Virginia’s Community Canneries

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Introduction

The Commonwealth of Virginia currently has eleven remaining seasonally operating community canneries located in nine counties, most of which are located in the rural central and southwest portion of the state. Ten of those canneries are operated and supported by their local county governments, while one has been acquired and is operated by a non-profit organization. Three of our canneries qualify by the Virginia Department of Agriculture as facilities certified for the production of commercial value added food items processed for resale.

This publication will outline those canneries and give information on how and when to access them as well as discussions on the feasibility trends and potential future of these icons from the past.

Background Information

Community canneries originated with the Victory Garden era of World War II in the 1940s' and were historically supported by the local school systems where they were typically used as educational tools for home economics. While Virginia is home to some of the oldest canneries in the nation, the canneries have experienced many ups and downs over the years. Those that are still operating, struggle from one season to the next to remain an increasingly growing and valuable service to the citizens that utilize them. In part due to the economic situation across the nation as well as an upswing in health conscious citizens that are riding the surge of the local foods movements, the Commonwealth is facing an increasing interest in our remaining canneries. As many Virginians look closer at becoming more self sufficient and search for ways to save money, the popularity of the canneries is on the rise, which pressures the county budgets to struggle to find ways to keep the doors of the canneries open while they continually operate in the red.
1) **Carroll County Cannery** --- Carroll County  
   497 Farmers Market Rd  
   Hillsville, VA 24312  
   (276) 728-7571

2) **Callaway Community Cannery** --- Franklin County  
   8451 Callaway Road  
   Callaway, Va. 24067  
   (540) 483-5538

3) **Glade Hill Community Cannery** --- Franklin County  
   8081 Old Franklin Tpke  
   Glade Hill, VA 24092  
   (540) 483-5538

4) **Hanover County Cannery** --- Hanover County  
   13017 Taylor Complex Lane  
   Ashland, Va. 23005  
   (804-365-6484)

5) **Keezletown Community Cannery** --- Rockingham County  
   1688 Indian Trail Road  
   Keezletown, VA 22832  
   (540) 896-7600

6) **New London Community Cannery** --- Bedford County  
   12404 E. Lynchburg Salem Turnpike  
   Bedford, VA 24523  
   (434) 525-9706

7) **Prince Edward County Community Cannery** --- Prince Edward County  
   7916 Abilene Road  
   Farmville, VA 23901  
   (434) 223-8664

8) **Castlewood Cannery** --- Russell County  
   304 Blue Devil Circle  
   Castlewood, Va. 24244  
   (276) 762-9025

9) **Honaker Cannery** --- Russell County  
   37 Cedar Route  
   Honaker, VA  
   (276) 873-4907
10) **Stuarts Draft Community Cannery** -- Augusta County
   Green briar Lane.
   Stuarts Draft, VA 24477
   (540) 337-2698

11) **Wythe County Community Cannery** – Wythe County
   Wythe Co. Vocational School
   George Wythe High School
   1505 W. Spiller St.
   Wytheville, VA 24382
   (276)-228-3421

**Equipment**

**Staffing**

**USDA Certified Canneries**
One of the “Time and Temperature Recorders” attached to the retorts in the Hillsville, Va. Community Cannery.

Figure 1: Location of canneries on map.
References


5. Community Cannery, Hanover County Homepage, Budget Summary, Retrieved November 18, 2011, [http://www.co.hanover.va.us/finance/adopted-06/B_cannery.pdf](http://www.co.hanover.va.us/finance/adopted-06/B_cannery.pdf)

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Outline
Introduction

Background Information

List of canneries/map

Staff -- experience/training

Equipment

Safety Procedures
  USDA Certified

Budgets

Reference