Agribusiness, Food Processing and Technology

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 ciders 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.

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.
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
- 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

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
centralvirginia.org

Central Virginia Partnership for Economic Development
@CVaPartnership