

MARCH/APRIL 2024

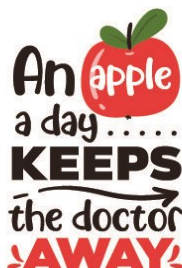


CHECK THIS OUT!



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"Agriculture is our wisest pursuit, because it will in the end contribute most to real wealth, good morals & happiness."



Spring is just around the corner. The apple blossoms will soon grace us with the promise of fall fruit. As we move into a new growing season please be sure to use the various links and information contained in this newsletter to help nurture your crops.



Thank you to everyone who made this year's Annual Meeting and the MAFVC in Hershey a success! I appreciate all of your support.

Wishing everyone a bountiful growing season in 2024.

Blessings,
Laura Wiley

vshsociety@gmail.com

PO Box 2445, Winchester, VA 22604, 540.667.9101



A mountain farmer lays apples out to dry on the roof of his cabin in Nicholson Hollow near Old Rag Mountain in Madison County, 1935.



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Instagram

[@vshsociety](https://www.instagram.com/vshsociety)



www.virginiaapples.net/vshs



TICKET PRICE

\$35

WHEN

Friday, May 3 | 10:30 am - 1:00 pm

WHERE

Millwood Station Event Center
252 Costello Drive
Winchester, VA 22602

[CALL 540-662-3409 FOR TICKETS](tel:540-662-3409)

Proceeds from this event provide scholarships for students preparing for careers in an agricultural field.

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

BARBY FRANKENBERRY

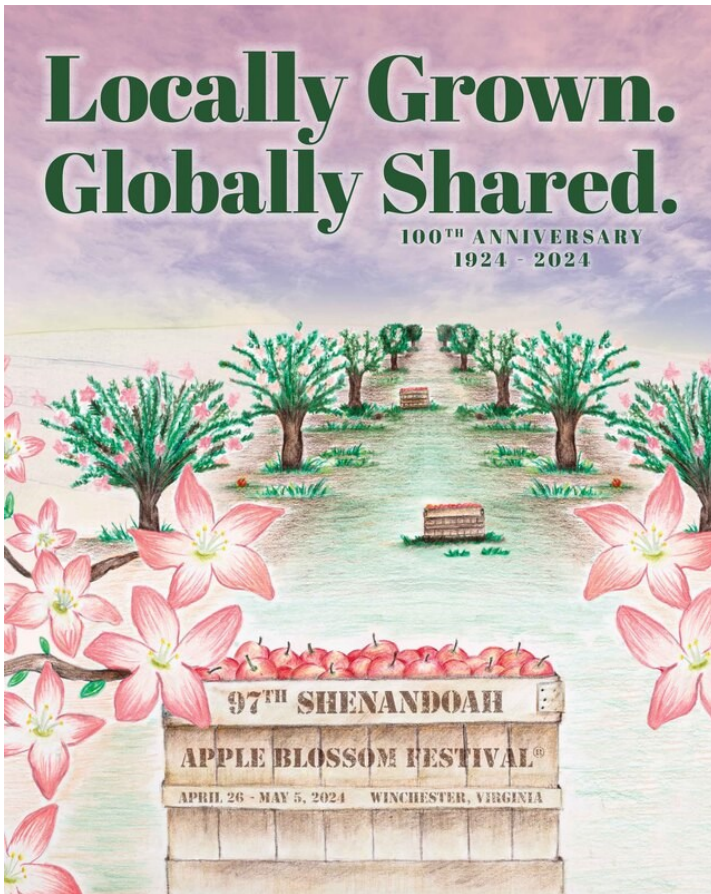
304-229-3110

OR 304-261-1696 c

bfrankenberry@aol.com

This year's keynote speaker is **Kara Dixon**, Deputy Director of Video Production for the Senate Democratic Media Center for the US Senate in Washington, D.C. She grew up in Winchester, Virginia and is a proud graduate of John Handley High School, where she was student government vice president and a member of the state record breaking 4x400 meter track and field relay team.

Kara is also a graduate of the University of Maryland's Philip Merrill College of Journalism. At UMD, she participated in the CBC-UNC Diversity Fellowship Program led by UNC and WRAL. **Full Press Release**



Winchester, VA – “This year’s theme is a reminder of our beginning 100 years ago – what got us started was a celebration of our apple industry and the beauty of the spring blossoms. And since that first Festival in 1924, we have continued to host a fun and happy time in the Shenandoah Valley that combines our history and traditions with a celebration of who we have become both locally and around the world. Make plans to join us for the 97th Shenandoah Apple Blossom Festival® on **April 26 to May 5, 2024.**



www.thebloom.com

Apple Blossom Fun Facts

Not only do the blossoms turn into apples, but the blossoms can be eaten themselves! It turns out, they are high in antioxidants and have a sweet flavor to them. When made into a tea you can experience benefits like clear complexion, better digestion and stress relief. In addition, they can make a great whiskey, jelly and are wonderful paired with other edible flowers as a garnish. Like anything, they should be eaten in moderation.

The apple blossom is a member of the rose family.

Most apple blossoms are known for their white and pink color. But how pink they turn actually depends on the apple variety.



According to the survey, the total number of apples in storage on February 1, 2024, was 137 million bushels, 33 percent more than last February's total of 103 million bushels and 23 percent more than the 5-year average for that date.

Please select the following link for the latest edition of [USAppleTracker: February 2024](#)
The tables in Excel format can be accessed here: [February 2024 – Tables](#)

Fresh apple holdings this February totaled 98 million bushels, 36 percent more than the inventories reported for last February. Processing holdings totaled 39 million bushels, 26 percent more than last year on February 1.

This report captures more than 95% of the national storage capacity. We thank all the participants and welcome your suggestions and comments about how to improve it. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me at any time.

Christopher Gerlach
Director, Industry Analytics

USApple kicked off Core Health - a social media campaign promoting the health benefits of eating apples.

Over the next eight weeks, they will post every Friday highlighting a new health benefit with a short, fun, shareable video.

They focus on nutritional aspects that are of great interest to consumers - like cancer prevention, boosting brain health, and fighting depression.

Please repost and engage with USApple's channels, or post the videos directly to your own channels. You can find the video files and copy material for your customization in our [toolkit](#). Add your voice to this campaign, every bit helps to boost consumption!

USApple social media:

[Instagram](#)

[LinkedIn](#)

[X \(Twitter\)](#)

[Facebook](#)





Join our industry's leaders **Tuesday, March 19** on Hill to meet with legislative offices and advocate for policies that strengthen the apple industry. If you think government policies are impacting your business, here's your chance to do something about it. [Click here to Register](#)



Letter to Congress on the Importance of Ag Trade

USApple joined 19 other food and agriculture associations in [writing to Congress](#) about the concerning deterioration of U.S. food and agriculture strength in the global economy. The USDA predicts a \$30.5 billion agricultural trade deficit in FY2024. The letter urges collaboration with the current and future Administrations to prioritize specific steps the United States can take to open new markets to benefit all farmers and U.S. workers.



The new USDA Ag Census data was released on February 13, 2024.

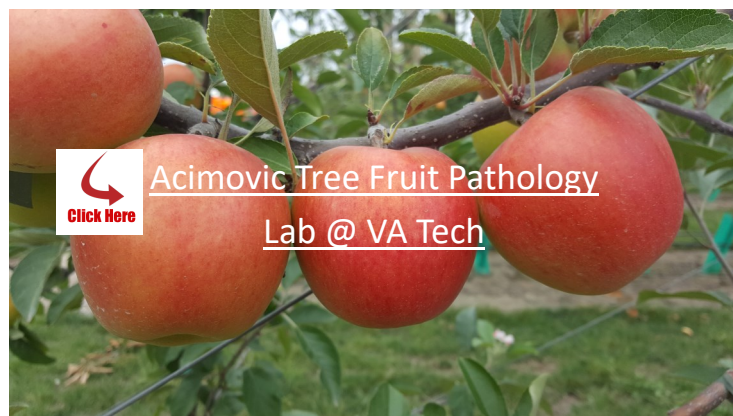
Virginia has gone from 43,225 farms to 38,995 farms in five years.

More info will be published as we digest these numbers. If you want to take a deep dive, here's the source: <https://www.nass.usda.gov/AgCensus/>

The Virginia Report is almost 900 pages long. If you want numbers, here are the numbers: https://www.nass.usda.gov/.../Volume_1.../Virginia/vav1.pdf

For a broader perspective, see this report: <https://www.onthefarmradio.com/.../which-states-in-the...>
From [Virginia Farming Media](#)

If you are not already subscribed to Dr. Srdjan Acimovic's Lab, the Assistant Professor of Plant Pathology (PI) at the Alson H. Smith Jr. Agricultural Research and Extension Center, Virginia Tech Winchester. Click the link in the photograph above and do so today!. You will receive up to date reports from Dr. Acimovic on Tree Fruit Pathology in real time.



We have published a new blog article on our website : 20 Feb Webinar on Using RIMpro Apple Scab, Fire Blight and Peach Brown Rot Prediction Models to Help Your Spray Decisions in Climate Change Challenging Conditions



Below are links to the February 20th Webinar from Srdjan Acimovic

1. Video link of a webinar:

<https://youtu.be/1oSsZmUtsHs>



2. Presentation slides:

[Scab Erwinia RIMpro Webinar Slides for sharing](#)



3. Further reading on RIMpro:

S. G. Aćimović, A. E. Wallis, M. R. Basedow (2018): [Two Years of Experience with RIMpro Apple Scab Prediction Model on Commercial Apple Farms in Eastern New York](#). *Fruit Quarterly*, Winter issue, Vol 26 (4), pg. 21-27.



Author: [acimovic](#)

Filed Under: [2024 Growing Season](#)

EPA Endangered Species Protection Program—See Page 7 for more details

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) [Endangered Species Protection Program](#) is designed to determine whether pesticide use in a certain geographic area may affect any listed species. If limitations on pesticide use are necessary to protect listed species in that area, the information is relayed through Endangered Species Protection Bulletins. In Virginia, the program is administered by the [VDACS Office of Pesticide Services](#).

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>

EPA Endangered Species Protection Program

How to Comply

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) [Endangered Species Protection Program](#) is designed to determine whether pesticide use in a certain geographic area may affect any listed species. If limitations on pesticide use are necessary to protect listed species in that area, the information is relayed through Endangered Species Protection Bulletins. In Virginia, the program is administered by the [VDACS Office of Pesticide Services](#).

Pesticide Label instructions example:

Endangered Species Requirements – Before using this product, you must obtain any applicable Endangered Species Protection Bulletins (Bulletins) within six months prior to or on the day of application. To obtain Bulletins, go to Bulletins Live! Two (BLT) at <https://www.epa.gov/pesticides/bulletins>. When using this product, you must follow all directions and restrictions contained in any applicable Bulletin(s) for the area where you are applying the product, including any restrictions on application timing if applicable. It is a violation of Federal law to use this product in a manner inconsistent with its labeling, including this labeling instruction to follow all directions and restrictions contained in any applicable Bulletin(s). For general questions or technical help, call 1-844-447-3813, or email ESPP@epa.gov

Using and Understanding Bulletins Live! Two:

On November 9, 2023, EPA offered "Understanding Bulletins Live! Two: An Overview of The System," a webinar intended for state and tribal pesticide regulatory agencies, pesticide applicators, farmers, and others including academia and nongovernmental organizations. The webinar provided an overview of the Bulletins Live! Two web application, which is used to map Pesticide Use Limitation Areas (PULAs) for the protection of threatened and endangered (i.e., listed) species and their designated critical habitat. The presentation covered web mapping of endangered species, when EPA creates Bulletins, the significance of a PULA versus a Bulletin versus a species range, how to get started by reading the pesticide label, a demo of the Bulletins Live! Two application, and frequently asked questions. Presenters included Brian Anderson (Associate Director of EPA's Environmental Fate and Effects Division), Amy Adams and Stephen Muela (BLT System Administrators and mapping scientists in EPA's Environmental Fate and Effects Division).

<https://www.epa.gov/endangered-species/materials-november-2023-bulletins-live-two-webinar>

[View webinar presentation slides \(pdf\) \(2.1 MB\)](#)

Summary

- Follow the labeling instructions
- **6-months ahead of application**, As directed by the product label (to be certain, check the website even if your label does not direct you to do so), visit the Bulletins Live! Two website to check for any Bulletins for your application site and month <https://www.epa.gov/endangered-species/bulletins-live-two-view-bulletins>
- Save a copy of the Bulletin for your records
- If your application location changes or the application timing is to occur later than the intended application month that you originally checked, check BLT again
- Contact your VCE agent with any questions you may have. They are all required to have our Commercial Pesticide Applicator Cat10 research and demo license to offer this type of pesticide legal and safety guidance and teaching.

Helpful links:

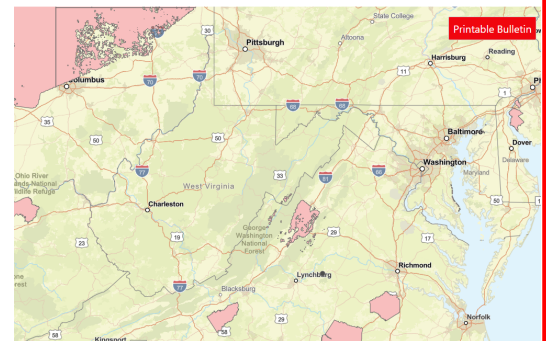
<https://www.vdacs.virginia.gov/pesticides.shtml>

<https://www.vdacs.virginia.gov/plant-industry-services-endangered-species.shtml>

<https://www.epa.gov/endangered-species/bulletins-live-two-view-bulletins>

Rutherford, Ryan (VDACS) Ryan.Rutherford@vdacs.virginia.gov is our local pesticide investigator

February 2024 Virginia PULAs





**United States
Department of
Agriculture**

The USDA's Risk Management Agency is sharing a new resource with their stakeholders to better support small scale farmers, the Whole/Micro Farm Agent List.

Risk Management Agency

[CLICK HERE](#) to view the list and find additional resources or follow the links below to view the list in PDF or Excel format:

[Whole Farm Micro Farm Agent List - Excel](#)
[Whole Farm Micro Farm Agent List - PDF](#)



Hopefully you will find this list of crop insurance agents specializing in selling Whole Farm Revenue Protection and Micro Farm policies helpful, and share it with your membership. To see the many other ways that RMA is working to make their programs more equitable and accessible [CLICK HERE](#).

If you have any question about this list or the Whole-Farm Revenue Protection program please let us know. Thank you for your continued leadership to support all of America's farmers. Luis.CardenasCamacho@usda.gov



**VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT
OF AGRICULTURE AND
CONSUMER SERVICES**

A message from VDACS

2024 Virginia Food & Beverage Expo

Sponsored by the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (VDACS), the Virginia Food and Beverage Expo connects industry buyers with Virginia specialty food and beverage products. The trade event takes place once every two years to promote Virginia products and advance economic development.

The Expo, established in 1992, is now the largest marketplace devoted exclusively to specialty foods and beverages in Virginia. VDACS promotes the economic growth and development of Virginia agriculture, provides consumer protection and encourages environmental stewardship. Today's trade event is one of the largest gatherings of Virginia's Finest® products under one roof. Virginia's Finest® celebrated its 34th anniversary in 2023 and continues to lead Virginia's specialty crafted food and drink industry into the new decade.

Over the years, industry partners have come to rely heavily on the Expo to showcase the Best of the Best of Virginia products, including meats, cheeses, soups, seafood, peanuts, pasta, breads, baked goods, sauces, chocolates, condiments, dressings, beverages, Virginia craft beverages, mixers, wine, coffee, tea, artesian water and more. The Virginia Food and Beverage Expo consistently showcases the amazing Virginia companies that produce products pleasing to the palate of even the most selective connoisseurs.

Discover the newest trends and best products, make key business connections, network with industry leaders, and take a look at what the future holds for Virginia specialty food!

For more information regarding the Expo contact info@vafoodbeverageexpo.com.



[REGISTER TODAY!](#)

Many Thanks to Saunders Brothers (Tree Nursery)
for being a 2024 Annual Meeting Sponsor!



Virginia State Horticultural Society
Annual Breakfast Meeting Sponsor

info@saundersbrothers.com

[\(800\) 307-2127](tel:(800)307-2127)



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[FRUIT TREE NURSERY](#)

Thank You for Your Continued Support!

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Virginia State Horticultural Society
Annual Breakfast Meeting Sponsor



Thank you for your
continued support

Virginia State Horticultural Society

P.O. Box 2445
Winchester, VA 22604

ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES February 1, 2024 @ 7:30am; Hershey, PA

The 123rd annual membership meeting of the Virginia State Horticultural Society was held on Thursday, February 1, 2024, at the Hershey Lodge, Hershey, PA. Vice President, Bill Sharp presiding. There were approximately seventy in attendance at the meeting. The meeting was called to order by Vice President, Bill Sharp.

A motion was made by Diane Kearns to dispense with reading of 2023 Annual Meeting Minutes 2nd by Daniel Beatty motion passed.

President Greta Liskey remarks were read by Laura Wiley

VA Apple Research Committee report was given by Jim Robinson, Chair. 2022 income was \$28,809 expenses were 24,719 leaving a fund balance of \$62,908. In 2023 income was \$25,258 expenses were 38,473 leaving a fund balance of \$49,963 at 1-25-2024. Three research grants were approved in 2023 totaling 38,373. In 2024, VARP recommended 8 topics for researchers to consider. The next VARP committee meeting will be held February 19, 2024, to review 2024 grant requests.

VA Apple Board report was given by Marshall Saunders, Chair. The Board voted to disburse 2023 apple tax as done in previous years, 20% to VARP, 20% to VSHS, 40% to US Apple and 10% for VDACS administration including cost to manage Virginia Apple website. VSHS was granted \$5,000 to update the educational apple variety poster and will be asking members for feedback on which Virginia Apple varieties to highlight. Website traffic doubled in 2023. Financials reports were reviewed and approved. The meeting was scheduled for next year.

Vice President Bill Sharp present the election of new directors. A motion was made by Phil Glaize to elect District 1, Greta Liskey; District 2: Jaime Williams and District 3, H. Henry (10th) Chiles to each serve a 3-year director term, seconded by Daniel Beatty, motion passed.

Vice President Bill Sharp introduced and thanked all annual meeting sponsors.

The speakers for our program were:

- Phoenix Labor Consultants – Tim Welsh
- Telamon Corporation - Sieger Bokschooten
- Virginia Employment Commission - Jesus Diaz & Cindy Webb
- US Apple Team Jim Bair, President & CEO
 - Jessa Allen, VP, Membership & Events
 - Diane Kurrle, Sr Vice President
 - Chris Gerlach, Director, Industry Analytics
 - Mitchell Liwanag, Manager, Association Services
 - Lynsee Gibbons, Director of Communications

Being no other business, motion was made by Jim Robinson to adjourn meeting at 8:45 am, 2nd by Daniel Beatty, motion passed.

Respectfully Submitted by Laura Wiley, Executive Secretary.

CHECK OUT THESE...

OLD, VIRGINIA APPLES



Virginia Beauty
Dublin, Pulaski
County, VA
1906



Willow
Rosslyn, Arlington
County, VA
1917



Virginia Greening
Richmond, VA
1903



Stayman Winesap
Richmond, VA
1906



Yellow Newtown
*Also known as Albemarle
Pippin*
Charlottesville, VA
1904



Winter John
Rosslyn, Arlington
County, VA



Mason Stranger
Blacksburg, Montgomery
County, VA
1897



Hoover
Fairfax, VA
1912

For more awesome apples visit the USDA Pomological Watercolor Archive: usdawatercolors.nal.usda.gov

U.S. Department of Agriculture Pomological Watercolor Collection. Rare and Special Collections, National Agricultural Library, Beltsville, MD 20705

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www.ext.vt.edu



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](#)



VSHS

OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

Greta Liskey, President
 Bill Sharp, Vice President
 Laura Wiley, Executive Secretary

DISTRICT ONE

Greta Liskey
 Diane Kearns

DISTRICT TWO

Jaime Williams
 Bill Sharp

DISTRICT THREE

Ruth Flippin Saunders
 H. Henry Chiles

TBD, Director-at-Large



*Let us help you promote your
 Upcoming Events*



[Click this Link to the Virginia Apple Website Events Page](#)

Virginia State Horticultural Society

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 HELENA AGRI-ENTERPRISES
 VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
 & CONSUMER SERVICES (VDACS)

HORIZON FARM CREDIT
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