

VGPA CONSERVATION FACTS ON PRODUCTION

- Nearly 60 percent of Virginia's grain acres are in continuous conservation tillage
- Virginia's corn farmers have increased their yields by over 100 bushels per acre since 1930 using less fertilizer, less pesticides and less land.
- Approximately 75,600 Virginia grain acres are currently in continuous "no-till" conservation practice. Only 5,630 of those acres are enrolled in government conservation programs.
- Conservation tillage and other management practices reduced soil erosion 43 percent in the last 20 years.
- Corn farmers across the country produced 70 percent more corn per pound of fertilizer today than they did 35 years ago.
- These same US corn farmers grow five times more corn that they did in the 1930s on 20 percent less land.
- Individuals or families own 85% of farms. Another 5% are family-owned corporations.
- American corn farmers produced the five largest corn crops in history during the past five years. Even after supplying all demands for corn – food, feed, export and fuel, America will have 10 percent of the 2008 corn harvest leftover as a surplus resource.

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