

**Virginia Association of Soil & Water Conservation Districts
Position Paper on Funding Agriculture Extension and Research Programs**

ISSUE: Funding for Agriculture Extension and Research Programs has been reduced over the past year resulting in major losses of agricultural and 4-H agents throughout the state. Agricultural research has been curtailed which is necessary to maintain a viable agricultural industry in Virginia. While other educational programs have been able to offset some of their reductions through tuition increases, extension and agricultural research is a separate state agency and receives no portion of the tuition and university fees.

POLICY: The Virginia Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts supports restoring funding for agriculture extension and research programs, including funding for capital projects.

ADOPTED: December 10, 2002

EXPIRES: December 31, 2006