

Changes in Virginia Farming

(Courtesy of the North Carolina Farm Bureau)



Purpose

To be able to compare and contrast colonial and modern farming.

Activities

1. Instruct students to research farming in colonial Virginia. Have each student make a list of changes that have occurred in Virginia farming, such as the switch from horse and plow to mechanized farming and changes in crops, fertilizer use, insect control, harvest techniques, and other management practices.
2. Using the information collected and charts provided, ask students to write paragraphs and graphically depict what they have learned.
3. Analyze with students how simple machines were the foundation of farm equipment.

Extension Activities

1. Instruct students to write cause and effect paragraphs, explaining the reasons for changes in farming. After checking the papers, make suggestions and have the students revise their paragraphs.
2. Have students create shoe box dioramas depicting colonial farming techniques.
3. Divide students into two groups. One group will represent farming in the 1700s. The other will represent farming in the present day. Have the groups write short skits to share facts about their time period with the class. The skits should include information about the types of equipment used, the kinds of crops grown, and the kinds of people laboring on farms.

Grade Level: 4

SOLs:

Science 4.2, 4.8
English 4.7, 4.8, 4.9
History 4.1, 4.2, 4.3

Materials:

p Background information
p Research materials on modern and colonial farming in Virginia

Objectives:

1. Identify the reasons for and effects of changes in Virginia agriculture.
2. Use pre-writing techniques to generate ideas for writing and create a draft with emphasis on content related to agriculture.

Vocabulary Words:

acre
best management practice
forestry
organic
textiles



Virginia Farm Income

Commodities	Receipts in \$1,000's		1997 % of total sales
	1994	1997	
Total Commodities Sold	2,194,166	2,403,233	100.0
Tobacco	168,590	190,781	24.2
Soybeans	80,491	99,150	7.9
Corn (grain)	52,449	69,450	2.9
Wheat	43,719	53,562	2.2
Peanuts	80,075	48,497	2.0
Cotton (lint and seed)	25,700	50,439	2.1
All other field crops (hay, potatoes, barley, sweet potatoes, rye, other field crops)	55,715	69,059	
Vegetables	93,480	77,691	3.2
Fruits & Nuts	45,129	43,019	6
Greenhouse & Nursery (floriculture nursery, greenhouse, Christmas tree)	139,387	163,925	6.8
Poultry & Eggs (broilers, eggs, turkey, chickens, misc.)	664,131	730,034	30.4
Meat Animals (hogs, cattle, calves, sheep, lambs)	370,104	428,231	17.8
Milk	272,272	258,160	10.7
Misc. Livestock (honey beeswax, wool, others)	102,924	150,585	6.3

Source: Virginia Agricultural Statistics.

Usual Harvesting Dates

Crops	1998 Harvested Acres	Usual Harvesting Dates		
		Begin	Most Active	End
Field Crops (thous. acres)				
Barley	65	Sept. 10	Oct. 5 - Oct. 30	Nov. 25
Corn (grain)	325	Apr. 5	Apr. 20 - May 20	June 5
Cotton-upland (lint)	100	Apr. 10	Apr. 20 - May 10	May 20
Peanuts for nuts	74	Apr. 20	May 5 - May 20	May 25
Rye	5	Apr. 20	Aug. 25 - Nov. 20	Nov. 30
Soybeans	490	Apr. 30	May 20 - June 30	July 10
Flue Tobacco	41.00	Apr. 30	May 5 - May 20	May 30
Wheat (winter)	250	Sept. 25	Oct. 20 - Nov. 15	Nov. 30
Vegetables (actual acres)				
Snap Beans (summer)	5,200	June 1	June 10 - July 31	Sept. 30
Cabbage (summer)	1,300	June 1	July 15- Aug. 31	Sept. 15
Sweet Corn (summer)	2,100	June 25	July 1 - July 31	Sept. 15
Cucumbers (summer)	5,600	June 15	July 1 - July 31	Aug. 25
Tomatoes	3,300	June 25	July 1 - Aug. 1	Aug. 31

Source: Virginia Agricultural Statistics.



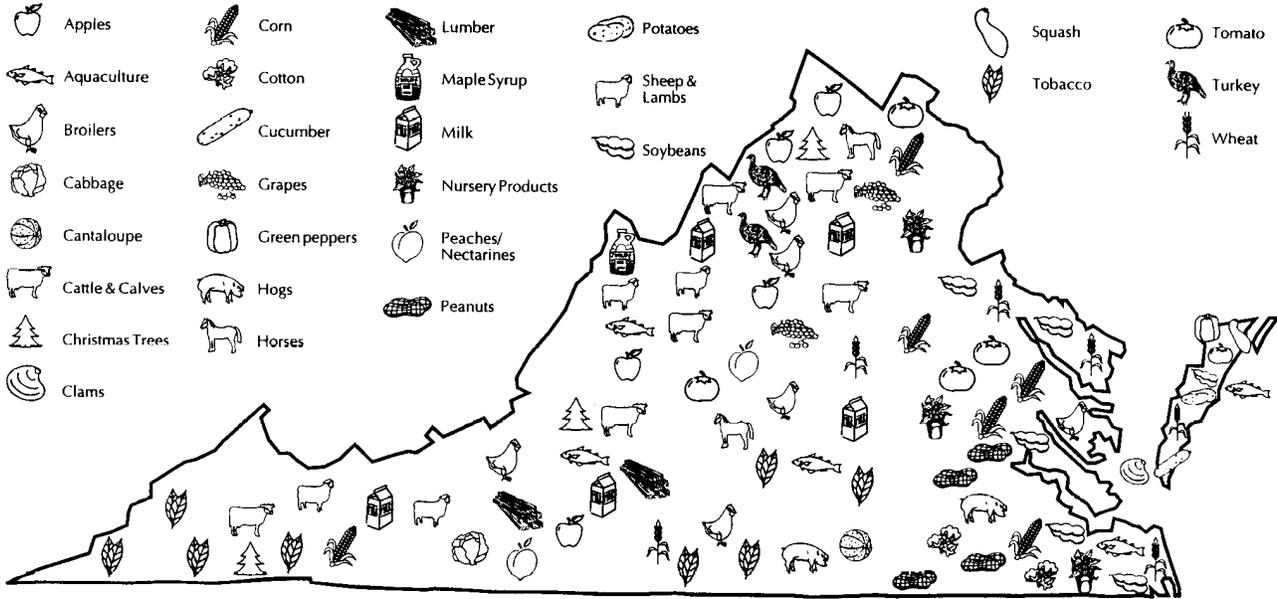
Virginia's Rank in U.S. Agriculture, 1998

Rank	Item	Percent of U.S. Production
3	Burley Tobacco	3.35
4	Flue Cured Tobacco	9.3
4	Tomato, Fresh Market	3.45
5	Turkeys	6.72
5	Cucumbers, Fresh Market	6.39
6	Apples	2.60
6	Total Tobacco	6.58
6	Peanuts	5.36
7	Summer Potatoes	8.15
7	Snap Beans, Fresh Market	4.80
8	Bell Peppers, Fresh Market	.86
9	Commercial Broilers	3.66
10	Sweet Potatoes	.67
12	Barley	1.48
13	Cabbage, Fresh Market	1.59
14	Cotton	.75
16	Rye	2.24
17	Peaches, Freestone	.60
18	Chickens, Farms	1.58
19	Milk, Wholesale	1.19
21	Sheep & Lambs	1.05
22	Soybeans	.44
22	Winter Wheat	.67
24	Cattle & Calves	1.28
24	Eggs	1.11
24	Sweet Market Corn	.26
26	Hogs	.64
26	Corn For Grain	.32

Source: Virginia Agricultural Statistics.



Where Things Grow in Virginia



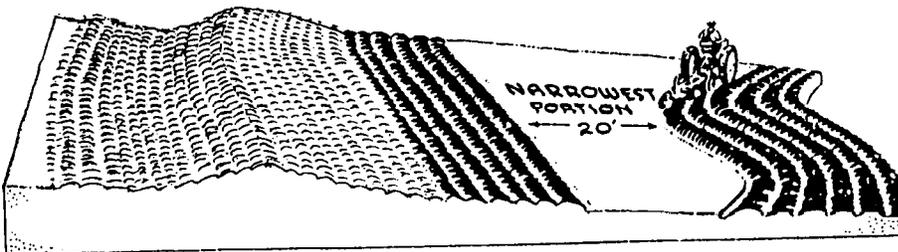
VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND CONSUMER SERVICES

Different Ways to Prevent Water Erosion



Grass Strip

Contour Farming



Terracing