ANNUAL REPORT-VIRGINIA PEANUT BOARD

July 1, 2024-June 30, 2025

The Code of Virginia allows for an excise tax to be paid by the producer on every pound of peanuts sold. This excise tax is collected and remitted by the first handler to the Virginia Department of Taxation. The Department of Taxation transfers the funds monthly to the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, which houses the Peanut Fund. The excise tax rate is $0.25 per hundred or $5.00 per ton. This rate was approved by the Virginia General Assembly in its 2021 legislative session and will be in force for 5 years beginning with the 2021 crop. This money is used by the Virginia Peanut Board in agreement with the Virginia Peanut Growers Association to staff an office, conduct promotional activities, and fund research projects on behalf of and to benefit Virginia's peanut growers. These promotional activities are conducted by the Association and in conjunction with other organizations.

The Association and Virginia Peanut Board work closely with several organizations at the national level. The American Peanut Council serves as the organization that brings together all segments to address relevant issues to the peanut industry. The APC also participates in the US Department of Agriculture's Foreign Agriculture Service funding programs to promote US peanuts in foreign markets. About 30% of the US crop is exported each year with the most important markets being Mexico, Canada, and Europe. The Board has maintained its membership with the council for many years and paid $2837 as its pro-rata share of the grower segment dues. The Virginia Peanut Growers Association alternates with the North Carolina and South Carolina associations for board seats on the APC Board of Directors. Typically, the Association's Executive Director serves on the APC Board of Directors and APC Executive Committee. Additionally, APC has spearheaded a Sustainability Program of which we are Foundation Sponsors and have dramatically increased our enrollees this year.

The Virginia Peanut Board also maintains a close working relationship with the National Peanut Board. The NPB was created in 2000 as the national checkoff entity responsible for promotion and research programs to benefit all US peanut producers. The National assessment is $3.55 per net ton. The National Peanut Board is the industry leader in searching for new uses for peanuts and peanut butter as well as spending a great deal of resources on peanut allergies. Each peanut state has a member and an alternate serving on the NPB who are elected by the state growers' associations. The current Virginia member is Westley Drake of Newsoms and the alternate is Richard Williams of Suffolk.

We have completed many promotional activities throughout the year including many new video promotions. We filmed and ran two commercials with WWBT News 12 in Richmond, VA. One commercial to promote our annual baseball promotion with the Richmond Squirrels and another featuring two of our growers to promote National Peanut Month. We also did two live interviews with that station for those events as well. Additionally we filmed a 30 minute television episode of "Where the Food Comes From" that airs on RFD-TV. The show is also able to viewed on YouTube and linked on our new website. Our peanut sample packs are placed in all of the Welcome Centers throughout the state and are delivered to all of the Congressional offices each month. We distribute over 100,000 sample peanut bags in a year between those partnerships and other events. We had an educational booth and sponsored a recipe contest at the Virginia State Fair

continued our partnership with VCU Basketball. Our billboards could be seen on Rt. 460 near Disputanta, on 58 East near Emporia, and on Rt. 13 on the Eastern Shore near Cape Charles. We placed printed advertisements in Cooperative Living magazine. We continued to partner with organizations like Virginia Agriculture in the Classroom, Virginia Farm Bureau, and the Virginia Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics to promote peanuts with various audiences. We saw a great increase in followers on our social media pages and launched a text service to better communicate with our growers.

The Peanut Production Contest was once again held for the 2024 crop. Farm Credit was a trophy sponsor. The state winner was Plank Road Farms LLC of Southampton County with 6891 lbs per acre on 126 acres. We celebrated a state record average yield of more than 5000 lbs per acre. We have never had a state average yield over 5000 lbs and we had the 3rd highest peanut yield in the nation.

Association funds were allocated to Virginia Tech researchers at the Tidewater Agricultural Research Station for research projects in the amount of $63,444. The funds were approved in March to be completed in the 2024 crop year. A list of the research projects is included in this report. The association is also responsible for reviewing research proposals to be recommended for funding by the National Peanut Board. In December 2023, VPGA recommended projects totaling $28,500 to be allocated to Virginia from the National Peanut Board.

The Association again partnered with North and South Carolina to provide a weather hotline for use at harvest and throughout the growing season. The advisory is sourced from the climate office at NC State University. We also partner with NC and SC on a website and a joint newsletter: the V-C Peanut News. The newsletter is published 3 times per year and provides updates on marketing and research for growers of the tri-state region.

Planted peanut acres were up for 2025 from 29,000 acres to over 32,000 acres.

Discussions are ongoing on new promotion and education programs that can be undertaken on behalf of and to benefit our producers and the Virginia peanut industry.

BUDGET AND FINANCES

The Board's contract with the Virginia Peanut Growers Association is composed such that the entire Peanut Fund is transferred to the Association on a monthly basis, to be spent under the guidance of the Board.

Virginia Peanut Growers Association Budget -(Virginia Peanut Board -Approved).

	2024-2025 Budget	Expended
VPGA (Staff, Office, Promo, etc.)	$309,774	$307,973
American Peanut Council	$2,850	$2,983
Research	$63,444	$72,249
Insurance	$1,800	$1,606

RESEARCH PROJECTS

"Is the high oleic content causing germination loss and poor crop stand?", Dr. Maria Balota, $11,386

"Evaluation of Kudos OD for Vegetative Growth Management in Virginia-type Peanuts", Jacob Forehand, $14,633

"Comparing old vs. new peanut seed treatment fungicide performance", Dr. David Langston, $18,000

"Innovative agronomic practices to improve nutrient and integrated pest management in Virginia-type peanuts for the upper southeast coastal plain", Dr. Hunter Frame, $28,230

YEAR END FUNDING LEVEL-VA PEANUT BOARD

Balance of Peanut Fund 6/30/24	$18,979.49
Revenue (7/1/24-6/30/25)	$373,658.44
Expenditures	$392,081.50
Interest	$2,047.94
Annual Admin Fee	$2,419.00
Ending Cash Balance	$185.37

ATTENDANCE

Member:	March 2025	April 2025
Wayne Barnes	P	P
Rich Williams	P	P
Donna Jones	P	P
Jennifer Simpson	P	P
Bob Rogers	P	P
Andrew Darden	P	P
Michael Marks	P	A
Ernest Blount	P	A

Wayne C. Barnes

Wayne C. Barnes, Chairman
Virginia Peanut Board