

# A Look at Virginia Agriculture



Capital: Richmond

Population: 7,882,590

Founded: June 25, 1788 (10<sup>th</sup>)

State Bird: Cardinal

State Flower: American Dogwood

State Tree: Flowering Dogwood

Number of Counties: 95

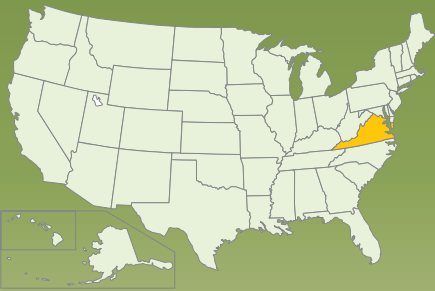
Largest City: Virginia Beach- 440,415

Nickname: Old Dominion

Number of Farms: 47,000

Average Farm Size: 171 acres

Total Farmland: 8.1 million acres



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## Climate & Soil

- The average temperature in Virginia is 55.7° F and the average annual rainfall is 42.7".
- There are five different climate regions within the state. They are Tidewater, Piedmont, Northern Virginia, Western Mountain and Southwestern Mountain.
- Winters on the Blue Ridge can be bitterly cold while other parts of the state, Charlottesville, Lynchburg and Warrenton for example have long growing seasons and temperatures rarely drop below 0° F.
- Similarly, annual rainfall totals can vary from 33" in the Shenandoah Valley to more than 60" in the mountains of southwestern Virginia.
- Pamunkey soil is the state soil of Virginia.
- These soils formed in the basin of the James River and are made up of sediments from all over the state. The soil was named after the Pamunkey Indian Tribe.
- Pamunkey soils were first identified on a farm near Jamestown, Virginia which is known as the oldest tilled farm in the United States.

## Crops & Livestock

- In 2008 soybeans were Virginia's number one cash crop bringing \$136 million dollars to state. Nationally Virginia ranks 20th in the production soybeans.
- The majority of Virginia corn is grown for grain. Corn for grain generated \$101 million in sales in 2007 and is Virginia's #2 cash crop.
- Tobacco is now Virginia's third ranked cash crop.
- Tomatoes are primarily grown on in the eastern part of Virginia. This is Virginia's 4th ranked cash crop. Virginia also ranks 4th nationally in tomato production.
- Chickens (broilers) are Virginia's most valuable agricultural product. The state's poultry farms produced 250 million broilers or 1.3 billion pounds of chicken in 2007 worth over \$559 million. Virginia ranks 9th nationally in broiler production.
- Virginia has 692,000 head of cattle. Beef is the 2nd leading commodity in the Commonwealth bringing in \$429 million in 2007.
- There are 98,000 dairy cows in Virginia. Milk is Virginia's third largest commodity with \$372 million in sales.
- Virginia ranks 4th nationally in turkey production producing 22 million head valued at \$299 million.
- With 170,000 horses, Virginia is the fifth largest equine state in the U.S.. Triple Crown winner Secretariat was born in Doswell, VA.
- Virginia hams and pork products are famous around the world. Only hams produced in the town of Smithfield, VA can be called Smithfield hams.

## General

- Agriculture is Virginia's largest industry by far! The industry has an economic impact of \$55 billion annually and provides more than 357,000 jobs in the Commonwealth. The industries of agriculture and forestry together have a total economic impact of \$79 billion. Every job in agriculture and forestry supports 1.5 jobs elsewhere in the Virginia economy.
- The typical farmer in Virginia is 57 years old and about 14 percent of Virginia's primary farm operators are female.
- There are more than 1,000 recognized Century Farms, farms continually operating for 100 years or more, in Virginia.