

Virginia Association for Biological Farming

ANNUAL IMPACT REPORT

The Virginia Association for Biological Farming (VABF) is dedicated to advancing sustainable agriculture through education, advocacy, and promotion of organic and biological growing practices that prioritize soil health, ecological balance, and the production of healthy food. We foster a diverse community of farmers, gardeners, homesteaders, researchers, educators, and supporters of local food systems through collaboration, peer to peer learning, and networking events.

2024 HIGHLIGHTS

FY April 1, 2024 – March 31, 2025

122 Farmers heard

Farmers, gardeners and advocates shared their needs and concerns with us through our regional Farmer Listening Sessions and direct advocacy calls. We're using this feedback to shape our programming and advocacy work.



"I attended the Farmer Listening Session this past week and it was invigorating and really cemented the need to have space for conversations and for storytelling about our regions farmers."

–Lisa Archer

Photo credit: Jay Kwellyn

289 Farmers helped

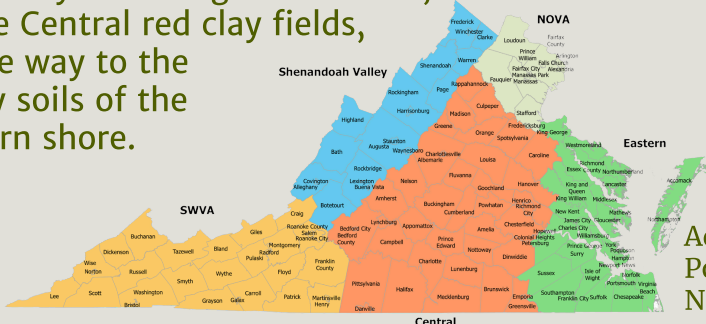
VABF community members received resources and training through 1-on-1 Technical Assistance programs and our in-person workshops.

"As a mentor in the Transition to Organic Partnership Program, I've had the opportunity to connect with a network of organic fruit growers, and while I'm guiding others, I'm also continually learning from them. I first heard about TOPP through VABF, which has been instrumental in helping me build relationships within the farming community and introducing me to valuable resources that I've been able to share with my mentees."

–Haley Coloso of Hobbit Hill Farm

Membership Highlights

VABF membership continues to grow year after year! Our community of farmers and supporters live in all regions of Virginia and we support farmers from the loamy Blue Ridge mountains, to the Central red clay fields, all the way to the sandy soils of the Eastern shore.



We are...

21% Gardeners

18% Vegetable Farmers

14% Livestock Farmers

13% Fruit Farmers

13% Flower & Herb Farmers

9% Homesteaders

7% Beekeepers

3% Urban Farmers

2% Dairy Farmers

Additionally, members include Educators, Researchers Policy Advocates, Students, Interns, Apprentices, and Non-Profit, Private & Government Organizations.



25th Annual Conference

Our 25th annual Virginia Biological Farming Conference was a resounding success, bringing together farmers, gardeners, advocates and experts from all over the country for a weekend of gathering, learning, connecting and networking about biological, organic, and sustainable agriculture.

- **470** Attendees
- **72** Sessions & workshops
- **7** Full Scholarships to Farmers by Donors & Sponsors
- **24** Youth & Teen Program Participants
- **23** Local Farms provided food for **2,070** meals

"...a wonderful event for connecting farmers, gardeners, homesteaders and local food advocates across the state to further the adoption and success of biological food production practices and techniques, and helps strengthen Virginia's food economy and vibrant ecology." –Mark Angelini, Mountain Run Permaculture

Photo credit: Daniel James @herd.ventures

Partnership Spotlight: Armed to Farm with NCAT

VABF assisted in coordinating farm tours for NCAT's Armed to Farm program. 40 Veterans were provided a hands-on learning experience on farms ranging from small, diversified vegetable to grass-fed beef and everything in between.

"All in all one of the best A2F trainings we've done." –Lee Rinehart, NCAT

Photo credit: The National Center for Appropriate Technology



LOOKING FORWARD

In 2025 we are expanding our reach across the state on the local level with our new Regional Ambassador program. We continue to host and support on-farm tours and workshops, 1-on-1 technical assistance programs, farmer listening sessions, networking events, and other opportunities for education and connection, both in-person and virtually. Join us as we continue to grow, expand and adapt in 2025.



VABF
Virginia Association for Biological Farming



Visit our website to sign up for our e-news, explore our events listings and updates, and to join us as a member!

vabf.org

@VABFarming

VABF's mission is to educate about, advocate for, and promote organic and biological farming and gardening.

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