

VIRGINIA AGRICULTURE

Agriculture is Virginia's largest industry in the state with an economic impact of \$55 billion annually and provides more than \$57,000 jobs in the Commonwealth.

The industries of agriculture and forestry together have a total economic impact of \$70 billion annually and provides more than 400,000 jobs in the Commonwealth.

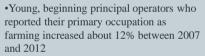
Every job in agriculture and forestry supports 1.5 jobs elsewhere in the Virginia economy.





Highlights of the 2012 Census of Agriculture

22% of all farmers were beginning farmers in 2012. That means 1 out of every 5 farmers operated a farm for less than 10 years.



•969,672 farm operators were **female** ~ **30%** of all farm operators in the U.S.







The number of farms operated by Latino farmers increased 21% from 2007 to 2012 and reflects the changing face of America as a whole

Nearly 150,000 farmers and ranchers nationwide are selling their products directly to consumers, and 50,000 are selling to local retailers. Industry estimates valued local food sales at \$7 billion in 2011, reflecting the growing new market









Agritourism: It's a Growing Thing

Farm-related entertainment enterprises blaze trails for economic development.

From 2007 to 2012, the number of U.S. farms engaging in some form of agritourism went up 42 percent, bringing in more than \$700 million, according to the latest Census of Agriculture.

Since 2007, the amount of money brought in by agritourism rose by 24 percent





The 2012 Census trends for Virginia

In 2012, the number of farms in Virginia totaled 46,036, down 3 percent (1,347 farms) from 47,383 farms in 2007



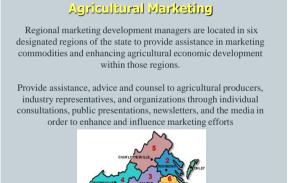
Land in farms, 8.3 million acres, was up 3 percent from 8.1 acres in 2007

The average size of farm in Virginia was 181 acres, compared to 171 acres in 2007

Market value of production sold was \$3.8 billion, up 29 percent from \$2.9 billion in 2007

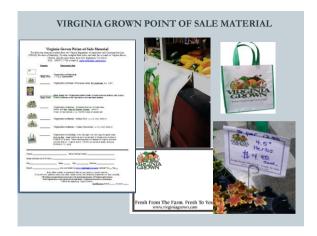
The average value of products sold per farm was \$81,540 compared to \$61,334 in 2007











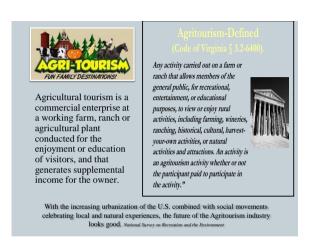














Agricultural Income, it is a Viable Option for the Long-Term Sustainability of the Farm.

Benefits beyond extra income include:

- •Increase in farm value
- •Increased family interaction
- Public education
- Connection between rural and urban communities

When considering agritourism consider:

- •Social skills and interacting with the public
- ·Maintaining privacy
- •Insurance and safety
- Animal welfare
- ·Labor and financial management
- ·Local planning and zoning requirements
- •Assessing the market
- •Location
- ·Marketing, social media



VINEYARD

Agritourism can boost farmers' revenue, Virginia Tech study finds

Defines Agritourism as a value-added activity that generates additional net farm income and creates a loyal consumer base for branded farm products.

Forty-two percent of operators surveyed stated that agritourism contributed between 76 and 100 percent of their farm income.

Almost all of the operations surveyed claimed that the average agritourism visitor spent between \$31 and \$40 on property per visit.



A record Viligens Text study forms to





Time to unlock a powerful business asset: YOU.

Many companies today offer similar products and use similar technology. Only your emotional connection to people, will differentiate your company and its product, lubricate your marketing channel, ignite the conversation engine in social medias, and call to your door ready-to-try-or-buy prospects.



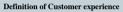


PEOPLE DON'T CARE HOW MUCH YOU KNOW... UNTIL THEY KNOW HOW MUCH YOU CARE

Source: Goodbuzz.ne

Memory Building Retailing in the Experience Economy

Stories Make Memories - Do Something UnexpectedThe easiest way to be memorable is to do something in an expected way. Dare to be different



Customer experience is about orchestrating memorable experiences; and it's the memory of these unique experiences that becomes the product or service you are selling.

Of critical importance is the takeaway feeling your customer has about you or your product.



PEOPLE DON'T CARE HOW MUCH YOU KNOW... UNTIL THEY KNOW HOW MUCH YOU CARE

Agritourism ~ A Natural Fi

 $\bf A$ farmer or rancher entrepreneur who diversifies into value-added agriculture or agritourism has several market opportunities.



- ${}^\bullet Food \sim \text{processing}, \text{packaging}, \text{branding}, \text{specialty farm}$ markets
- •Roots ~ heritage and culture
- $\textbf{•Agri-education} \sim \text{schools, retreats, conferences} \\$
- Experiences ~ farm stays, ranch stays, B&Bs pick-your-own
- •Agri-tainment ~ petting farm, mazes, hayrides
- •Nature-based adventure ~ horseback riding, rock climbing hunting, fishing



The Definition of Fun, Educational and Trendy

Ecotourism: Responsible travel pristine and protected areas to educate, provide funds for ecological conservation and foster respect for nature and different cultures.

Culinary tourism: Experiencing the food of the area; cuisine as an expression of culture. Wine and beer tourism. Culinary tourism and agritourism are inextricably linked, as the seeds of cuisine can be found in agriculture.

Art Tourism: Visiting a geographic region in order to visit, see and experience local art, art history, artists, craftsperson's and culture.



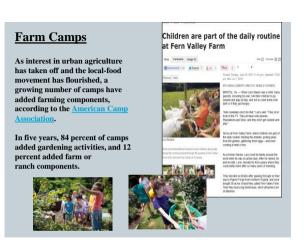








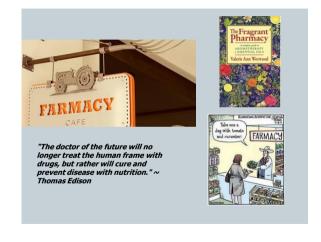






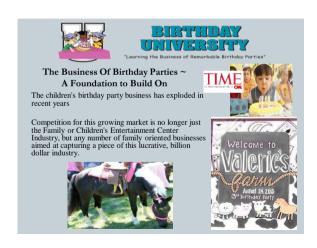


















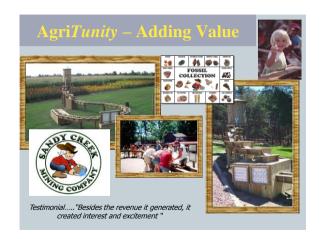




The payoff for their toil? A chance at romance.













FIELDS OF GOLD (FoG)

A regional agritourism initiative that seeks to promote the abundance of agricultural resources in the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia.

This region is characterized by an abundance of farms, wineries, orchards, farmer's markets, roadside stands, agriculture venues and agritourism businesses.

The program will collectively market the region's agritourism activities and sites to create a more coordinated tourism experience for the traveling public and to brand the region as an agritourism destination.

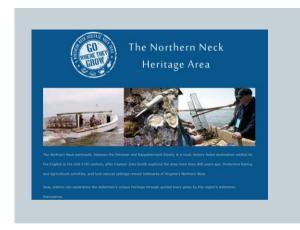


























Community Retailing

Community involvement is one of the most effective marketing tools a local retail business can develop to fight outside competition.

Retailing is changing and community based retailing with the right vision is a growth area.

Being local in business means being part of, and engaged with, the community.

Does your local consumers know you are local and what is your strategy to develop local community engagement?





Get out There ~ Forging Strong **Community Connections**

Start an online discussion group with shared



Explore your local community like a tourist

Ioin or start a meetup group



Sell your product or be a featured program at a local farmers market

Join the Chamber of Commerce, Rotary Club, Garden Clubs, or other community groups



Join or start a small business alliance

Identify and get to know local ancillary businesses

Community Marketing

- •Volunteer space for a local community promotion
- Provide talks to the local chamber of commerce group
- •Give talks to community groups
- ·Adopt a local project
- •Allow the sales team to get involved in a project for a set number of hours as part of their job
- •Gift a product that is not selling to local events as a marketing tool





Partnerships are about engaging with the local community, sponsorships are about donating

As a retailer you will get a better return on your investment by becoming a partner, plus, you will have lot more fun.



Homeschooling has grown by almost 300,000 since 2007 a growth of 17% in five years

Approximately 1,770,000 students are homeschooled in the United States—3.4% of the school-age population









