



<http://www.standardmachinery.com/foodpro.htm>

## REBUILDING VIRGINIA'S FOOD PROCESSING

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# Introduction

## Goal

- Propel Virginia's food economy by supporting local heritage food processing in the Thomas Jefferson Planning District

## What is food processing?

- Mills
- Cideries
- Slaughterhouses
- Bakeries
- Canneries
- Breweries

## What can food processing do for us?

- Local slaughterhouses enable farmers to raise and process animals close to home.
- Processing facilities can incubate successful businesses.



<http://ellwoodthompsons.com/in-the-store/store-departments/indulge/indulge-meet-the-wineries-breweries-cheesemakers/>

<http://www.themainstmarket.com/>



# Introduction

## Why processing heritage foods?

- Economic development
- Place-based economy
- Virginia as a heritage food destination

## Two policy ideas

- Assist food entrepreneurs
- Develop workforce and cultivate entrepreneurship



<http://watauga4h.blogspot.com/2011/04/heritage-apples.html>

<http://www.breadexperience.com/wheat-grains.htm>

<http://www.sanovogroup.com/Food--Beverage.2208.aspx>

<http://italianfoodgitive.blogspot.com/2010/06/international-great-beer-expo-at.html>

# Facilities and Resources

## Assist Food Entrepreneurs

### Methods

- Harness our existing facilities & resources for use
- Expand and modernize facilities by:
  - Connecting them to **Grant Funding**.

*EX: USDA FARMAID. Community Investment Collaborative.*

- Promoting **Tax Credits**. *Example: Wisconsin Food Processing Modernization Tax Credit equal to 10% of expansion costs*
- Build a **resource network** to support food entrepreneurs
  - VA Cooperative Extension – food scientists
  - VA Small Business Development

Example: ACEnet in Ohio provides business incubation services



<http://www.citizen-times.com/article/20111204/NEWS/312040037/Engage-your-Asheville-area-community>

Salsas, Jams, Chutneys, and Hot Sauces made at Blue Ridge Food Ventures In Asheville, NC by local entrepreneurs



# Education & Training

## Workforce Development and Technical Training

Technical training / workforce services programs at

- PVCC
- CATEC
- VA cooperative extension

### Methods

- Develop degree/certificate programs in food processing
- Offer (credit/non-credit) courses and workshops
- Examples
  - Southeastern Community College (NC): a certificate program in food processing
  - Southern State Community College (OH): associate degree program in food processing & technology

### Benefits

- Generate skilled workforce
- Aid in success/efficiency of existing processing facilities



# Conclusion

To Empower our food heritage and the local food economy we can

- Assist food entrepreneurs
- Develop a skilled workforce
- Strengthen our entrepreneurial culture

PARTNERSHIPS to connect people and resources  
will be key to enhancing food processing



[http://www.eatlocalchallenge.com/images/2008/07/31/of\\_course\\_i\\_can\\_wwii\\_poster.jpg](http://www.eatlocalchallenge.com/images/2008/07/31/of_course_i_can_wwii_poster.jpg)