

Virginia Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services

Overview of Agency and AFDS Unit

VEDP

November 4, 2012



Mission Statement

We promote the economic growth and development of Virginia agriculture, provide consumer protection, and encourage environmental stewardship.

Who We Are and Where We Are Located

VDACS has a total of 502 FTEs and various office and laboratory locations around the state and abroad as follows:

- Richmond – Oliver Hill Building
- Harrisonburg
- Ivor
- Lynchburg
- Warrenton
- Wytheville
- Inspection Offices in Onley and Suffolk
- Hong Kong



Department Overview

- Commissioner's Office
- Division of Marketing and Development
- Division of Animal and Food Industry Services
- Division of Consumer Protection

Division of Marketing



- **International Marketing**
Export marketing, export assistance, trade missions
- **Domestic Sales and Market Development**
Locates, develops, maintains and expands local, regional and national markets for Virginia food, agricultural and livestock markets.
- **Livestock Marketing**
Provides a complete and integrated marketing program for the Livestock Industry.
- **Commodity Services**
Provides a grading system for fruits and vegetables, grain, poultry, and processed foods to identify product quality and condition, which is essential for effective marketing.
- **Direct Marketing Services**
Organics, direct marketing, agritourism, specialty agriculture
- **Agriculture and Forestry Development Services**
Serves as the first point of contact for agribusiness enterprises considering relocation to Virginia or expansion within the state.
Provides services to assist the businesses with relocation and expansion efforts. Includes the Office of Farmland Preservation.

Division of Animal and Food Industry Services



- **Veterinary Services**
Works to prevent, contain, and eradicate infectious and contagious diseases of Virginia's livestock and poultry populations to enhance marketability and protect public health.
- **Laboratory Services**
Provides veterinary and food safety diagnostics to promote economic growth and development of Virginia agriculture.
- **Dairy and Food Safety**
Enforces Virginia food and dairy laws and regulations to protect the health and safety of Virginia citizens.
- **Meat & Poultry Services**
Provides inspection services in meat and poultry plants to ensure the production of safe, wholesome, and truthfully labeled meats.
- **Animal Care and Health Policy**
Evaluates animal pounds and shelters for compliance laws and regulations; investigates animal cruelty cases in conjunction with local animal control officials.



Division of Consumer Protection

- **Consumer Affairs**
Protects consumers from fraud, deception, and illegal practices in the marketplace. Regulates charitable solicitors, credit services businesses, health spas, membership campgrounds, legal services plan sellers and travel club sellers.
- **Pesticide Services**
Regulates the production, sale and use of pesticides in the Commonwealth.
- **Plant Industry Services**
Provides agricultural and horticultural services to include nurseries, cotton growers, beekeepers, fruit and vegetable growers, gypsy moth program, phytosanitary inspections and plant and pest control.
- **Product & Industry Standards**
Inspects and tests weighing and measuring devices, and motor fuels. Regulates agriculture commodities (lime, seed, feed and fertilizer dealers and retailers).
- **Charitable Gaming**
Is tasked with licensing, training, inspecting, and auditing of all organizations, personnel, and events related to charitable gaming in the Commonwealth.



-VDACS -

Agriculture and Forestry Development Services Unit

T. Robins Buck
Senior Project Manager

Ph: (804) 371-6094

Cell: (804) 840-9449

Fax: (804) 371-2945

Robins.Buck@vdacs.virginia.gov

Stephen Versen
Project Manager

Ph: (804) 786-6911

Cell: (804) 382-4023

Fax: (804) 371-2945

Stephen.Versen@vdacs.virginia.gov

<http://www.vdacs.virginia.gov/agribusiness>

What AFDS does:

- Assist new businesses at every stage of development, from concept to Grand Opening.
- Work with existing businesses in their expansions, relocations and day-to-day operations.
- Ensure that the world of agricultural and business assistance programs and resources work as well as they possibly can for individual businesses

Variety Of Projects

- Wineries, Cideries, Breweries & Distilleries
- Local Food Systems
- Bio-Energy
- Forestry-related
- Aquaculture
- Greenhouses



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Distilling Company™



AFDS Strengths – Why involve us?

- Specialized knowledge in agriculture and forestry related projects
- Connections to farmers, landowners
- Relationships within VDACS, Dept. of Forestry and the Office of the Secretary of Agriculture and Forestry
- Relationships with Farm Bureau, USDA, Virginia Tech and other key ag resource organizations
- Administer AFID

AFID: Governor's Agriculture & Forestry Industries Development Fund

□ *Eligibility:*

- *No minimum threshold for jobs or investment*
- *Must be facility that adds value to ag/forest products*
- *Minimum 30% of ag/forest products must be Virginia grown*
- *Requires dollar-for-dollar local match (cash or in-kind)*

AFID: Governor's Agriculture & Forestry Industries Development Fund

□ *Grant Amount & Conditions:*

- *Max. grant: \$250,000 or 25% of qualified capital investment (the lesser)*
- *Requires performance agreement with clawback provisions*
- *Grant amount determined by Governor based on a return-on-investment analysis, impacts on agricultural producers and other factors*