



February 2016



## New Member Newsletter!

A big thanks to all of you that voted on the new, more "farm-friendly" newsletter name! As you can see, the winner was "Fence Talk". We love it, too. You have probably already noticed we have changed the format in which we send you the newsletter. It is now in Constant Contact, versus being sent as a separate email attachment. We hope you find this to be a much more user-friendly way to enjoy the newsletter. In addition to that change, the newsletter will now go out bi-monthly versus quarterly.

Our mascot for this edition of "Fence Talk" is Apollo. Apollo is a Suri alpaca. He was born on August 13, 2015, and lives at Misty Mountains Alpacas in Rockbridge County, home of Ralph and Sandra Muraca. To find out more about Apollo (he has an incredible "survival" story and a special place in the hearts of his owners) or Misty Mountains Alpacas [click here](#).

To have your own "fence photo" featured in our newsletter, along with information about your agribusiness, email photos and information to [tracey@cspdc.org](mailto:tracey@cspdc.org).

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**Save the Date for our Member Event!**

# "Spring Jubilee"

## *A Fields of Gold Celebration*

*April 21, 2016*

Join us for our special member event, the Spring Jubilee, on April 21, 2016, at the beautiful Cross Keys Barn, from 5pm-8pm to celebrate another successful year on the Farm Trail! This is our way to thank you, our members, for your participation and your support of the program. There would be no Fields of Gold without you. As a team we are working to market and promote the Shenandoah Valley as the #1 agritourism destination in the country. We are proud to be the only trail of its kind in the state of Virginia. [Read More](#)



## Signature Events

### *2016 Agritourism in Virginia's New Economy Conference*

April 5-6, 2016  
Southern Virginia Higher Education Center  
South Boston, VA 24592

The Virginia Agritourism Conference is back for two days filled with fresh ideas on farm events and business planning.

On Tuesday afternoon, take one of the four agritourism tours, and on Wednesday, meet agritourism leaders, share your successes, and explore your challenges during the afternoon's Agritourism Showcase.

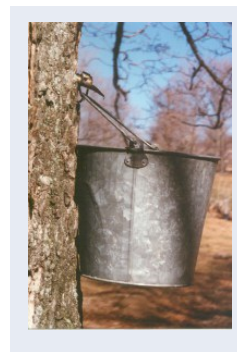
For more information about the event including on-line registration, [click here](#).

### *58th Annual Highland Maple Festival*

Find your sweet spot in Highland County! This year the Maple Festival will take place the weekends of March 12-13 and 19-20.

The Maple Festival has been an annual event in Highland County, Virginia, since 1958.

For more information on the festival [click here](#).



## Grow Your Agribusiness

### *Blue Ridge Community College, Continuing Education Series for Agribusinesses*

Their short courses are designed to enhance farm production and profitability. They cover topics ranging from marketing your agribusiness to

### *Agritourism World eNews*

Are you listed? Do you get their newsletter? Agritourism World is a FREE world-wide directory of farms, ranches, farmhouses, wineries, and other country businesses open to the public. Offers agritourism farms or destinations a free

financial management to learning more about sustainable agriculture.

For a full listing of available courses, [click here](#).



listing that is an easy two minute task. Let them promote your website and business at no cost to you! Check out the other Virginia listings in their directory by [clicking here](#).



## Fields of Gold Toolkit

*Fields of Gold Member Signage is Here!*

These signs will signal to guests and visitors to your agribusiness that you are a "Proud Member" of the Shenandoah Valley's Fields of Gold Farm Trail.

We are hoping that as more and more people start to see these signs around at various Fields of Gold Farm Trail businesses it will help to create more curiosity, knowledge and buzz about the program and assist in our branding efforts. We appreciate your willingness to display these, along with the brochures, at your place of business.

This signage can be used on windows, doors, counters and tables and can be taken with you to events where you have booths!



Weather-Proof Sticker and Table Stand

## Meet the Locals

*Bluestone Vineyard*



Curt, RJ, Jackie and Lee Hartman, 2015

Bluestone Vineyard is located in the heart of the beautiful Shenandoah Valley and is named after the "bluestone" (a type of limestone) that is a main component within the local soil. The Hartmans have established themselves as a Virginia Winery producing well-crafted boutique wines.

Bluestone Vineyard is a family owned and operated vineyard and winery, committed to crafting small-batch wines from locally sourced and estate grown fruit that showcase the very best in each varietal and each vintage.

"Buying a bottle of wine is not a cost, it is an investment. Drinking a bottle of wine is a cost." - Curt Hartman

For more information about the vineyard, [click here](#).



## What's Fresh?

*Meet one of our new members*

Hott Apiary, one of our newest and freshest members, offers



local raw honey, pollen, wax, comb, swarm removal, honeybee and queen sales. They can be found at 882 Bloomer Springs Road, McGaheysville, Virginia or by calling 540-383-3323. Check them out for all of your honey and bee needs!

**For More Information Contact:**

Tracey Coltrain, Agritourism Coordinator

[tracey@cspdc.org](mailto:tracey@cspdc.org)

540-885-5174

**Funding for this program provided by:**



United States Department of Agriculture



Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development



Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services



Virginia Tourism Corporation



To take advantage of more member information and benefits, explore the [Fields of Gold Member Portal](#)

**STAY CONNECTED**

