



# GROW HERE!

## 2016 Business Roundtable dates set

The Office of Economic Development has selected its 2016 Quarterly Business Roundtable event dates in order for our businesses to plan ahead.

- **March 10, 2016 (in Bedford)**
- **June 23, 2016 (in Forest)**
- **Sept. 22, 2016 (in Bedford)**
- **Dec. 8, 2016 (in Forest)**

Please plan to attend each of these events to stay connected with the county and business community! We will keep you updated as more event details emerge.



*The December Roundtable meeting was held at Simplimatic and was followed by a tour.*

## Bedford County businesses in 'Best of the Burg 2015'



*The Burg*, a Lynchburg-based publication focused on arts, culture, and entertainment in the Lynchburg Region, released its 'Best of 2015' list compiling local favorites in 60 categories ranging from restaurants and charities to local bands and art exhibits. Several Bedford County businesses ranked high.

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**WFXR recognized for "Ag Life" segment**

Jeff Powers, Chairman of the Bedford County Agriculture Economic Development Advisory Board (AEDAB) and Traci Blido, Director of Economic Development, presented WFXR News (Fox 21/27) Managers with a signed Resolution from the Ag Board thanking them for their new Ag Life segments on Tuesday, December 15 at the station's grand opening and ribbon cutting ceremony. [Read more.](#)

The station has featured several Bedford County farms or farmers in its segment. Here's a sampling:

[Local farmers helping to keep water clean](#)

[A local stockyard manager gets national attention](#)

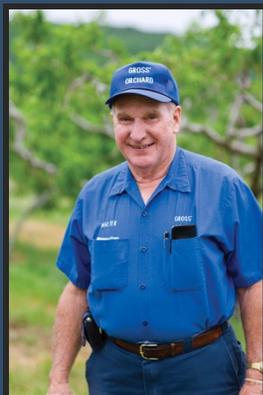
[Locally raised fish](#)

[Women farmers on the rise, more women in agricultural careers](#)



*Ag Board Chairman Jeff Powers and Economic Development Director Traci Blido thank WFXR for promoting the region's agriculture and forestry sector with its new Ag Life segment.*

## Family orchard business recognized for agritourism efforts



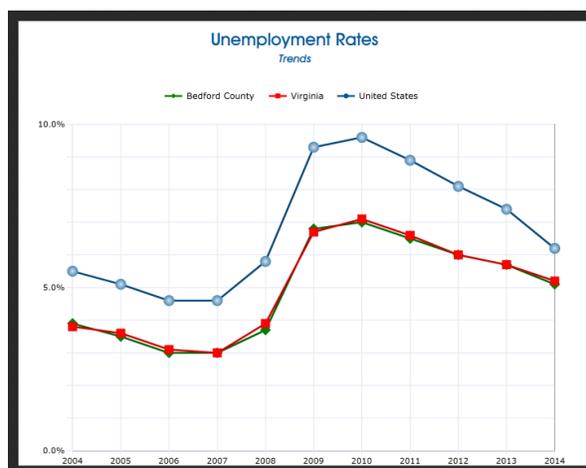
Walter T. Gross and AJ Gross & Sons of Bedford were recognized on Oct. 17, 2015 during the orchard's annual Apple Harvest Festival for 25 years of dedication and commitment to promoting the apple and agritourism industries in Bedford County. The award was presented by the Bedford County Welcome Center and Tourism Office to recognize the tourism value that the festival and other activities bring to the county throughout the year.

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## Region's economy shows slow recovery

*Bedford County sees modest uptick*

At a recent economic summit for Lynchburg region business leaders and economic developers, academic economists from Old Dominion University reported a slackened pace for the Lynchburg Metropolitan Statistical Area's (MSA) recovering economy. However, statistics on the area's housing and tourism industries and information from the Virginia Employment Commission (VEC) paint a less gloomy picture of the local economy. [Read more.](#)



## Georgia-Pacific's Big Island mill kicks off 125th anniversary



To mark this historic occasion of the mill's 125 years of continual operation, Georgia-Pacific is launching a year-long commemoration throughout 2016 to honor the mill's history, celebrate generations of employees, and to thank the community for its enduring support.

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## Entrepreneurs look no further!



### Looking to start or expand a business in the Town of Bedford?

Bedford Main Street, Inc. is launching a "Bedford Business Boot Camp" to encourage entrepreneurs to start or expand a business downtown. The eight-week course (held one evening per week), beginning January 27 and ending March 16, is designed to teach participants the basics of starting a business. At the end of the eight weeks, participants who have attended every class will have the opportunity to present to a panel of judges and compete for a prize of up to \$5,000 to go towards their new business venture!

For more information, contact Sara Smith, Bedford Main Street, 540-586-2148.

## About our office

The Office of Economic Development is always ready to talk to you about expanding your business or addressing a challenge you may be facing. We will work with you to identify any and all incentives and financial advantages for your company to locate or expand here. To learn more about county incentives, click [here](#) .



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