COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA
Department of Education

November 15, 2013

TO: Division Superintendents

FROM: Patricia I. Wright, Superintendent of Public Instruction

SUBJECT: The Strategic Review of Agricultural Education Report

The Virginia Department of Education is pleased to share with school divisions, *A Strategic Review of Agricultural Education: Preparing Students for Successful Transition to College and Careers* report. This report represents a culmination of state and national research and extensive input from stakeholders representing business and industry, secondary and postsecondary education, parents, students, professional organizations, and policy makers. Further, it reinforces the need for secondary education to be responsive to current and future trends in agriculture and gives attention to new and emerging agricultural industries.

In addition, the report outlines aspects of agricultural education that will require immediate attention to ensure consistent implementation of high-quality programs across the Commonwealth. The recommendations include:

- Providing comprehensive academic and career planning for students beginning in middle grades;
- Offering rigorous and relevant curriculum;
- Infusing critical technology skills in the curriculum that are aligned with the requirements for the industry;
- Providing flexible, innovative delivery systems for agricultural education courses that reflect coordination between secondary and postsecondary education;
- Ensuring student access to industry credentials for successful transition from high school to direct entry to the work force or further education; and
- Engaging teachers in retraining and professional development.

To achieve these goals, we need your continued support in encouraging teacher participation on curriculum review teams.

If you have any questions, please contact Lolita Hall, director of career and technical education, at cte@doe.virginia.gov or by phone at: (804) 225-2051.

PIW/LBH/sgj