

BEDFORD COUNTY FARM TOUR



The farm tour is held every August. This summer event is a wonderful introduction to farm operations of all types. Numerous other farm related festivals occur throughout the county during the year. For a complete listing see our website.

IMPACT OF AGRICULTURE BEYOND THE FARM

In Bedford County, there are numerous businesses that base their livelihood on the success of agriculture, such as but not limited to:

- ◆ Livestock Markets
- ◆ Meat Processing
- ◆ Farm Equipment and Supply Stores
- ◆ Veterinarians
- ◆ Insurance
- ◆ Farm Lending
- ◆ Landscaping & Garden Supplies

AGRICULTURE RELATED ORGANIZATIONS

- ◆ Bedford Agriculture Council
- ◆ Bedford Beef Producers Association
- ◆ Bedford Citizens for Land Preservation
- ◆ Bedford County Farm Bureau
- ◆ Bedford County Young Farmers Association
- ◆ Bedford Equine Association

For more information visit our website.

AEDAB-The Ag Board

The Bedford County Agricultural Economic Development Advisory Board (AEDAB) is an independent advisory board established by the Bedford County Board of Supervisors in the spring of 2007. Its mission is to develop and implement a continuing plan to sustain and enhance our rural economy, including (but not limited to) support for farms, dairies, cattle operations, orchards, specialty growers, forestry, natural resources and businesses that support agriculture. (Continued on back)



Ag Board program components include:

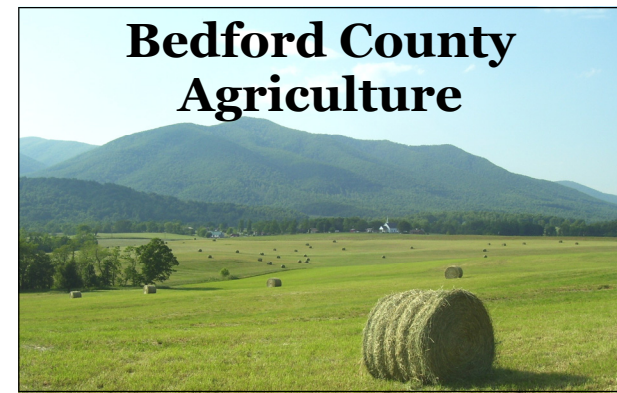
- ◆ Marketing
 - Provide leadership and coordination for new and existing markets for ag commodities
 - Seek grant opportunities to assist agriculture
 - Develop an agriculture directory
 - Assist with growth and vitality of area farmers markets
 - Develop a “Bedford Grown” branded farm product program
- ◆ Land Preservation
 - Promote and assist in developing land preservation programs such as Ag and Forestal Districts, Conservation Districts and Land Use Assessment Taxation.
- ◆ Education
 - Coordinate with the public school system to increase awareness and promote agricultural programs
 - Develop informational brochures that educate the non-farm public
- ◆ Other Related Work
 - Cooperative support of related initiatives and county departments
 - Assistance with lobbying efforts that affect agricultural vitality
 - Dedicated website space for agriculture related matters such as land exchange/rent opportunities, farm product guide, ag statistics, and more



Bedford County
Department of Economic Development
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www.bedfordeconomicdevelopment.com/Agiculture



Bedford County Agriculture

Agriculture has long been the backbone of Bedford County's economy. From the mid 18th century when everything was done by hand to the 21st century with the newest techniques, farming is “alive and well” in Bedford County. Although new residents may take a little while to adjust to tractors or other farm vehicles on 2 lane roads, they will certainly enjoy locally raised fresh foods, along with the beautiful views and open spaces.



The US Census of Agriculture, 2007, reports that farm sales in Bedford County totaled over \$23.6 million that year and accounted for 2,889 jobs. The total economic impact, which also includes forestry and considers a secondary multiplier effect, totaled \$135.7 million. As anyone can see, agriculture and forestry are vitally important.

How Bedford Ranks in Virginia Agriculture

Hay Production	#3
All Cattle and Calves	#4
Beef Cattle	#4
Horses	#4
Milk Cows	#10
Orchards	#14
Goats	#17
Grapes	#27



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FARM FRESH TO YOU

While traditional livestock-based farms predominate, many Bedford County farmers sell directly to the public, either at area farmers markets or on their own farms. A wide variety of locally grown fruits and vegetables are available, as well as meat and eggs, nursery plants, and Christmas trees, just to name a few. Bedford County also has a cannery for citizens to preserve these and other products. For information on the cannery and farmers market's hours please visit our website.



Apples and peaches thrive in parts of the county, along with spring berries and fall pumpkins. Below is a chart of produce available in Virginia, for Bedford specific information contact the local Cooperative Extension office at (540) 586-7675.

VIRGINIA GROWN	VIRGINIA FRUIT AND VEGETABLE											
	AVAILABILITY CALENDAR (Each item is weather dependent)											
	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEPT	OCT	NOV	DEC
APPLES												
ASPARAGUS												
BEETS												
BLACKBERRIES												
BLUEBERRIES												
BROCCOLI												
CABBAGE												
CANTALOUPE												
CUCUMBERS												
EGGPLANT												
GRAPES												
GREEN BEANS												
GREENS/SPINACH												
NECTARINES												
ONIONS												
PEACHES												
PEPPERS												
POTATOES												
PUMPKINS												
SQUASH												
STRAWBERRIES												
SWEET CORN												
SWEET POTATOES												
TOMATOES												
WATERMELONS												

CATTLE

Due to the abundance of hay and pasture land, Bedford County supports a large number of beef cattle farms as



well as several dairy farms and heifer breeding operations. Bedford County ranks # 3 in Virginia for hay production and # 4 for all cattle and calves.

HORSES

Equestrian interests run high throughout the county, as evidenced by the newly formed Bedford Equine Association that meets monthly to discuss issues of particular interest. Bedford County ranks # 4 in Virginia for the number of horses.



WINERIES & VINEYARDS



One significant new development in recent years is the emergence of wineries throughout the

County. In fact a tasting experience known as the "Bedford Wine Trail" has been a huge hit with visitors and residents as well. See our website for the complete listing.



FARMERS OF THE FUTURE

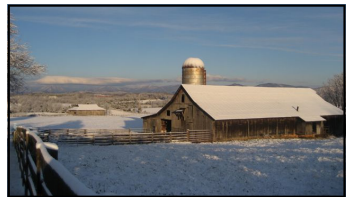


Bedford County is highly invested in its young farmers. In addition to 4-H and Future Farmers of America (FFA) organizations in area high schools, there is a Young Farmers organization under the guidance of the local Farm Bureau and area chapters in the local high schools.

One activity that Bedford County can take real pride in is the creation of an agricultural curriculum in the Virginia Community College system. The program, funded mostly by the Virginia Tobacco Commission, originated in Bedford County but is due to be taught in three community colleges in the fall of 2009, with expectations of as many as eight colleges over the next few years. Visit their website at vagccc.org

LAND PRESERVATION & CONSERVATION

The Virginia Outdoors Foundation reports that over 6,400 acres have been protected in perpetuity as farmland and open space in Bedford County. In addition to several working farms protected by conservation easements, Lynchburg College's Claytor Nature Study Center is a 470 acre classroom and laboratory in north Bedford County dedicated to the study and appreciation of our natural environment. For more information, see www.lynchburg.edu/claytor.xml



"One of many area farms preserved for future generations."

