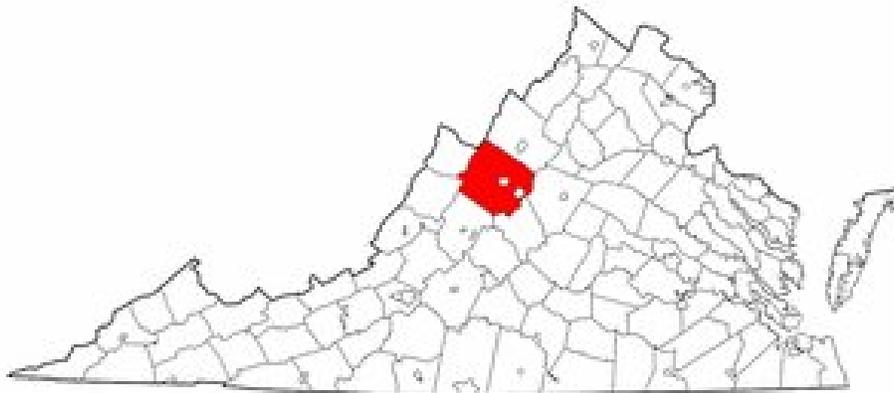




Situation Analysis Report



Augusta County

2013

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INTRODUCTION

The Augusta Unit of Virginia Cooperative Extension conducted a study of the current situation of Augusta County. The process started over a year ago, as new agents began a needs analysis of the county. Recently, a survey instrument was developed to acquire input from a wide range of key informants within the county, including community leaders and county department heads.

The surveys were evaluated along with agents' needs analyses, to determine the top issues in the county and the issues/needs on which Extension should focus.

These needs are reported in this document and will be used to prioritize Extension programming in the future.

Additionally, statistical data pertaining to Augusta County's social and economic profile were compiled and has been included in this analysis.

UNIT PROFILE

- Augusta County's population has increased moderately since 2007, the slope of projected population increase is in line with that of the state as a whole.
- Diversity of the population has changed very little. The census shows a relative increase in some minorities, but we believe that is due to a change in sampling or reporting rather than an actual change (due to the fact that the 2007 census reports zero individuals for those races).
- The age demographics have remained relatively static since 2007.
- The mean and median household income has gone down slightly since 2007, and continues to be less than that of the state or nation as a whole.
- The number of persons living in poverty is lower than that of the state, however, the number of children living in poverty has increased.
- Unemployment rate of around 5% is lower than the state and national average. Industry in Augusta County is currently growing, and will be offering many skilled and unskilled jobs in the immediate future.
- The number of occupied housing units has decreased while the number of vacant housing units has increased.
- The number of uninsured has increased since 2010, and is higher than state or national averages.
- Access to healthy food is within the range of state and national averages.

The survey can be found on the following page.

Agricultural statistics can found within the following section of data.

Augusta County Community Survey

The purpose of this survey is to gather information about issues in Augusta County. Please take a couple of minutes to share your opinions. The results of this survey will help in shaping Virginia Cooperative Extension programs in our county. The survey is completely anonymous.

1. What do you see as the 3 most important issues in Augusta County? Please tell us why you feel they are important and what you think might be done to address them.

2. Please rate the importance of the following issues in Augusta County.

	Very Important	Somewhat Important	Neither Important nor Unimportant	Somewhat Unimportant	Very Unimportant	No Opinion
<u>Agriculture</u>						
Local Foods – accessibility, community linkages	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
On-Farm Food Safety – minimizing contamination risk	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Profitability – marketing, production cost	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Sustainability – economic, environmental	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Other _____	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<u>Environment/Land Use</u>						
Environmental Quality – air, soil, water	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Land Use Planning – farmland preservation, green space	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Wildlife – hunting, nuisance, sustainability	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Other _____	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<u>Families and Communities</u>						
Aging Issues	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Financial Management (consumer issues, debt)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Food Safety	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Housing (buying, renting, indoor air quality, energy management)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Health and Nutrition	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Parenting	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Other _____	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<u>Youth Development</u>						
Activities	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Leadership Training	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Life skills/decision making	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Teen Involvement	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Other _____	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

3. Please add any additional information you would like to share.

4. How familiar are you with Virginia Cooperative Extension?

- Very familiar
- Familiar
- Somewhat familiar
- Not familiar at all

5. Have you ever participated in educational programs offered by Virginia Cooperative Extension?

- Yes
- No

Demographic Information (Optional)

Please tell us about yourself (the person completing the survey). These questions are optional.

What is your gender?

- Female
- Male

In which category is your current age?

- Under 18
- 18-29
- 30-39
- 40-49
- 50-59
- 60-64
- 65+

How many individuals reside in your home?

	0	1	2	3	4	5	6 or more
Adults (18 years and older)	<input type="checkbox"/>						
Children (17 years and younger)	<input type="checkbox"/>						

How many years have you lived in Augusta County/Staunton/Waynesboro?

- 0 - 3
- 4 - 6
- 7 - 10
- 11 - 15
- 16 - 25
- More than 25

Which category best describes your race?

- American Indian or Alaska Native
- Black or African American
- White
- Other _____
- Asian
- Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander
- More than One Race

Which category best describes your ethnicity?

- Hispanic or Latino
- Not Hispanic or Latino

What is your zip code? _____

Please return your survey to the Augusta County Extension Office, P.O. Box 590, Verona, VA 24482. Or emailed to mrboohar@vt.edu. Call 540-245-5750 for more information.

Demographic Summary

	2007 Augusta		2011 Augusta		2011 Virginia		2011 National	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total Population	69,522	100.0%	74,897	100.0%	8,015,502	100.0%	309,231,244	100.0%
Population by Age								
0-4	3,611	5.19%	3,753	5.01%	506,682	6.3%	20,153,302	6.5%
5-9	4,012	5.77%	4,101	5.48%	510,960	6.4%	20,330,929	6.6%
10-14	4,201	6.04%	4,584	6.12%	514,603	6.4%	20,674,598	6.7%
15-19	4,333	6.23%	4,971	6.64%	553,666	6.9%	21,996,593	7.1%
20-24	3,784	5.44%	4,226	5.64%	575,314	7.2%	21,727,353	7.0%
25-34	9,376	13.49%	8,539	11.40%	1,088,710	13.6%	41,140,692	13.3%
35-44	10,370	14.92%	9,548	12.75%	1,113,311	13.9%	41,133,976	13.3%
45-54	11,637	16.74%	12,082	16.13%	1,207,710	15.1%	44,830,605	14.5%
55-59	3,948	5.68%	5,576	7.44%	508,647	6.3%	19,680,965	6.4%
60-64	4,417	6.35%	5,322	7.11%	453,332	5.7%	17,072,816	5.5%
65-74	5,596	8.05%	6,958	9.29%	554,405	6.9%	21,859,086	7.1%
75-84	3,236	4.65%	3,881	5.18%	306,553	3.8%	13,105,684	4.2%
85+	1,001	1.44%	1,356	1.81%	121,609	1.5%	5,524,645	1.8%
Population by Sex								
Male	35,725	51.39%	38,597	51.53%	3,935,903	49.1%	152,046,577	49.2%
Female	33,797	48.61%	36,300	48.47%	4,079,599	50.9%	157,184,667	50.8%
Population by Race								
White	0	0.00%	68,646	91.65%	5,575,503	69.6%	229,339,928	74.2%
Black or African American	0	0.00%	3,226	4.31%	1,563,201	19.5%	38,826,443	12.6%
American Indian	0	0.00%	184	0.25%	25,822	0.3%	2,529,104	0.8%
Asian	0	0.00%	405	0.54%	443,169	5.5%	14,804,436	4.8%
Pacific Islander	0	0.00%	121	0.16%	5,059	0.1%	510,490	0.2%
Some other race	0	0.00%	1,506	2.01%	183,974	2.3%	14,945,745	4.8%
Two or More Races	0	0.00%	809	1.08%	218,774	2.7%	8,275,098	2.7%
Hispanic	1,562	2.25%	1,334	1.78%	482,719	6.0%	44,019,880	14.2%
Households by Income								
Total Households	27,595	100.0%	28,445	100.0%	2,996,312	100.0%	114,931,864	100.0%
<\$10,000	737	2.67%	1,759	6.18%	174,487	5.8%	8,529,677	7.4%
\$10,000-\$14,999	1,329	4.82%	1,382	4.86%	128,915	4.3%	6,472,374	5.6%
\$15,000-\$24,999	3,239	11.74%	3,131	11.01%	258,000	8.6%	12,655,735	11.0%
\$25,000-\$34,999	4,280	15.51%	3,301	11.60%	266,132	8.9%	12,136,499	10.6%
\$35,000-\$49,999	4,360	15.80%	4,826	16.97%	379,987	12.7%	15,964,063	13.9%
\$50,000-\$74,999	5,911	21.42%	6,277	22.07%	539,623	18.0%	20,987,130	18.3%
\$75,000-\$99,999	3,233	11.72%	3,601	12.66%	388,501	13.0%	13,829,482	12.0%
\$100,000-\$149,999	2,865	10.38%	3,152	11.08%	452,499	15.1%	14,188,747	12.3%
\$150,000-\$199,999	1,168	4.23%	651	2.29%	201,590	6.7%	5,214,111	4.5%
\$200,000+	473	1.71%	365	1.28%	206,578	6.9%	4,954,046	4.3%
Median household income	49,373	-	47,326	-	62,391	-	51,484	-
Mean household income	61,691	-	58,776	-	84,353	-	70,909	-
# of Housing Units								
Total	30,093	100.0%	31,664	100.0%	3,369,495	100.0%	131,826,591	100.0%
Occupied	27,595	91.7%	28,445	89.8%	2,996,312	88.9%	114,931,864	87.2%
Vacant	2,498	8.3%	3,219	10.2%	373,183	11.1%	16,894,727	12.8%

For additional information visit <http://www.census.gov>

Agricultural Summary*

	2002 Augusta	2007 Augusta	2007 Virginia	2007 National
Total Farms	1,691	1,729	47,383	2,205,607
Land in Farms (Acres)	306,048	286,195	8,103,925	922,095,840
Average farm size	181	166	171	418
Median farm size	95	62	70	-
Farms by size (acres)				
1-9	136	183	3,530	232,849
10-49	539	593	15,177	620,283
50-179	592	564	17,589	660,530
180-499	284	270	7,777	368,368
500-999	86	65	1,985	149,713
1000+	54	54	1,325	173,864
Total Cropland	139,891	107,811	3,274,137	406,424,909
Harvested cropland	87,417	91,198	2,544,997	309,607,601
Irrigated land	3,416	3,813	82,187	56,599,305
Farms by sales (\$)				
<\$2,500	501	531	20,191	900,327
\$2,500-\$4,999	218	204	5,391	200,302
\$5,000-\$9,999	260	229	6,191	218,531
\$10,000-\$24,999	251	298	6,597	248,285
\$25,000-\$49,999	115	126	3,399	154,732
\$50,000-\$99,999	102	92	1,886	125,456
\$100,000+	244	249	3,728	357,542
Farm expenses per farm	\$64,315	\$92,292	\$57,226	-
Net operat. Income per farm	\$26,721	\$20,338	\$8,863	-
Market value of farms (\$)				
Per Farm Average	\$512,426	\$810,635	\$720,538	\$791,138
Per Acre Average	\$2,959	\$4,897	\$4,213	\$1,892
Equip. + Machines	\$45,365	\$72,873	\$65,870	\$88,357
Ag. Products sold	\$85,106	\$112,675	\$61,334	\$134,807
Livestock & Poultry (total)				
Cattle inventory	104,914	100,808	1,566,217	96,347,858
Beef cows	33,865	36,357	695,061	32,834,801
Milk cows	9,501	7,930	98,917	9,266,574
Cattle sold	62,873	56,912	880,607	74,071,936
Hogs inventory	411	506	371,176	67,786,318
Hogs sold	716	777	965,117	206,807,181
Chickens sold	10,667,775	16,840,594	249,184,367	8,914,828,122
Crops harvested (bushels)				
Corn for grain	483,643	2,001,675	34,811,582	12,738,519,330
Corn for other	158,700	188,408	1,717,974	104,224,795
Wheat for grain	80,249	221,215	12,345,217	1,993,648,378
Oats for grain	6,508	1,380	286,954	89,508,669
Barley for grain	-	136,852	2,008,416	207,089,232

* The 2012 Census of Agriculture data is not anticipated to be released until Spring of 2014

For additional information visit <http://www.agcensus.usda.gov/Publications/2007/Online>

Health Summary

	2010 Augusta	2013 Augusta	2013 Virginia	2013 National
Total Population	74,897	73,916	8,185,867	313,914,040
Mortality				
Premature death (yrs lost before age 75 per 100k)	7,365	6,151	6,362	5,317
Morbidity				
Poor or fair health	11.0%	11.0%	14.0%	10.0%
Poor physical health days	2.4	2.4	3.2	2.6
Poor mental health days	3.2	2.8	3.1	2.3
Low birthweight	7.7%	7.0%	8.3%	6.0%
Health Behaviors				
Adult obesity	26.0%	27.0%	28.0%	25.0%
Physical inactivity	-	26.0%	24.0%	21.0%
Excessive drinking	10.0%	11.0%	16.0%	7.0%
Motor vehicle crash death rate (per 100k)	19	17	11	10
Sexually transmitted infections (per 100k)	185	171	385	92
Teen birth rate (per 1k female age 15-19)	38	35	32	21
Clinical Care				
Uninsured	13.0%	16.0%	15.0%	11.0%
Primary care physicians	-	2,232:1	1,356:1	1,067:1
Diabetic screening	85.0%	88.0%	86.0%	90.0%
Mammography screening	-	71.0%	66.0%	73.0%
Social & Economic Factors				
High school graduation	74.0%	90.0%	88.0%	
Some college	17.0%	41.0%	67.0%	70.0%
Unemployment	4.0%	6.0%	6.2%	5.0%
Children in poverty	10.0%	14.0%	16.0%	14.0%
Children in single-parent households	-	23.0%	30.0%	20.0%
Violent crime rate (per 100k)	-	113	233	66
Physical Environment				
Daily fine particulate matter (avg daily micrograms per cubic meter)	-	12.4	12.5	8.8
Access to recreational facilities (per 100k)	-	5	10	16
Limited access to healthy foods	-	3.0%	4.0%	1.0%
Fast food restaurants	-	51.0%	50.0%	27.0%

For additional information visit <http://www.countyhealthrankings.org/>

Educational Summary

	2007 Augusta		2011 Augusta		2011 Virginia		2011 National	
SCHOOL ENROLLMENT	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Population 3+ yrs enrolled	42,536	100.0%	44,667	100.0%	2,125,044	100.0%	82,440,699	100.0%
Nursery school, preschool	3,744	8.80%	3,470	7.77%	128,231	6.0%	4,985,508	6.0%
Kindergarten	1,874	4.41%	2,075	4.65%	107,297	5.0%	4,181,473	5.1%
Elementary (grades 1-8)	14,453	33.98%	13,440	30.09%	813,514	38.3%	32,786,553	39.8%
High School (grades 9-12)	7,240	17.02%	5,971	13.37%	428,033	20.1%	17,285,045	21.0%
College or grad school	15,225	35.79%	19,711	44.13%	647,969	30.5%	23,202,120	28.1%

EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT

Population 25 years and over	152,320	100.0%	161,950	100.0%	5,354,277	100.0%	204,348,469	100.0%
Less than 9th grade	8,989	5.90%	7,577	4.68%	280,468	5.2%	12,460,325	6.1%
9th to 12th grade, no diploma	6,263	4.11%	5,045	3.12%	417,028	7.8%	16,955,944	8.3%
High school grad	13,407	8.80%	16,359	10.10%	1,364,973	25.5%	58,087,777	28.4%
Some college, no degree	13,925	9.14%	12,616	7.79%	1,084,992	20.3%	43,509,774	21.3%
Associate's	6,442	4.23%	6,266	3.87%	363,207	6.8%	15,622,961	7.6%
Bachelor's	44,992	29.54%	54,902	33.90%	1,079,041	20.2%	36,263,152	17.7%
Graduate or professional	58,302	38.28%	59,185	36.55%	764,568	14.3%	21,448,536	10.5%
% high school grad or higher	-	90.0%	-	92.3%	-	87.0%	-	85.6%
% bachelor's or higher	-	67.8%	-	84.2%	-	34.4%	-	28.2%

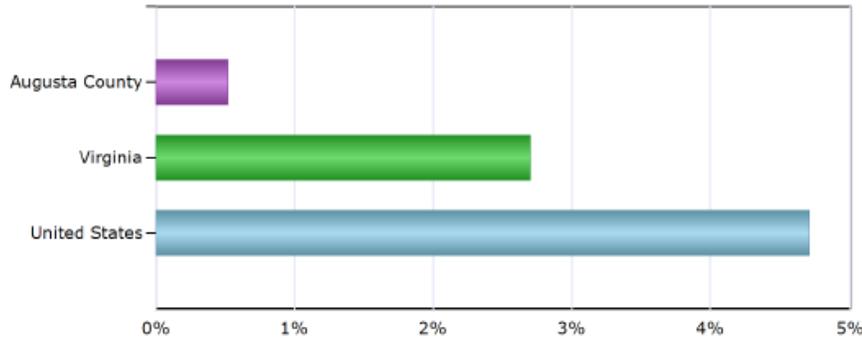
PERCENT OF AGE GROUP ENROLLED

	Total	Public	Total	Public	Total	Public	Total	Public
3 and 4 yrs	64.10%	29.40%	59.60%	38.70%	49.0%	42.2%	47.8%	55.8%
5 to 9 yrs	96.90%	90.00%	95.20%	87.50%	95.2%	86.6%	95.7%	87.5%
10 to 14 yrs	93.40%	94.40%	94.30%	90.90%	98.2%	93.0%	98.4%	89.9%
15 to 17 yrs	94.30%	93.30%	95.90%	82.40%	97.0%	91.7%	96.4%	90.7%
18 to 19 yrs	75.20%	84.00%	87.80%	79.00%	76.6%	84.8%	74.3%	81.8%
20 to 24 yrs	34.70%	62.10%	31.90%	60.40%	41.9%	80.4%	42.3%	77.3%
25 to 34 yrs	14.90%	54.70%	14.50%	59.10%	14.6%	73.2%	13.7%	73.1%
35 yrs and over	3.40%	64.00%	3.90%	50.40%	3.3%	69.1%	2.9%	70.5%

For additional information visit <http://www.census.gov/acs/www/>
<http://datacenter.kidscount.org/>

English Language Skills

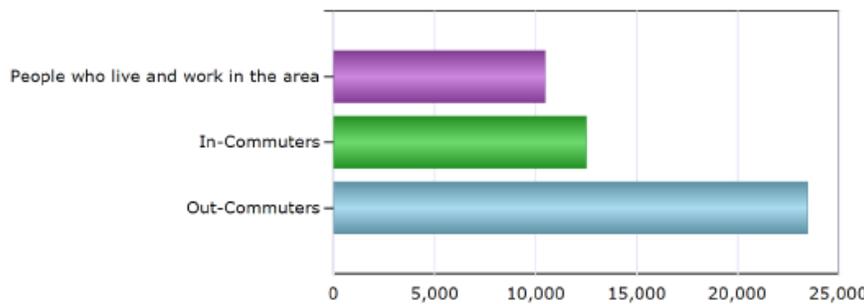
(Age 5 and over that speak English less than well)



	Total	Speak English less than well	Percent
Augusta County	69,654	362	0.52%
Virginia	7,419,283	200,418	2.70%
United States	286,433,395	13,472,190	4.70%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau
American Community Survey, 2007-2011.

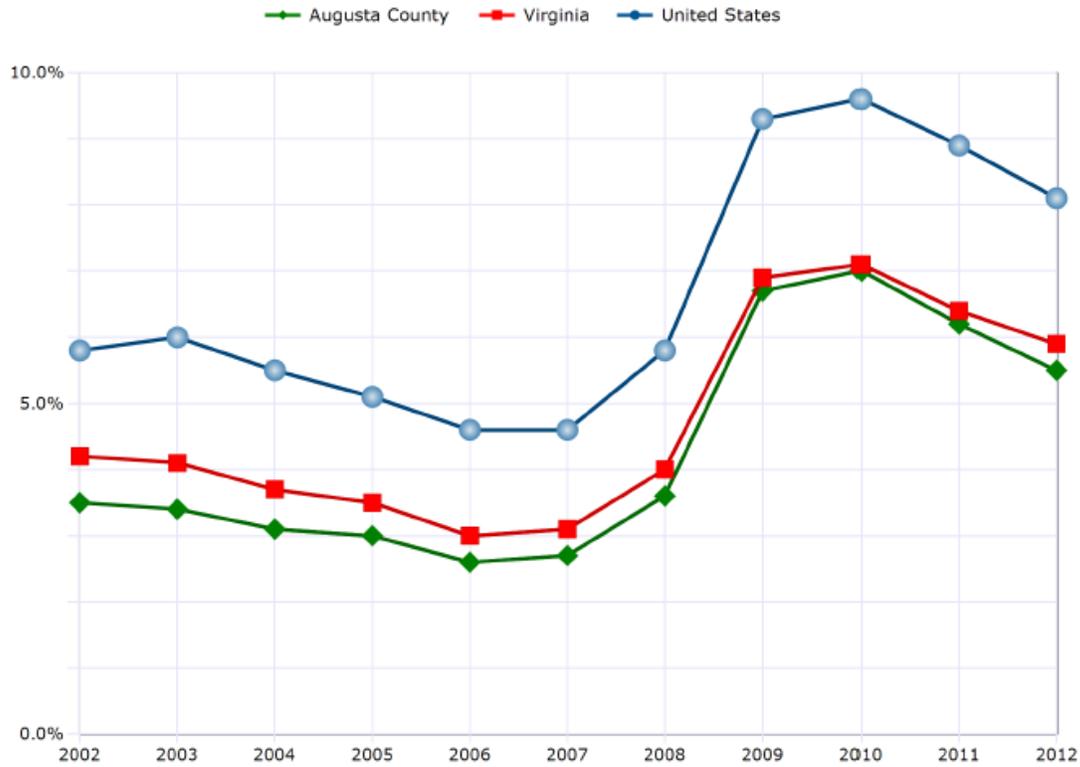
Commuting Patterns



Commuting Patterns	
People who live and work in the area	10,465
In-Commuters	12,502
Out-Commuters	23,470
Net In-Commuters (In-Commuters minus Out-Commuters)	-10,968

Source: U.S. Census Bureau,
OnTheMap Application and LEHD Origin-Destination Employment Statistics, 2011.

Unemployment Rates *Trends*



	Augusta County	Virginia	United States
2002	3.5%	4.2%	5.8%
2003	3.4%	4.1%	6.0%
2004	3.1%	3.7%	5.5%
2005	3.0%	3.5%	5.1%
2006	2.6%	3.0%	4.6%
2007	2.7%	3.1%	4.6%
2008	3.6%	4.0%	5.8%
2009	6.7%	6.9%	9.3%
2010	7.0%	7.1%	9.6%
2011	6.2%	6.4%	8.9%
2012	5.5%	5.9%	8.1%

Source: Virginia Employment Commission,
Local Area Unemployment Statistics.

50 Largest Employers

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. Augusta County School Board | 26. Wilson Trucking Corporation |
| 2. Augusta Medical Center | 27. Cerro Fabricated Products Inc |
| 3. Hershey Chocolate of Virginia | 28. Staffing Concepts Nationa |
| 4. McKee Foods Corporation | 29. Blue Ridge Lumber Company |
| 5. Target Corp | 30. Innovative Refrig Systems Inc |
| 6. Hollister, Inc. | 31. Augusta County Service Authority |
| 7. AAF McQuay, Inc. | 32. Cracker Barrel Old Country Store |
| 8. Blue Ridge Community College | 33. Virginia Department of Corrections, Western VA Field Office |
| 9. County of Augusta | 34. Packaging Services Inc. |
| 10. Variform Inc | 35. Autumn Corporation |
| 11. J.B. Hunt Transport | 36. Augusta Nursing & Rehab Center |
| 12. Augusta Correctional Center | 37. Neuman USA |
| 13. Woodrow Wilson Rehabilitation Center | 38. McDonald's |
| 14. Valley Community Services | 39. Carded Graphics LLC |
| 15. NIBCO of Virginia | 40. Valley Vocational Technical Center |
| 16. U.P.S. | 41. The Bradford Cothetalley Group |
| 17. Augusta Medical Group | 42. Rexnord Industries |
| 18. McKee Foods Transportation | 43. Neuman Aluminium Impact |
| 19. Food Lion | 44. C. Obaugh Pontiac Buick GMC |
| 20. System One Holding | 45. Virginia Eagle Dis Co LLC |
| 21. Schick Manufacturing Inc | 46. Postal Service |
| 22. Houff Transfer, Inc. | 47. Shenandoah Landscape Services Inc |
| 23. Pactiv Corporation | 48. Adams & Garth Staffing |
| 24. Staunton - Augusta Department of Social Services | 49. Dixie Gas & Oil Corporation |
| 25. Middle River Regional Jai | 50. Intrin Healthcare |

Source: Virginia Employment Commission, Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW), 1st Quarter (January, February, March) 2013.

Community and Resident Perspectives

The Augusta County Extension office gathered data, analyzed data, and developed a list of issues of importance. A survey of key informants, which included community group leaders, department heads, Extension agents, and government leaders responded and commented on each of the issues. From the results of the survey, we prioritized the following issues for Augusta County:

1. Agricultural profitability
2. Economic and environmental sustainability
3. Youth development concerns
4. Wildlife
5. Health and nutrition
6. Local foods

Priority Issues

Issue 1: Agricultural profitability issues

Agriculture is the number one industry in Augusta County. There has been an increase in production costs for agriculture in recent years. However, agricultural markets remain good, and so the majority of farmers struggle to keep production high while managing profitability on the farm. Factors that influence profitability are varied and include (to name just a few), crop management, soil fertility, animal health, and marketing.

VCE will continue to assist with crop and livestock management programs and outreach, one-on-one consultation, and aid to partner organizations such as VA Cattlemen's Association or the VA Forage and Grasslands Council, to help educate farmers. Additionally, VCE will continue to provide resources for farm business management, marketing, and environmental sustainability, to large and small farms alike.

Issue 2: Economic and environmental sustainability issues

Economic and environmental sustainability go hand-in-hand, and more than ever, public pressures and government regulations have pushed environmental issues to the forefront. These issues impact farm processes and profitability on a daily basis.

VCE will maintain its role in the Soil and Water Conservation district, while educating farmers on how to remain productive and profitable in the face of new environmental regulations. Specific activities will center on: no-tillage, nutrient management, cover cropping, conservation practices, and pasture management.

Issue 3: Youth development issues

Augusta County residents see our youth and young adults as a critical part of the county's future. They recognize that they must offer educational opportunities to provide enrichment, critical thinking, and life skills beyond formal education.

VCE can best address these concerns with an internal team approach, combining the efforts of our 4-H and ANR agents and staff. It is also important for us to partner with other local agencies, stakeholders, and volunteers.

Extension is well-suited to provide skills training to youth. Four-H educational programs should continue to be a large component of this. Through project work and activities, 4-H can offer vocational skills, life skills, character training, and career exploration. Currently there are a wide variety of clubs in Augusta; one of the main activities that offer skills training to our livestock-focus community is the Annual Market Animal Show. Many volunteers help to keep youth active in Augusta to promote community involvement and responsibility. We are in the process of hiring a 4-H agent, under which we hope the 4-H program will continue to thrive.

Issue 4: Wildlife issues

Augusta County residents are concerned about wildlife for a variety of reasons. For some, the issue is wildlife management for recreation, for many in the agricultural community wildlife management is seen as an issue of predation on livestock.

VCE has recently incorporated predator control education into livestock programs. We will continue to offer predator information, while also serving as a link to resources for livestock producers and the general public, helping them to access predator and wildlife experts with the Virginia Department of Game and the USDA wildlife services.

Issue 5: Health and nutrition issues

Health and nutrition issues typical of the state and nation concern Augusta County citizens, such as heart disease, cancer, diabetes, and obesity. The increasing rate of uninsured citizens, and the expense of a healthy diet in the face of decreasing household incomes, sets health and nutrition as a unique challenge in the county.

We do not currently have an FCS agent that covers Augusta County. We will, however, seek to incorporate health and nutrition issues into ANR programming, resource offerings, and the 4-H program. The Augusta VCE currently has a FNP program assistant, who works in Augusta with family and nutrition programs.

Issue 6: Local foods issues

There is an increased interest in the local foods movement, both by consumers and farmers. As it represents a potential new market for farmers, it presents an opportunity. Alternatively, as more local food becomes available, consumers need to have access to a regulated, safe food supply while receiving education about where and how food is produced.

VCE in Augusta has targeted some programming to the local foods movement, most recently, a grass-fed beef production meeting. Many of our clientele are new, small farmers who seek to tap into the local food market. We will continue to look for ways to assist these farmers, as well as serving as a partner with the “Buy Fresh, Buy Local” efforts underway by other members of VCE.