Virginia Tech's Research and Extension Experiential Learning (VT-REEL) program on Securing Our Food

2026 APPLICATION

Please check boxes to indicate eligibility – candidates must meet <u>all</u> eligibility requirements

Candidates for this summer research experience must be:

- □ A citizen or permanent resident of the United States
- □ Enrolled in a degree program (part-time or full-time) leading to a baccalaureate or associates degree
- □ Entering his/her/their sophomore, junior or senior year in Fall 2026
- □ Able to work at least 40 hours per week for the entire 10-week term (May 26–July 31, 2026)
- □ Able to work in both indoor (such as labs) and outdoor environments (such as greenhouse or field sites)

Name: _____

School: _____

Major: _____

Minor: _____

Email: _____

Cell number: _____

Permanent address (not your temporary college address):

_____
STREET ADDRESS

_____
CITY STATE ZIP

Letter of recommendation information:

Name of reference: _____

Reference's email: _____

Primary career goal (check ONE):

- □ Medicine/allied health professions
- □ Graduate school/research
- □ Education
- □ Industry/corporate
- □ Government
- □ Undecided/other (please explain in Essay 1; see below)

Current address (if different then permanent address):

_____
STREET ADDRESS

_____
CITY STATE ZIP

This address is good until: _____

Anticipated date of graduation (month, year):

_____

In Fall 2026 I will be a:

□ Sophomore □ Junior □ Senior

Number of years of college completed by summer 2025:

_____

How did you hear about the VT-REEL program?

- □ Academic advisor
- □ Internet search
- □ Professor/In a class
- □ VT's Office of Undergraduate Research webpage
- □ Internship fair
- □ Other: _____

Demographic Information:

(Providing this information is optional. We use this information to set up housing accommodations on-campus and at ARECs. Information is only provided in summary; no individual information is reported.)

- □ Male
- □ Female
- □ Nonbinary
- □ Prefer not to disclose

Housing Preference:

- □ Individual room (if available)
- □ Shared room with person of same biological sex
- □ I don't have a housing preference

Special Consideration:

- □ First-generation college student
- □ Veteran or service member

All students participating in VT-REEL will work with a TPSC-associated faculty member. Of those on our webpage, list the two that you most interested in. Are there any faculty outside of TPSC that you'd like to work with? If so, please list his/her name and department or AREC below. We will try our best to honor your request but cannot guarantee placement.

TPSC-associated faculty: 1. _____ 2. _____

Potential other faculty: Name: _____ Department/AREC: _____

Please provide the following materials, along with this form, for your application to be complete:

Resume: Submit a brief (1-2 page) resume of your academic and work history. Be sure to include any research or field experience, relevant science courses, awards / honors, presentations, safety trainings, or extracurricular activities you would like us to know about. ***Note: Prior research or field experience is NOT necessary for fellowship consideration.***

Essay 1: In a 1-page personal statement, tell us about yourself. Describe your interest in plants and/or agriculture, your career goals, and how/why you think participation in VT-REEL would be beneficial to you. Be sure to discuss any prior courses, experiences or extracurricular activities that you think would aid you in this program.

Essay 2: In 400 words or less, discuss your prior research and/or field experience (including the techniques, software programs, etc. that you used), and what research skills and/or experiences you would like to acquire through VT-REEL. If you do not have any prior research or field experience, discuss your laboratory experience from prior science courses (including the techniques you used and the role(s) you had within your lab group), and what research skills and/or experiences you would like to acquire through VT-REEL.

Academic transcript: Obtain an official or unofficial transcript from your current college and from any previous school(s) if you are a transfer student. Transcripts may be emailed with your application in pdf form, or they can be sent directly by your institution. ***Note: If your school is mailing your transcript, please inform us so we know to look for it.***

Letter of recommendation: Please have a letter of recommendation sent directly from a current or former teacher, mentor, or employer. Someone who can comment on your academic achievements, work ethic, intrinsic motivation, or prior research or field experience is best. The letter of recommendation should be emailed to scmarine@vt.edu.

To be considered for a fellowship, ALL materials must be received by mail or email by February 13th, 2026!
Applicants are responsible for ensuring all materials, including the letter of recommendation, are received by the deadline.

Mailing address:
Department of Biochemistry
c/o Dr. Sasha Marine
208D Engel Hall, 340 West Campus Drive
Blacksburg, VA 24061