

Thomas H. Pridgen
Research Specialist
Soybean Breeding and Genetics
Virginia Tech
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Experience:

2005-present Research Specialist, Soybean Breeding Program, CSES Dept. Virginia Tech

- Establishment and harvest of soybean breeding nurseries at multiple locations throughout Virginia
- In-season and post-harvest data collection including seed composition and quality analysis
- Introduced electronic hand held field data collection system at Blacksburg location in 2012
- Coordination of planting, harvesting, and data collection at multiple locations throughout Virginia with graduate students and faculty
- Supervised one full time staff, several hourly workers and multiple graduate students
- Presented research findings to producers at field days
- Have written germplasm release requests, and presented funding proposals to the Virginia Soybean Board and the Maryland Soybean Board

1996-2005 Research Specialist Small Grains Breeding Program, CSES Dept. Virginia Tech

- Nursery establishment, field data collection and harvest
- Extensive use of irrigation equipment for disease screening nurseries
- Plant growth chamber and greenhouse maintenance and repair
- Presented research results at annual field days
- Supervised several staff, research associates, hourly workers, and graduate students

1980-1992 Manager and Assistant Manager for Various Fertilizer and Farm Supply Dealers throughout Southwest Virginia including Southern States Cooperative, Inc. at Tazewell, Troutville, and Bedford; Christiansburg Fuel and Supply, Inc., Christiansburg, and New River Farm Center in Radford, Virginia

- Managed daily operations of the retail stores
- Worked with farmers to develop fertility and pest management programs
- Collected soil and plant tissue samples from forage and field crop acreage, interpreted the analysis and prescribed fertility programs
- Hosted educational programs introducing producers to new products and services

Education:

BS Animal Science, Virginia Tech, May 1979

MS Crop and Soil Environmental Science, Virginia Tech, May 1996

Thesis: "Development of Intensive Nitrogen Management Strategies for Winter Barley (*Hordeum vulgare* L) in the mid-Atlantic Region

Service:

College of Agriculture and Life Sciences Alumni Association- Board Member

Adviser – Alpha Gamma Rho, Virginia Tech, social-professional Agriculture Fraternity

Virginia Soybean Board, Member

American Society of Agronomy, Member