# FUTURE CHALLENGES FOR VIRGINIA AGRICULTURE

Virginia State Feed Association Conference



Virginia Commissioner of Agriculture & Consumer Services Matt Lohr February 16, 2012

#### IMPACT OF AGRICULTURE & FORESTRY

- □ Commonwealth's Largest Two Industries
- Economic Impact: Almost \$80 Billion Annually
   \$55b From Agriculture; \$24b From Forestry
- Provide Nearly 500k Jobs Via Production,
  Value-Added & Ripple Effect Industries
- More Than 10% of all VA Jobs; Every Industry
  Job Supports 1.5 Jobs Elsewhere

#### AG & FORESTRY SECRETARIAT OVERVIEW

- Long Sought; Created in 2004 under Gov. Warner
- 1<sup>st</sup> Secretary, Bob Bloxom, Served Warner & Kaine
- <sup>2nd</sup> secretary, Todd Haymore, Serves McDonnell
- Oversees Two Agencies, One State Council
- DOF: Protects/Develops Healthy, Sustainable Forests
- VDACS: Promotes Economic Growth/Development of Agriculture, Provides Consumer Protection, Encourages Environmental Stewardship

# **VDACS OVERVIEW** <u>Division of Animal & Food Industry Services</u> \*Animal Care, Food Safety, Laboratory Services, Meat & Poultry, Veterinary Services Division of Consumer Protection \*Weights & Measures, Pesticide Services, Plant Industry Services, Charitable Gaming, Consumer Affairs Division of Marketing and Development \*International Marketing, Commodity Services, Domestic Sales, Livestock Marketing, Ag/Forestry Development, Promotions IMPORTANCE OF AG EXPORTS Exports Mean Jobs & Opportunities USDA Data: Exports Generate Nearly 30% of Annual Farm Cash Receipts Every \$1.00 From Exports Creates Another \$1.40 in Support Activities: Processing, Packaging, Financing & Shipping Export Related Jobs Pay Average of 15% More Than Other Jobs VALUE OF AGRICULTURAL EXPORTS \$2.24B in Ag & Forest Product Exports in 2010 Second Highest Value Ever; All-Time High in 2009 2011 Forecast: Match/Exceed 09/10 Levels 3<sup>rd</sup> Q: VA Exports Up 5% Vs. 2010 w/New Deals Great News, But Trade Barriers, High Commodity Prices Continue to Impact

KEYS TO VIRGINIA'S GLOBAL SUCCESS:			
A Diversified Portfolio of Reasons			
Strategic Mid-Atlantic Location			
<ul> <li>World-Class Air, Land, Sea Port Facilities; Excellent Rail &amp; Interstate System</li> </ul>			
□ Business Friendly Climate; "Best for Business"			
<ul> <li>Public Sector Recognizing Importance of Exports</li> </ul>			
□ Growers/Producers Offe			
Virginia's Top	EXPORT MARKETS:		
A Diversified Po	rtfolio of Countries		
<ul><li>Canada</li><li>China</li></ul>	□ Japan □ The Netherlands		
□ Morocco	<ul><li>The Netherlands</li><li>Germany</li></ul>		
□ Belgium	□ Taiwan		
<ul><li>Indonesia</li></ul>	□ Hong Kong		
<ul><li>□ Tunisia</li><li>□ Turkey</li></ul>	□ Vietnam □ Malaysia		
□ Venezuela	□ Saudi Arabia		
<ul><li>Russia</li></ul>	□ Mexico		
□ Ireland	□ Jamaica		
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VIRGINIA'S TOP AC	GRICULTURAL EXPORTS:		
A Diversified Po	rtfolio of Products		
□ Soybeans	■ Wood Products, Logs		
□ Grains (Wheat, Corn,	□ Fats, Oils		
Barley, Animal Feed)	□ Cotton		
□ Pork	□ Seafood, Aquaculture		
Poultry	Products		
□ Hides, Skins	□ Fresh Vegetables		

## SUCCESSES of 2011

- □ Two NEW Ag Stewardship Positions in Place
- □ Increased PDR Funding (\$1.2 million)
- □ New Working Lands Variant for Easements
- New Trade Offices (India and China)

## GOALS FOR 2012

- Governor's Ag and Forestry Industries

  Development Fund
- Increase Funding for Weights and Measures
  Program
- Evaluate Retail Strategies to Assist Small Producers

#### **CONCLUSION**

# THANK YOU! HAVE A GREAT CONFERENCE



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