

Chesterfield Ag Vision

In order to preserve the Virginia heritage of farming for our children and grandchildren, it is imperative that we take steps to ensure that farming operations are protected. Your support of the Chesterfield Ag Vision will help preserve this heritage even as the landscape of agriculture changes.



The Chesterfield Ag Vision is an effort on behalf of a group of farmers in Chesterfield County to educate the public about agriculture and forestry issues. These farmers are members of the Chesterfield Farm Bureau, which collectively works with 87 other county Farm Bureaus in the Virginia Farm Bureau Federation. Chesterfield Farm Bureau represents the interests of more than 180 families involved in agriculture and/or forestry production.

Chesterfield Farm Bureau works to support its members through involvement in legislative activities, leadership programs, commodity associations, rural health programs, and insurance, marketing and other services.

In endorsing the Chesterfield Ag Vision you agree to make farmer-friendly decisions in local policy.

For more information contact the **Chesterfield Farm Bureau** at:

3801 W. Hundred Road, Chester, VA 23831
Ph: (804) 748-5467 • Fax: (804) 748-5381
or visit www.vafb.com/chesterfield



AGRICULTURE and FORESTRY

are the roots of the Commonwealth, dating back 400 years to the settlement of Jamestown. Today, agriculture and forestry contribute more than \$47 billion to Virginia's economy and account for more than 15 percent of total jobs. More than 20 million acres of land in Virginia is held by farmers and forest land owners. These lands are responsible for the production of thousands of food and fiber products people use every day.

Chesterfield County's farms and forests have been producing for hundreds of years, and under the right conditions they will continue to provide benefits for years to come. The continuing pressures related to increased urbanization of the county, additional regulations, and fewer supporting resources have made it more challenging to keep the agriculture and forestry roots in place in our county.

With your support and cooperation through the Chesterfield Ag Vision, agriculture and forestry will continue to thrive in Chesterfield County.

As an endorser of the Chesterfield Ag Vision, I will partner with the agriculture and forestry community to advocate:

Responsible Growth Management

Chesterfield needs to minimize the impacts of rapid urbanization on the agriculture community. The concepts of adequate public facilities, ordinances and impact fees are possible solutions. It is important that the rights of landowners to utilize their property for the best possible usage, including the right to farm, are protected.

Farm and Forest Land Preservation

Chesterfield needs to continue efforts to encourage new farm growth and protect existing lands. The creation of a purchase of development rights program, the continuation of the land use assessment program, and the creation of agricultural and forestal districts are tools in the farmland preservation toolbox.

Growing Equine Businesses



Chesterfield needs to recognize equine businesses as viable agricultural enterprises. With the growth of the industry, it is imperative that

equine-based operations qualify for all government programs available to the agriculture community.



Ag and Forestry Advisory Committee

The Chesterfield Board of Supervisors must continue to utilize and involve the county's Ag and Forestry Advisory Committee in surfacing and assessing issues affecting agricultural producers, processors, lenders and others interested in or affected by the agriculture and/or forestry industry. The committee also facilitates communications among Chesterfield's diverse agriculture-related organizations.

Agriculture in the Classroom

Chesterfield needs to support the work of the Virginia Foundation for Agriculture in the Classroom. AITC is a national program that fosters a greater understanding of how agriculture touches everyone's life every day. Funded by Virginia's agricultural community, the foundation provides elementary and middle school educators with free teaching materials that are aligned with Virginia's Standards of Learning and can be integrated into current curricula.