



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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### **DR. WADE THOMASON RECOGNIZED FOR CONTRIBUTIONS TO VIRGINIA AGRICULTURE**

*Extension Specialist Acknowledged for Service to Virginia Grain Industry*

(Warsaw, VA) Dr. Wade E. Thomason, Virginia Cooperative Extension Grains Specialist and Associate Professor of Crop and Soil Environmental Science at Virginia Tech, was recognized by the Virginia Agribusiness Council as a recipient of the Council's 2014 Land-Grant University Award. Council Board member Bryan Taliaferro, of Montague Farms, presented the award at the Virginia Small Grains Field Day in Warsaw on the Northern Neck on May 15.

The Council presents awards annually to faculty, staff, and administrators of the Commonwealth's land-grant universities, which include both Virginia Tech and Virginia State University, for meritorious or exemplary services to the industry of agribusiness during their careers.

Dr. Thomason holds a Ph.D. in Soil Science from Oklahoma State University and has served in his role as Extension Grains Specialist since 2004. His research at Virginia Tech has focused on practical modern grain production methods and their integration into economical and environmentally-sound operations throughout the eastern United States. These include no-till methods and precision agricultural technology that allows producers to improve the yield and quality of their crops while remaining responsible environmental stewards.

Katie Hellebush, Executive Director of the Virginia Grain Producers Association, said that "his innovative research results in new on-farm management tools and practical applications that Virginia corn and small grain farmers can then apply to their farming operations to increase yields."

Furthermore, Dr. Thomason has fostered an excellent rapport with Virginia grain producers, and Hellebush added, "He dedicates his time and expertise through his service on the Virginia Corn Check off Board, Virginia Small Grains Check off Board, and Virginia Grain Producers Association Board of Directors. His active engagement on these and other advisory committees is as highly valued as his research to the entire industry."

Dr. Dan Brann, a former Extension grains specialist and member of the Virginia Agribusiness Council Board of Directors stated, "Wade has done a wonderful job of meeting the technical

needs of the grain crop industry by working with the extension agents, other specialists, and farmers directly. In addition, he has excelled at meeting the academic expectations of the University by generating grant funds and publishing refereed journal articles. I am very proud of the way he has expanded the Extension Grain Crop Program to new highs.”

### **About The Virginia Agribusiness Council**

The Virginia Agribusiness Council is a non-profit organization committed to representing the interests of the agriculture and forestry industries in the Commonwealth through effective governmental relations efforts and initiatives. Its membership includes farmers, foresters, and other agricultural producers; industry suppliers; marketers and processors; and commodity and industry associations. It is headquartered in Richmond. For more information, please visit [www.va-agribusiness.org](http://www.va-agribusiness.org).

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*Photo, left to right: Dr. Wade Thomason, Extension Grains Specialist and Associate Professor at Virginia Tech; Bryan Taliaferro, Montague Farms and Virginia Agribusiness Council Board member.*

