



# 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 over 55 wineries and vineyards, 21 craft breweries, 9 cideries and 6 distilleries, the region is nationally recognized for agritourism with attractions such as the **Monticello Wine Trail** and **Brew Ridge Trail**.
- **Carter Mountain Orchard** sells fruit to local and chain groceries, the military, and exports internationally to Central America, Europe and the Middle East.
- **Early Mountain Vineyards** has been voted the #1 Tasting Room in America.
- 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 13,250 barrels this year using the cascade variety hops they grow.
- **Starr Hill Brewery** is the 2nd oldest craft brewery in Virginia and is one of the most award winning breweries on the East Coast.
- **Ardent Mills** is North America's leading flour supplier. The Culpeper facility recently underwent a major expansion that created a local market for Virginia wheat farmers.



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 43% lower in Central Virginia than Northern Virginia/D.C. region.



Helping your business take flight!

GOCHO.com

Central Virginia ✦ Atlanta ✦ Charlotte ✦ Chicago ✦ Dulles ✦ Philadelphia ✦ New York



King Family Vineyards

- **Starr Hill Brewery**  
*craft brewing*
- **Twin Oaks Tofu**  
*worker-owned cooperative and tofu producer*
- **Willow Run Greenhouse**  
*wholesale plant distributor*
- **Moerings**  
*Living room production and installation*
- **BrightFarms**  
*Hydroponic greens and herbs production*
- **Color Orchids**  
*Commercial orchid production*

## Notable Agribusinesses

- **Adventure Farm & Vineyard**  
*livestock/crop farm and vineyard*
- **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*

## 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 7,700 graduates annually.

### Central Virginia Agribusiness Quick Facts

Number of Firms	89
Number of Workers	1,955

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



Helen Cauthen, *President*

Central Virginia Partnership for Economic Development

1001 Research Park Blvd, Suite 301 | Charlottesville, VA 22911

434.979.5610 | [hcauthen@centralvirginia.org](mailto:hcauthen@centralvirginia.org)

[centralvirginia.org](http://centralvirginia.org)



Central Virginia Partnership for Economic Development



@CVaPartnership