

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2023

Virginia farmers are proud to grow the food that helps supply more than 4 billion meals annually through nutrition programs offered through the farm bill. Click this link for more information:

[What is the Farm Bill?](#)

WHY THE FARM BILL MATTERS IN VIRGINIA

Nutrition by the Numbers



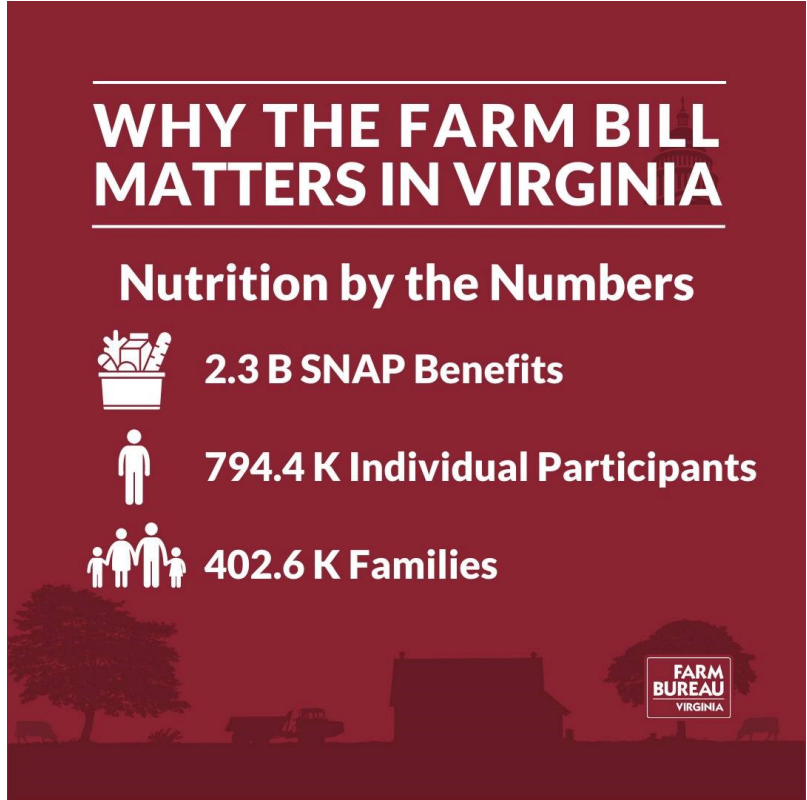
2.3 B SNAP Benefits



794.4 K Individual Participants



402.6 K Families

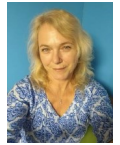


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The harvest has arrived! The apple processing market is hard this season and pray all are able to find a home for their fruit.



Member Directories did not go out in July, however, they will be mailed next week with 2023-24 Membership forms. We now have the option to use **PayPal** for payments, the link is posted on our webpage www.virginiaapples.net/vshs or click paypal.me/VSHSociety *you will need to request an invoice if you do not have a paypal account.

Blessings,
Laura Wiley

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www.virginiaapples.net/vshs

APPLE BITES

July 28, 2023



Focus on the Farm Bill

Farm Bill Briefing

Last week, USApple Senior Vice President, Diane Kurrle, participated in a Farm Bill briefing for the House New Democrats Coalition on Capitol Hill. The briefing was attended by several Members of Congress including Representative Kim Schrier (D-WA) who introduced Kurrle.

Discussion focused on the need to maintain and improve key programs such as:

- The Specialty Crop Research Initiative
- Specialty Crop Block Grants
- The Market Access Program
- Crop Insurance



[What is the Farm Bill?](#)

The New Dems are championing many of these programs in their Farm Bill priorities and helping to lead the charge in support of the priorities of the Specialty Crop Farm Bill Alliance (SCFBA).

Specialty Crop Farm Bill Alliance (SCFBA) Endorses New Bills

USApple and the SCFBA are working with key House and Senate leaders who are introducing bills to implement the SCFBA priorities. Just last week two bills were introduced that we support:

- The [Specialty Crop Support Act of 2023](#) was introduced by Reps. Elissa Slotkin (D-MI) and Lori Chavez-DeRemer (R-OR), to extend and enhance the Specialty Crop Block Grant Program
- The [Protecting America's Orchardists and Nursery Tree Growers Act](#) was introduced by Reps. Bill Huizenga (R-MI) and Jimmy Panetta (D-CA), which expands the eligibility of tree, bush and vine growers for the Tree Assistance Program and modernizes the program.



2023 Pesticide Collection Program



COLLECTION TIMES: 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

9/26 - Rustburg	9/28 - Charlotte Court House	10/4 - Scottsburg
9/27 - Farmville	10/3 - South Hill	10/5 - Chatham
		10/11 - Martinsville

Pre-registration is encouraged.

For More Information:

vdacs.virginia.gov/pesticide-collection.shtml

The 2023 Pesticide Collection Program includes 7 collection dates beginning on Sept. 26. If you want to participate in the program, please fill out the pre-registration form & submit it prior to your collection date. The dates, locations & form can be found at this link: [Pesticide Collection](#)



THE WALL STREET JOURNAL.

U.S. Farmers Need a Better Work Visa Program

The H-2A visa is the only legal means for U.S. farmers to employ foreign workers (“H-2A Guest Workers Can Pick Florida’s Crops” by Dave Seminara, Cross Country, Aug. 5). Apple growers are perhaps the largest single user of the H-2A visa program, despite its being hopelessly bureaucratic and illogical.

For example, to use the H-2A program, a grower must tell federal agencies in the winter how many workers will be needed on what date for the next fall’s harvest. Only Mother Nature—neither kind nor predictable—knows when the apples will be ready to harvest and how large the crop will be.

Hourly farmworker wages averaged \$16.62 in 2022. The cost to hire, transport and house an H-2A worker (usually from Mexico or Jamaica) exceeds \$2,000 a worker, so a small-to-

medium-size family farmer will spend a quarter of a million dollars on labor before the first apple, tomato or head of lettuce gets picked. The lack of a good temporary farmworker visa program is a big reason the U.S. will import more food than it exports, in value, this year.

The Farm Workforce Modernization Act is part of the solution. For the many falsely documented workers picking the nation’s fruits and vegetables, it would allow them to pay a significant fine and come out of the shadows to achieve legal work status (but not citizenship). It has passed the House twice, with bipartisan support, but the Senate has refused to consider it.

JIM BAIR

*President and CEO, U.S. Apple Association
Falls Church, Va.*

Agricultural Worker Protection Standard Posters, videos, and compliance information links



Current videos here: <https://pesticideresources.org/wps/training/percvids/>

Information on compliance: <https://pesticideresources.org/wps/guide/compliance.html>

EPA Website:

<https://www.epa.gov/pesticide-worker-safety/agricultural-worker-protection-standard-wps>

2023 APPLE CROP ESTIMATE

	USApple	USDA			USApple (F) vs. USDA (F)		% Change from USDA	
	2023/24 (F)	2023/24 (F)	2022/23	5-Yr. Average	Difference	% Change	YOY	YO5Y
United States	256,261,905	249,915,020	246,258,342	258,784,356	6,346,885	2.5%	4.1%	-1.0%
California	4,761,905	4,761,905	4,202,381	5,300,000	-	0.0%	13.3%	-10.2%
Michigan	32,000,000	27,380,952	32,380,952	24,680,952	4,619,048	16.9%	-1.2%	29.7%
New York	28,000,000	26,190,476	32,261,905	32,119,048	1,809,524	6.9%	-13.2%	-12.8%
Oregon	2,976,190	2,976,190	3,238,095	3,733,333	-	0.0%	-8.1%	-20.3%
Pennsylvania	10,750,000	10,476,190	9,833,333	11,342,857	273,810	2.6%	9.3%	-5.2%
Virginia	4,350,000	4,642,857	4,392,857	4,292,857	(292,857)	-6.3%	-1.0%	1.3%
Washington	159,523,810	159,523,810	146,190,476	162,857,143	-	0.0%	9.1%	-2.0%
Other States	13,900,000	13,962,639	13,758,342	14,458,165	(62,639)	-0.4%	1.0%	-3.9%

Sources: USApple; USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service.

Notes: Production levels are in 42-pound bushels. Five-year averages do not include 2023/24 (F) data. Other States production not provided by USDA. This is a USApple calculation based on the 2017 share of U.S. total. Table courtesy of U.S. Apple Association.



Looking for an Orchard near you to visit? Our directory includes over 50 Apple Orchards all over the Commonwealth. If yours isn't listed, be sure to contact us to be included.

[Virginia Apple Orchards](#)

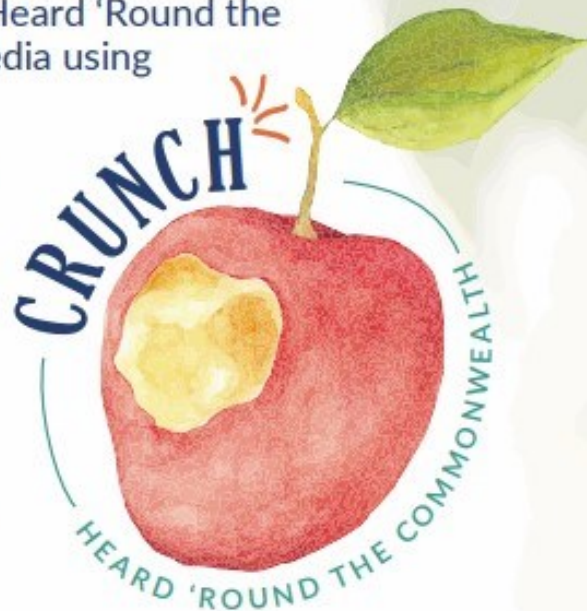
Celebrate Virginia Farm to School Week on
Thursday, October 5, 2023
with the seventh annual

Crunch Heard 'Round the Commonwealth!

How to Get Involved

As an apple grower, here are a few ways to get involved:

1. [Register Here to Participate](#) in the Crunch Heard 'Round the Commonwealth and post on social media using #VACrunch.
2. Contact your [Local School Divisions](#) to:
 - Sell apples directly to school nutrition programs
 - Participate in celebration events
 - Cross-promote celebrations on social media
3. Contact your distributor to see if your apples are going to any school nutrition programs.



Questions?

Should you have any questions, please contact Lead Farm to School Specialist, Bee Thorp, at Brittany.Thorp@doe.virginia.gov.



FOLLOW THE CRUNCH!
@VDOESNP #VACrunch #VAFarmtoSchool





Interested in becoming a member of
the Women's Auxiliary of the Virginia
State Horticultural Society?

Contact:

DEBRA FAUBLE

540-869-4005

540-247-6843 c

dlf021656@gmail.com

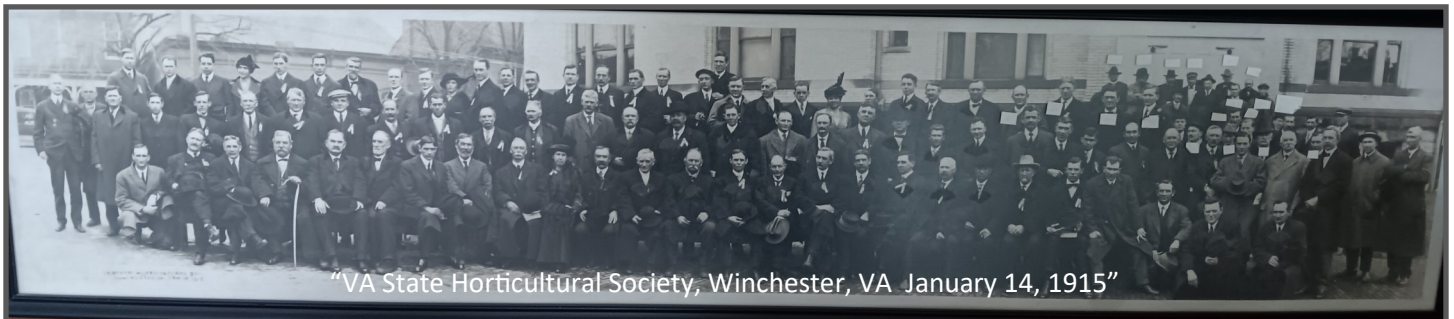
or

BARBY FRANKENBERRY

304-229-3110

304-261-1696 c

bfrankenberry@aol.com



2024 Mid-Atlantic Fruit & Vegetable Convention

January 30th to February 1st 2024

The 2023 Mid-Atlantic Convention was a big success and we are now planning for an even better 2024 Convention!

An estimated 2,250 persons attended the 2023 edition of the Mid-Atlantic Convention January 31 to February 2 at the Hershey Lodge in Hershey, Pennsylvania. Over 160 companies were represented in the trade show which was sold-out with a waiting list of exhibitors anxious to get into the show.

A series of pre-convention workshops and a bus tour on January 30 drew over 250 participants with the bus tour being sold out. After a virtual convention in 2021 due to the pandemic and a successful but slightly smaller in-person convention in 2022, the Convention Committee is pleased with the increased attendance at the 2023 Convention.

Various committees are planning for the 2024 Mid-Atlantic Convention with the goal of building on the 47-year history of a premier grower educational event.

Mark your calendar now for January 30 to February 1st, 2024 in Hershey, PA.

2023-2024 MEMBERSHIP DUES FORM

NAME _____

FARM or BUSINESS NAME _____

Assoc/Emp/Family Member Name(s) _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY, STATE, ZIP _____

EMAIL(s) _____ PHONE(o) _____ (c) _____

Associate Email/Phone _____

Membership Categories & Dues:

- A. Virginia Tree Fruit Grower (Owner or Operator) \$35.00 \$ _____
 Plus \$.50/acre, Number of acres _____ x \$.50 = \$ _____
 - Grower Associate Members (Employee/Spouse/Family of Growers) \$35.00 \$ _____
- B. Other Crops \$50.00 \$ _____
- C. Commercial Member (Business or Firm related to the industry) \$75.00 \$ _____
 - Commercial Associate Members (Employees of Commercial Members) \$35.00 \$ _____
- D. Out of State (ST) _____ or Student Members \$35.00 \$ _____
- E. Professional/Subscription (Extension & Associated Personnel, Consultants, etc.) \$35.00 \$ _____

If you wish to donate beyond your dues your generosity would be greatly appreciated!

RESEARCH \$ _____

VSH SOCIETY \$ _____

Annual Subscriptions:

Good Fruit Grower Annual Subscription \$25.00 \$ _____

Fruit Grower News Annual Subscription \$15.50 \$ _____

paypal.me/vshsociety

[Pay Member Dues](#)

TOTAL ENCLOSED\$ _____

Mail your check payable to Virginia State Horticultural Society to the address above.



Scan the QR Code or click the link below to see the 2022 Virginia Cider Apple Report. Definitely worth the read, summary information on the Cider Industry as well as statistic on various varieties and quantities of Virginia Apples used to produce cider. [2022 Va Cider Apple Report](#)



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Festivals, Pick Your Own, Orchard Tours, Good Ole Fashion Family Fun!

Let us help you promote your event! Post the information on our website by clicking

this link [Click Here](#) [Upcoming Events](#)



2023 VSHS SPONSORS

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