

A hand is shown writing on a clipboard with a pen. The clipboard has a checklist and some handwritten notes. The background is a blurred agricultural field with a tractor in the distance under a bright sky. The text is overlaid on a dark, semi-transparent shape.

Meet Julia, the Agricultural Specialist for the City of Suffolk

In this newly created position, Ms. Hillegass will work within the Economic Development Department, City of Suffolk and will be responsible for :

- Building relationships with Suffolk's agriculture, forestry, and horticulture businesses
- Promoting local products, retail efforts, and agricultural tourism
- Coordinating farm-to-table programs, farmers' markets, and food access initiatives by collaborating with schools, local eateries, and government agencies
- Leading agricultural marketing efforts, rural preservation initiatives, and partnerships with tourism and film industries to support Suffolk's agricultural economy.

Experience and former work experience:

During her professional career, Hillegass has been employed by the Virginia Dare Soil and Water Conservation District, Hampton Roads Planning District Commission, and most recently with the City of Virginia Beach, coordinating their Agricultural Reserve Program to maintain a vibrant agricultural economy in southern Virginia Beach.

She has a B.A. in Rhetoric and Communications Studies from the University of Virginia and an MPA from Old Dominion University.



JULIA B. HILLEGASS
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