobacco unmd.	21	43.8	
5. Soybeans and products	29	552.2	
Top 5 counties in agricultural sales 2002	Percent of state total receipts	Value (million \$)	
1. Rockingham County	18.9	446.7	
2. Augusta County	6.1	143.9	
3. Accomack County	4.6	109.1	
4. Page County	4.6	108.7	
5. Shenandoah County	3	69.7	
State Total		2,360.90	

Farmer's Markets

There were 100 Farmer's Markets in Virginia in 2004.

(Source: <http://www.ams.usda.gov/farmersmarkets/map.htm>)

Organic Agriculture

Land used to raise certified organically-produced crops in 2002: 139 crop farms, 337 farms all commodities, value \$4,306,000; 3,264 acres in certified organic use (0.3%)
(2002 Census of Agriculture; not measured in previous Censuses)

Food Insecurity and Hunger

Food insecurity is generally defined as the lack of access to enough food to fully meet basic needs at all times due to lack of financial resources, while hunger is defined as the uneasy or painful sensation caused by lack of food. When we talk about hunger in America, we refer to the ability of people to obtain sufficient food for their household (The Food Action and Research Center, 2007)

Virginia Food Security and Hunger 1996-2004									
Food Insecure (With or Without Hunger)					Food Insecure with Hunger				
Average 2002-2004	Average 1999-2001	Average 1996-1998	Change 99-01 to 02-04	Change 96-98 to 02-04	Average 2002-2004	Average 1999-2001	Average 1996-1998	Change 99-01 to 02-04	Change 96-98 to 02-04
-----Percentage-----			Percentage Points		-----Percentage-----			Percentage Points	
8.5	7.6	10.2	9	-1.7	2.6	.15	3.0	1.1*	-.4

Source: Household Food Security in the United States, 2004/ERR-11, Economic Research Service/USDA

As of 2004, Virginia was ranked #44 in the nation for food insecurity and #46 for hunger. While this indicates relatively low levels of food insecurity and hunger compared to other states and the national average, the number of Virginians experiencing food insecurity and hunger is rising. The state experienced the second largest percent change in hunger between 1999 and 2004, and the 19th largest percent change in food insecurity.

Virginia Food Insecurity and Hunger Change: 1999-2001 to 2002-2004			
Food Insecurity % Change	Rank	Hunger % Change	Rank
11.8	19	73.3	2

Source: Tables of Food Insecurity and Hunger for 2004, Rankings by Households by State (Including DC and US) Analysis by Center on Hunger and Poverty, Brandeis University, based on *Household Food Security in the United States, 2004/ERR-11*

Economic Research Service/USDA, Appendix D.1 ,Dr. Stephen Fournier Dr. J. Larry Brown November 2, 2005

Food Stamp Participation (virginiainterfaithcenter.org/2007BriefingPapers/06FoodStampReport.doc)

- Last year, 488,481 Virginians used food stamps to buy food every month. That amounts to 6.5 percent of the people in Virginia.
- Virginia food stamp households receive, on average, 0.95 cents per person per meal in food stamp benefits. This modest amount is crucial to financially pressed families.
- The Food Stamp Program pumped \$499,708,150 into the Virginia economy last year, benefiting farmers, grocers, and small businesses throughout the state.
- About 80 percent of food stamp benefits go to households with children, many of them in working families. Most of the rest go to households containing elderly people or people with disabilities.
- During the recent recession and subsequent weak recovery, Food Stamp Program participation in Virginia

increased. In 2000, an average of 336,080 Virginians received food stamps each month. That number rose steadily to 488,481 in 2005, an increase of 45.3 percent.

Unmet need remains

- Still, about 38 million Americans, including an estimated 236,385 households in Virginia, have difficulty affording food, according to USDA. That includes low-income working families and senior citizens living on fixed incomes.
- Nationally, only 60 percent of those eligible for food stamps receive them. In Virginia, the participation rate is estimated to be 54 percent.
- Increasing the share of eligible households that participate in the Food Stamp Program by just five percentage points, Virginia would provide food stamps to an additional 36,000 low-income Virginians, bring \$22.1 million into our local economy, and result in \$40.7 million in new economic activity.

WIC Farmers' Market Nutrition Program (FMNP) (Source: VDH Fact Sheet)

- The purpose of the WIC Farmers' Market Nutrition Program (FMNP) is to provide a combination of nutrition education, locally grown fresh fruits and vegetables and health care oversight to eligible women and children while simultaneously increasing the awareness, use of and sales at farmers' markets.
- The FMNP serves pregnant, breastfeeding and post-partum women and children (2-5 years old), who are nutritionally at risk.
- The Program began in Virginia as a pilot program in 2004.
- Participants receive four (4) \$5.00 food instruments that can be redeemed for fresh fruits, vegetables and fresh cut herbs from locally certified farmer vendors at designated Farmer Market sales locations. There is maximum \$40.00 benefit level per family.
- The Farmers' Market Nutrition Program runs from July 1st - October 31st. The FMNP currently operates in seven (7) localities including: Arlington, Chesapeake, Fairfax, Hampton, Norfolk, Peninsula and Virginia Beach.
- In collaboration with the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, farmer vendors are recruited, trained and authorized to accept WIC food instruments for eligible participants to purchase locally grown fresh fruits and vegetables.
- During the 2006 Program, a total of 31,365 WIC recipients participated in the FMNP including:
 - 6,218 pregnant women
 - 3,647 breastfeeding women
 - 21,770 children
- During the 2006 Program, participating vendors included:
 - 65 authorized farmers
 - 16 authorized farmers markets
 - 4 roadside stands

Virginia WIC Program (Source: VDH Fact Sheet)

- The Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC) is funded through the U.S. Department of Agriculture and is operated through local health departments and satellite and mobile clinics in Virginia
- The Virginia WIC Program serves women who are breastfeeding, pregnant or have just given birth; infants less than one (1) year-old and children less than five (5) years-old.
- WIC participants must be Virginia residents and meet the financial and nutritional requirements set forth by the regulations. Financial eligibility is defined as income below 185% of the federal poverty level while nutritional eligibility is defined by risk factors such as a medical problem or an unhealthy diet. Mothers, fathers and legal guardians may apply for WIC benefits for the children in their care.

- The program provides milk, cheese, eggs, juice, cereal, dried beans or peas, peanut butter and iron-fortified formula that supply crucial nutrients such as protein, iron, calcium, and vitamins A and C essential to maintain health.
- In addition to access to healthy foods, WIC also provides nutrition education, healthy recipes, private and group sessions with a nutrition expert, free nutrition checkups, support and help with breastfeeding and referrals to other community services.
- The WIC Program brings approximately \$110 million into local economies through food purchased from authorized retail grocery stores. Approximately 800 retail stores throughout the Commonwealth participate in the Virginia WIC Program.
- The program puts another \$23 million into the state’s economy through administrative expenditures including salaries.
- During Federal Fiscal Year 2006, the Virginia WIC Program served a total of 1,688,345 participants including:
 - 447,788 women
 - 440,079 infants
 - 800,478 children

Food Bank Participation (http://www.vafoodbanks.org/about_virginia_foodbank_federation.htm)

Commonwealth of Virginia Food Bank clientele served include: 32% children (8% are children 0 – 5 years old), 15% elderly, 36% households with at least one employed adult, and 8% are homeless. Sixty-eight percent (68%) of those served live below the official federal poverty level.

Poverty

Poverty in Virginia for a family of four in 2005 is defined as making less than \$19,806/year.

Virginia Individuals in Poverty (2004)	
Total people living in poverty	680,352
Poverty rate	9.5%
Children (under age 18) living in poverty	227,334
Child poverty rate	12.9%

Obesity

Obesity is defined as having a Body Mass Index over 30, denoting an excessive accumulation of fat on the body. Obesity has been called the 2 leading cause of unnecessary deaths in America and currently affects 64.5% of adult Americans are categorized as being overweight or obese. (American Obesity Society)

Obesity in Virginia 2006		
Age Group	Percent Obese	National Rank
Children 6-11 years	18.8% nationally*	na
Adolescents 12-19 years	17.4% nationally	na
Adults	21.7%	30th

Source: <http://healthyamericans.org/reports/obesity/release.php?StateID=VA>, <http://www.cdc.gov/nccdphp/dnpa/obesity/index.htm>,

- In Virginia, two out of three adults are overweight and one out of three children is at risk for becoming overweight, as reported by the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance Survey and the Virginia Department of Health (VDH) respectively.
- According to National Survey of Children’s Health (SLAITS) in 2003, almost one-fourth (24%) of children in Virginia are overweight and 15% are at risk for being overweight.

Diabetes

When diabetes strikes during childhood, it is routinely assumed to be type 1, or juvenile-onset diabetes. However, in the last 2 decades, type 2 diabetes (formerly known as adult-onset diabetes) has been reported among U.S. children and adolescents with increasing frequency. Also, studies conducted in Europe showed an increase in the frequency of type 1 diabetes, especially in young children. It is unclear whether the frequency of type 1 diabetes is also increasing among U.S. youth. (Source: <http://www.cdc.gov/diabetes/projects/cda2.htm>)

Diabetes in Virginia 2006		
Age Group	Percent with Diabetes	National Rank
Children 6-11 years		
Adolescents 12-19 years		
Adults	7.2%	22 nd

Source: <http://healthyamericans.org/reports/obesity/release.php?StateID=VA>

WHAT DON'T WE KNOW?

Farming as Food

How many farms produce food ready for consumption, vs. those that are producing hay or have horses?

How many CSAs (Community Supported Agriculture) operate in Virginia, and how has this trend changed over time?

Urban Agriculture & Community Gardens

How many urban agriculture projects and community gardens are there throughout the Commonwealth, and how many cities operate community gardening programs?

What contributions (in numbers) do urban agriculture and community gardens have to food security?

Sustainable Food Production

How many farms are there in VA that practice organic and/or sustainable farming, but are not certified organic?

Health and Nutrition

Consistent, comprehensive statistical data on child obesity.

Education and Campaigns

How many buy local campaigns are underway?

Retail

How many retail food outlets (restaurants, etc.) and food service providers are offering healthier, sustainable, organic, local etc. fare?