

Discover Bedford County's

Peaks Country!

Join us for Farm Tour 2009 at
Royal Oak Farm LLC
Enjoy a fun day in the country –
rain or shine.

Informative demonstrations and
exhibits.

Free lunch while it lasts and locally
produced foods will be available for
purchase.

You are invited to bring a picnic and a
camera, but please leave your pets at
home.

Celebrating Agriculture

- Guided Tours
- Farm Animals
- Farm Equipment
- Master Gardeners

FARM TOUR 2009 SPONSORS

Bedford County
Bedford Agriculture Council, Virginia Cooperative Extension
Bedford Tourism, Poplar Forest
Bedford Area Businesses

"Peaks Country" places to visit:

Bedford Welcome Center www.visitbedford.com

Bedford County Farm Wineries
www.bedfordwinetrail.com

Bedford now boasts 5 farm wineries. At the wineries you can expect a unique experience with several offering additional agricultural opportunities including interacting with farm animals, vineyard and orchard tours, and picnic areas. Bedford Wine Trail brochures are available at the wineries and the Bedford Welcome Center and visitors are encouraged to have their brochure stamped as they visit each of the wineries. Once you have acquired a stamp for every winery, you can return it to the Welcome Center for a complimentary gift. Throughout the year each winery has several special events designed to delight the entire family.

National D-Day Memorial

National memorial honoring Allied Armed Forces who participated in the 1944 Normandy France invasion. Bedford was chosen as the site because the community sustained the highest per capita loss of lives during the invasion. 540-586-3329.

Sedalia Center www.sedaliacenter.org

"For the living arts and the art of living." This center offers a wide variety of concerts and workshops.

Smith Mountain Lake and State Park

This 40-mile stretch of shimmering waters forms the southern boundary of Bedford County, creating a paradise for fishing and water recreation. The State Park, comprised of 1506 acres, offers 16 miles of shoreline with a 500-foot public beach. Fishing, boating, swimming, hiking trails, picnicking, camping, public boat ramp, interpretive programs. 540-297-6066.

Thomas Jefferson's Poplar Forest

Designed and built for Jefferson's private use, Poplar Forest was the first octagonal brick home built in America. It was his most personal architectural creation and landscape, a place where he came to find rest and leisure, to rekindle his creativity, and to enjoy family time. Today under the guidance of the Corporation for Jefferson's Poplar Forest, Jefferson land is being rescued and house and plantation are undergoing preservation, restoration, reconstruction and archaeological investigation. 434-525-1806

Peaks Country

FARM
TOUR
2009

For more information:
Phone 540-586-7675
www.bedfordfarmtour.org

Peaks Country!

FARM
TOUR
2009



Royal Oak Farm
Saturday, August 15, 10 AM - 3 PM

Peaks Country

Agriculture in Bedford

Did you know that Bedford County ranks #4 statewide in Beef Cows? We have over 27,000 beef cows!

Among Virginia counties, Bedford County also ranks 3rd in hay production, 4th in horses, 10th in milk cows and 14th in apple production. In 2007, there were 1,428 farms, encompassing 212,237 acres.

Bedford County farmers sell over \$23,000,000 of products every year.

Farming in Bedford is very diverse. Most farmland is devoted to pasture, hay and beef cows. However, we have several dairies and orchards. Agriculture interests on the rise include horses, wine grapes and plant nurseries. A common theme of these new enterprises are farming activities that can be done on smaller tracts of land and/or an attempt to capture more of the consumer dollar. From 2002 to 2007, Bedford saw growth in farm products being sold directly to consumers.

Agriculture pays its way – a recently completed study found that agriculture only requires 25 cents in services for every dollar it pays in taxes, while residential development requires \$1.07 in services for every dollar of taxes it pays.

Agriculture remains a big business in Bedford, but there are many challenges facing our farmers including weather, rising input costs and variable sale prices. Another concern is the fact that about 50% of farms are owned by individuals over the age of 60. However, agriculture has always been an evolving industry. With continued adoption of innovative technologies, an emphasis on programs that encourage younger people to enter farming and a balanced approach to growth and development, Bedford can maintain a viable agriculture base that provides significant benefits to our community. We invite you to spend some time with us and learn more about Bedford agriculture.

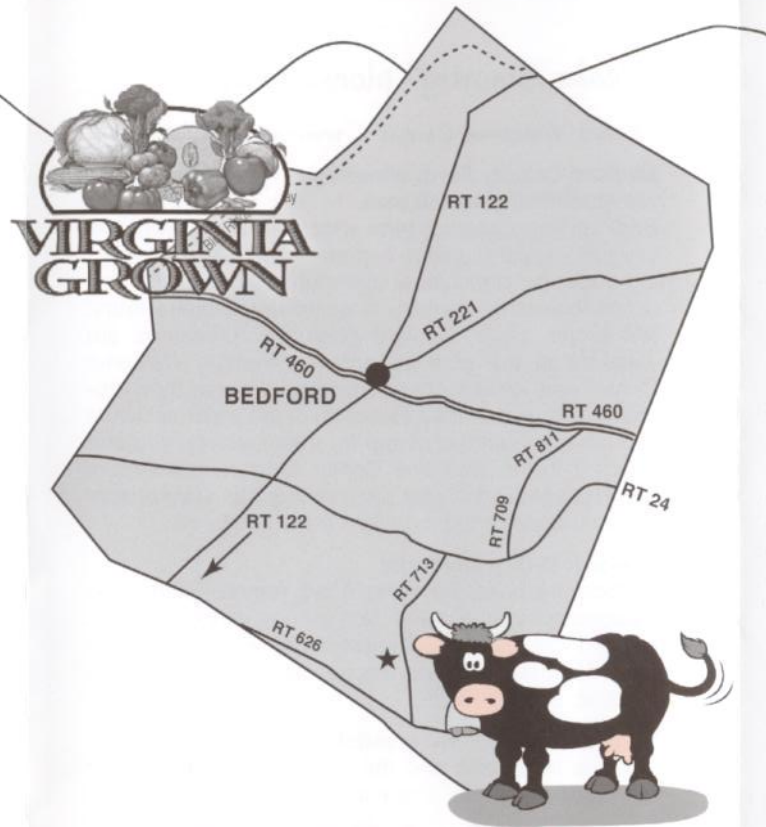
To learn more about agriculture in Bedford and the efforts of the Bedford County Agriculture Economic Development Advisory Board, please visit Bedford's agriculture web site,

<http://www.co.bedford.va.us/Ag/>

Royal Oak Farm is a diversified family farm. Initially, the 115-acre farm's main enterprise was a pasture-based swine operation with a sideline business of free range laying hens. However, these ventures did not prove to be sustainable. The farm began composting

Agriculture is the most useful of the occupations of man

-Thomas Jefferson, 1807



FARM TOUR 2009

Saturday, August 15th
10:00 AM - 3:00 PM
Royal Oak Farm



a family event !



the animal waste with other organic materials as an environmentally friendly disposal method and soon realized that composting was to become their primary enterprise. Today, the livestock are gone but the farm has greatly expanded its composting operation to become one of the premier composting operations in the eastern U.S. Today, Royal Oak Farm, LLC owns and operates the largest solid waste composting operation in Virginia, capable of handling over 500 tons per day of clean, non-toxic, non-hazardous biodegradable materials. These materials are professionally recycled into composts, topsoils, and specialty compost-based soil blends. In addition to compost, Royal Oak also has a feed business, selling by-products to other farmers for animal feed; again recycling a waste product into a useful product. Royal Oak strives to farm in an environmentally sensitive way recycling what some might call waste products into valuable farm and landscape products. Guided tours of the farm will be given including stops at the feed storage building and throughout the composting operation. Other anticipated activities on Tour Day include hands on history with Thomas Jefferson's Poplar Forest; a demonstration of an antique cider press, farm equipment and livestock; a demonstration hive of honeybees; live Bluegrass Music and Bedford Area Master Gardeners on hand to answer lawn and landscape questions. Additionally, groups scheduled to be with us with information and displays include the Peaks of Otter Soil and Water Conservation District, the Virginia Department of Forestry, Bedford County Department of Solid Waste, the Virginia Beef Council and Bedford 4-H. A free pork barbecue lunch while it lasts will be available from 11 am – 2 p.m. In keeping with the recycling theme, food will be served using zero waste technology with compostable utensils, plates, etc. We also plan to have locally produced foods available for purchase.

The Tour is free and will be family-oriented, so come out, enjoy the scenery and learn about Bedford's important agriculture industry.

www.bedfordfarmtour.org

Directions: From route 460 in New London, take New London Road. Travel about 5 miles, turn right on route 24 West (Wyatts Way), go 1.5 miles, turn left on Orrix Creek Road (route 713). Royal Oak Farm is 2 miles on the right.

www.royaloakfarmllc.com

If you are a person with a *disability and desire assistive devices, services or other accommodations to participate, contact the Bedford Extension office (540-586-7675) at least 5 working days prior to the event.*

Cultivators of the earth are the most virtuous and independent citizens

-Thomas Jefferson, 1782