**Climate & Soil**

- The average high temperature in Virginia is 69.5°F, while the average low is 48°F. The average annual rainfall is 43.3".
- Virginia is organized into 5 different regions, which vary widely by climate, soil, and topography. From east to west, the regions are Coastal Plain, Piedmont, Blue Ridge Mountain, Valley and Ridge, and Appalachian Plateau.
- Winters in the western part of the state can be bitterly cold while other parts of the state have longer growing seasons and temperatures that rarely drop below 0°F.
- Similarly, annual rainfall totals can vary from 33" in the Shenandoah Valley to more than 60" in the mountains of southwestern Virginia.
- Pamunkey soil is the state soil of Virginia. Pamunkey soils were first identified on a farm near Jamestown, Virginia, which is known as the oldest tilled farm in the United States.
- The soil in the Coastal Plain region has the highest concentration of sand. West of Virginia fall line, the soils are clay-based, with the Valley and Ridge and Appalachian Plateau regions having darker clay because of the higher mineral content.

**Crops & Livestock**

- Virginia’s agricultural production is one of the most diverse in the nation due to its varying geography and climate.
- The top agricultural commodities in Virginia include broilers, cattle, dairy, soybeans, and turkeys.
- Many Virginia commodities and products rank in the top 15 nationally. These commodities include leaf tobacco, fresh market tomatoes, apples, grapes, peanuts, cotton, turkeys, and broilers.
- Virginia’s equine industry has an annual impact of over 1 billion dollars. Famed Triple Crown winner Secretariat was born in Doswell, VA.
- The cultivation of tobacco as a cash crop was a major contributing factor to the success of Jamestown, the first permanent English settlement in the new world.

**General**

- Agriculture is Virginia’s largest industry by far! The industry has an economic impact of over $70 billion annually and provides nearly 334,000 jobs in the Commonwealth. The industries of agriculture and forestry together have a total economic impact of $91 billion. Every job in agriculture and forestry supports 1.7 jobs elsewhere in the Virginia economy.
- The top export market for Virginia agriculture is China.
- Nearly 90 percent of Virginia farms are owned and operated by individuals or families.
- Virginia has nearly 44,000 farms, the average size of which is 181 acres. Farms cover 32 percent of Virginia’s total land area.