



# Agribusiness, Food Processing and Technology

Central

Virginia

**CENTRAL VIRGINIA** offers a vibrant business environment with a highly qualified workforce in an ideal location with room for growth and expansion. Our region's success with wineries has overtaken that in the surrounding states of Maryland and Pennsylvania. Central Virginia benefits from proximity to Washington, D.C. and Richmond markets interested in gourmet food trends, locally grown foods, and value-added agricultural products.

## Demonstrated Record of Success

- Home to 30 wineries, 13 craft breweries, and several cideries and distilleries, the region is nationally recognized for agritourism with attractions such as the Monticello Wine Trail and Brew Ridge Trail.
- Successful exporters to domestic and international markets include **Carter Mountain Orchard**, which sells fruit domestically to local and chain groceries and the military as well as exporting internationally to Central America, Europe, and the Middle East.
- As one of many award-winning Central Virginia wineries, **Barboursville Vineyards** is a destination for its array of superb vintages and is the first Virginia winery to export to China.
- **Battlefield Farms** produces annuals, perennials, and poinsettias for mid-Atlantic retail outlets and grows diverse plants on 45 acres of covered production area and 20 acres of outdoor production area.
- **Caromont Farm** produces critically acclaimed goat cheese and milk.
- **No Bull Burger** is a family-owned start-up that began selling their gourmet veggie burgers at the city market and can now be found in grocery stores and restaurants across Virginia, Washington D.C., and Maryland.
- **Blue Mountain Brewery** has two locations in Central Virginia that will craft 10,000 barrels this year using the cascade variety hops they grow.
- Run by a third generation master distiller, **Stillhouse Distillery** has been making moonshine in the Appalachian tradition for over twenty years.
- **Starr Hill Brewery** is the 2nd oldest craft brewery in Virginia and is one of the most award winning breweries on the East Coast.



Battlefield Farms

## Advantages for Agribusiness in Central Virginia

- Unique mixture of rural areas and vibrant urban communities located in the heart of Virginia.
- Strategic, accessible Central Virginia location can reach over 50% of the nation's consumers within one-day delivery by truck.
- Virginia Cooperative Extension of Virginia Tech and Virginia State University provide research and educational opportunities for agribusinesses through a local office in every Central Virginia county.
- Buy Fresh Buy Local, Virginia Grown, and Virginia's Finest promotional campaigns
- Vibrant local food scene was featured in Southern Living for fostering community engagement in agricultural production and supporting regional agri-entrepreneurs.
- Composite cost of living is 36% lower in Central Virginia than Northern Virginia/D.C. region.



## Central Virginia's Gateway to the World.





King Family Vineyards

## Notable Agribusinesses

- **Adventure Farm**  
*livestock and crop farm*
- **Albemarle Baking Company**  
*bakery and baked-good wholesaler*
- **Barboursville Vineyards**  
*winery, restaurant, exporter*
- **Battlefield Farms**  
*wholesale greenhouse*
- **Blue Mountain Brewery**  
*craft brewing*
- **Bell Nursery**  
*quality flower growers and retail*
- **Carter Mountain Orchard**  
*fruit and vegetable production, tourism activities*
- **Crown Orchard**  
*fruit grower*
- **Devils Backbone Brewing Company**  
*craft brewing*
- **Grelen Nursery**  
*nursery and landscaping services*
- **Merchant's Grocery Company, Headquarters**  
*wholesale food distributor*
- **No Bull Burger**  
*vegetable burgers*

- **Starr Hill Brewery**  
*craft brewing*
- **Twin Oaks Tofu**  
*worker-owned cooperative and tofu producer*
- **Willow Run Greenhouse**  
*wholesale plant distributor*

## Talented and Prepared Workforce

- Morven Farm, affiliated with the University of Virginia, offers UVa and Piedmont Virginia Community College students and faculty the opportunity to conduct hands on agricultural experimentation and research.
- Piedmont Virginia Community College and Germanna Community College offer courses of study in biotechnology, horticulture, science, and viticulture and enology, as well as customizable business training.
- Due to University of Virginia and two excellent community colleges, the region produces over 7,500 graduates annually.

### Central Virginia Agribusiness Quick Facts

<b>Number of Firms</b>	<b>790</b>
<b>Number of Workers</b>	<b>4,955</b>
<b>Average Earnings</b>	<b>\$24,924</b>

Make Central Virginia the location for your **Bold Venture!**



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