

AGRICULTURAL COMMODITY BOARD

ANNUAL REPORT

for the Virginia Apple Board

Fiscal Year 2024-2025

Date Due: November 1, 2025

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- II. Financial Summary**
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In 2003, Virginia apple growers voted to discontinue collecting the apple excise tax. Just one year later, a segment of the industry began work to reestablish the excise tax as a way to fund several important programs. A referendum was held in 2005 and the growers voted to reinstate the excise tax. The new code reflected a change in the way the assessment would be calculated. The assessment will only be collected on those growers who produce 5,000 bushels or more per year on a 5-year average. The rate collected will be .025 cents per bushel and the money will be divided between the U.S. Apple Association, the Virginia State Horticultural Society, the Virginia Apple Research Program, administration and reserve. This funding will continue to keep Virginia growers relevant in the national and international marketplace. The Virginia Department of Taxation will be responsible for collecting the taxes and transferring them to the Virginia Department of Agriculture. The money will be held by VDACS in cost code 646. In FY 2017, the industry requested the General Assembly change the Board composition, reducing the membership from 3 members per district to 2 members per district, partially due to the Board only meeting 1 time per year, but also the number of eligible Board members in District 2 has declined significantly.

The 2024-2025 Virginia Apple Board meeting was held on Tuesday, January 14, 2025 in Staunton. During the meeting, the Board voted to send 40% of the revenue collected to the U.S. Apple Association, 20% to the Virginia State Horticultural Society, 20% to the Virginia Agricultural Research Program, and 10% to the administration fund. The reserve fund met the \$125,000 maximum, thus 10% of the collections could not be put towards the reserve. The balance was distributed equally between U.S. Apple Association, Virginia State Horticultural Society (VSHS), and Virginia Agricultural Research Program. The administrative funds are within the Apple Board Fund at the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services.

Apple Board Members, Heather McKay, Shannon Showalter, and Bethany Schaepler terms expired on June 30, 2025. Bethany Schaepler was re-elected to represent District 3; James Williams was elected to represent District 2; and Adam Marston was elected to represent District 3.

The Apple Board allocated funding for Flair Communication to provide website services and social media services. Flair communication manages the Virginia Apple Industry website (www.virginiaapples.net) in addition to highlighting orchard events, recipes, news and general information on the Virginia Apple Industry Facebook page.

A board topic of discussion with Laura Wiley and Greta Liskey from the VSHS ensued regarding the apple tax assessment and the future of the VSHS. Ms. Wiley reported VSHS membership has declined and reported apple tax revenue has been continuing to decrease. She indicated the VSHS plans to explore modifying the Virginia Apple Tax Code through legislation and assistance with Virginia Farm Bureau.

The next board meeting is scheduled for January 13, 2026 in Staunton, Virginia.

Financial Summary

Cost Code 646

Cash Balance: 6/30/2024	\$83,006.30
Assessment Receipts: 7/1/2024 – 6/30/2025	\$59,911.73
Total Cash Balance & Receipts:	\$142,918.03
Transfer to cc 647 – Reserve	\$0
Transfer to cc 648 - Admin	\$0
Total Actual Expenditures (from VDACS Financial Analysis)	\$113,425.65
Cash Balance: June 30, 2025	\$29,492.38

In the beginning of FY25, there was the delay in receiving appropriation, that resulted several vouchers being temporarily coded to a different cost code. Once appropriations were received, journal entries were prepared to move the expenditures to their correct cost codes. This included Apple Board payments. In July of 2025, we realized that the entry transferred two of the payments twice which reduced the cash balance in cc646 by \$38,730.66. This will be amended in FY 26 and will be reflected in both the FINSYS printouts and the FY 26 Annual Report.

Cost Code 647 - Reserve

Cash Balance: 6/30/2024	\$125,000.00
Other receipts	\$0
Total Balance	\$125,000.00
Deduct Total Actual Expenditures (from VDACS Financial Analysis)	\$0
Cash Balance: June 30, 2025	\$125,000.00

Cost Code 648 – Administration

Cash Balance: 6/30/2024	\$84,981.55
Transfer from cc 646	\$8,299.00

Other Receipts - Interest	\$8,797.47
Total Balance	\$102,078.02
Deduct Total Actual Expenditures (from VDACS Financial Analysis)	\$15,778.59
Cash Balance: June 30, 2025	\$86,299.43

Board Meetings and Member Attendance

January 14, 2025

Marshall Saunders, Chair	Yes
Heather McKay	No
Ben Snapp	Yes
Patrick Ryan	Yes
Shannon Showalter	Yes
Bethany Schaepler	Yes
Total	5