

Food, Fuel, Fiber, and Health Initiative

The Role of the 229 Agency

Virginia Agricultural Experiment Station (VAES)
and
Virginia Cooperative Extension Service (VCES)

Virginia Tech



229 AGENCY

Virginia Agricultural Experiment Station (VAES)

Virginia Cooperative Extension Service (VCES)

An agency of the land-grant university system that **develops and delivers** research-based technology, educational programs, and services not provided by any other state agencies.

This agency and its programs helps Virginia to create high quality jobs and economic vitality, while enhancing environmental quality and animal and human health.

Extension

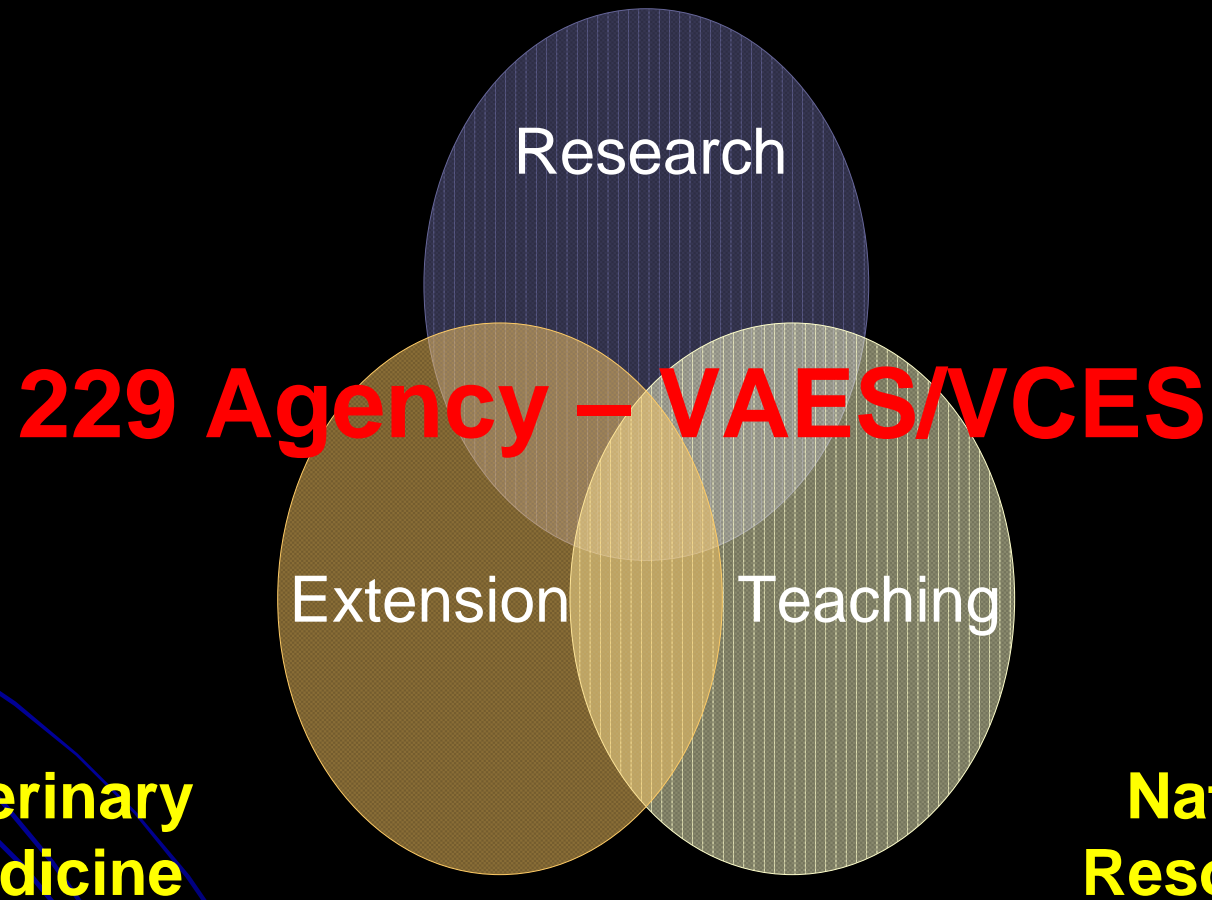
Teaching

"Invent the Future"

Research

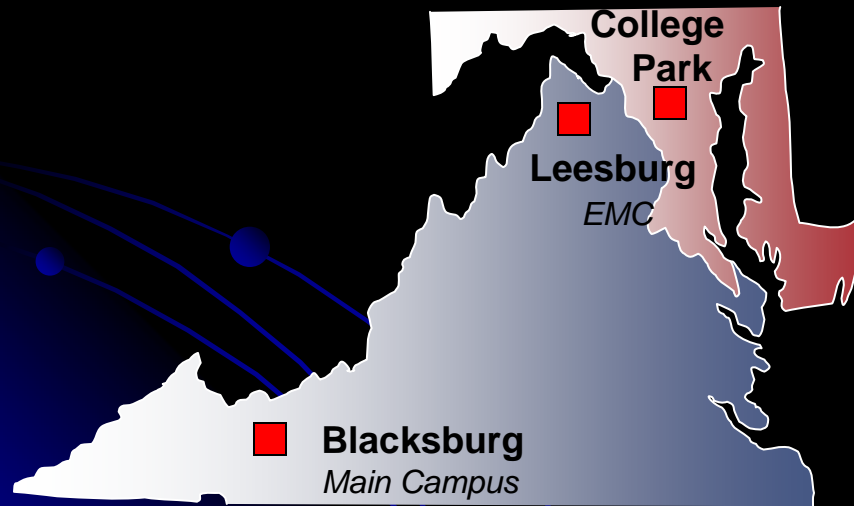
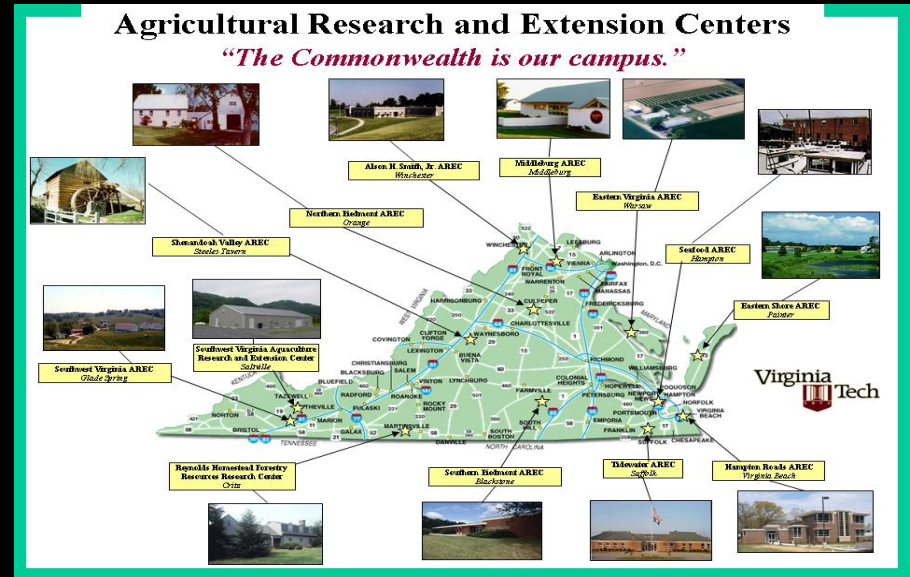
*A Vision Building On Our Roots with
Innovation, Quality, and Results*

Agriculture and Life Sciences



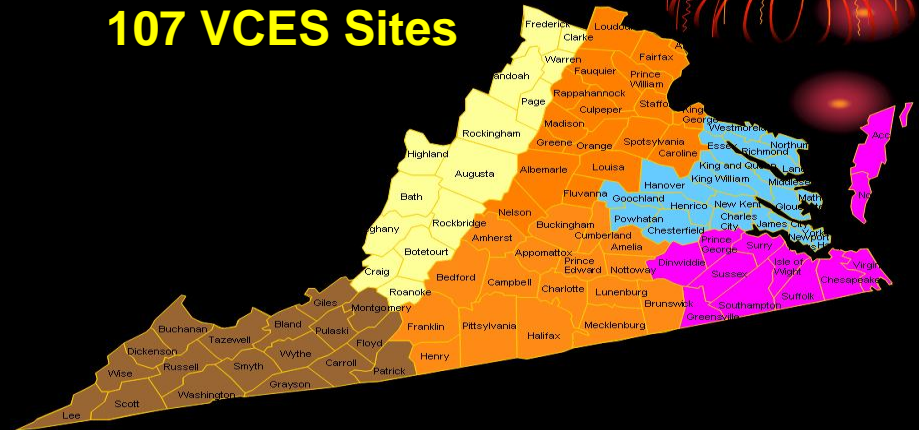
229 AGENCY COLLEGE NETWORK

- VT Campus (3 colleges)
- AREC's (13)
- Vet Medicine (3 Facilities)
- Instruction/ Hospitals/ Research
- Extension

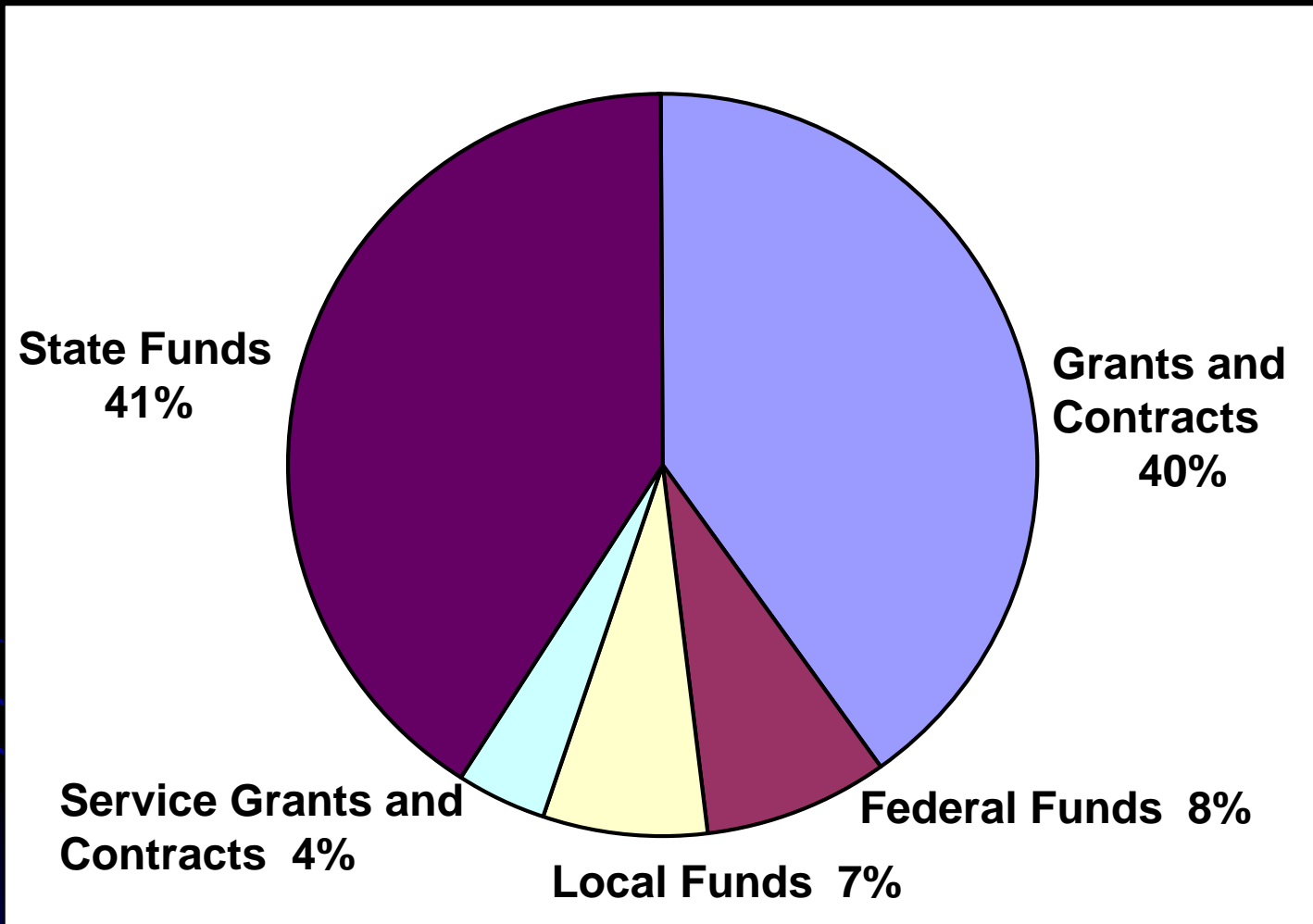


Extension Districts (6)

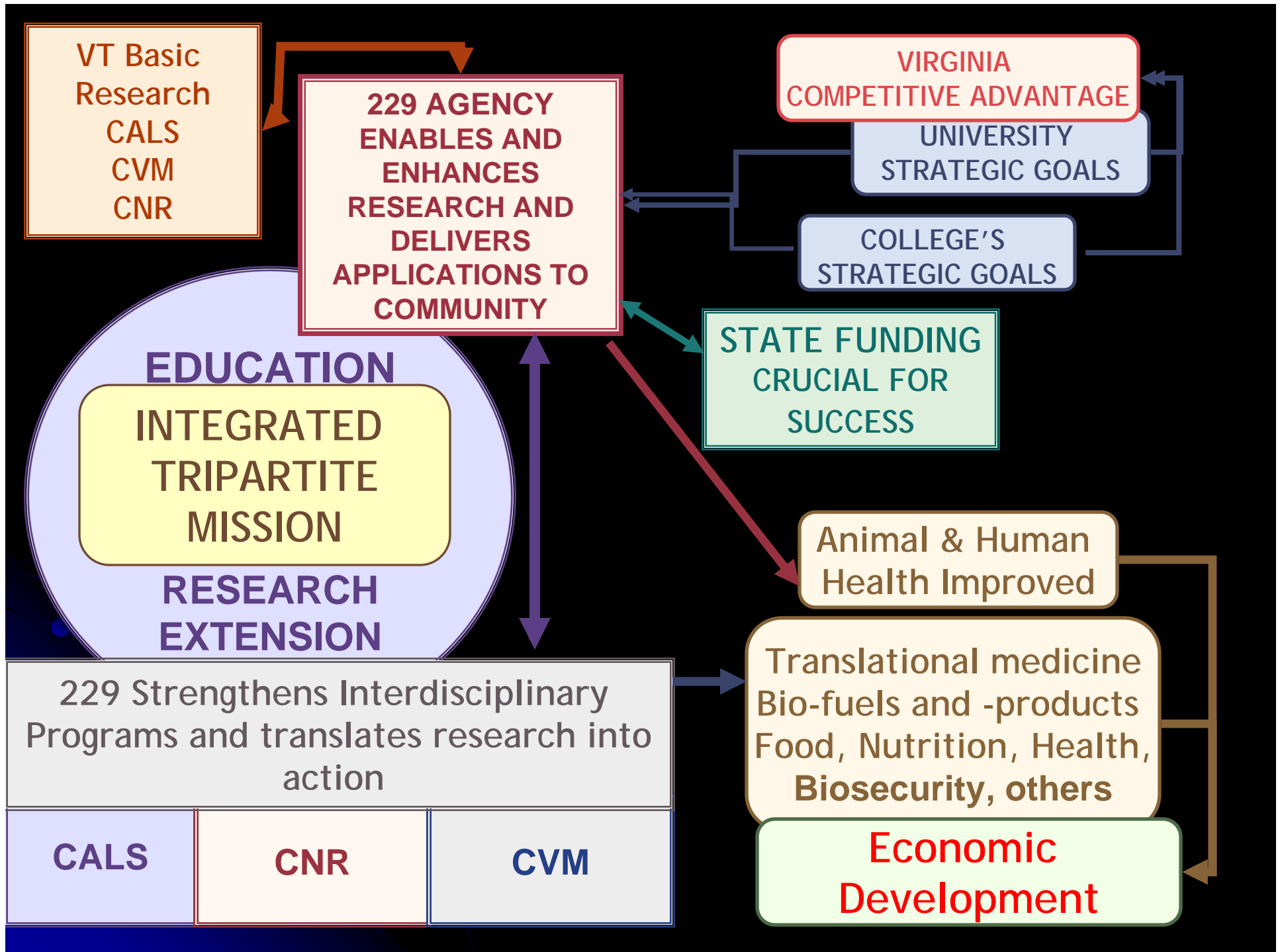
107 VCES Sites



229 Agency Funding Sources



The 229 Agency generated \$99.6 million for the \$69 million invested by the Commonwealth. \$1 to \$1.45 return.



Virginia Tech
Institutes (IBPHS)
and Colleges

Communities, business
and consumers

Producers and
producer organizations

"CLUSTER HIRES"
*Leveraging Resources
through Partnerships*

Public and
private sector
organizations

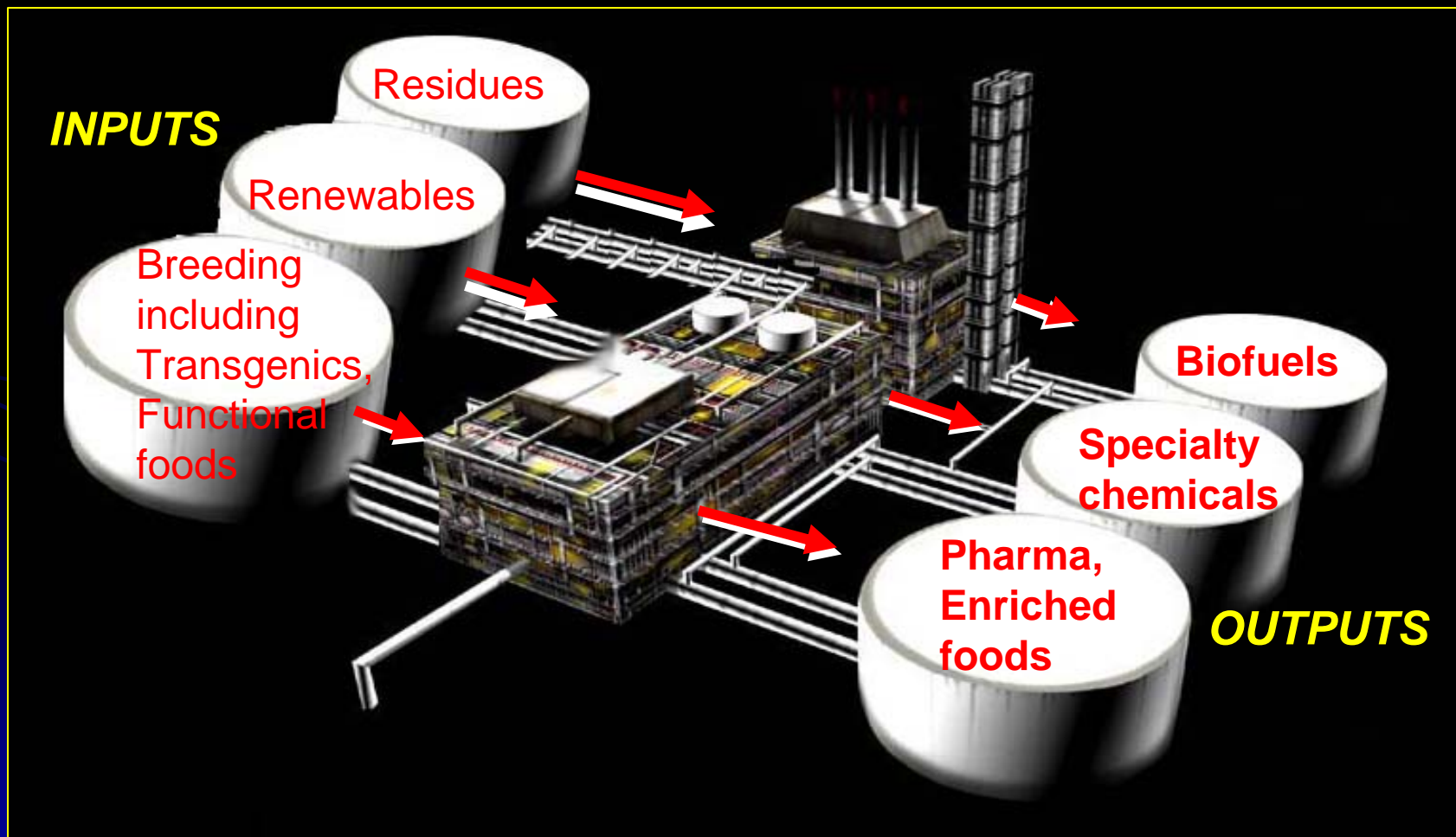
Community Colleges
Virginia Universities
Carilion Medical System
Novozymes

Federal and state
governments
and agencies

“The New Frontiers”

- **Biobased products.**
- **Health and nutrition.**
- **Biosecurity.**
- **Translational medicine and research.**
- **Community economic viability.**
- **Environmental stewardship.**

BIOPROSSESSING (Product Development) and BIODESIGN (Breeding) “Biobased Products”





Engineering soybeans for improved nutrient management

Virginia Tech
VIRGINIA POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE
AND STATE UNIVERSITY

Goal: to alter P storage in seeds to improve nutrient availability and reduce environmental impact



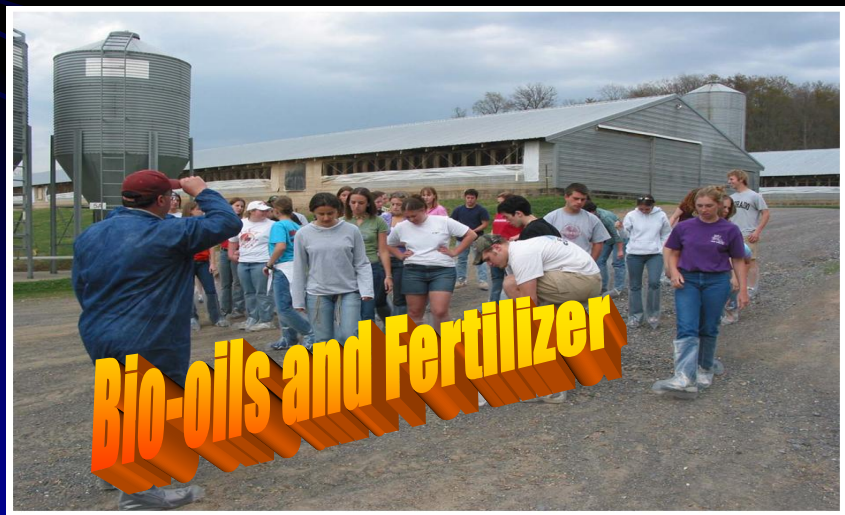


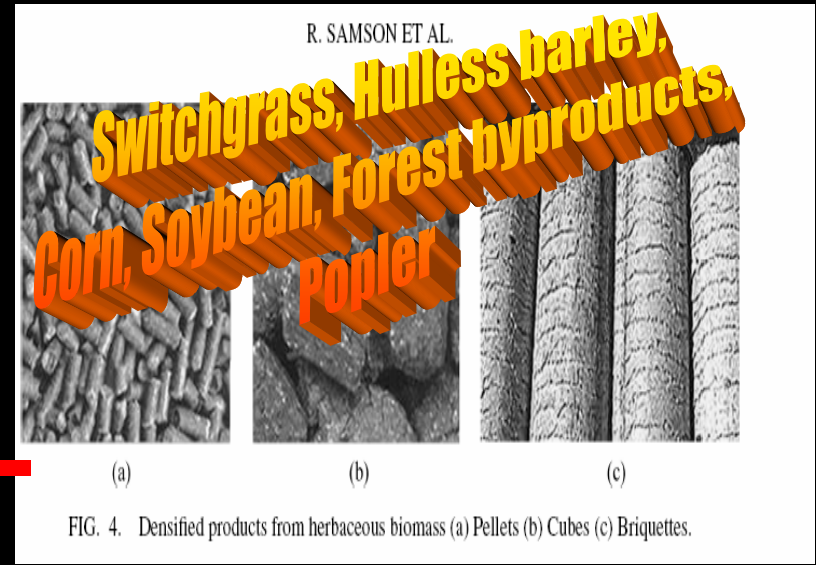
Phytate



Transgenic soybeans expressing an enzyme that degrades phytate for improved P availability

FRALIN BIOTECHNOLOGY CENTER





New Product:
WoodGro (patent pending)

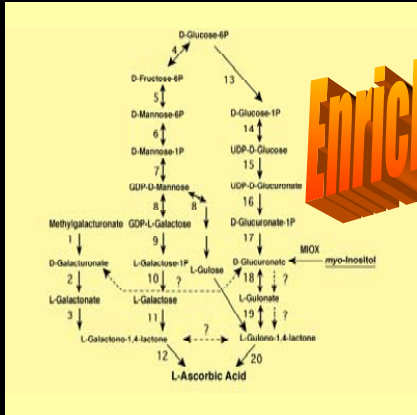
Pine chips from ground loblolly pine logs (left) prior to grinding into a material suitable for a container substrate (right)



R. Wright, 2005

Breeding and Transgenics

Enriched foods - Vitamin C



Edible soybean



Grains - Wheat and barley



Strawberries

HEALTH and NUTRITION

(Reducing Obesity/Diabetes/Chronic Diseases)

Plant/Animal Metabolic Engineering (Biodesign)

Foods with more antioxidants.

Grains (wheat)

Soy (isoflavones)

Vegetables (vitamin C)

Fish (Se, Omega 3 fatty acids)

Fruit (apples, grapes, strawberry)

Livestock (pasture and grain fed)

Biochemists

Evaluate properties and mechanisms of action of food chemicals.

Biologists/ Molecular Nutritionists

Determine mechanism of action within cell to reduce oxidative stress - genomics, signaling, modeling, etc.

Human/Animal Nutritionists

Examine how food/nutrients affect factors associated with obesity and diabetes, and physical activity.

Food Scientists

Analyze antioxidant content of food and determine how to supplement and preserve antioxidants during processing.

Economists, Policy

Analysts Assess the impact of economic and policy issues on human consumption.

Behaviorists and Extension

Develop strategies to alter patterns of food consumption and activity to reduce oxidative stress, obesity/diabetes.



Functional foods



Nutrition in animals



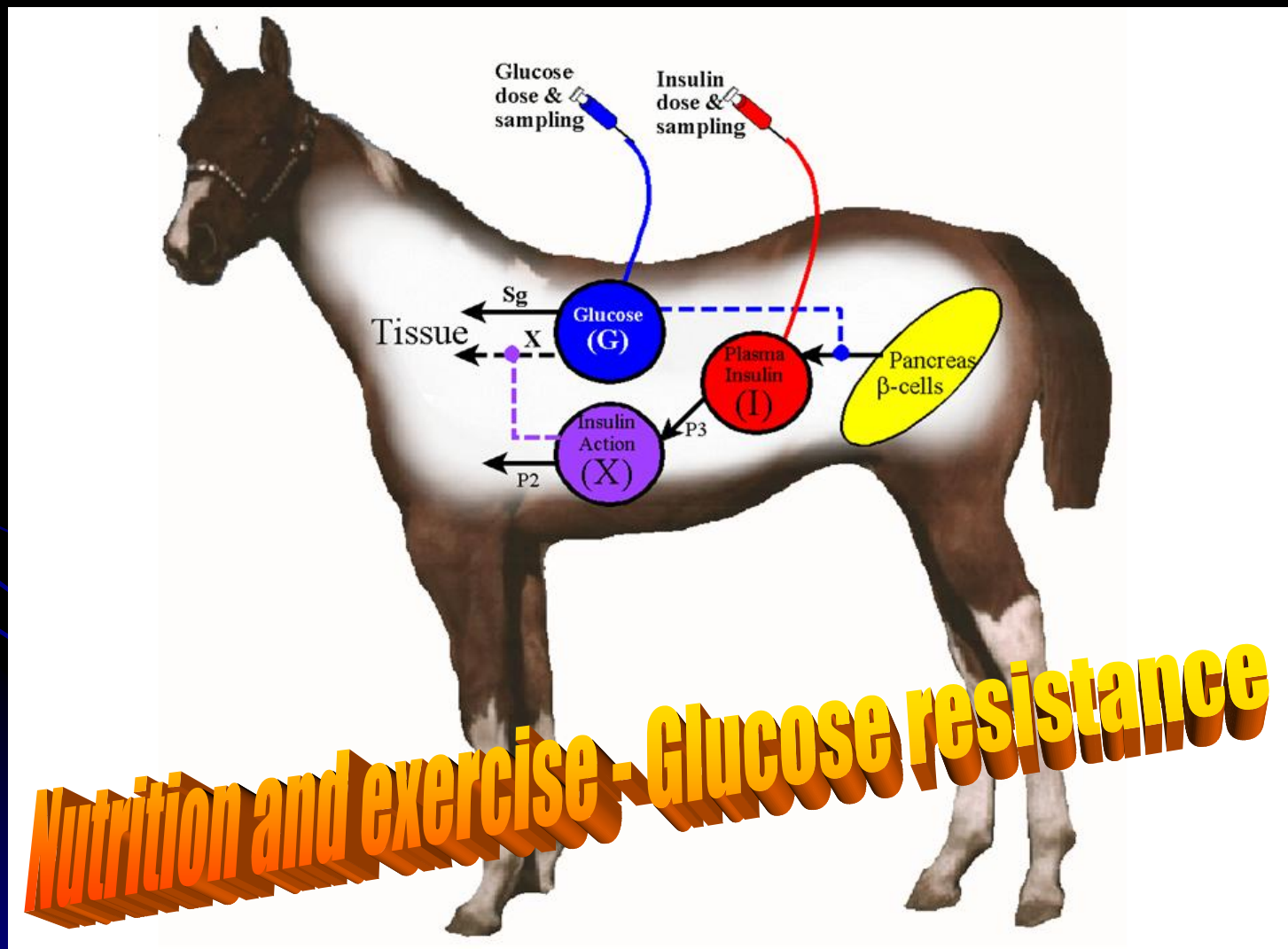
Exercise



Cobia nutrition



Animal Models (Equine, swine, dairy, rodents)



BIOSECURITY

Food Safety and Security



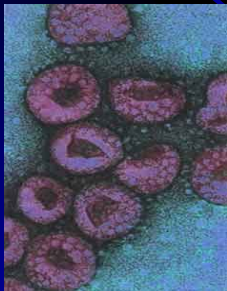
Infectious Diseases Plants, Animals, and Humans



Avian influenza



Chronic wasting disease



Virginia Tech
VIRGINIA POLYMER INSTITUTE AND STATE UNIVERSITY

Engineering disease resistance in peanuts

Add oxalate oxidase gene to disarm the pathogen that causes Sclerotinia blight by degrading oxalic acid

$$\text{Oxalic acid} + \text{O}_2 \rightarrow 2\text{CO}_2 + \text{H}_2\text{O}_2$$

Transgenic peanut field trial

Sclerotinia minor, produces oxalic acid as pathogenicity factor

Lesion assay to test resistance

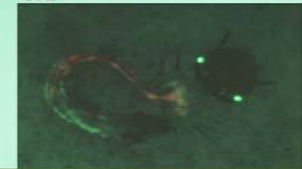
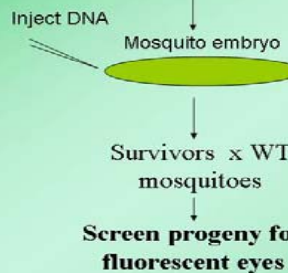
FRALIN BIOTECHNOLOGY CENTER

Sclerotinia blight

Engineering resistance to dengue viruses via genetic transformation of the mosquito *Aedes aegypti*

Zach N. Adelman, Entomology

Anti-viral gene is introduced into the mosquito



Vector-borne diseases

Translational Medicine and Research (TMR)

Infectious Diseases outbreaks
Animal Diseases in Patients
(Animal Models for Human Diseases)

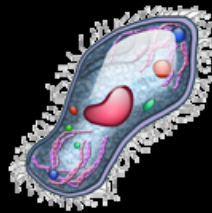


Basic Research
Developments
CVM, CALS, CNR

Veterinary Hospital and
Ambulatory Field Services
(Clinical Environment)



Prevention
Containment
Eradication



Knowledge dissemination and
Practical Clinical Applications
(Translational Medicine) in:

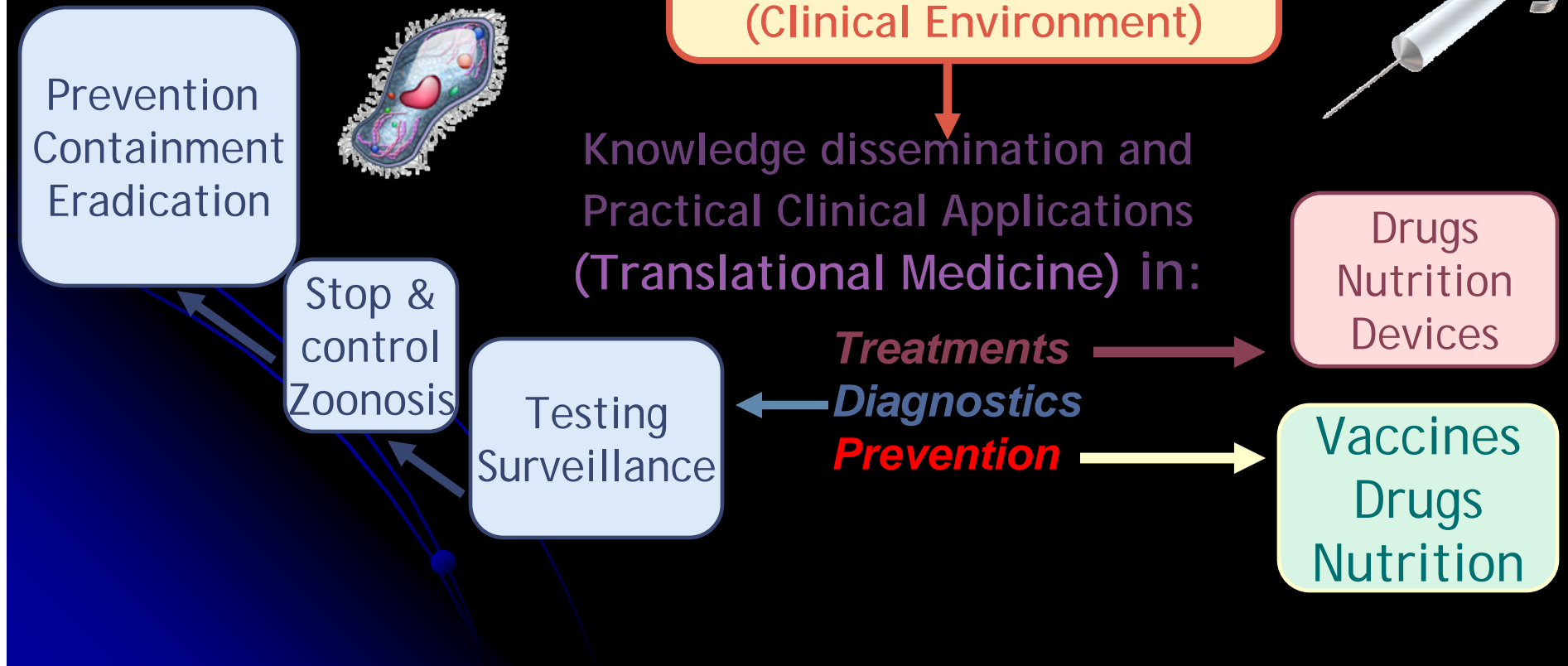
Drugs
Nutrition
Devices

Stop &
control
Zoonosis

Testing
Surveillance

Treatments
Diagnostics
Prevention

Vaccines
Drugs
Nutrition



COMMUNITY ECONOMIC VIABILITY “Innovation Communities”

Innovation Center for the Development
of a Value-Added Agricultural Economy



Asset-based Economic Development

Wood Enterprise Institute



Entrepreneurial experience –
Design, manufacture, market

High-value horticulture



Orchids



Product development - Organic dairies



Cellulosic drug carrier

Tomorrow, with the help of Cellulose-based nanomedicine from trees...



TODAY: 4-6 h IV injection;
threat of anaphylactic shock



Produce markets

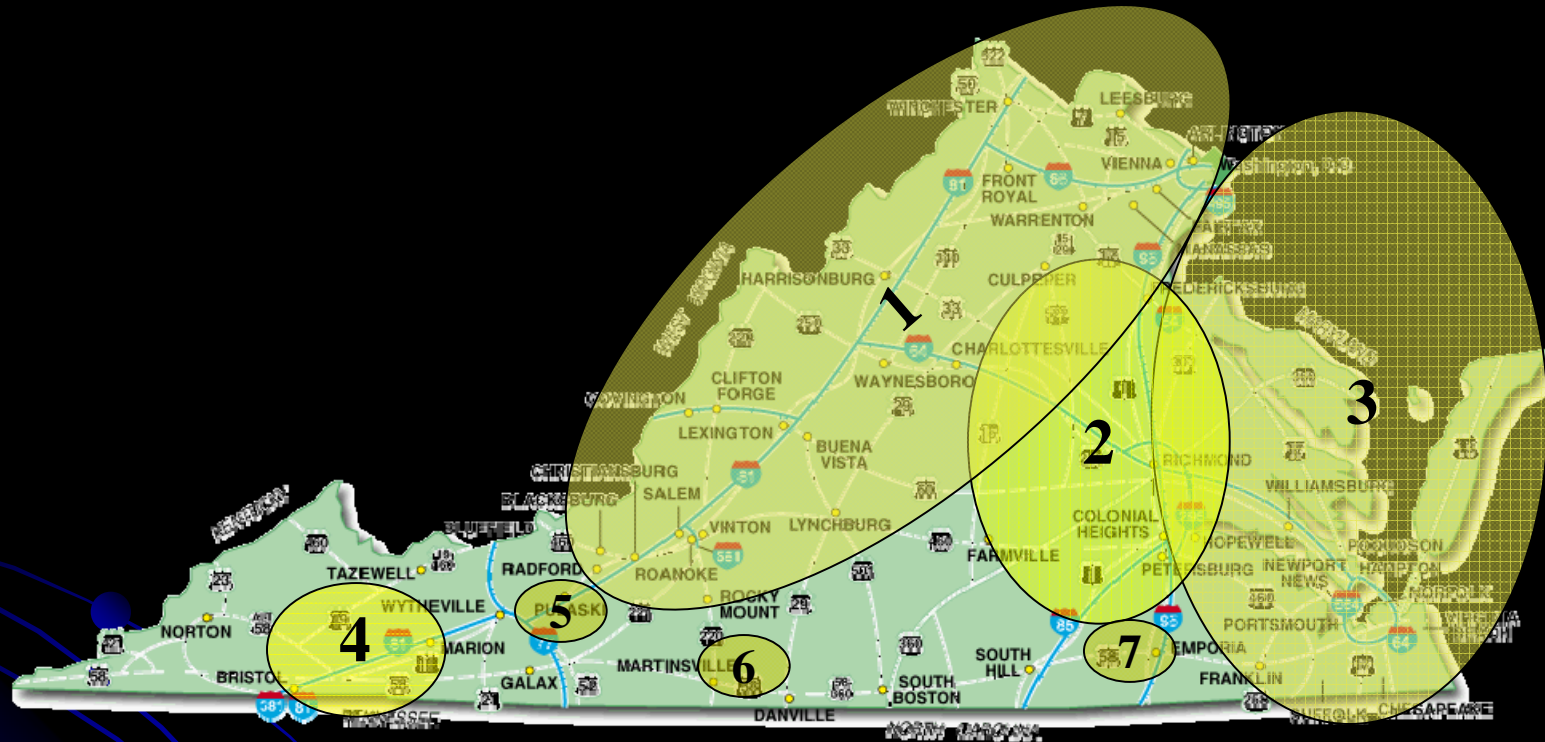
AGRICULTURAL AND NATURAL RESOURCES PROFITABILITY AND ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY (Land preservation and Environmental quality)



Value-Added



Landscape, Nursery, and Greenhouse Industries in Virginia (Value-added)



1. Smaller greenhouse and container nurseries
2. Large greenhouse operations & smaller wholesale nurseries
3. Large greenhouses and wholesale nurseries (mostly container – some field grown)
4. Fraser Fir Christmas Trees
- 5-7 Christmas Trees



Teaching

***“Creating an Economically
Viable and Global Virginia
through Innovation”***

Research

Extension

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