



Abundant Agriculture in Williamsburg

Agriculture throughout Williamsburg is thriving, and spring is the perfect time to take in the areas blooming gardens, abundant markets, animal encounters including newborn babies, and more.

The warmer months welcome back popular farmers markets in Williamsburg where visitors can find produce, flowers, and locally made artisanal products. [Toano Open Air Market](#) and [Williamsburg Farmers Market](#) are currently open, and [Yorktown Market Days Food and Artisans Market](#) opens in April.

Opening in May, [Sweethaven Lavender Farm](#) invites guests to cut their own bouquet of lavender, as well as other botanicals. The farm also has sheep, livestock guarding dogs, chickens, bees, and butterflies to enjoy.

Horseback riding is available at multiple farms in Williamsburg. The fifteen-acre [Bel Laurel Farm](#) is a nonprofit animal rescue and sanctuary. At [Lakewood Trails](#), guests enjoy the traditional English style of horseback riding, much as it was done in Colonial Virginia. [Carlton Farms](#) provides pony rides and a petting zoo where guests can meet Petunia the Pig.

The region's farms also have numerous animal encounters and natural habitats that welcome visitors while focusing on preservation. [Busch Gardens Williamsburg](#) offers interactive experiences with a number of animal species, and [York River State Park](#) is known for its rare and delicate estuarine environment, where freshwater and saltwater meet to create a rich habitat for marine and plant life. [Fox Wire Farm Alpacas](#) offers tours and interactive experiences with the animals including the maternity barn with a mama alpaca and her babies, and [Life with Pigs Farm Animal Sanctuary](#) provides forever homes to farm animals in need and compassion-filled educational experiences for the public.

Founded in 1986, [Colonial Williamsburg's Rare Breeds program](#) helps promote genetic diversity in livestock that research shows thrived in 18th-century colonial British America. And nearby, Colonial Williamsburg's Historic Area offers more than 90 acres of green spaces and gardens.

Every Spring, countless gardens are blooming throughout Williamsburg. At [The College of William & Mary](#), the Wren Building opens onto The William & Mary Sunken Gardens. Pathways around Crim Dell are planted with rhododendron, azaleas, and spring- and fall-blooming camellias, and large stands of mountain laurel present a spectacular display of blooms in May.

Springtime is planting time in the fields and gardens at [Jamestown Settlement](#) & [American Revolution Museum at Yorktown](#), where the living history museums include agriculture in the story of the nation's beginnings.

The [Williamsburg Botanical Garden](#) and Freedom Park Arboretum showcases plants that support pollinators and wildlife and is a resource to educate visitors about environmental conservation. The Butterfly Garden consists of native and non-native plants chosen for their beauty and as habitat for bees, butterflies, and other insects.