Virginia Cooperative Extension (VCE) and Virginia Agricultural Experiment Station (VAES), which constitute agency 229, are requesting no further reductions to the agency 229 budget.

Agency Impacts

Agriculture and forestry generate a $79 billion economic impact and provide more than 501,000 jobs in Virginia.

- VCE and VAES are the statewide research- and education-based drivers behind agriculture and forestry that:
  - Sustain agricultural and forestry profitability;
  - Ensure food safety;
  - Improve the quality of life for families and communities;
  - Prevent infectious diseases in humans, animals, and plants;
  - Create economic opportunities; and
  - Increase environmental quality.

Budget Reduction Impacts

Decreased support of the agriculture, forestry, and natural resources sectors as a result of reductions in agency 229 funding will adversely impact the state’s agribusiness sector, which employs approximately 10 percent of Virginia’s workforce.

- Since fiscal year 2008, state funding for VCE and VAES has been reduced by $9.3 million (14.3 percent), thus diminishing the agency’s impact.
- Budget reductions since fiscal year 2008 have resulted (and will continue to result) in the loss of up to 200 agency positions through fiscal year 2010.
- Funding reductions curb opportunities for students to conduct research and Extension work, which provide critical hands-on skills for the future workforce.
- VCE and VAES do not receive tuition funding from Virginia Tech. All budget reductions limit the capacity to raise funds from local government partners and other funding sources.

Return on Investment

For every $1 of state funds, Agency 229 leverages an additional $1.22 in other funding sources.

Major Funding Sources

- $64.5 million in state government funds
- $51.7 million in grants and contracts
- $13.2 million in local government funds
- $13.6 million in federal funds

In addition, more than 30,000 volunteers contribute their time, valued at more than $21 million.

* Agency 229 funding supports research and Extension programs in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, College of Natural Resources, and College of Veterinary Medicine.
Virginia Cooperative Extension and Virginia Agricultural Experiment Station (Agency 229)

**Human and Agricultural Biosciences Building 1 (HABB1)**

A building focused on research leading to new and improved renewable energy sources, value-added agricultural products, economic development, and enhanced quality of life for Virginians.

- **Proposed construction budget:** $54.2 million
- **Size:** 88,200 square feet
- **First building within the new Biosciences Precinct at Virginia Tech**
- **Status:** Preliminary design completed fall 2009

Most of Virginia Tech’s life sciences research space dates to pre-World War II; it is too costly to renovate and unsuitable for research. HABB1, the pioneer facility within the future Biosciences Precinct at Virginia Tech, will provide modern research facilities for the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences and Virginia Agricultural Experiment Station.

The building will support the development of new approaches to solve problems that impact agricultural production, animal and human health, energy, and the environment. HABB1 will feature flexible pilot plant research facilities that are essential to the discovery of new foods and renewable products. These facilities will enable the development of scaled-up operations and process/packaging engineering systems.

**Areas of research emphasis will include:**

- Food safety;
- Food packaging and processing;
- Environmental quality;
- Renewable materials; and
- Bioenergy/fuel-cell development.