

# Virginia's Top 20 Agricultural Commodities

Crop/Livestock	Farm Cash Receipts
1. Broilers	\$733,000,000
2. Cattle/Calves	\$416,000,000
3. Turkeys	\$386,000,000
4. Milk	\$308,000,000
5. Greenhouse/Nursery (Misc. Crops*)	\$294,000,000
6. All Other Animals+	\$209,000,000
7. Soybeans	\$200,000,000
8. Corn, Grain	\$173,000,000
9. Hay	\$119,000,000
10. Tobacco (Unprocessed Leaf)	\$110,000,000
11. Eggs	\$97,000,000
12. Wheat (Winter)	\$54,000,000
13. Hogs	\$45,000,000
14. Cotton Lint	\$36,000,000
15. Apples	\$36,000,000
16. Tomatoes (Fresh Market)	\$23,000,000
17. Grapes	\$17,000,000
18. Potatoes (Summer)	\$16,000,000
19. Peanuts	\$15,000,000
20. Pumpkins	\$11,000,000

Source: 2016 USDA NASS and ERS data figures rounded to the nearest million dollars.

\*Misc. Crops includes Greenhouse/Nursery, roughly 90 percent of the total, plus mushrooms, sunflowers, rye, sorghum, seed crops and other field crops.  
+All Other Animals includes horses, aquaculture and all other livestock.

In 2017, the Virginia Tech Pamplin College of Business found that Virginia's agritourism industry accounts for \$2.2 billion in economic activity and supports 22,000 jobs.



# Virginia Farm Facts

*Virginia has 44,800 farms.*

*The typical Virginia farmer is 59.5 years old.  
Thirty-six percent of farmers are 65 years  
of age or older.*

*The average farm size is 181 acres.*

*Farms cover 8.1 million acres, or 32 percent  
of Virginia's total land area of 25.3 million acres.*

*Approximately 17 percent of Virginia's primary  
farm operators are female.*

*The market value of Virginia agricultural  
products sold in 2016 was \$3.32 billion.*

*Nearly 90 percent of Virginia farms are owned  
and operated by individuals or families.*

*In the 1960s, one farmer supplied food for  
25.8 people in the U.S. and abroad. Today, one  
farmer supplies food for 165 people in  
the U.S. and abroad.*

*Less than 16 cents of every consumer dollar spent  
on food actually goes to the farmer.*

Source: 2012 USDA Census of Agriculture, 2016 survey data from the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) and the Economic Research Service (ERS).



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# VA 2018 - 2019 Agriculture facts and figures



*Virginia's Largest Private  
Industry, Contributing \$70  
Billion Annually to the  
Commonwealth*

Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services

# Economic Impact of Agriculture in Virginia

Agriculture is Virginia's largest private industry by far. **The industry has an economic impact of \$70 billion annually and provides more than 334,000 jobs in the Commonwealth.**

The industries of agriculture and forestry together have a total economic impact of over \$91 billion and provide more than 442,000 jobs in the Commonwealth. Every job in agriculture and forestry supports 1.7 jobs elsewhere in Virginia's economy.



According to a 2017 economic impact study, production agriculture employs nearly 54,000 farmers and workers in Virginia and generates approximately \$3.8 billion in total output.



In addition, value-added industries that depend on farm commodities employ more than 69,000 workers. When the employment and value-added impact of agriculture and forestry are considered together, they

make up 9.5 percent of the Commonwealth's total gross domestic product.

In addition to tangible benefits, such as farm cash receipts and jobs, agriculture provides many intangible benefits. These include recreation, tourism, wildlife habitat, biodiversity, flood mitigation, improved water quality and soil stabilization.



Source: The Economic Impact of Virginia's Agriculture and Forest Industries, Weldon Cooper Center for Public Service, University of Virginia, 2017.

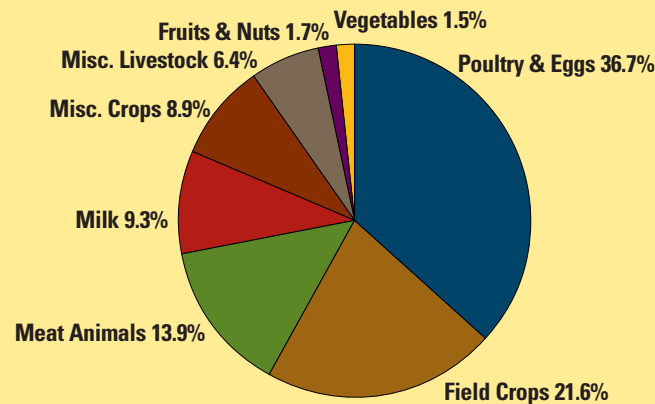


## Diversity of Virginia Agriculture

Virginia's agricultural production is one of the most diverse in the nation. **Many Virginia commodities and products rank in the top 10 among all U.S. states.** These include leaf tobacco, 3rd; apples, grapes and peanuts, 8th; fresh market tomatoes, 9th; and cotton, 15th. Livestock rankings based on number of head include turkeys, 6th in the nation, and broilers, 10th.



The exceptional diversity of Virginia agriculture is reflected in this chart showing the distribution of cash receipts for the state's many and varied commodities.



Source: 2016 NASS and ERS data.

# Virginia Agriculture in the Global Marketplace

**Agricultural and forestry exports were valued at \$2.77 billion in 2016 and, by volume, accounted for more than half of containerized exports moving through the Port of Virginia.**

Virginia's top three export markets in 2016 were China, Canada and Switzerland, all filling the same positions they have held since 2013. China imported more than \$691 million in agricultural purchases, while Canada totaled more than \$296 million and Switzerland imported more than \$191 million in 2016.

These countries and many others are purchasing a variety of Virginia agricultural commodities, wood products, seafood, and specialty food and beverage items. Virginia products are promoted in the international marketplace by the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services through its Virginia headquarters and a global network of trade representatives in Canada, Mexico and Latin America, Europe, the Middle East, India, China, Hong Kong and Southeast Asia.

## Virginia's Top Agricultural Export Markets (in millions)



*The international markets purchasing Virginia's agricultural exports represent a diverse portfolio of established and emerging economies.*

Source: Global Trade Information Services Inc.