

Virginia State University (VSU) Small Farm Outreach Program (SFOP) Grants (Updated 12.2023)

This chart provides a brief description of all of the grant funded project to that the VSU-SFOP currently manages. Collectively these projects allow SFOP to offer a wholistic approach in addressing the needs of the Socially Disadvantaged, Limited Resourced, Veteran and Beginning Farmers and Ranchers (SDLRVBFR) it serves in Virginia, and bordering areas of North Carolina and Maryland, Eastern Shore.

The long-term goal of SFOP is to equip socially disadvantaged, and veteran and beginning farmers and ranchers (SDLRVBFR) in Virginia, with the tools and skills needed for them to make informed decisions in entering and operating successful farm businesses, thereby enhancing economic opportunities and quality of life for them, their families and communities.

#	GRANT *end date	DETAILS
1	Agua Funds	Cost Share Assistance Funds
1	2022, 2023 VSU Renewable Resource Extension Act 8/2024 Pro. (RREA)	Educate small land owners on Alternative use of farm and forest land. To enhance economic benefits and enhance resource management that will address the cross-cutting issues of ecosystem services, forest food safety and security and urbanization.
2	NRCs Virginia Native Seed Pilot 9/2024 (Clifton Institute Lead)	This is a pilot project to germinate and grow a variety of native seeds in Virginia
3	Southern SARE 7/2024 (VT Lead)	Peer-to-Peer Training on Soil health best practices, and Outreach
4	American Rescue Plan 10/2022-9/2027	Provides outreach to Socially Disadvantaged Farmers, Ranchers and Youths via outreach, training, and technical assistance to assist them with starting, maintaining and improving their farm operation and brining awareness
5	Virginia AgrAbility 8/2024 (VT Lead)	Assist Farmers with disability.
6	NRCs Seed to Success Assistance for Outreach 9/202	Educate participants about NRCS Products and Services, (high tunnel production, demonstrations), outreach and connections to NRCS services and products

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7	2023-BFRDP Beginning Farmer & Rancher Program Grant: Creating and Sustaining Socially Disadvantaged and Veteran Beginning Farmers in Virginia 8/2026	Educate Socially Disadvantaged Farmer and Ranchers how to start, operate a farm business and track progress through a 3-year program. Lead by VT - Certification Program
8	Faba Beans	Farmer recruitment and follow-up
9	Alliance to Advance Climate Smart (VT lead)	VSU will partner with VT Alliance to reach and encourage underserved and underrepresented producers, and help them to reach a goal of 40% enrollment of growers in these categories. One representative from each Equity Partner will serve on the Advisory Council. Their performance will be measured in part by how many producers apply and enroll through their work.
10	1890 TRUST Grant \$59,999 (ext.) 9/2024	Collaboration with other 1890 Universities to improve
11	Southern Extension Risk Management	Risk Management Education provides training on Production & Financial Risks and Crop Insurance
12	DCR Cooperative Agreement 6/2024	This is for Outreach to introduce SWCD staff to Producers and introduce DCR products and services to producers served
13	AgFTAP	The overall goal is to provide technical assistance and an agribusiness development and management online training tool that will build the capacity of the agribusiness community to create wealth and advance economic development across the nation.
14	VDACS Project Agreement 5/2024	Marketing education, GAP training, and introduce producers served to VDACS services.
15	Southeastern Value Chain Training Institute 4/202	The Southeastern Value Chain Institute is a five-year program designed to educate and support local and regional food system advocates. Very little training on value chain subjects for these groups has regional food system stakeholders, especially among BIPOC farmers, ranchers and food system entrepreneurs.
16	CS Crop Alternative- Switchgrass (LISA J.) WVA Commodity to Market 10/2022-9/2027	Use of switchgrass bio-fuel to generate fuel and energy.

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17	Heirs Property 9/2024	Provides peer-to-peer training on heirs property, estate planning, and provides legal assistance to 5 producers
18	CS Grassland – Fescue Belt (Patrick Keyser) UT 10/2022-9/2027	Assist farmers with better grazing packing such as rotational grazing in the I 81 Corridor
19	CS Stainable Ag Solutions to Plastic Pollution (Dillon Baxter) 10/2022-9/2027	Using alternative crops such as hemp to produce recyclable products (healthier fiber)
20	Expanding the Agroforestry Regional Knowledge (ARK)	Agroforestry train-the-trainer program Exchange Network in Virginia (VT Lead)
21	FSU Urban Ag Initiative (VT Lead) 9/2025	Assist FSA in educating Urban growers of FSA services that could benefit their operation.
22	National Urban Ag 6/2027	FSA National Urban Agriculture Pilot Initiative to educate 17 UCOC locations in the US connecting FSA and urban Ag communities
23	Regional Access to Capital and Market in Appalachian 6/2028	
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