



ODAF Year-End Newsletter

Reflecting on a Successful 2025

As we close out 2025, the Olde Dominion Agriculture Foundation is proud to look back on a year of tremendous progress, improvements across the Olde Dominion Agricultural Complex, and continued growth in our programs and mission. None of this would be possible without the dedicated staff, board members, partners, and supporters who make our work possible.

Celebrating Our Staff

A successful year always starts with a strong team, and we are fortunate to have one of the best.

Facility Director, Haley Manley, continues to be a driving force behind ODAC's success. From managing events and coordinating set-ups to mucking stalls and keeping daily operations running smoothly, Haley does it all. Her creativity shines through on social media with her popular "Fun Fact Friday" and "Sponsorship Saturday" posts, which have helped expand ODAC's outreach and community engagement. We are grateful for the passion and energy she brings to the Foundation.

In our accounting office, **Barbara Buckley** ensures our financial operations run smoothly, and we can't thank her enough for her attention to detail and professionalism.

Our operations crew—**Tina Short, Ben Pierce, Matt Jarrett, Randall Toney, Rudd Shupik, and Mark Lovins**—works tirelessly behind the scenes to keep the Complex functioning at its best. Whether it's preparing for events, maintaining the grounds, or keeping our equipment running, they play a vital role in ODAC's success.

We extend a heartfelt thank-you to each of these individuals for their hard work and dedication throughout the year.

Major Improvements & Facility Upgrades

Thanks to generous grant support from the **Virginia Tobacco Region Revitalization Commission** and the **Danville Regional Foundation**, ODAC achieved a remarkable series of upgrades and expansions in 2025.

This year's improvements include:

- Installation of fans in the Co-Mingle Barn
- Purchase of a new skid steer and used dump truck
- Construction of a Dry Stack shelter
- Completion of a four-room bathhouse (scheduled to be finished this month)
- A complete makeover of the conference room and floors
- Replacement of outdated arena lighting with new LED fixtures

Equipment & Grounds Enhancements

ODAF sold its aging GMC dump truck and older Kiser arena drag and reinvested those proceeds into:

- An Athens disc harrow
- A smaller Ace arena drag
- A used 15-foot Bush Hog finish mower

We also took an important first step toward revitalizing the Old Shorter Brothers Garage by beginning the long-needed roof replacement. With continued improvements, this property will become a valuable revenue-producing asset for the Foundation.

Additionally, we entered an agreement with **James River Equipment** for the use of a John Deere zero-turn mower, providing essential support for maintaining our grounds.

Technology & Security Advancements

One of our most transformative improvements this year was expanding the Cisco Network across the entire Complex. Visitors and event hosts now have Internet access in the conference rooms, the arena, barns 1 & 2, the Co-Mingle Barn, the Farmers Market, & the shop area.

This upgrade also allowed us to add eight new security cameras, with capacity to expand even further.

Honoring a Legacy: The Roger P. Jefferson Memorial Scholarship

The Foundation is proud to announce the naming of the “**Roger P. Jefferson Memorial Scholarship**,” presented by ODAF. In Roger’s memory, \$14,900 was donated to the scholarship endowment fund. This support will allow ODAF to award a **\$1,000 scholarship every year** to a student pursuing a career in agriculture.

We are honored to preserve Roger’s legacy in a way that will help support future leaders in agriculture.

Recognizing Board & Advisory Members

ODAF extends its appreciation to several board and advisory members whose terms are ending.

Thank you to outgoing board members:

- Chuck Angier
- Tommy Barron
- Chuck Grove
- Elizabeth Hammond

And to our outgoing advisors:

- Doug Dalton
- Don Merricks

In recognition of their service, the ODAC operating account will make a **\$100 donation in each of their names** to the scholarship endowment fund.

Welcoming New Leadership

We are pleased to welcome the newest members of the ODAF Board of Directors:

- **Tim Clark**
- **Corey Rowland**

And we welcome the following individuals to the ODAF Advisory Council:

- **Chuck Angier**
- **Dr. Robert Bell**
- **Elizabeth Hammond**

We look forward to the leadership, experience, and enthusiasm they will bring in the year ahead.

Looking Ahead

As we reflect on the accomplishments of 2025, we are energized by what lies ahead. The upgrades completed this year will enhance the visitor experience, support event growth, and position ODAC as a premier agricultural and event facility for years to come.

Thank you to everyone who contributed to this incredible year—our staff, board, advisors, volunteers, partners, sponsors, and the broader community. Your continued support makes our mission possible.

From all of us at ODAF, we wish you a wonderful holiday season and a prosperous new year. We look forward to seeing you in 2026!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lee Cassada". The script is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of each word being capitalized and prominent.

Lee Cassada

Executive Director