

Physical Resources

Land and Facilities	Description
Virginia Tech owned	210 acres bordering Interstate 81 between exits 26 and 29 with office building, shop and equipment shed, bulk feed storage, beef barn, sheep barn, main tobacco barn, 2 converted tobacco barns for storage/livestock, cropland, hay land, and pasture

Superintendent – Lee Wright, 276/944-2200, Irite@vt.edu

Resident Faculty

Faculty	Research and Extension Focus Areas
Lee Wright	Superintendent/senior research associate

Non-resident Faculty Conducting Research and Collaborative Work

Faculty	Research Involvement
John Currin Clinical Associate Professor, LACS	Heifer development study (nutrition/breeding efficiency)
Scott Greiner Professor, APSC	Stocker backgrounding studies, hair sheep production, ram lamb evaluation, hair sheep terminal sire evaluation
Lloyd Hipkins Senior Research Associate, PPWS	Pasture management and weed control in livestock systems
David Notter Professor Emeritus, APSC	Hair sheep production, ram lamb evaluation
Dee Whittier Professor, VMCVM	Heifer development study (nutrition/breeding efficiency), stocker backgrounding studies
Kevin Pelzer Professor, LACS	Hair sheep production, ram lamb evaluation
Anne Zajac Professor, Biomedical Science	Ram lamb evaluation
Scott Bowdridge Assistant Professor, ANS, West Virginia University	Hair sheep terminal sire evaluation

Postdoctoral Scientists, Graduate Students, and Student Interns

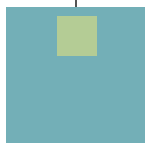
Individual	Advisor	Program and focus area
Andrew Weaver	Greiner	MS Candidate, ANPS, evaluation of terminal sire breeds for hair sheep production

Farm Management, Technical and Office Staff

Funding Category	Employees	Comment
State Funded, full-time	4	Includes superintendent, 2 technical staff (1 crops, 1 livestock), and 1 livestock/unit support

Virginia Cooperative Extension Agent

Extension Agents	Region Served	Research and Extension Focus Areas
Phil Blevins	Washington County	Corn trials, Forage management trials
Scott Jessee	Russell County	Forage management trials
Brad Mullins	Dickenson County	Beef cattle
Matthew Miller	Wythe County	Farm business management
Bill Worrell	Southwest District	Forestry/Christmas trees and hardwood research in conjunction with the Virginia Department of Forestry



Research and Extension Programs

Hair Sheep

- Genetic evaluation and flock improvement systems to efficiently manage hair sheep lambs for local and ethnic markets.
- Analysis of natural resistance to internal parasites among adults and lambs of various hair sheep breeds, as well as crossbred sheep.
- Assistance in the development of a fecal egg count EPD for the Katahdin breed of hair sheep as a part of the National Sheep Improvement Program (NSIP). Parasite resistance data is collected and combined with data from a multi-state SARE project with Katahdin producers from Virginia, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Missouri, Kansas, and Arkansas.
- Assistance in the development of ultra-sound scanning protocol and measurement adjustment factors for the Katahdin breed in the NSIP.
- Forage based ram lamb evaluation center. Consigned rams from various producers around the country to evaluate growth and parasite resistance on a pasture based system. Ram test is followed by our annual field day and ram sale in September.
- Evaluation of terminal sire breeds for hair sheep production systems. Project includes analysis of lambing ease, growth, parasite resistance, and carcass merit.

Beef Cattle

- Evaluation of endophyte-infected (Kentucky-31) and endophyte-tolerant (Max-Q) fescue varieties on breeding efficiency, nutritional values, and overall health and performance in beef heifers.
- Heifers are consigned by the Virginia Department of Corrections and the Coalfield Cattleman's Association for research trials involving various synchronization methods and Artificial Insemination. Developed heifers are either retained for replacement back into individual herds, or are sold as part of the Virginia Premium Assured Heifer Program.
- Evaluation of weight gain and performance of backgrounded stocker cattle on endophyte-infected and endophyte-tolerant fescues vs. feedlot backgrounding. Evaluation of feeding concentrate feeds daily vs. three days per week, on weight gain performance, and economic calculations on feed consumption, time and labor resources, and additional marketing strategies.
- Stocker steers are consigned by the Coalfield Cattleman's Association. These steers become part of the VA Quality Assured (VQA) Program and are either sold, or shipped as part of the Virginia Retained Ownership Program

Forestry and Christmas Trees

- Evaluation of hardwood tree plantings for timber management in cooperation with the Natural Resource Conservation Service and the Virginia Department of Forestry.
- Evaluation of white pine plantings at lower elevations for tree tipping and Christmas tree production in cooperation with the Virginia Christmas Tree Growers Association and the Virginia Department of Forestry.

Pasture Management

- Select trials for the control of weeds in Southwest Virginia pasture systems done in cooperation with Virginia Tech weed science specialists and Dow AgroSciences.