



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.

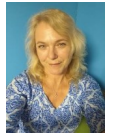
A series of pre-convention workshops and a bus tour on January 30 drew over 250 participants with the bus tour being sold out. After a virtual convention in 2021 due to the pandemic and a successful but slightly smaller in-person convention in 2022, the Convention Committee is pleased with the increased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

CHECK THIS OUT!

- USApple News.....Page 2
- Meet our Founder.....Page 3
- Tree Fruit Basics.....Page 4
- Women’s Auxiliary NewsPage 5
- 2023-2024 Membership Dues Form.....Page 6
- VCE Survey, Event Posting & WPS InfoPage 7



As we move to the end of another fiscal year it is time to revise and

send our member directory. It is not too late to pay your 2022-23 dues, I will send a note to all who have not paid prior to printing the updated directory. Directories will be mailed in July along with the 2023-24 Membership forms. We are adding the option to use PayPal for payments, the link will be posted on our webpage www.virginiaapples.net/vshs

Blessings,
Laura Wiley

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U.S. Apples Regain Access to India

India's tariffs on U.S. apple exports to be lifted within 90 days

USApple is thrilled with [today's announcement](#) that India will lift its retaliatory tariffs on U.S. apples. We applaud the work of the Biden Administration and the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative that achieved this important victory.

USApple was an invited guest of the White House at the arrival ceremony for India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi today. "We were honored to be part of this important day for U.S.-India relations," said USApple President and CEO, Jim Bair.

With today's announcement, India will remove its retaliatory tariffs within 90 days. USApple's Board of Directors met with White House staff in March and advocated for this resolution.

"U.S. apple growers can now begin the work of competing for, and hopefully regaining, this critical market," said Bair. "We look forward to once again shipping great apples to this valued trading partner."

Prior to the U.S. imposing tariffs on steel and aluminum from India in 2018, the country was the number two market for U.S. apples – and quickly growing. When India retaliated by bringing total tariffs on U.S. apples to 70 percent, sales fell to nearly zero, costing U.S. growers half a billion dollars in sales.

USApple Tracker Readers and Storage Survey Participants

Please select the following link for the latest edition of USApple Tracker:

 [June 2023](#)
Click Here



The tables in Excel format can be accessed here:

 [June 2023 – Tables](#)
Click Here

According to the survey, the total number of apples in storage on June 1, 2023, was 42.1 million bushels, 5.3 percent less than last June's total of 44.4 million bushels and 1.7 percent less the 5-year average for that date.

Fresh apple holdings this June totaled 29.4 million bushels, 8.6 percent less than the inventories reported for last June. Processing holdings totaled 12.7 million bushels, 3.4 percent less than last year on June 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



Virginia State Horticultural Society

Established in 1897 by:

William Bradford Alwood (1859 - 1946)



William Bradford Alwood founded the Virginia State Horticultural Society in 1897 to organize efforts to save the Virginia tree fruit industry from an invasive, destructive insect species. The society continues to be a force in the industry today.

William Bradford Alwood began working at Virginia Tech, then Virginia Agricultural and Mechanical College, in 1888, as the university's first entomologist, and served as the director of the Department of Horticulture, Entomology and Mycology. The department divided into two new departments in 1902, with Alwood directing the Department of Entomology and Mycology. Professor Alwood wrote over 60 publications on pest management during his 16-year tenure at Virginia Tech University. Alwood left the university in 1904. Virginia Tech honored Alwood with a Certificate of Merit in 1923.

After leaving Virginia Tech, Alwood moved to Charlottesville where he established an entomological laboratory that was later incorporated into the U.S. Department of Agriculture Bureau of Chemistry; he became its chief of entomological investigations.

Professor Alwood's international status as a researcher brought recognition to the new and developing Virginia Tech. The French government recognized Alwood by for his viticulture leadership by awarding him the prestigious Merite Agricole medal in 1907.

Alwood left several other important legacies at Virginia Tech: He was integral in establishing the Virginia Agricultural Experiment Station, and in 1927, he donated his vast personal library on horticulture, entomology, etc., to Virginia Tech — a collection still being used today.

Around 1895, Alwood planted bur oak acorns from Ohio, his birthplace, in the Agricultural Experiment Station greenhouse and later outside the station. Six of these trees survive. To honor Alwood, the Virginia Tech Board of Visitors dedicated one of these trees in his name in October 2011, and dedicated a permanent monument in the surrounding area "Alwood Plaza." Additionally, the Board of Visitors awarded a citation of recognition to the Alwood family. The Alwood Oak was originally denoted "Tree #66 -- Bur Oak" in Alwood's inventory of campus trees. The Alwood Oak is the only surviving specimen of the documentation Alwood created on the campus's arboretum. The oak measured 177 inches in circumference and 85 feet tall, with a 123-foot crown as of 2010. It is one of the largest bur oaks in the state of Virginia.

Professor Alwood was an early pioneer of pest management and fruit culture. He is credited with laying the foundation for the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences and for developing the horticulture and pest management disciplines. Because of his efforts, Virginia Tech students are able to study horticulture, plant pathology, and entomology, with thousands of students pursuing degrees.

Former Virginia Tech President Julian Burruss once noted that Professor Alwood should forever be remembered for what he did to assist the university in its early days. He is regarded as one of the university's greatest scientists.

We are grateful for his founding of the Virginia State Horticultural Society.





Tree Fruit Basics: Apples



Tuesday August 8, 5:30-
7:00 PM
2685 Dickie Road,
Roseland VA

Join us for a free class on
growing your own apples,
taught by the
professionals!

Call 434 263 7180 or email lmacrae@vt.edu to register

VIRGINIA COOPERATIVE EXTENSION IS A PARTNERSHIP OF VIRGINIA TECH, VIRGINIA STATE UNIVERSITY, THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS. ITS PROGRAMS AND EMPLOYMENT ARE OPEN TO ALL, REGARDLESS OF AGE, COLOR, DISABILITY, GENDER, GENDER IDENTITY, GENDER EXPRESSION, NATIONAL ORIGIN, POLITICAL AFFILIATION, RACE, RELIGION, SEXUAL ORIENTATION, GENETIC INFORMATION, MILITARY STATUS, OR ANY OTHER BASIS PROTECTED BY LAW.

IF YOU ARE A PERSON WITH A DISABILITY AND DESIRE ASSISTANCE OR ACCOMMODATION, PLEASE NOTIFY LUCINDA MACRAE, NELSON COUNTY VCE AT (434-263-7180/TDD*) DURING BUSINESS HOURS OF 8 A.M. AND 5 P.M. *TDD NUMBER IS (800) 828-1120.

We're continuing our Tree Fruit Basics Series with apples! New growers and backyard tree fruit enthusiasts, this is perfect for you!

On Tuesday, August 8, 2023, from 5:30 pm to 7 pm, we'll be at Dickie Brothers Orchard in Roseland, VA. This tree fruit basics class will cover everything you need to know about growing your own apples. Topics include site selection, cultivar selection, pruning, pest and disease management, and harvest. Whether you already have a tree or you're thinking about planting apples, this is the class for you!

Taught by Dickie Brothers Orchard's very own John Bruguiere and your local tree fruit Extension Agent, Grace Monger. **Register here:** <https://forms.gle/fshPKR2YLzRerJDL8> or by calling/emailing the Nelson County VCE office at 434-263-7180 lmacrae@vt.edu

Tree Fruit Basics is an educational, workshop-style series organized by Nelson County VCE and hosted by local tree fruit producers. Dress appropriately for the weather as we will be outdoors and an educational walking tour is part of our program.

Looking forward to seeing you there!

Grace Monger

Associate Agriculture/Natural Resources Extension Agent, Nelson County
8445 Thomas Nelson Highway | Lovingson, VA 22949
Office: (434) 263- 7183 | <https://nelson.ext.vt.edu/>



LIVE LOVE BLOOM

The 73rd Ladies' Luncheon for the Shenandoah Apple Blossom Festival was held on Friday, May 5, 2023 at the Millwood Station Event Center. It was a beautiful event with 275 in attendance.

The room was full of pink and green and beautifully decorated. Bonnie Sine, President of the Ladies Auxiliary presided over the event. She and Hope Brim co-chairs of the event did a wonderful job in organizing the event. The Flower and Decorating Committee headed by Logan Arnold did a great job transforming the room into a sea of pink and green. The tables were lovely. Every one in attendance received a Table Favor bag put together by Penny Foltz and her committee with the help of BSA Troop 107. Betsy Sibert and Tootie Rinker did a fantastic job on the program book. Sherry Jenkins and here committee greeted our guests with smiles and helped everyone get to there seats with ease. Debbie Fauble and her committee selected a fabulous lunch of Chicken Salad on lettuce, Croissant, Ranch Potato Salad, Spring Salad, Fruit Medley and Apple Delight along with water, tea, and lemonade. It was delicious and enjoyed by all in attendance. Betsy Sibert and Linda Edwards gathered over 60 exciting door prizes to be handed out to some lucky winners at the luncheon.



We would like to thank the FFA Chapters of James Wood Middle School, Frederick Co. Middle School, Admiral Byrd Middle School and Aylor Middle School for providing escorts for the luncheon. These young ladies were magnificent and very helpful throughout the day. There schools should be very proud of these young ladies. Marsha Barley and Kathy Sutphin were chairpersons for this group.

We were very honored to have as our guest speaker, Elizabeth Lynch, Miss West Virginia and third runner-up to Miss America 2023. She is a native of Martinsburg, WV. A graduate of Delaware State University and West Virginia University with a Master of Science in Food and Nutritional Science. Through her year of service as Miss WV she has been promoting her social impact: Growing Up: "Growing Ag: Advocating for Agriculture". She wants everyone to understand where our food comes from and how it reaches our dining tables.

We also welcomed Queen Shenandoah Designate XCVI – Isabella Louise Astin and her four Maids of Honor. Also stopping by were Miss Virginia, Victoria Chuah, Miss Apple Blossom 2023, Amanda Short, Miss Virginia Association of Fairs 2023, Natalie Woodward, and Miss Apple Blossom Teen, Gracie Carter. Gracie joined us for lunch.

Special thanks to all who attended, a good time was had by all.

Linda Edwards



"Farmer Friday" by Elizabeth Lynch, Miss West Virginia 2022

"Farmer Friday" weekly broadcast has over 3,000 viewers and features agriculturists, legislators, and leaders in the agriculture industry. Check out Elizabeth on [Instagram](#), [Facebook](#), and watch her Farmer Friday Videos by clicking this YouTube link: [youtube.com](#)

#GrowingUpGrowingAg #FarmerFriday #thankafarmer

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 \$ _____

TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ _____

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

Cooperative Extension Seeks Input from Residents on Community Needs



Virginia Cooperative Extension (VCE) is conducting a needs assessment survey to better understand the needs and priorities of the communities it serves in the Northern Shenandoah Valley. The survey is open to all residents, whether or not they have used Extension's services.

The survey results will help VCE plan and prioritize programs and activities to meet the needs of the people in our localities. The survey is confidential and takes about 10 minutes to complete. Your feedback is important to us and will help us make informed decisions about how we allocate our resources.

The survey is available at your county Extension office. The Deadline is July 31st.

Follow this link to find your extension office:



[Virginia Cooperative Extension](#)

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>

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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  [Upcoming Events](#)



2023 VSHS SPONSORS

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