

## **The Changing Landscape of Virginia's Food & Agriculture Business and Markets**

**Andy Hankins**

**Extension Specialist  
Alternative Agriculture  
Virginia State University**

### **Forces of Change in Virginia Agriculture**

- **Rising Land Prices**
- **New Interest in "Living on a Few Acres"**
- **Fragmentation of Farms and of Forests**
- **Local Foods Movement**
- **National Organic Program of USDA**
- **Genetically Modified Organisms**
- **Tobacco Buyout Program**
- **Cheap Food Imports from Foreign Countries, especially China**
- **Vertical Integration of Livestock Industries**
- **Reduction of USDA Price Support Programs**
- **Economic Hard Times**

Protected Production of Fresh Cut Flowers in High Tunnels



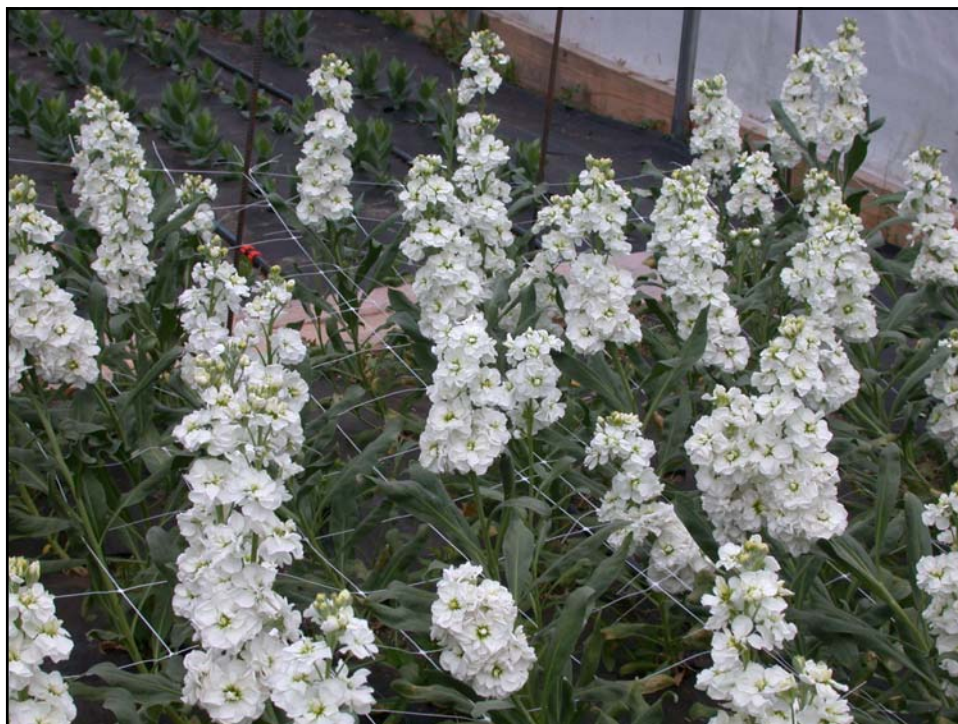




















P. G. Hydrangea - Limelight



Winter Red - Deciduous Holly









May 2008



Early June 2007





March 2007



Late May 2008



February 2006



Salad Greens all the time !





Early October 2007



October 2007



May 2008

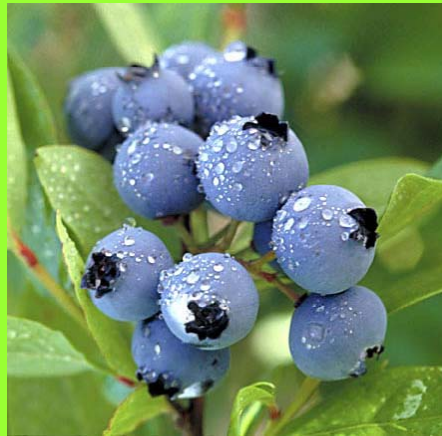


May 2008



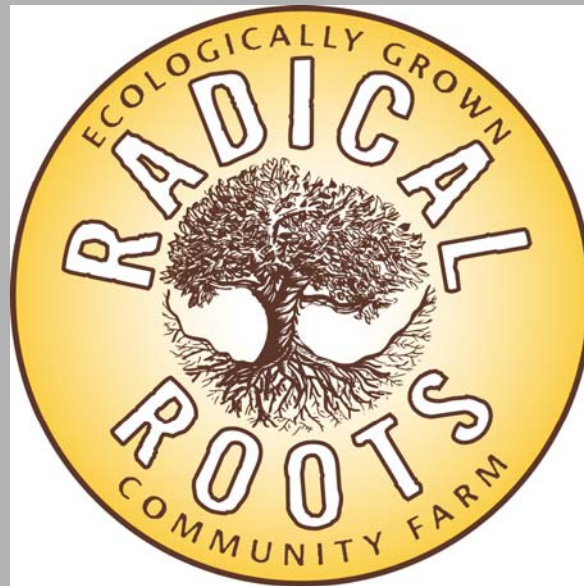


Blueberries require lots of TLC



TSF Blueberry orchard





## Mission

- To be a catalyst for positive change by growing high quality organic food, educating about sustainable futures and living this example.















## Community

- Radical Roots is a Farm that is integrated into fabric of the local community.
- Accessible to all members.
- Shared decision making with the Core Group
- Why CSA? Community supported agriculture **BECAUSE** agriculture supports community.

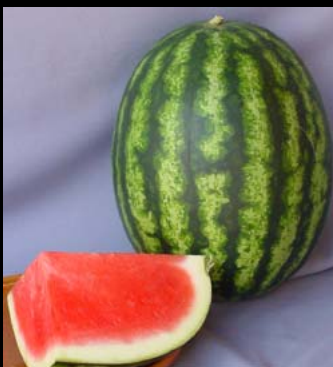








Ruby Seedless Watermelon







Plant asparagus crowns 6 inches deep and 12 inches apart in the row















Inoculating Oak Logs for Shiitake Mushroom Production















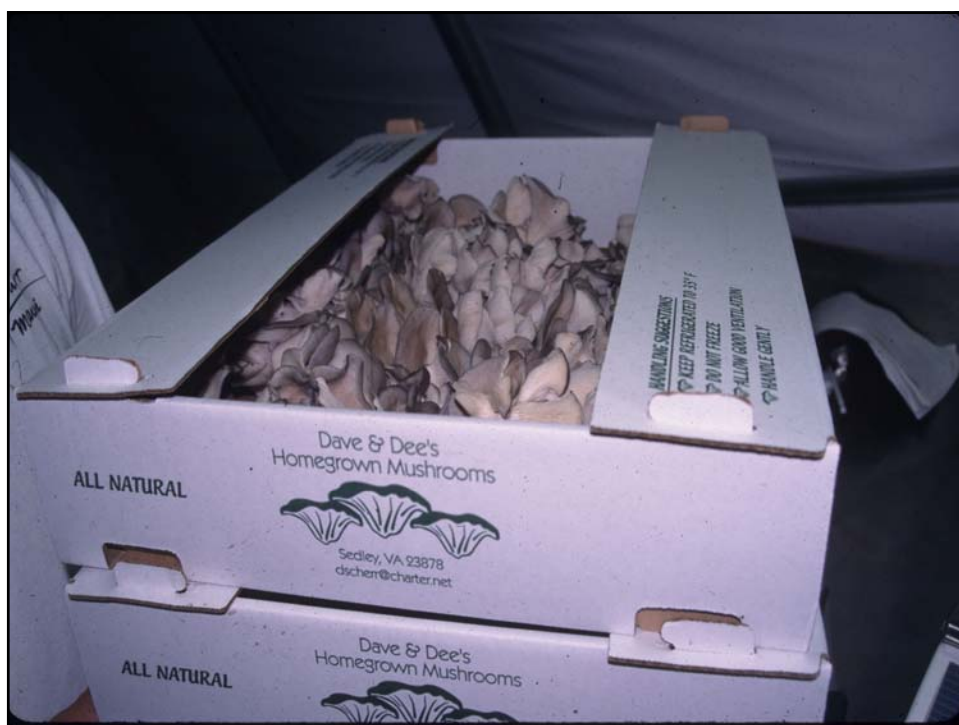
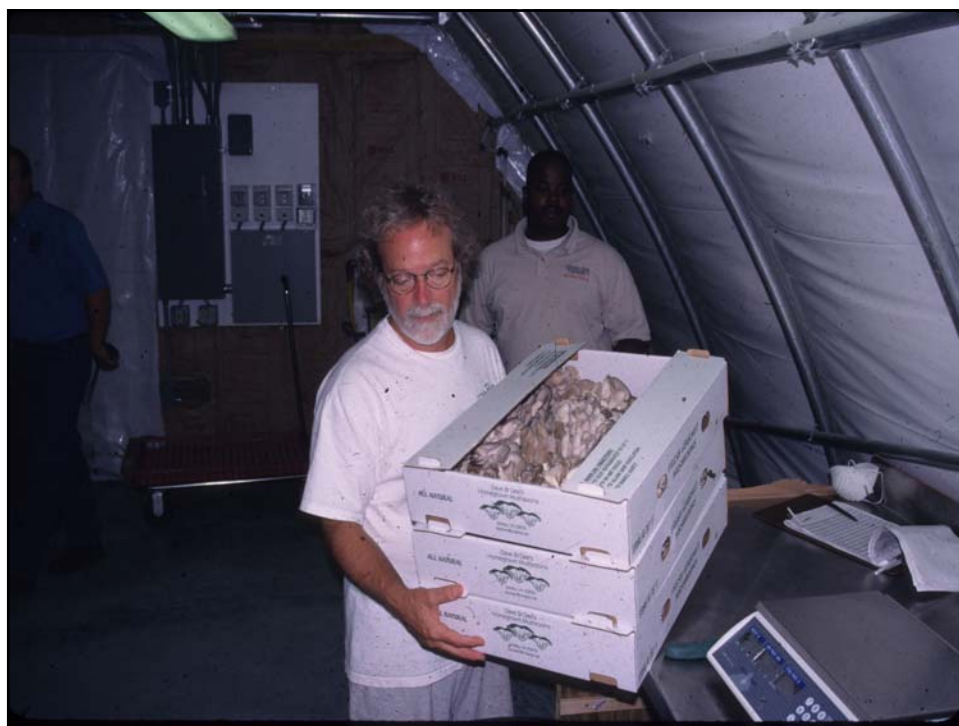


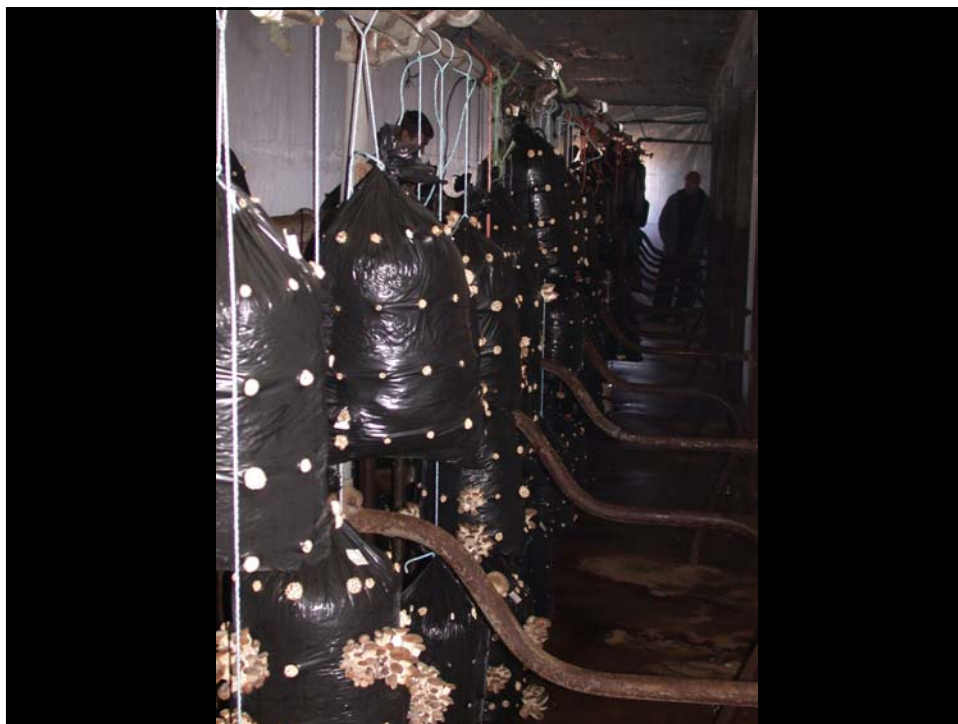
















Pastured Poultry



There is a better chicken tractor





Natural Pork



Good place to raise hogs



























