



Agriculture and Forestry in Virginia: The Secretariat and the Industries

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Finance Subcommittee on
Economic
Development/Natural
Resources



Overview/Introduction

- **Virginia's Largest Economic Sectors (in terms of GSP)**
 - Combined contribution of \$47b to Gross State Product
 - Study now underway by UVA's Weldon Cooper Center will produce updated numbers later this spring



Overview/Introduction (cont.)

- **Objectives of Presentation**

- Orientation to the Secretariat
- Summary of the latest challenges and opportunities in the agriculture and forestry industries



Secretariat of Agriculture and Forestry: An Orientation

- Three Agencies/Many Responsibilities

- **Office of the Secretary of Agriculture and Forestry**

Major responsibility:

Policy guidance and direction to the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services and Department of Forestry

Secretariat of Agriculture and Forestry: An Orientation (cont.)

Office of the Secretary of Agriculture and Forestry (cont.)

- 2008-2010 Budget Overview

	<u>G.F</u>	<u>NGF</u>	<u>Total</u>
FTE			3
Requested Budget (Million)	\$.9		.9

- Introductions

Secretariat of Agriculture and Forestry: An Orientation (cont.)

- **Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services**

Major Responsibilities:

- Economic Development of Virginia
Agriculture/Marketing of Virginia agricultural and forest products – domestically and internationally
- Preservation of Virginia's Farmlands
- Food Safety
- Animal disease prevention/Animal welfare
- Safeguarding Virginia Consumers through regulation and consumer education
- Regulation of weights and measures and motor fuels
- Regulation of milk pricing
- Regulation of agricultural inputs and pesticides

Secretariat of Agriculture and Forestry: An Orientation (cont.)

Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services

2008-2010 Budget Overview:

	<u>G.F</u>	<u>NGF</u>	<u>Total</u>
FTE			537
Requested Operating Budget (Millions)	\$70.2	\$56.5	\$126.7
Capital (Millions)		6.6	6.6

- Farmland Preservation Funding for 2008-2010
- Introductions

Secretariat of Agriculture and Forestry: An Overview

○ **Department of Forestry**

Major Responsibilities:

- Conservation of the forest land base
- Improving the stewardship, health, and diversity of the forest resource
- Protecting citizens, property and the forest resource from wildfire
- Enhancing forested watersheds

Secretariat of Agriculture and Forestry: An Overview (cont.)

Department of Forestry (cont.)

2008-2010 Budget Overview:

	<u>G.F</u>	<u>NGF</u>	<u>Total</u>
FTE			323
Requested Operating Budget (Millions)	\$37.2	20.4	57.6

- Introductions

The Agriculture and Forestry Industries: Challenges/Opportunities

- Agriculture
 - **Challenges**
 - Loss of Prime Farmland/Threats from development
 - Age of Virginia's farm business owners
 - International Competition
 - Profitability
 - **Opportunities**
 - Specialty agriculture operations
 - Nursery greenhouse operations
 - Wine industry
 - Agritourism
 - Value-added processing



The Agriculture and Forestry Industries: Challenges/Opportunities (cont.)

- Forestry
 - **Challenges**
 - Loss of forestlands/Threats from development
 - Loss of support infrastructure (i.e., sawmills)
 - Foreign processing of wood products
 - **Opportunities**
 - Use of wood fiber for biofuels
 - Use of forestlands for recreation
 - Public recognition of the ecological value of forestlands



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with you!