



# Virginia Poultry Federation

## Positions on State Issues

### 2022

### Animal Care

- VPF supports responsible use of animals for human purposes, such as food and fiber, and believes animal care decisions must be based on scientific knowledge and professional judgment.
- VPF supports proper handling, nutrition, management, and animal health practices appropriate to the care and use of agricultural animals.
- VPF opposes state and local actions that are not based on scientific research and that could adversely impact animal agriculture producers.



### Dillon Rule

VPF supports the current use of the “Dillon Rule” regarding the relationship of state and local government powers and opposes efforts to amend or abolish the “Dillon Rule” in Virginia.



### Funding for Land Grant Mission and VDACS

- VPF supports adequate funding for programs that advance research, education, and extension at Virginia Tech and Virginia State University.
- VPF supports maintaining adequate poultry faculty at Virginia Tech to enable quality poultry science research, education, and extension.

### Energy

- VPF supports a stable, affordable, and reliable supply of all forms of energy.
- VPF supports maintaining energy independence via a combination of environmentally sound use of domestic fossil fuels; economically practical development of renewable energy production; and energy conservation.
- VPF opposes mandates or subsidies for corn ethanol and other biofuels that use feed/food crops as a source of energy production due to such policies’ adverse impact on the available and affordable inputs for traditional animal and food production purposes.

- VPF supports timely renovation or replacement of outdated Virginia Tech poultry farm teaching facilities.
- VPF supports adequate funding for VDACS to support programs in animal health, including avian influenza prevention and response capabilities, and other agency operations.
- VPF supports economically balanced approaches to climate change and opposes those that substantially increase the cost of energy and place the Commonwealth and the nation at a competitive disadvantage.
- VPF supports balanced approaches to utility-scale solar development which preserve local decision-making, minimize placement on prime agricultural lands, and ensure proper erosion and sediment control.



## Regulatory Reform

VPF supports the thorough analysis and consideration of the full economic costs of new regulatory legislation and agency regulations.



## Right to Farm Act

VPF supports the Virginia Right to Farm Act, which protects responsible farmers from unfair claims of nuisance.

## Right to Work

VPF supports Virginia's current status as a Right-to-Work state.

## Tax Policy

### User Fees

VPF opposes the imposition of taxes disguised as user fees to fund mandatory regulatory programs designed to benefit society as a whole.

### Tax Policy

- VPF supports maintaining favorable current tax status and policies specific to the agriculture industry.
- VPF supports Virginia tax laws that rely more on taxes that can be fairly assessed on all taxpayers (i.e., income, non-food sales, and fuels) and less on taxes that are unfairly assessed and are burdensome to agribusiness growth (i.e., real estate, services, personal property, machinery and tools, and Business, Professional, and Occupational License (BPOL)).

# Transportation

- VPF supports adequate government funding to maintain and enhance transportation infrastructure in Virginia, including roads, bridges, rail, and the Port of Virginia.
- VPF supports a multifaceted approach to improve safety and reduce congestion on Interstate 81, including additional lanes and infrastructure in strategic locations; use of technology to inform drivers of backups and help them reroute their travel; and greater enforcement of traffic safety laws. Funding for improvements should be fairly distributed across all who utilize and benefit from Interstate 81.
- VPF opposes unreasonable bans, restrictions, and selective tolls on commercial truck traffic. On existing Interstate highways, VPF opposes onerous tolls placed solely on commercial truck traffic due to the increased cost, competitive disadvantage, and increased traffic diversion on parallel rural roads.
- VPF supports reasonable vehicle size and weight policies that foster efficient transport of agricultural products and the competitiveness of Virginia agribusinesses, and supports Virginia's participation in a federal pilot program to allow for increased truck weights on interstates.
- VPF supports a viable, responsive rail transportation system that provides competitive rates for transportation of agricultural commodities, supplies, and finished products. VPF also supports state programs and investments that support Virginia's rail infrastructure.



## Workforce



- VPF supports strategies and programs to create an affordable, accessible, and qualified workforce, including secondary, post-secondary, higher education, and other technical certification programs.
- VPF opposes state workplace and employment regulations, such as mandatory paid leave and overly prescriptive health and safety standards, which impose unreasonable burdens on employers or exceed federal requirements.
- VPF supports federal immigration reforms that provide secure borders and access to legal foreign workers for the agribusiness industry. VPF opposes state and local employment requirements, procedures, or penalties that create additional burdens or duplicative processes for employers, exceed federal requirements or are pre-empted by federal law, or would adversely impact businesses acting in good faith to comply with federal immigration laws.



## Wage Policy

VPF opposes any change in wage policy that could negatively impact Virginia agribusinesses.

## Worker Classification

VPF supports the protection of the independent contractor relationship as an option for the agribusiness industry and opposes government intervention into private contracts.



## Workers' Compensation



VPF supports mechanisms to control rising medical costs within Virginia's workers' compensation system while opposing any changes that will undermine the basic concept and sound balance of the law, such as broadening conditions not clearly arising in the course of employment.

## Youth Education

VPF supports Ag in the Classroom, 4-H, FFA, and the Governor's School for Agriculture.

