

VICFA Voice

Virginia Independent Consumers and Farmers Association

Our purpose is to promote and preserve unregulated direct farm-to-consumer trade that fosters availability of locally grown or home-produced foods



Read Kathryn's Beautiful Eulogy on our website

In Memory of Kathryn O. Russell

As we bid farewell to Kathryn O. Russell, I am reminded of a dynamic, powerful, resourceful woman who was fiercely proud, yet exhibited modesty, who was not boastful or bashful, but who spoke truth with power. Her insatiable search for knowledge was not motivated by some academic quest, but motivated by necessity—the needs of family, friends and fellow farmers.

I can speak for many of us who knew her and countless others whose lives were touched by her profoundly tough and creative approach to life—life that began with home birth and continued with home schooling, for her own eight children and for countless mothers and children for whom she helped to forge new policies in the Virginia Legislature. Kathryn approached frontiers with confidence and persistence.

The same was true as a VICFA member, her leadership, and her confident and persistent voice as an advocate for small independent farmers will be heard long after her voice is silent. She lobbied in the Virginia General Assembly and in Congress on small farm issues and was instrumental in the establishment of National Independent Consumers and Farmers Association (NICFA), united against the National Animal Identification System (NAIS). She launched the Virginia Dairy Agisters Coalition and Shareholder Association and was a chapter leader for Weston A. Price Foundation.

It was Kathryn who emphasized the need to embrace *consumers* as part of the mission of Virginia Independent Consumers and Farmers Association (VICFA). She constantly forged relationships between farmers and consumers. To that end, she contributed articles to the VICFA newsletter and other area publications. The media often sought her out as a significant source of information regarding the local food community. Kathryn initiated and organized the first Farm Food Voices in 2005, now an annual event that draws hundreds of consumers, state and national legislators, and the media, all of whom become more familiar with locally produced food sources. Her final association act, at the October board meeting, was to introduce a framework for the establishment of a new Public Communications Committee that will review, manage, produce and distribute VICFA information to members, consumers, legislators, and the media.

We all have knowledge and information to share, but it was Kathryn's experience and wisdom that we sought. Day in and day out, her work as a wife and mother, a farmer, a teacher, a mentor, a writer, a political activist, and a food community leader distinguished the life of this independent farmer. Her vitality and voice has been extinguished all too soon and she leaves us with heavy hearts, but with resolve to continue our purpose.

Join us on November 7th for this special event:

THE RAW MILK REVOLUTION

What's Behind America's Emerging Battle Over Food Rights?

BOOK SIGNING & RECEPTION

November 7th, 2009 6:00 - 9:00 pm

Piedmont Virginia Community College, Charlottesville, VA

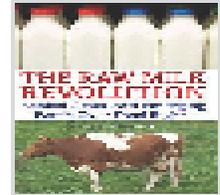
Presentation by David Gumpert, Author; Accompanied by Joel Salatin

The author takes readers behind the scenes of government's tough and occasionally brutal intimidation tactics.

Limited seating. Pre-registration requested.

Register online at www.brownpapertickets.com/event/84370
and indicate number in your party.

To register by phone or for more information contact info@VICFA.net
or call (804) 366-6051



Sponsored by:

Virginia Independent Consumers and Farmers Association
Weston A. Price, Charlottesville Chapter
Flavor Magazine
In The Kitchen Magazine

Minutes:

Due to tragic circumstances, October's Minutes of the Meeting will be in December's Newsletter

LEGISLATIVE BREAKFAST

It is time to showcase our wonderful way of life, by bringing a homemade breakfast items to our representatives and their aides

*We are proposing two bills this session
Do not miss this opportunity to lobby your law makers*

- 1. The Kitchen Bill Amendment*
- 2. The Custom Meat Processing Bill*

When: January 20th, Wednesday.

Time: 9:30 until 11:30

*Where: In Richmond, at the General Assembly Building
4th floor Conference Room, West.*

Talking Points will be available

Come on out! it's a great day of important fellowship!

Any Questions Call Wayne Bolton at (804)380-5909

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE *111th* CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

WASHINGTON, TUESDAY, OCTOBER 27, 2009

STATEMENT OF
HON. TOM PERRIELLO
OF VIRGINIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Madame Speaker, today I recognize the untimely passing of Kathryn Russell, who was killed in a car accident on the evening of October 22, 2009. She will be sorely missed by her friends, family, and community as well as independent farming advocates throughout the country. My heart goes out to her husband Wayne and their children Holly, Lynn, Laura, Emily, Beth, Charlotte, Caleb, and Hannah.

Kathryn returned to her grandparents' roots by beginning her farm over a decade ago and was a valued member of the North Garden community in Albemarle County, Virginia. As the owner of Majesty Farms and a founder and leader of the Virginia Independent Consumers and Farmers Association, she worked to protect family farms, locally grown food, and to promote ecological and economic sustainability. Kathryn took great pride in her work and believed strongly in the importance of community-based farming to create a vibrant local economy and a healthy citizenry. I can personally attest to her fearlessness and tirelessness in promoting traditional farming. She was an ardent skeptic of big government and corporate agriculture, and often saw through attempts by both to consolidate power at the expense of consumers and small farmers. While she was a strident advocate, she was also patient enough to help those of us who needed a little extra educating to get up to speed on these issues. Today, there are too few farmers like Kathryn Russell and her husband Wayne. I have strong hopes that she has passed on her legacy to her eight children and four grandchildren, and that they will maintain her memory by continuing the work toward lasting rural communities for generations to come

COME TO NOVEMBER'S MEETING IN RICHMOND At Robin Raver's home

Sunday, November 8th
12:00-1:00 Business Meeting
1:00-3:00 General Meeting

From South, West and East of Richmond:

95N to Exit 80 (Lakeside)

veer off the exit to the right

make a right at the light (Hermitage/Lakeside)

go down hill--Bryan Park on Left, pass two banks on right and you will see an East Coast convenience store

turn right at East Coast onto VALE AVE.

4 blocks to WALKER AVE (on the right)

From North;

95S to exit 81

Come off exit to the right (Route 1/Chamberlayne Ave)

Make a right onto Azalea Ave.

Cross over Brook Rd

go through light at Carpet Store, cross over 95 bridge

Make first left onto GILLESPIE AVE.

Make left at stop sign onto VALE AVE.

WALKER AVE is the next block

Address is 5301 Walker Ave., Henrico VA 23228 Lost? Call 804-421-9642

The house is a red brick cape. There is plenty of parking at the house and across the street in the county lot.

VICFA
P.O. Box 915
Charlottesville, VA 22902

**We are on the
web
www.vicfa.org**

VICFA Membership Form

Name _____

Address _____

Email _____

Phone _____

Annual membership: \$25.00

I would like to receive the Newsletter electronic hard-copy

I would like to be listed in the membership directory Yes NO