

HR 2749 = The End

by Deborah Stockton

In the March issue we headlined HR875, one of the “food” bills in Congress, a “Bill to Industrialize All Farms in U.S.”. HR875 has been replaced by HR2749, sponsored by Henry Waxman of California, and it has everything bad HR875 had and worse. Over a hundred pages, it has NAIS; defining a farm as anyplace you grow and produce food; and puts all “farms” and anyplace that “holds food” under the jurisdiction of the FDA. That can mean your kitchen, your car, your bicycle, your pocket. This bill will do more than allow them to industrialize every farm in America, they can decide if you are can prepare, preserve, and grow your own food and how, by assessing the “danger” level and ruling accordingly.

The bill gives them absolute authority, accountable to no other jurisdictional body; unwarranted searches and seizures; they can track and monitor all food, including the blackberries you gather on your mountainside; and authority to quarantine and stop all food movement based on their absolute authority. Copied below is one tiny section on this bill. Read the entire bill at <http://www.thomas.gov> and enter HR 2749 in the search field (Bill number, not phrase option).

Subtitle B. Sec. 121 PUBLIC HEALTH ASSESS-

MENT SYSTEM

(c) Public Availability of Assessment- To the extent it does not impede the ability of the United States to protect against terrorist threats and other intentional attacks against the food supply, the Secretary may make publicly available, by posting on the Web site of the Department of Health and Human Services, the results of any assessment conducted under this section. To the extent feasible with the data and information available, the assessment may rank food categories based on their hazard to human health and may address--

(1) the safety of commercial harvesting and processing, as compared with the health hazards associated with food products that are harvested for recreational or subsistence purposes and prepared noncommercially:

(2) the safety of food products that are domestically harvested and processed, as compared with the health hazards associated with food products that are harvested or processed outside the United States; and

(3) contamination originating from handling practices that occur prior to or after sale of food products to consumer.

This bill has passed the House Energy and Commerce Committee.

It goes to the House soon, then the Senate.

PLEASE HELP STOP THIS BILL NOW

CALL YOUR FEDERAL LEGISLATORS:

<http://www.House.gov> <http://www.Senate.gov>

Most important, assure them YOU WILL NOT COMPLY. Help them understand that if they pass this bill they will set in motion a civil rights movement like the world has never seen.

“When My Farmer Says ‘Jump’...”

by Carroll Ann Friedmann

...you know the rest. I am a busy woman (aren't all women?), but I might be busier than most other women I know. I own three small businesses, teach a couple of classes at UVA on the side, am a grassroots political organizer, and have recently become the Treasurer of

VICFA. I also homeschool my three kids. With all of the things I have to do in an average day, week, month or year, some of my friends can't understand why I am an activist with VICFA.

(Cont'd on page 2)

From Farm and Home Directly to You

Letter from the June, 29 VICFA Meeting

by Laura Russell and Deborah Stockton

The June, 2009 VICFA Annual meeting was held in the pleasant shade of the Salatin's front yard at Polyface farm on a perfect weather day. We enjoyed a feast of fresh green salads, scalloped potatoes, potato salad, beef stew, miniature chocolate éclairs and other delectable desserts, fresh milk and refreshing berry and custard sorbet. Local food at its finest! Willard Lutz called the meeting to order at 1:05 p.m., followed a moment of silence for Deb Naylor, who is recovering from being mauled by several sows, for Dick Stevens who recently lost his brother Melvin, and for other VICFA members facing trials. Introductions were made, and the May minutes approved as in the June newsletter.

Willard cited an article he'd read about ethanol from corn and about new processes to make ethanol from using the sugar of watermelons and from corncobs, and the abysmal negative impact of ethanol from corn. Willard also reminded us that Monsanto's lawsuit against Percy Schmeiser resolved in March in favor of Schmeiser. Go Percy!

Old Business:

- VICFA's tri-fold display for our booth is missing. If you are storing it, please contact editor@vicfa.net or 434.760.5514 immediately, we need it asap.
- NICFA Update: Minnesota journalist Marti Oakley is starting a Minnesota ICFA.
- MOTION: Debbie Stockton moved that VICFA formally attend the Raleigh, North Carolina NAIS listening session in the person of the members who attend. Motion passed.
- Wayne Bolton's Radio ad: Wayne hopes to see other stations carry it and more sponsors. **Motion passed** to continue funding.
- Farm Food Voices: (see announcement this issue) Setup will differ from previous years—food will be separate from the speakers. Food will not start until

after Richard Morris speaks. We need a lot of people to volunteer to do specific things for FFV. We'll do food rotation. Please ask restaurants that support local food to participate. Rowena is talking to a lady that does signage for a discounted price. **Motion passed** to patronize her. VICFA member should bid on something to start on the silent auction. **Motion passed** to budget \$1,000 for FFV.

New Business: Election Results:

Officers

President: Wayne Bolton, Green Bay (804) 380-5909

Vice President: Lois Smith, Spotsylvania (804) 366-6051

Treasurer: Carroll Ann Friedmann, Charlottesville (434) 242-2669

Secretary: Laura Russell, North Garden (434) 293-8312

Board Members

John Coles, Charlottesville (434) 973-6505

Kathryn Russell, North Garden (434) 760-5514

Dick Stevens, Amherst (434) 946-5044

Deborah Stockton, Ivy (434) 293-8312

Brian Walden, Charlottesville (434) 566-2277

Debbie led a round of applause and appreciation for Willard's serving two years as President.

Final bits and pieces:

- MOTION: Carroll Ann moved we dispense with the August general membership meeting, due to Farm Food Voices on August 2nd and anticipated need for respite. Joel seconded, motion passed unanimously. Discussion followed and the board decided to have a board meeting on our regular meeting day in August. All members and public welcome
- Laura moved to adjourn. All agreed.

In response to the "Huh?" looks I get when I mention membership in VICFA to other people who eat but do not farm (i.e. consumers), I say, "Kathryn told me to." And when she says "Jump," I say, "How high?" I will walk on coals for my farmers – not that I am comparing a VICFA membership to this particular metaphor, but I am, as I said, a very busy woman. When I list the priorities in my life, food is just after the four males with whom I share my home. After all, no food, no kids... and I am not crazy about my husband if he is just the teeniest bit hungry! FOOD IS LIFE, and these VICFA farmers FEED ME!!!! Why, still, do I need to join some organization to make sure that they are able to keep on feeding me and my family?

One hundred years ago, this would be a legitimate question, but, alas, not in 2009. My farmers are under assault. For those of you who do not know me well, I am not the conspiracy-theory type. I am actually a radically optimistic person who has been accused of Pollyannishness at times – but I still stand by my statement that my farmers are under attack from the businesses that profit from feeding us the un-food that makes us very, very sick. Good farmers in Virginia need me, and all of the other people who are determined to eat REAL FOOD and STAY WELL, to fight for our right to buy what they grow and raise.

Do you think that there are not enough hours in your day for one more important activity?

5th Annual FARM FOOD VOICES VIRGINIA FOOD TASTING AND SEMINAR

Sunday, August 2, 2009 2:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

**Eating Local – Creating a Dynamic Economic Community
Where to go, How to help**

Featuring a special screening of the new movie **FRESH!**

SILENT AUCTION BOOTHS and BOOK TABLES CHILDCARE SPEAKERS, INCLUDING...
5th District Congressman **Tom Perriello**; Writer **Richard Morris** Local Farmer Hero **Richard Bean**

CULINARY TASTINGS from local restaurants and producers
will highlight the availability, affordability, and flavor of local food.

Where: Monticello High School. 1400 Independence Way, Charlottesville, VA 22902. 1 mile south off I-64 off Rt. 20, right on Mill Creek, Monticello HS on right.

Free Admission: Donations gratefully accepted. Suggested donation for FRESH screening \$10

Support Farm Food Voices with a financial sponsorship, hosting a food sampling station,

Sponsored by VICFA and the Weston A. Price Foundation, Charlottesville Chapter.

contributing an item for the silent auction, or purchasing a program advertisement or booth space.

Contact Laura Russell at laura.o.russell@gmail.com or by telephone at (434) 882-0300.

Further Information: <http://www.VICFA.net> or call **Kathryn Russell: 434.760.5514**

(When My Farmer Says Jump, continued)

Are you sure that you will always have access to good, clean, real food because of the preposterousness of any other notion? Well, think again. There are a nasty handful of bills in committees – right now, as I type – that would eliminate or seriously limit my legal right to own part of Kathryn’s herd, donate money to John for some cheese, get my veggies from Tony, my peaches and apples from Sarah, my chickens and pork from Joel, and so on.... even one that would tell me what to grow in my own backyard! I’m

telling you, there is no turning back for my family. Once you have left the featureless desert of conventional food for the Promised Land of real food, there is only one option... when they say “Jump!”, you, the consumer, answer “How high?”

Carroll Ann Friedsmm, of Charlottesville, procures most of her family’s food from her backyard or local farms, and founded Friends of Farmers, a service organization supporting local farmers through work days on the farm. See the VAFOF website: <http://www.vafriendsoffarmers.net>

Raleigh, North Carolina NAIS Listening Session

by Deborah Stockton

*Raleigh, North Carolina, Friday June 25--*At 8:30 this morning twenty people had showed up to speak, but by the time individual testimonies were in full swing there were more than sixty. North Carolina ICFA and WAPF Chapter leader Ruth Ann Foster (who provided most of the notes for this article) said that when she came in through the back door, there were Secret Service type security men.

These listening sessions across the country have been during the work days of the busiest farming season of the year. A farmer’s attendance has been at the expense of at least a full day of work, more because of the distances traveled and arrangements for while they are away.

Like the rest of the sessions, speakers in Raleigh were about 95% to 5% against NAIS with eloquent and impassioned testimonies articulating the absurdities of NAIS, from pointing out that a program designed to accommodate exports benefits a tiny fraction of producers at the detriment of the rest, to informing the USDA that if they come after the rest of us they better bring body bags. Those who spoke in favor of it were the usual industrial CAFO commodity producers and agents of the state. At the beginning of the afternoon breakout sessions, Dr. David Marshall, North Carolina state vet said, “I was overjoyed when I got here this morning that there were only twenty-four people here. But don’t quote me on that!” Sure Dr.

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Marshall, don't worry about having to be accountable to the people who are forced to pay your salary. Marshall went on to say that he gets twenty-five emails a week against NAIS from people across the country.

Ruth Ann Foster, asked why, if this is voluntary, like Secretary of Agriculture Vilsack says, was premises registration *required* in North Carolina when the state bought hay from other states during the drought last year then re-sold it to NC residents. Oh, said Marshall, that was so if there was contaminated hay we'd be able to contact people. Why not just name and address, asked Ruth Ann? Well, uh, uh...replied Marshall. And what about the state fair, she continued, where premises registration is required for livestock admittance? Well, the fair is visited by 800,000 people and there are all those animals, and if someone gets sick... Is this about liability, asked Ruth Ann. Yes, says Marshall, we are still fighting a lawsuit over a child getting sick from *e. Coli* at the Fair's petting zoo last year. But premises registration would not have prevented that, would it, pointed out Ruth Ann? No reply. Of course

it wouldn't, but it *would* shift the liability to a small farmer. *E. Coli* is not hard to find on a farm. It's pretty ubiquitous.

Timmy Thomas, a CAFO pork producer, allowed as how he'd be much happier, more time for family and so on, if he were "doing what you are doing." (i.e. small farming) but "the masses need to eat." Sure Mr. Thomas, you are all altruism, that's why America *imports* 52% of our food.

Greg Niewendorp drove through North Carolina to get to the session, passing mile after mile of abandoned fields, overgrown and non-productive, because small farmers are forbidden by law to sell to their communities the nutrient dense meats and dairy that support a healthy population. It made him sick.

Virginia and North Carolina ICFA's were well represented, as was WAPF with four chapter leaders present. Thank you to everyone who attended and brought the message of food freedom and We Will Not Comply.

Thank you to Ruth Ann Foster, Dick Stevens and Greg Niewendorp for their first hand reporting of the session.

Tyson Meat Packing Giant Seizes Rancher's Home

The following is mostly taken from the R-CALF USA Website:

Herried, South Dakota—Directed by a court order obtained by Tyson Fresh Meats Inc. (Tyson), the U.S. Marshals Service on June 11, 2009, posted a "No Trespassing" sign and "Warning" on the front door of South Dakota rancher and cattle feeder Herman Schumacher's home. Tyson obtained a judgment against Schumacher when Schumacher tried to protect his fellow cattle producers by stopping Tyson from violating the Packers and Stockyards Act. A federal jury unanimously sided with Schumacher, but then a three-judge panel for the 8th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals overturned the jury's decision [following a pattern of judges overturning jury decisions in favor of the giant meat packers]. So, in a bizarre twist, Schumacher must now pay Tyson \$15,881.38 or Tyson will use the U.S. judicial system to finalize the seizure of Schumacher's home.

"This retaliatory action against Schumacher, who courageously did what U.S. Department of Agriculture was supposed to but refused to do, is an extreme injustice," said

R-CALF USA President Max Thornsberry. "We cannot sit back and allow Tyson to intimidate U.S. cattle producers and destroy our markets. R-CALF USA is sponsoring this news conference to help protect Schumacher's property against Tyson's advances, as well as to highlight the urgent need to end – once and for all – the market-manipulating practices of the four largest packers who together control approximately 88 percent of the U.S. fed cattle market."

USDA's failure to enforce the Packers and Stockyards Act of 1921 (PSA) has let anticompetitive practices and anti-trust actions by the concentrated meatpackers go unrestrained, causing hundreds of thousands of cattle producers to exit the industry.

On Friday June 26, R-CALF USA held a press conference on the front lawn of Hermann Schumacher's home in South Dakota, to challenge the seizure of his home by the U.S. Marshals because of Tyson's actions.

For more information: <http://r-calfusa.com/Hermanvs.Tyson/090622-hermanvs.Tyson.htm>

VICFA at the Summer Solstice Festival by Anne Buteau

Wayne Bolton, Dick Stevens, myself and my young daughter Elizabeth represented VICFA at the first Summer Solstice Festival, June 20-21, at the former Amherst Livestock Auction. Wineries offered tastings and wines for

sale, food producers offered samples and sales of goat cheese, relishes and salsas, jams and jellies, fresh produce and country hams.

Non-stop music of various types and the cleaned up stockyard made an excellent venue, giving protection from sun and rain. Craft vendors set up outside, and a bouncy castle with water slides entertained children.

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Wayne and Dick gave a talk at 2:00 in the seminar tent each afternoon. Also speaking about buying locally was the owner of "Samandas" (off Rt 29 just south of Amherst), a qualified nutritionist who sells locally produced foods as well as gift items.

The event was well supported for a first time festival and we probably talked to 100 people or more, gave out over 50 leaflets publicizing Farm Food Voices and many VICFA brochures, and added more names to our Action Alert List, reaching a whole new group of people. When we engaged them in conversation and asked if they had heard of VICFA or NAIS the answer was almost universally, "No," so we soon changed that.

I visited all the winery booths (hic!) while distributing VICFA information. Al Weed gave us a WHOLE case of wine for a silent auction prize from his Mountain Cove Winery in Lovingston. More donations will probably come from other wineries. The other winery owners were hearing of VICFA for the first time, except Robert Chase, VP of Rebec Vineyard, and all were sympathetic to our mission.

It is interesting meeting people at these events and any volunteer from VICFA does not have to be at the booth all day if enough members attend. You don't even have to be an expert on NAIS—we have the information on the table. It would be nice especially for CONSUMER members to attend so they may speak from a consumer viewpoint as to why they are involved in VICFA, as most of the people we encounter at these events are consumers, not farmers.

A coming opportunity for volunteering in this way is the Virginia State Fair, from Sept. 24th to Oct. 4th. Yes, you probably have to lose pay now, or lose your food supply later, but if you get one person enlightened and excited about VICFA's mission, then it is worth it. You can contact Lois Smith at 804.366.6051 or cvcrls@mindspring.com to sign up for a shift. Please put it on your calendar now and get active, FEEL GOOD ABOUT IT, AND MAKE A DIFFERENCE!! You will have fun too!

Many thanks to Dick Stevens for arranging VICFA's attendance and thanks to Richard and Lynn Hanson, and Robert Chase of Rebec Vineyards for a complimentary VICFA booth

Deb Naylor Recovering from Sow Mauling, Please Help Out *Dillwyn, VA*

--On Friday May 29., Deb Naylor was badly mauled by several sows when she entered the pen to retrieve a dead piglet. With both arms useless, one with compound fractures, the other with nerve and artery severed, deep tusk bites to her hands, legs and face, and bleeding profusely, she managed to get out of the pen across two small fences and to the house where her husband Jim found her and carried her to the car, laid her down in the backseat and took her to the emergency room. They immediately airlifted her to the trauma center in Richmond where she underwent seven hours of surgery. After several weeks of multiple surgeries and much hard work to get to where she could sit up and walk, she is home and facing about 18 months of recuperation. Prognosis for regaining full use of her nerve damaged arm and hand is guarded but hopeful.

Jim and Deb will need considerable support from the community, both financially and in the day to day needs of farm help, food, housework, errands and the like. Please help as you are able.

Bev Hill, of the Veggie Van, has done a tremendous job of setting up help for them, creating a bank account, a

webpage, planning an auction and taking names of people who want to help, among other things.

Please use the following information to help Jim and Deb in their long process of Deb's recovery:

BANK ACCOUNT: DONATIONS for Deb Naylor can be accepted at any **Benchmark Community Bank** branch.

Locations: <https://www.bcbonline.com/home/home> - or - mailed directly to: Benchmark Community Bank, PO Box 46, Crewe, VA 23930

MAKE CHECKS OUT TO DEB NAYLOR and reference the following information: Account: Barbara A. Hill FBO (for benefit of) DEB NAYLOR.

Send a card to Deb at:

Deb Naylor
Heaven's Edge Farm
1674 Evans Mill Rd
Dillwyn, VA 23936

For complete information on the Amish quilt raffle and the auction that Bev has coordinated, and to sign up for general help, please see her webpage:

<http://www.freewebs.com/thistledownefarmsveggievan/> and click on the Deb Naylor pages.

Bev Hill: theveggievan@yahoo.com or 434.292.9183

THANK YOU!!!

Mr. Salatin Goes to Washington

by Joel Salatin

"If you just looked inside the USDA, you would find tremendous support for local food," said Senator Mark

Udall to me yesterday, June 17. I responded: "I have looked, and it's not a pretty picture . . ." then somebody cut off my microphone and that was the end.

From Farm and Home Directly to You

I think I have reached the nadir of my trust in government. Some background: a couple of months ago, I received an invitation from Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid to participate in the Green Jobs Leadership Summit hosted by the Senate Democratic Caucus in the Russell Senate Office Building. His invitation read: "This half-day event will feature discussions focused on creating clean

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I received a duplicate invitation directly from Sen. Webb. Smelling a rat (partisans backslapping and me a member of a voiceless mob) I contacted Sen. Webb's office for clarification and was assured that I might even have five minutes with Vice President Joe Biden, but surely I would have plenty of face time with senators. Each senator was allowed one nominee, and I was Webb's representative. That was kind of cool, and with a total potential of 100 people from across the U.S., this sounded like indeed it might be something where I could get my message to some high levels.

So yesterday morning I left the house a little after 3:30 a.m. and traveled to Washington. I arrived and went immediately to the breakfast, which was chalk milk, ice water, coffee, orange juice, bagels, and hydrogenated pastries. Breakfast? Where is the raw milk, local apple juice, bacon, sausage, pastured eggs? I settled for ice water.

The room was surrounded by slick corporate poster advertisements for alternative energy manufacturers, supported by a cadre of CEOs and their staffs. Hardly enough room to move around. Soon we were told to find our seats and Sen. Debbie Stabenow convened the meeting.

energy jobs and supporting the new green economy. Because of your company's leadership in the clean energy and green manufacturing industries, Senator Webb [Va. Senator Jim Webb] has nominated you to represent Virginia at the Green Jobs Leadership Summit." A breakfast reception would begin at 8 a.m.

The front table was cordoned off and guarded by security until VP Joe Biden came. He spoke about the wonderful things the stimulus package was doing, then shook hands with about 8 senators in a reserved section, then was quickly whisked away. So much for face time.

What followed were two panels, primarily senators, simply giddy over how they were rescuing the country. The senators would flow in for their 1 minute of clapping praise from the industry audience, then gave 3 minutes of Democratic salvation exuberance, then quickly left for more important matters. Once each panel finished their pre-ramble (ha!) monologues, just a few minutes were left for the lucky few who could navigate to the microphone in a nearly unreachable corner to ask questions and make comments to the panel.

Since we were out of time by the time this was allowed, three or more people would give their comments and then someone from the panel would respond--always about how we needed to do more. I finally realized that this was all about the Democrats (I'm sure Republicans do it all the time too) convening industry people to become their political cloud to shove through the Democratic agenda.

No face time. No interaction. I was just supposed to listen, catch the euphoria bug, and leave elated and thankful that the Democrats were finally in charge. Of course, I don't think the Republicans would be any better, but the postulating and self aggrandizement was both disgusting and palpable. Anyway, I finally decided to leave at the end of the second panel. As I walked out, I realized I had navigated to the end of the comment line and since only 6 people were in front of me, I might actually get to say something. So I waited.

And they got to me. Here is the best I remember what I said:

I'm amazed that after half a day of talk about green jobs and energy, I have not heard the word food, the word farm, or the word agriculture. I represent the local food movement and the pastured livestock movement, and we are tired of being marginalized, criminalized, and demonized by the USDA and this government. I'm a bioterrorist for letting my chickens run in the pasture. What good is it to have the freedom to own a gun, assemble, or worship if I can't choose the fuel to feed my internal 3 trillion member community of bacteria to give me the energy to go shoot, pray, or preach? I propose

that we have a Constitutional Amendment that allows every American citizen the right to choose their food. Government bureaucrats should not come between my mouth and my 3 trillion member internal community."

Other speakers had waxed on about health care and all sorts of things. I couldn't have talked more than one minute, when Sen. Udall interrupted with: "If you just looked inside the USDA, you would find tremendous

support for local food." I was the only speaker interrupted, the only one who mentioned food, farming, or agriculture, and the only one who didn't ask for more government money. And when I responded that I had looked inside and it was not a pretty picture . . . they cut my microphone off. Enough of you, Salatin. We don't want your type around here.

Thus endeth Mr. Salatin going to Washington. I think I'll write some more books.

Please Come to VICFA Meetings

VICFA meetings are open to the public. Please bring a dish and your enthusiasm to share.

The July, 2009 VICFA meeting will be Sunday, July 12, from 1:00 – 4:00 at Brian and Mehr Walden's in North Garden.

Brian Walden: 434.566.2277

From the west:

- take I-64 east to the Ivy exit (Exit 114)
- at bottom of ramp, turn right onto Dick Woods Rd. (Rt. 637) and go almost 2 miles
- turn left on Taylor's Gap Rd.(Rt. 708) (it's Dry Bridge Rd. if you turn right)
- go about 3 miles until you reach 1554 Taylors Gap Rd. on the right

From the north:

- From I-64, take 29 south for about eight miles
- turn right on Red Hill Rd (Rt. 708) just beyond yellow flashing lights
- stay on Red Hill Rd. about 2 miles until it ends at a stop sign
- turn right on Taylors Gap Rd. (still Rt. 708) and the driveway is the first left, and has a white mailbox with the number 1554 clearly visible.

From the east:

- take I-64 to the Ivy exit (Exit 114)
- at the bottom of the exit ramp, turn left on Dick Woods Rd (Rt. 637) and follow directions as from the west

From the south:

- take 29 North to Red Hill Rd (Rt. 708) (about 8 miles south of I-64)
- turn left on Red Hill Rd. and follow directions as from the north

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VICFA

Virginia Independent
Consumers and Farmers Association
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VICFA Membership Form

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Annual membership is \$25.00. Please make check payable to VICFA and sent to:

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Mission Statement and Goals:

Our purpose is to promote and preserve unregulated direct farmer-to-consumer trade that fosters availability of locally grown or home produced food products.

From Home and Farm Directly to You!