

**Virginia Agribusiness Council**  
*We Represent Virginia Agribusiness with a Unified Voice*

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**LEADERSHIP TORCH IS PASSED AT VIRGINIA AGRIBUSINESS COUNCIL**

*Richmond, VA* – G. Eric Holter, Chairman of the Virginia Agribusiness Council, has formally announced that Katie K. Frazier has been named President of the Virginia Agribusiness Council, effective July 1, 2012. Current President Donna Pugh Johnson will retire from the Council at the end of June after an accomplished 18-year career with the organization.

Frazier, a graduate of Virginia Tech, has spent her career representing the interests of agriculture and forestry. After working for the Council from 2004-2011, Katie worked for the Alliance Group in Richmond and served as the Executive Director for the Virginia Grain Producers Association and Virginia Wine Council. She returned to the Agribusiness Council in May 2012 to transition to her new position as President. “Katie brings a wealth of experience with her to this position after working with the Council for seven years as Vice President of Government Affairs, representing our membership and industry to state and federal officials,” noted Holter. “Her strong leadership skills, knowledge of the agribusiness industry, and passion for the Council and our members will enable our organization to continue building upon our success as we collectively address legislative and regulatory challenges and opportunities in the future.”

Chairman of the Board Eric Holter stated, “I want to thank Donna for her steadfast commitment and work representing the Virginia Agribusiness Council throughout the years. She has performed a great service for the Board, staff, members, and the agribusiness community. She has been the “face of the Virginia Agribusiness Council” with strong representation in Richmond and throughout the Commonwealth. Her efforts have made it easy for us as a Board to make this transition.”

Johnson’s career with the Virginia Agribusiness Council began in 1994 after eighteen years with the Farm Credit System. Reflecting on her career with the Council, Johnson commented, “It has been an extreme pleasure to work with our agribusiness community to represent their interests with our elected officials in Richmond and Washington, D.C. With the support and guidance of our Board of Directors, I have endeavored to advance the Council’s mission and ensure it is a well-respected and effective organization. Together we have achieved much on behalf of our agribusiness industry which will no doubt continue under Katie’s capable leadership.”

Frazier commented, “The Virginia Agribusiness Council is a tremendous organization that effectively and decisively represents the interests of agriculture, forestry, and agribusiness in the Commonwealth. Donna Johnson’s accomplishments on behalf of the Council have been tremendous, and it has been an honor and privilege to work with her.” Frazier went on to conclude, “I am committed to the Council and the agribusinesses, landowners, and farms we represent. I am excited to have the opportunity to serve the Council and industry alike. ”

The Virginia Agribusiness Council represents agricultural and forestry producers, suppliers, marketers, processors and commodity associations in the Commonwealth with a unified voice through its government affairs activities. The Council has a combined membership of over 40,000. For more information on the Virginia Agribusiness Council, visit [www.va-agribusiness.org](http://www.va-agribusiness.org).

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