



CITY OF VIRGINIA BEACH Agriculture

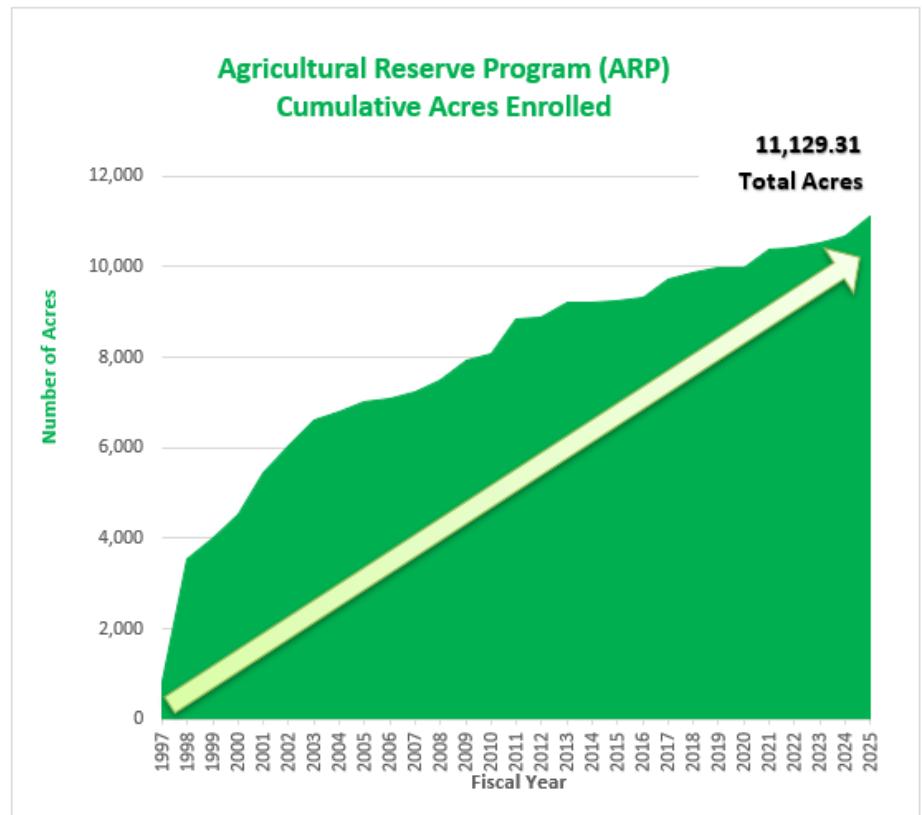
The Virginia Beach Agricultural Reserve Program enrolled 467 acres in fiscal year 2025. To date, 964 development rights have been purchased by the City to protect 11,129 acres in southern Virginia Beach.



Flanagan Farms Pumpkins - Fall 2025

On May 9, 1995, the City of Virginia Beach became a leader in farmland preservation by being the first locality in the Commonwealth of Virginia to approve a purchase of development rights (PDR) program. City Council enacted the Agricultural Lands Preservation Ordinance and the Virginia Beach Agricultural Reserve Program (ARP) to preserve and protect the agricultural industry and rich rural heritage of southern Virginia Beach. Today, the City's ARP compliments the state's initiative and goal of protecting agricultural land for future generations and preserving the Commonwealth's overall number one private industry, agriculture.

The ARP is a voluntary program that provides landowners with an opportunity to capitalize on the



11,129 TOTAL ACRES ENROLLED IN THE AGRICULTURAL RESERVE PROGRAM



ARP participant Jason Dawley harvesting corn - Fall 2025

development potential of their farmland without having to sell their land. The recorded perpetual deed of easement protects the land for future generations for certain agricultural uses while the landowner retains ownership of the property.

The City compensates the landowner for their development rights with a pioneering and lucrative installment purchase agreement that includes tax free interest payments. The 25-year payment plan allows the City to leverage its dollars over time. By preventing development in the southern part of the City, tremendous savings are realized by offsetting infrastructure costs. The protected land base will ensure that farm and forested lands will be available for future generations to maintain a viable agricultural industry for the City. Agriculture is the City's third largest industry with an estimated economic impact of agricultural products in 2024 totaling over \$178,566,526 on 26,419 acres according to Virginia Cooperative Extension.

For more information, please visit our website:

<https://agriculture.virginiabeach.gov/agricultural-reserve-program> or contact Sarah Grimstead Cotten in the office at 757-385-8697 or via email at sgrimsteadcotten@vbgov.com.



"Preserving agriculture,
one farm at a time"

Year	Acres Enrolled
1997	835.32
1998	2,692.90
1999	480.92
2000	499.46
2001	924.35
2002	585.47
2003	586.72
2004	206.22
2005	213.57
2006	53.81
2007	165.59
2008	246.44
2009	428.07
2010	173.21
2011	739.61
2012	47.21
2013	321.62
2014	23.12
2015	42.26
2016	50.47
2017	405.90
2018	0.00
2019	151.43
2020	113.07
2021	379.58
2022	50.15
2023	102.14
2024	143.38
2025	467.32
Total Acres	11,129.31