



Please follow the checklist to ensure you are knowledgeable of the application process and that everything is complete. We look forward to reviewing your materials as a potential member of VALOR Class VII.

- Download the VALOR application and save it to your computer.
- We invite your spouse or significant other person in your life to complete the last section of the application to ensure their support of your participation in the program.
- The second part of the application includes a calendar of seminar dates, participant commitment form, business partner commitment form, and employer commitment form. These forms should be brought to the interview with original signatures as applicable.
- Please consider the posted calendar dates and your availability before applying to the program. Class members are expected to attend all seminars; absences may be excused by the program director for certain circumstances during the program. Any anticipated conflicts with seminar dates should be discussed with the director prior to application submission.
- Employer and business commitment forms will need to be signed upon submission of the application.
- Application due by midnight on Sunday, May 5, 2024. Save completed application as a PDF and submit using the following brief survey link: https://vce.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_3Dkc9jdLu8QC7tA

Please contact Program Director, Dr. Megan Seibel at (540) 231-2375 or mseibel@vt.edu for any questions about the program, application, or interview process.

Interview and Application Process

- Members of the VALOR Selection Committee (Advisory Council, alumni, stakeholders) will review your application and individuals selected for interviews will be contacted in late May to schedule an interview time and location in June or July. Please be sure to list preferred phone number and email address with the application.
- Check the [VALOR website](#), [Facebook](#), and [Twitter/X](#) for updates on the application process.
- A public announcement of VALOR Class VII Fellows will be made late summer. You will be notified in mid-July if you have been selected and will be given the option of confirming or declining.



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APPLICATION FORM

1. Full name _____
(Last name) (First name) (Middle name)
2. Home mailing address _____
City _____ Zip Code _____ State _____
3. Phone _____ E-mail _____ Fax _____
4. County _____ 5. Marital status _____
6. Date of birth _____
7. List all schools attended including high schools, colleges, and /or short courses.

Name of School	Attendance Dates	Graduation Date	Degree/Cert. Earned
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
8. Primary occupation _____
9. Total number of years in your present occupation: Full-time _____ Part-time _____
10. How did you get started in this occupation?



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11. Employment status:

A. Self-employed

Name of business/organization _____

Title or position _____

Mailing address _____ Zip Code _____

Phone _____ Fax _____

B. Not Self-employed/Other

Name of business/organization _____

Title or position _____

Mailing address _____ Zip Code _____

Phone _____ Fax _____

Please answer Part A if self-employed or Part B if not self-employed.

Part A: Self-Employed

a. Briefly describe the type of enterprise including commodities, products, or services (major one first), size of operation, and number of employees in addition to you.

b. Briefly describe your responsibilities in this operation.

c. What other employment or work-related activities do you currently have or have had in the last year?



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- d. What percentage of your operation do you (and spouse/family) currently own? _____
- e. What percentage of total annual net income is earned from this operation? _____
- f. What other employment have you held in previous years?

Dates

Employer

Title

End of Part A

Part B: Not Self-Employed/Other

- a. Name of supervisor: _____
- b. Briefly describe the type of enterprise or organization of your employer.

- c. How many employees are there in addition to you? _____
- d. Briefly describe your responsibilities in your present position.

- e. What previous positions have you held with the present employer?



f. List work-related programs in which you have played an active role with your previous and present employers.

g. How many years have you worked for your present employer? _____

h. What employment have you held in previous years other than the present employer?

Dates

Employer

Title

_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

End of Part B

13. Indicate your membership and offices held in organizations including college, professional, civic, church, and governmental.

Organization

Length of membership

Office held (if any)

_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

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14. From the organizations listed in question 13, identify 2 projects or programs for which you provided leadership. These can be with more than one organization. Describe what you did to initiate, organize, set goals, obtain resources, or implement action in each project.

Project or Program 1:

Project or Program 2:

15. List awards and honors you have received.

Organization or grantor	Award or honor	Date
<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

16. Indicate professional or leisure reading in the past year.

Newspapers (read regularly)

Magazines (read regularly)

Books

Other (websites, blogs, newsletters, etc.)

17. What personal technology do you use to work and communicate? _____

a. Do you have reliable cell/wifi access (explain)? _____

18. Do you blog, use social media, or other forms of communicating your ideas regularly? Please describe.

19. Who do you consider to be a forward-thinking community and/or state leader?

A. Name _____ Role _____

Why did you select this person?

20. List three business and/or personal references (do not include family members).

A. Name _____ Business Phone _____

Mailing address _____ Home Phone _____

City/State _____ Zip Code _____

E-mail _____

Relationship _____



B. Name _____ Business Phone _____
Mailing address _____ Home Phone _____
City/State _____ Zip Code _____
E-mail _____
Relationship _____

C. Name _____ Business Phone _____
Mailing address _____ Home Phone _____
City/State _____ Zip Code _____
E-mail _____
Relationship _____

21. In 250 words or less, please share what you consider to be the most important agricultural issue facing your community, state, and/or nation. This issue can be broad-based or narrowly-focused.

22. Detail why you would like to participate in the Virginia Agriculture Leaders Obtaining Results (VALOR) Program.



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23. How do you plan to use the knowledge, skills, experience, and networks you will gain if you are selected to the program? As needed, please reference our website www.valor.alce.vt.edu for more information about program format and context.
24. Individuals, organizations and companies within agriculture, forestry, and natural resource sectors contribute approximately 75% of the cost of this program. How do you plan to “give back” to these sectors if you are selected for the VALOR program?
25. Support from those around you is critical to your success in VALOR. What personal and community networks have supported you in previous endeavors, and how do you plan to involve these people and resources as a VALOR participant and alumnus?



26. Is there any other personal or professional information you think the Selection Committee should consider?

My signature/typed name below signifies that all information on this application is accurate to the best of my knowledge. Further, I am aware of the time and financial commitments required of VALOR participants and have carefully considered all seminar dates and other program information as shared on the website and by program personnel.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Director Contact Information

Megan M. Seibel, PhD
VALOR Director & Extension Specialist
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Optional Information

To be completed by applicant's spouse/significant other/personal reference

27. Full name _____
(Last name) (First name) (Middle name)

28. Email address _____

29. How long have you known this applicant and in what capacity? _____

30. How have you supported this applicant in their career and/or personal endeavors?

31. List three reasons why you would like to see this applicant participate in the Virginia Agriculture Leaders Obtaining Results (VALOR) Program.



Seminar Dates 2024 - 2026*

VALOR Class VII

Year One			
Seminar	Date	Location	Topic
I	September 26-28, 2024	Blacksburg	Orientation & Understanding Self
II	November 21-24, 2024	Tidewater/Eastern Shore	Ag Trade & Engaging with Others
III	January 7-11, 2025	Richmond	Legislative Advocacy & Policy Development
IV	March 13-16, 2025	Valley	Communicating Our Industry
V	May 19-23, 2025	U.S. National – TBD	Production & Practices: A Comparison of Approaches
VI	July 23-26, 2025	Southwest VA	Rural Resiliency & Collaboration
Year Two			
VII	September 24-27, 2025	Northern Neck & Chesapeake Bay	Agriculture, Technology, & the Environment
VIII	November 19-22, 2025	Southside VA	Addressing Ag Issues
IX	January 12-16, 2026	Northern Virginia/Washington D.C.	Urban Agriculture & National Ag Policy
X	March 15-28, 2026	International – TBD	Global Dynamics & Opportunities
XI	May 21-24, 2026	Central	Agricultural Vitality & Specialty Products
XII	July 24-26, 2026	Roanoke	Graduation: Leading the Future by Example

* Dates may be subject to change/condensing with ample notification and agreement of VALOR Fellows. U.S. Regional destination will be determined by program administration. International destination may have input from program fellows within certain guidelines.



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Participant Commitment Form

VALOR Class VII (2024-2026)

Please enter answers and spaces as needed so completed form is clear and can be photocopied.

I, _____ (participant's printed name), am aware that the **VALOR participant fee is \$5,500** and is payable to the Virginia Tech Foundation VALOR Operations Fund and that a **non-refundable \$250 deposit** (to be put toward my total fee) is due upon accepting a position in the program.

I am aware that the cost of transportation to and from VALOR seminars, study tour start and return points, and occasional meals are not included in the tuition fee.

If selected, I am willing to be a proactive ambassador for VALOR and assist with activities and promotion both during and after my participation in VALOR. I am aware that a variety of post-graduate opportunities will also be available to me.

I have read VALOR fact sheets, selection criteria, participation commitment sheets, and other program information available online. I understand that participants must make a commitment to participate fully in all seminars, study tours and distance education/email activities. Participant handbooks will be provided during the first seminar, with participation and behavioral guidelines included.

I agree to set aside time outside of formal sessions in preparation for seminars and study tours, related to analysis of issues and topics, and reflective learning.

I understand that there is both a public and corporate investment in this program and that, as a graduate, I must make a commitment to engage in leadership for agriculture and natural resources, and rural communities.

I give the VALOR program permission to contact the references supplied. I understand that selection of applicants is the sole responsibility of the organization and program Advisory Council.

By returning the complete application (electronic or hard copy) and participant commitment form (by fax or hard copy with signature), I hereby confirm that I understand and agree to all commitments if selected, and I hereby certify that the statements made in this application are true and complete.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

HARD COPY MUST BE PROVIDED TO VALOR OFFICE BY MAIL OR FAX
(See page 10 for contact info)



Employer/Supervisor Commitment Form

VALOR Class VII (2024-2026)

AUTHORIZATION STATEMENT FROM EMPLOYER/SUPERVISOR (as applicable)

Your employee is applying to participate in the Virginia Agriculture Leaders Obtaining Results (VALOR) Program, a program through the Virginia Tech College of Agriculture and Life Sciences. VALOR participants must make a commitment of time, energy and finances. As their employer, you will also be supporting this commitment. VALOR participants must attend all seminars and study tours. Your cooperation in allowing time away from work to engage in this professional development is a significant contribution to the program. Investment in leadership training is not an individual venture.

By returning this completed Employer Commitment Form, I understand _____ (*insert employee's name*) will participate in approximately 54 seminar days, including a mix of weekdays and weekends, over a two-year period between September 2024 and July 2026. There will be eight (8) regional seminars (3-4 days each), state and national policy development seminars (approximately 4-5 days each), a United States study tour (approximately 5 days), and an international study tour (approximately 12-14 days). The program calendar has been made available to me for reference and consideration.

Yes, _____ (*name*) has my authorization to participate in VALOR.

Employer's Name: _____

Title: _____

Business Name & Address: _____

Telephone: _____ Email: _____

Employer's Signature: _____ Date: _____

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(See page 10 for contact info)



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Business Partner Commitment Form

VALOR Class VII (2024-2026)

STATEMENT OF COMMITMENT FROM BUSINESS PARTNER (as applicable)

Your business partner is applying to participate in the Virginia Agriculture Leaders Obtaining Results (VALOR) Program, a program through the Virginia Tech College of Agriculture and Life Sciences. VALOR participants must make a commitment of time, energy, and finances, which may impact your business.

Your understanding and cooperation will contribute to the success of the program. Investment in leadership pays dividends to the entire agriculture industry and requires commitment from those directly involved and those with whom they interact.

Why would you like to see your partner selected to participate in VALOR?

By returning this completed Business Partner Commitment Form, I understand _____ (*insert employee's name*) may be away from our business for approximately 54 days over a two-year period between September 2024 and July 2026. There will be eight (8) regional seminars (3-4 days each), state and national policy development seminars (approximately 4-5 days each), a United States study tour (approximately 5 days), and an international study tour (approximately 12-14 days). I have seen the program calendar, and he/she has my support to participate in VALOR.

Name of Business: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____ Email: _____

Partner's Signature: _____ Date: _____

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(See page 10 for contact info)

