

Virginia Agribusiness Council
We Represent Virginia Agribusiness with a Unified Voice

MEDIA RELEASE

For Release: September 7, 2012

Contact: Blair Krusz, (804) 643-3555, (blair.agribusiness@att.net)

SMITHFIELD FOODS, INC. RECOGNIZED AS VIRGINIA AGRIBUSINESS OF THE YEAR

Smithfield, Virginia – Smithfield Foods, Inc. has been awarded the Virginia Agribusiness Council’s 2012 Agribusiness of the Year Award. Council Board of Directors Chairman Eric Holter of Staunton presented the award during the summer Board of Directors meeting on August 23 at Smithfield Foods, Inc. in Smithfield, Virginia.

The company was awarded the Agribusiness of the Year recognition, presented annually to a Council member organization for outstanding service to the agribusiness industry and the Council. Over the company’s 76-year history, Smithfield Foods has risen to take a leadership in the position within the agribusiness industry in the Commonwealth and a model for corporate social responsibility. During the presentation, the company’s support of scholarships and other education opportunities, both locally and through Virginia Tech’s College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, and the establishment of Smithfield’s “Helping Hungry Homes” program, which works to put nutritious food on tables in need were both cited as recent examples of their commitment to their community and the citizens of the Commonwealth. They have also become a leader in the industry for their commitment to the protection of the environment. Smithfield has received recognition for these efforts in recent years including receiving Environmental Leadership awards for many of the company’s projects and investments. The Council also applauded Smithfield’s response to a report by an animal rights organization in 2010, which spoke to their commitment to addressing issues in an open and reasonable manner, utilizing science and experts to examine their internal policies and procedures.

As an active and effective agribusiness industry supporter throughout the years, Smithfield Foods continues their long-standing involvement in industry organizations including the Council, the Pork Industry Association, the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences and Virginia Tech, Virginia Cooperative Extension and Agricultural Research Stations. Smithfield Foods is a long-time member and outstanding supporter of the Virginia Agribusiness Council, having Company Executives serve as keynote speakers at Council meetings, serve on the Council’s Board of Directors, and offer their support through sponsorship and active attendance at many of the Council’s events and activities.

Council Board of Directors Chairman Eric Holter commented during the presentation, “We are pleased to recognize Smithfield Foods for their many outstanding contributions to both the Virginia Agribusiness Council and the industry as a whole.” He went on to say, “For their leadership and dedication to the industry, their communities, and to the Council, it is with great pleasure that we award Smithfield Foods the 2012 Virginia Agribusiness Council’s Agribusiness of the Year award.”

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.

Attached Photo (left to right): Council Board Member and Smithfield Assistant VP Stewart Leeth, Council Board of Directors Chairman Eric Holter, Smithfield CEO Larry Pope, Council President Katie Frazier, and Smithfield Senior VP Dennis Treacy

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