

# Preserving Our Agricultural History

**F**rom the Jamestown landing to civil war battlefields, Virginia is an historically rich state and her agricultural history is no exception. Virginia's farm museums and living history museums tell a rich and full story of her past and present agricultural history. From colonial farming to goat milking; antique equipment to a hands-on farming experience for children, the options are endless in Virginia's agricultural museums.



Board members and volunteers of the Northern Neck Farm clean and restore a donated windmill.



## Northern Neck Farm Museum Is A Vision In Progress

When Luther Welch began collecting various farm implementations several years ago, it was basically on a whim.

"I was just collecting items that reminded me of my family's homestead and growing up on the farm," the 74 year old Lancaster county farmer said. "I didn't know this museum was going to come into being. I was just collecting things that I used from when I was a boy as young as 6 years old."

Since then Welch has amassed thousands of pieces ranging from jacks and saw blades to early-19th-century tractors and even a treadmill built for dogs to provide a little low-cost farm labor.

"You put a dog in there, he turns the belt and that in turn would be attached to a grinder or other small piece of equipment," Welch explained. "We'd put the dogs to work too, and we had bigger treaders for horses."

Welch's collection outgrew a standard room and is now housed in a 20,000 square foot barn.

Most of the tractors and other mechanized machinery are operable, as Welch not only acquired the pieces, but restored a great many of them. Each item has been tagged and inventoried.

The plan is for the museum to cover the agricultural history of the Northern Neck, from farming techniques and crops of the Rappahannock Indians, to the Colonial era, the plantation period through industrial and mechanized farming, when canneries flourished in the area.

There is no definite opening date for the museum. Thanks to volunteer help, a design for the building has been drafted; the next step is to begin construction. Ideally, the museum would be up and running by spring of 2008.

# Virginia Agricultural and Living History Museums

## **Belvedere Plantation**

1410 Belvedere Drive  
Fredericksburg, VA 22408  
Phone: (540) 371-8494  
Website: [www.belvedereplantation.com](http://www.belvedereplantation.com)

## **Blue Ridge Institute and Museum**

20 Museum Drive  
Ferrum, VA 24088  
Phone: (540) 365-4416  
Website: [www.blueridgeinstitute.org](http://www.blueridgeinstitute.org)

## **Children's Colonial Garden**

16 Loudoun Street  
Leesburg, VA 20175  
Phone: (703) 777-7427  
Website: [www.loudounmuseum.org](http://www.loudounmuseum.org)

## **Claude Moore Colonial Farm**

6310 Georgetown Pike  
McLean, VA 22101  
Phone: (703) 442-7557  
Website: [www.1771.org](http://www.1771.org)

## **Clinch Haven Farms**

2524 Clinch Haven Road  
Big Stone Gap, VA 24219  
Phone: (276) 523-3276  
Website: [www.clinchhavenfarms.com](http://www.clinchhavenfarms.com)

## **Cows-N-Corn**

5225 Catlett Road  
Midland, VA 22728  
Phone: (540) 439-4806  
Website: [www.cows-n-corn.com](http://www.cows-n-corn.com)

## **First Peanut Museum in U.S.A.**

Rt. 460 West  
Waverly, VA 23890  
Phone: (804) 834-2969

## **Frying Pan Farm Park**

2709 West Ox Road  
Herndon, VA 20171  
Phone: (703) 437-9101  
Website: [www.fairfaxcounty.gov](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov)

## **George Washington Birthplace National Monument**

1732 Popes Creek Road  
Colonial Beach, VA 22443  
Phone: (804) 224-1732

## **Graves Mountain Lodge**

Rt. 670  
Syria, VA 22743  
Phone: (540) 923-4231  
Website: [www.gravesmountain.com](http://www.gravesmountain.com)

## **Great Country Farms**

18780 Foggy Bottom Road  
Bluemont, VA 20135  
Phone: (540) 554-2073  
Website: [www.greatcountryfarms.com](http://www.greatcountryfarms.com)

## **Loudoun Heritage Farm Museum**

21668 Heritage Farm Lane  
Sterling, VA 20164  
Phone: (571) 258-3800  
Website: [www.heritagefarmmuseum.org](http://www.heritagefarmmuseum.org)

## **Matthews Living History Farm Museum**

476 White Pine Road  
Galax, VA 24333  
Phone: (276) 238-1217  
Website: [www.matthewsfarmmuseum.org](http://www.matthewsfarmmuseum.org)

## **McCormick's Farm and Workshop, Cyrus**

McCormick's Farm Circle  
Steeles Tavern, VA 24476  
Phone: (540) 377-2255

## **Meadow Farm Museum**

3400 Mountain Road  
Glen Allen, VA 23060  
Phone: (804) 501-5520  
Website: [www.co.henrico.va.us/rec](http://www.co.henrico.va.us/rec)

## **The Northern Neck Farm Museum**

P.O. Box 365  
Heathsville VA 22473  
Phone: (804) 333-1919 or  
(804) 761-1773

## **Swift Creek Berry Farm & Greenhouse**

17210 Genito Road  
Moseley, VA 23120  
Phone: (804) 739-2037  
Website: [www.swiftcreekberryfarm.com](http://www.swiftcreekberryfarm.com)

## **The Frontier Culture Museum of Virginia**

1290 Richmond Road  
Staunton VA 24401  
Phone (540) 332-7850  
Website: [www.frontiermuseum.org](http://www.frontiermuseum.org)

## **Tobacco Farm Life Museum of Virginia**

306 West Main Street  
South Hill, VA 23970  
Phone: (800) 524-4347  
Website: [www.southhillva.org](http://www.southhillva.org)



*For more Virginia  
farm museums visit  
[www.virginia.org](http://www.virginia.org)  
or  
[www.vdacs.virginia.gov/  
news/c-tourism.shtml](http://www.vdacs.virginia.gov/news/c-tourism.shtml)*