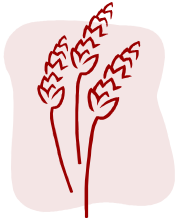


**Thank you
for coming to rural
Isle of Wight
County.**



We welcome you to our County and encourage you to experience the great quality of life that is afforded by this rural setting.

Take a drive around the County and enjoy the beautiful views that we have to offer.

Be sure to visit our local farmers' markets!



*Olde Towne Curb Market
BSV parking lot, Smithfield*

Open Saturdays

July—August

Open select Saturdays

October—December

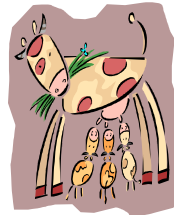
&

*Windsor Farmers' Market
Route 460 in Windsor*

*Open Daily
(limited vendors weeklong)*

May 15—September 30

Weekends July—August



Isle of Wight County

Rural Economic Development Manager
17130 Monument Circle
Post Office Box 80
Isle of Wight, Virginia 23397

Phone: 757.357.6126
Fax: 757.365.6268
www.co.isle-of-wight.va.us

Isle of Wight County

**A Guide
for
living in and
visiting our
rural
community!**



In order to remain a rural community, it is important to support the agriculture and forestry industries. They are the backbone of this community.

Contact:
Rural Economic Development
757.357.6126

Right-to-Farm



Isle of Wight County supports a farmer's right-to-farm (and grow and harvest timber). This means that during certain times of the year farm equipment will be in the fields and on the roads, pesticides and herbicides will be applied to land, and livestock, large and small, will be raised. The noise, dust, and smells of farming are present. Please recognize and appreciate these characteristics as an integral part of their right-to-farm, whether you live in or are just traveling through the rural areas of the County.

This County takes pride in the quality of life it provides for its citizens. Having working farm and forest lands help maintain that great quality of life by protecting our resource base, contributing to the local economy, and providing scenic views for all citizens. It is important to recognize that farming and forestry are businesses, and they represent a way of life that has been around for centuries.

Here, we have a wide array of agricultural activities going on, from traditional farming of row crops and the harvesting of timber, to cut flowers, vegetables, and a flourishing equine industry. According to the 2002 Census of Agriculture, we have approximately 86,000 acres of agricultural land. Additionally, according to the 2000 United States Forest Service survey, Isle of Wight has 113,000 acres of woodland. Therefore, agriculture and forestry lands comprise 97% of the County's landscape.

This is farm country...

Whether you live here or are a visitor, it is important to be aware of your surroundings. The following will help you know what to expect when traveling through or living in Isle of Wight County.



Rural Roads

Don't be surprised if you end up on some dirt and gravel roads in your travels. Seldom do rural roads have the same characteristics as those found in urban areas such as: wide lanes, pavement, shoulders, etc. Be cautious when traveling the backroads and expect some dust.

Slow Moving Vehicles (SMV)

Farm equipment may slow your travel from time to time. Look for the above sign which is displayed on the rear of farm equipment. When you see this emblem, recognize its meaning and please slow down. Most of all, please be patient since farmers are just trying to get their work done. Most farmers will allow you to pass as soon as it's safe for them to pull over.



Sights, Smells, and Sounds

Farming isn't just the pretty fields and barns. Along with farming comes dust when tilling and harvesting, especially when it's windy or dry outside.

Along with dust, farming can also generate some odors. Whether it be the chemicals used on the crops or animals and manure, there are sometimes offensive smells. Farmers do follow best management

practices in order to minimize impacts to others. Be careful to take into account your proximity to farmland when considering a rural homesite. Smells are a part of the business of farming.

Additionally, there are many times when farmers must begin work early in the morning or work until late at night. This can be noisy and also may generate some lights at times of the day which are unexpected.

Private Property

Be aware that fields and wooded areas are not for your enjoyment. If you are on property that is not yours, you are trespassing, unless you have prior approval. Farmers don't come walking on your lawns, so please don't take it upon yourself to venture into their fields or forest lands.



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