

Culpeper County

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Community Voices

"Carver Food Enterprise Center has had an immediate impact on our lavender/herb business, Seek Lavender, as well as our family. In October, I participated in their certification training for current good manufacturing practices and sanitation practices. Having local access to mandatory trainings is essential for regional culinary businesses."



Mary Seek

Owner, Seek Lavender LLC

2,739

**Number of Enrolled Youth
in Culpeper 4-H**

Partners for Solutions

"In a post-pandemic world, Extension remains the go-to place for solving complex challenges through science in the areas of 4-H, family and consumer sciences, and agriculture. Extension's ability to continue assisting clientele, both during and after the pandemic, speaks volumes to the organization's range and its strong commitment to the communities it serves."



Courtney Wesner
Agent



Stone Soup job training program participants prepare butternut squash soup to donate to local food banks.

Sharing Knowledge

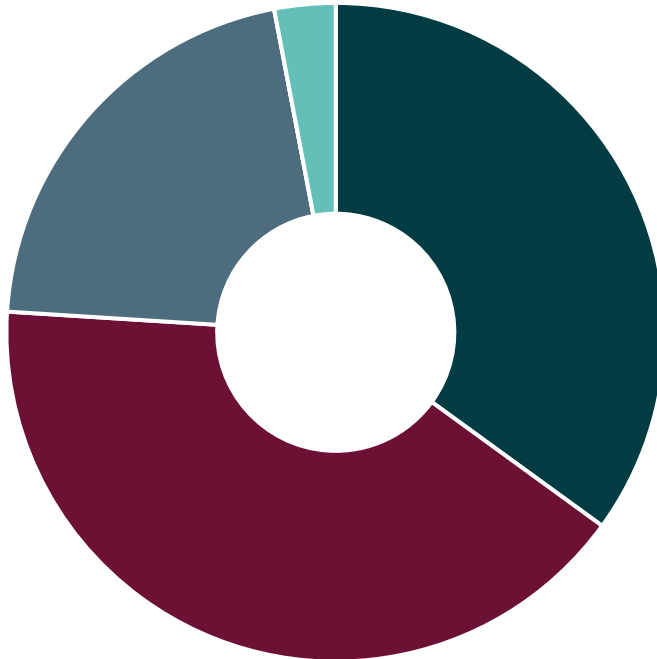
In April 2023, the Culpeper Extension Office moved to its new permanent location at the Carver Center. Its mission is to sustain, strengthen, and enhance agriculture and the environment in Virginia's Northern Piedmont. Youth in the Culpeper County 4-H program hold club meetings and participate in day camps, competitions, and workshops at the Carver Center – all supported by more than 200 adult volunteers.

Research, teaching, and community food donations continue at the Carver Center through both VSU's Small Farm Outreach Program and the Minority and Veteran Farmers of the Piedmont. The Master Gardeners maintain an All-America Selection display garden where they demonstrate in-ground vegetable and flower production. This growing season, Master Gardener volunteers donated 700 pounds of vegetables to food banks in Culpeper.

The Carver Food Enterprise Center opened its commercial kitchen to businesses and community groups on Sept. 1, 2023. The kitchen is being used by food trucks, caterers, and farmers to grow their businesses. Extension hosts job skills training, food safety, and food rescue programs in the new space.

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Funding by Source



35% State

41% Local

21% Federal

3% Other

Total Funding: \$667,273

\$1.46

return on investment
for every dollar
invested by the county
in **Culpeper County**

\$310,587

value of extension
volunteer hours in
Culpeper County

To find out how you can support your local Extension office,
visit www.cals.vt.edu/make-a-gift.