

VICFA Voice

Virginia Independent Consumers and Farmers Association

October 2009

Volume 8, Issue 10

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

October Meeting Moved to October 18

Because of a conflict with the Garlic Festival on October 10 – 11, where VICFA will have a booth and we hope many members will attend, the regular monthly meeting has been moved to Sunday October 18, from its regular date of October 11. We will resume our regular second Sunday schedule in

New VICFA Meeting Format:

First hour to be Board business meeting each month

Beginning in October, the first hour of each monthly VICFA meeting will be a Board of Directors business meeting. At a special Board meeting on September 6, Board members, realizing the need to address VICFA administrative issues, voted for this change. The Board will meet from 1:00 – 2:00 (12:00 – 1:00 during standard time) then a two-hour general meeting will follow. Non-Board members may come at 1:00, attend and contribute to the Board meeting, though they may not vote, or relax and tour the farm, or arrive at 2:00 for the general meeting. All members may vote in the general meeting.

The Lost People: Part II

by Paul Griepentrog

(C) Copyright September, 2009. All rights reserved.

This article may not be reprinted or redistributed

either electronically or in hard copy, in whole or in part, in any form without the express permission of the author.

For reprint permission contact skfarms@centurytel.net

[Read [The Lost People: Part I](http://ppjg.wordpress.com/2009/09/26/the-lost-people-part-i/) at <http://ppjg.wordpress.com/2009/09/26/the-lost-people-part-i/>

A way of life was put on trial in Neillsville, Wisconsin on September 23, 2009, in the case against Emanuel Miller Jr., having been charged under complaint for civil forfeiture because he refused to register his property under the state's premise registration program. The morning session was devoted to the evidentiary hearing in which the state, represented by Clark Co. district attorney Darwin Zwieg and Bonnie Walksmuth, a court appointed attorney representing Emanuel Miller, presented evidence on behalf of the parties.

The afternoon session was devoted to the trial phase and concluded around 4 o'clock, at which time Judge Jon Counsell gave instructions that upon the completion of the trial transcript, there would be thirty days to file motions, fifteen days after to file rebuttals, oral arguments would occur seven days later, and then he would make his final decision.

Close to a hundred Amish were in attendance both from the local area and those who had come from other groups in a show of solidarity for Emanuel. There were three reporters and eight non-Amish present other than the witnesses for the state and defendant. Conspicuous by their

absence were the representatives of the groups claiming to be fighting NAIS. The only group showing support was the Wisconsin Independent Consumers and Farmers Association (WICFA) by the presence of their president, C.J. Cordell and his wife Jessica.

The first phase of the hearing heard testimony from Emanuel Miller Jr., Emanuel Miller Sr., and Amos Schwartz, Deacon for the group in and around Taylor Co.; each giving testimony concerning their Biblical beliefs in that although they could not state with absolute certainty that the premises number was a precursor to the Mark of the Beast, they knew it was the first step in the NAIS protocol that would lead to the individual numbering and tracking of animals. They believed the need for caution in order to prevent them from being drawn into the NAIS program only to discover later that they had violated their beliefs and would then have no recourse to remedy their error. When asked what they would do if forced to register and be subject to fines, jail, or be forced to move they responded that they would accept or endure the consequences and stated: "If a faith is worth living for, it's worth dying for."

(Continued on p. 3)

Letter from the September VICFA Meeting

by Anne Buteau

The September 2009 VICFA meeting was held at President Wayne Bolton's farm in Green Bay. Twenty-five attended, including new members, infrequently seen members and Jim and Deb Naylor whom everyone was pleased to see out and about.

We had a lengthy, interesting introductions session as we enjoyed a wonderful selection of homemade food,

Minutes from August were approved and no Treasurer's report given.

OLD BUSINESS:

- Farm Food Voices: no final figure
- Heritage Harvest Festival report: (see this issue)
- State Fair: Dick Stevens moved that VICFA give Lois a budget of \$100 for photocopying. (in previous years Lois has paid out of her own pocket for extra leaflets etc... needed during the fair). John Coles seconded, motion passed. Lois Smith moved that VICFA fund a special edition newsletter for distribution, costs to be deferred with ads. Pearce Gardner seconded, motion passed. Lois Smith moved that Pierce Gardner seek advertisements for the special edition newsletter. Paul Lawler seconded, motion passed.

NEW BUSINESS

- Membership Coordinator: Karen Oxford has volunteered for this position. Thank you!
- Action Alert Database Manager: Anna Emery has volunteered for this position. Thank you!

- Wayne announced two new bills we are pursuing: a kitchen bill addition to include relishes, pickles and salsas, and a meat bill, to allow a producer to sell by the pound, direct to final consumer, meat that has been processed at a custom slaughterhouse.
- Larisa Sparrowhawk, former VICFA Secretary, has had a heart attack and is in need of funds. John Coles moved that VICFA send a card and a check for \$100 from VICFA. Anne seconded.
- Garlic and Wine Festival: (see Coming Events) Dick Stevens asked for volunteers with the booth. This event conflicts with the October meeting. Following discussion, Paul Lawler moved to change the Oct. meeting to 18th Oct. Ben Wood seconded, motion passed.
- Legislators on the Farm Day: With no legislators signed up yet, many people felt that it was too close to coming elections for politicians to attend. VICFA has a heavy schedule this fall and only so many active members who take the time to organize and attend these events. Sally Hurst moved that VICFA postpone the legislators on the farm day to another time. Anne seconded, motion passed.
- Pearce Gardner asked if VICFA had ever attended the VA Farm Show, usually the 3rd week in January in Fishersville. Guy Freesen volunteered to find out dates, costs and hours of the show.
- Paul Lawler is having Customer Appreciation Day Nov. 1 (see Events Calendar)
- Coming meetings were arranged
Meeting adjourned at 4.29p.m.

VICFA Represented at Heritage Harvest Festival

by Kathryn Russell

Southern Seed Savers Exchange annual Heritage Harvest Festival was held on Saturday, September 12, at Monticello. This year's Festival was a great success, with wonderful weather and gorgeous views from Montalto, the "high mountain" rising 400 feet above Thomas Jefferson's gardens at Monticello. The 360-degree panorama included Charlottesville as well as a good portion of Albemarle and Fluvanna counties.

VICFA's table under a large tent was bordered by Virginia Association of Biological Farmers and Jams by Daniel. Brian Walden and Bill McCaskill arrived first thing in the morning, then Ann Buteau relieved them, along with John Coles and myself, for the afternoon. We distributed information, chatted with new people, and saw many old friends. Three new members joined and a number of people signed up for the Action Alert list.

Heritage Harvest Festival information: <http://heritageharvestfestival.com/>

From farm and home, directly to you.

Festival goers were receptive to VICFA's mission, and were particularly excited to hear about our coming proposed additions to the Kitchen bill.

This year VICFA was a supporting sponsor of the Heritage Harvest Festival in exchange for their sponsorship of Farm Food Voices. We had a nice ad in the event program with an acknowledgement and link on their website. We hope to continue our relationship with the Heritage Harvest Festival and look forward to next year's event. We enjoyed seeing many of our neighbors there: Frank Melli of Meet the Farmer TV, Mike McConkey of Edible Landscaping, Chef Rachael Kambic, VICFA member and C & O chef, presenting a sausage workshop, and VICFA member Kate Collier presenting an Apples & Cheese workshop with Tom Burford, Next year join the crowd and have a great day on the mountain!

Events Calendar

To help with an event, please contact Lois Smith: 804.366.6051

SEPTEMBER 24 – OCTOBER 4 Virginia State Fair, I-95 exit 98 next to Kings Dominion (Doswell) VICFA booth <http://www.statefair.com/>

OCTOBER 10 & 11 Sat/Sun Virginia Wine and Garlic Festival, just north of Amherst on Rt. 29, 10 am - 5 pm VICFA booth <http://www.rebecwinery.com/page10.html>

NOVEMBER 1 Sunday Customer Appreciation Day at Faith Farm, 2 – 5 p.m., Green Bay, with screening of "Fresh," the movie. **RSVP only** 434-696-2200 faithfarmfoods@yahoo.com

NOVEMBER 7 Saturday Book signing, David Gumpert, and Joel Salatin Charlottesville. David's book, "The Raw Milk Revolution," to be published this fall, Chelsea Green.

(The Lost People Part I Cont'd from p. 1)

Upon questioning by D.A. Zwieg regarding the entry of information into databases as part of back tagging livestock to sell, fire numbers, and other aspects of daily life, the Amish gentlemen responded that these acts were done by others and outside their control or consent. Darwin Zwieg tried to separate Wisconsin's premise identification program from NAIS despite the cooperative agreement held by the state and the USDA to implement the USDA's business plan. Andrew Johnson a field representative for Dairy Farms of America a company, to which the Amish farmers sell milk, testified that as part of his field kit issued by the company contained a document from the state that the national trace back system would be made mandatory despite the state's claims that individual tagging would be voluntary.

The afternoon's session delved into the states witnesses, the three foremost individuals to offer testimony were:

- * Duane Brandner compliance officer for animal health division,
- * Dr. Paul McGraw head of the animal health division, and,
- * Cheryl Daniels administrative attorney for the state department of agriculture.

It was during the testimony of these three individuals that Judge Counsell began to directly question the witnesses to further his understanding of the necessity of the premise number. It was during the questioning by Judge Counsell of these witnesses, that the responses to the questions posed became inconsistent with existing ag administrative code and the USDA's business plan. There were several of these inconsistencies and I will deal with them in a later article after I have received the trial transcript.

However, there are two instances that stand out, the first being Dr. McGraw's response to questions posed by Judge Counsell regarding the necessity of the premise registration

system. Judge Counsell questioned whether the premise registration system had shown to be a benefit to disease control in Wisconsin to which Dr. McGraw responded "No."

The judge then asked if had been shown to be a benefit in any other state it had been implemented and again the response was, "no."

In the judges questioning of Cheryl Daniels the question was posed as whether the premise number was part of the 15 digit individual animal identifier number. A shocked look came onto Ms. Daniels face as she responded "no"; an answer in direct contradiction to the USDA's business plan.

There was of course much more that occurred that day in court than what I could cover here, however, the conversation outside the courtroom during the breaks was just as insightful.

Having lived in an area with an Amish community I was surprised at their attitude, as it was one of cold anger, born of misinformation and broken promises from persons representing state and national groups that had lulled them into a false sense of security; a blight that exists throughout the anti NAIS movement today. My hope is that the people involved will come to the knowledge of the truth without having to face the stark reality of the courts and move to correct this unnecessary program.

Emanuel is not the only farmer facing prosecution for failing to register a premise; Pat Monchilovich is also scheduled for trial in October on the same charges.

You see, I also have a vested interest in these cases having received a visit from Duane Brandner in late February informing me I would be charged for failing to register. *****

Paul M. Griepentrog, WICFA Vice President, is an authentic farmer in Wisconsin acting as an advocate for farmers and consumers

The Raw Milk Revolution

Behind America's Emerging Battle Over Food Rights

by David Gumpert, Forward by Joel Salatin

BOOK SIGNING and RECEPTION

with author David Gumpert and Joel Salatin

November 7, 6:00 - 9:00 p.m.

Piedmont Virginia Community College

(near Charlottesville)

COME CELEBRATE David Gumpert's newly published book, The Raw Milk Revolution.

Gumpert takes readers behind the scenes of the government's tough, sometimes brutal, intimidation tactics in their persecution of raw milk producers and consumers, seen through the eyes of milk producers, government regulators, scientists, prosecutors, and consumers.

FROM THE FORWARD by Joel Salatin: "What does a society do when the charlatans are in charge? If health depends on opting out of what the charlatans think is safe, we are forced into civil disobedience.... That is exactly what is driving the local heritage food movement."

BOOK SIGNING of Joel's and David's books and reception follow presentations by David and Joel.

Admission: \$10 per household. Pre-registration requested: www.VICFA.net, or call 434-760-5514.

Senator Warner's Aide Meets With VICFA Members

by Deborah Stockton

On Sunday, September 13, VICFA members met with U.S. Senator Mark Warner's legislative aide Aryana Khalid in Charlottesville to discuss the "food safety" bills. Bill # HR-2749 passed the House in August, but Ms. Khalid said that S-510 is the bill the Senators will work on.

The hour-plus long meeting gave time for everyone to speak and ask questions, and Carroll Anne Friedmann's home provided a welcoming meeting place and atmosphere. It had the added advantage of bringing "home" the consumer farmer relationships we spoke about, as two of Carroll Anne's farmer providers were there—Kathryn Russell and Christine Solem. Carroll Anne showed Ms. Khalid that her food sources would disappear as the result of any of these bills.

This was the first Ms. Khalid had heard from small farmers about the consequences of these bills. We pointed out that true food safety issues—centralized production, centralized processing, and long distance transportation—are not addressed by the bills. That the vulnerable areas of contamination, the meat processing facilities, are untouched by the bills and would remain under the jurisdiction of the USDA. That small farms, that are NOT the source of the annual millions of cases of food-borne illness in the U.S., would be regulated as though they *were* the causes—and

regulated out existence. That regulations written according to the international standards and guidelines of WTO agreements would impose on domestic production the same requirements imposed on imports and exports. And that the bills are a vehicle for making U.S. domestic production acceptable for global marketing, just as the bills state.:

H.R.2749 Title: To amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act **to improve the safety of food in the global market**, and for other purposes.

Ms. Khalid made clear her willingness to work with us. She offered to help us acquire any research information we might need that she has access to, and to facilitate communication with other offices. She suggested we contact our state legislators and the Governor's office to request that they speak to Senator Warner (and Webb) on our behalf. So please contact your state Senator and Delegate about this. Tell them about these bills and ask them to call Senator Warner and Webb on your behalf. If you need help with this, please ask! Ms. Khalid is glad to meet with individuals and groups who go to DC, or to arrange for conference calls if groups would like to discuss this.

You can participate in our participatory government. And you'll be glad you did. *****

From farm and home, directly to you.

Albemarle's Agricultural Angst and Viticultural Vendetta

by Neil Williamson, President. Free Enterprise Forum
Reprinted with permission from www.freeenterpriseforum.org

Old Vine

Did you know Albemarle County produced the most wine grapes in the state, over 1,000 tons in 2006 (the last year available)?

Did you know over 500 acres in Albemarle is dedicated to vineyard operations (and wineries)?

Did you know the Monticello Wine Trail is one of the oldest and most populated wine trails in the state?

In this week's (9/15/09) Albemarle County Planning Commission meeting, county staff estimated the vineyards and wineries were a \$2.2 million dollar in Albemarle County.

So based on the above, how is Albemarle County planning to celebrate October as Virginia Wine Month? – By regulating it.

As this is harvest, the local wineries are now literally up to their elbows in grapes. During a recent break on the crush pad, one local vintner questioned Albemarle County's intent. "Why don't they want me to succeed?" she asked.

Utilizing their adroit legal department, Albemarle (and Fauquier) believe they have found a way around the

General Assembly's action designed to keep local governments out of the vineyards.

The state legislature anticipated the kind of conflict between local government and the wineries and sided with the wineries when it recognized the importance of Farm Wineries with the passage of Virginia Code 15.2-2288.3 Licensed farm wineries; local regulation of certain activities:

"Usual and customary activities at farm wineries shall be permitted without local regulation unless there is a significant impact on the health, safety, or welfare of the public."

Based on our review of the publicly available documents, the Free Enterprise Forum does not believe Albemarle County (or Fauquier) has the legislative authority to enact the farm winery regulations currently under discussion. Both the language and the intent of the General Assembly are clear.

Despite clear legislative intent, staff is bringing new regulations to the Albemarle County Planning Commission in late October or November.

Agricultural Angst: What does Albemarle County Have Against Farm Stands? Charlottesville Area Farmer Nathan Yoder prosecuted for selling his own produce

In their first meeting of September, the Albemarle County Board of Supervisors acknowledged an issue regarding produce stands in the rural areas. Sean Tubbs from Charlottesville Tomorrow has the full story and a Podcast at:

http://cvilletomorrow.typepad.com/charlottesville_tomorrow/2009/09/farmers_markets.html

Mr. Tubbs reports:

For the past nine years, Albemarle County farmer Nathan Yoder has sold produce on Thursday afternoons at a stand at the corner of Free Union Road and Garth Road. Someone complained to County's zoning officials about the stand, triggering an investigation. While Yoder has permission from the property owner, technically he is violating the zoning code because he does not own the land on which he's selling his goods. The County is allowing him to continue operations through the end of this season.

During the public comment portion of the meeting, resident Bob Rash asked the Albemarle County Board a series of pointed questions regarding government regulation

of the farm stands. He felt strongly that these farm stands are a critical distribution point for the rural enterprises they support. Another local farmer told the Free Enterprise Forum he planned to give some of his tomatoes to the farm stand that was operating on his land. He believed if the farm stand was acting as his agent for the tomatoes they could also sell their own produce on his property without unnecessary government interference. The Board has promised to examine and resolve the issue prior to the Spring growing season.

Considering the time and money Albemarle County has put into its land use revalidation program, one would think they would be more supportive of the farms that make up Albemarle's rural economy.

Thank you to Neil Williamson for reprint permission. And special thanks to members Bob and Kathy Rash who brought Mr. Yoder's situation to our attention and who are taking the lead in pursuing farmer and consumer rights in this. We will post updates.

Welcome to the Global Plantation 101

First of a planned series

by Deborah Stockton

Doreen Hannes, Director of Research for NICFA, wrote “Welcome to the Global Plantation,” in part as a brief explanation of the documents that put into place, in each member country, the edicts of the United Nations (UN), aka Global Marketing, Inc. If one is new to this material, it can be more than daunting. In fact, it is so weird for most of us that we don’t really want to know more. If you can make yourself stay with it, you uncover the layers and find a complex structure to enable global corporate marketing enforced by member governments through extensive regulations.

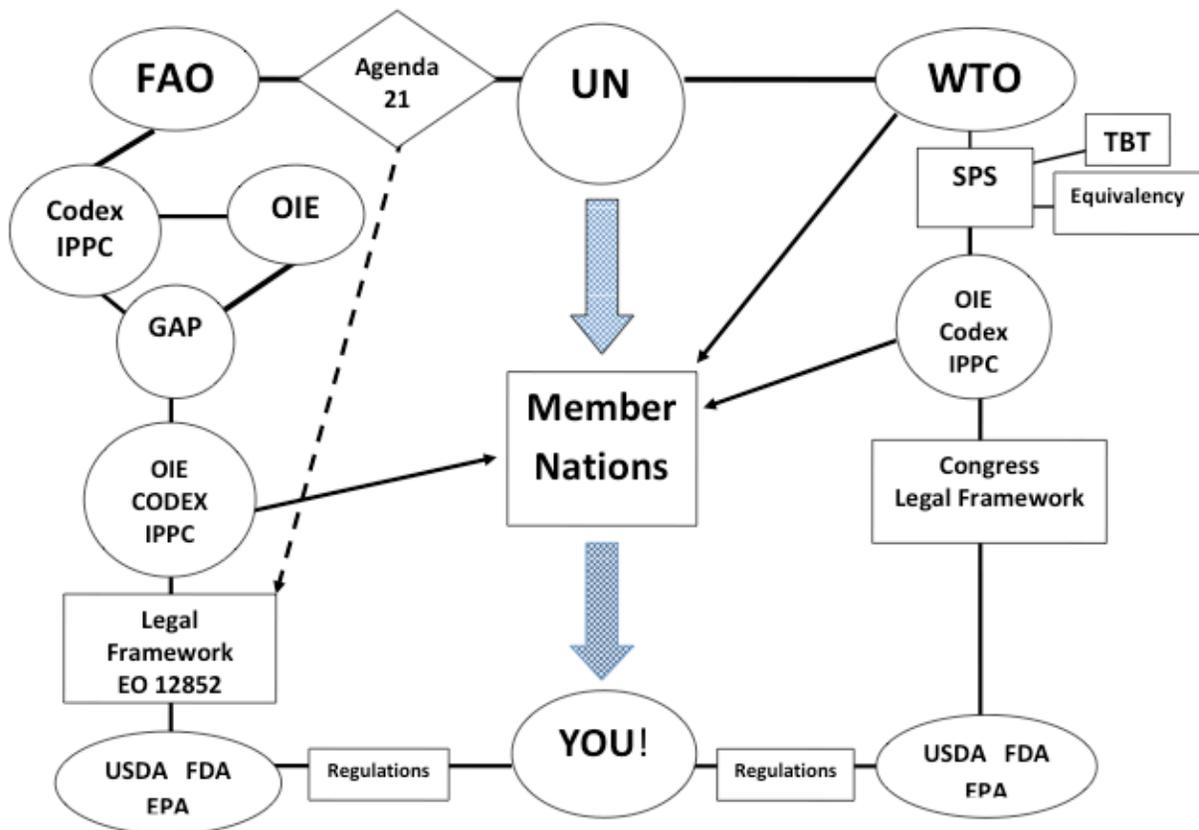
The flow chart below is a very simplified overview of how UN edicts become member nation regulations. We will address only the right side of the flow chart in this brief article.

The United Nations’ World Trade Organization has “rounds” (meetings) where member nations create formal trade agreement rules. The Sanitary Phyto Sanitary (SPS) agreement was one such (read about the SPS at: http://www.fas.usda.gov/itp/Policy/Gatt/sps_txt.html). Member nations that signed the SPS agree to impose on their domestic production the same regulatory constraints applied to imports and exports. In effect, treating the entire domestic production as potential export material (global marketing). The SPS also authorizes certain UN agencies to write the rules and regulations that member nations will use to implement the SPS.

On September 17, Dr. Mark Panton, Chief Technical Officer in the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries in Jamaica, speaking at the 7th Annual General Meeting of the Jamaica Pig Farmers Association, said, "There are current plans to roll out a national animal identification programme [in Jamaic], starting with cattle and pigs. However, that programme has limitations that would have to be addressed, **if we plan to meet international standards as dictated in the application of sanitary agreements set out by the World Trade Organization**" (emphasis added).

As we know, regulations can only be written under the authority of an enabling statute. All of the “food safety” bills proposed so far contain language to enable the WTO’s regulations to be written for U.S. production. These regulations will put an end to small farming in the U.S. This, among other parts of the bills, is what has to be stopped.

NICFA will post more information on this flow chart and all the acronyms (see www.NICFA.org for updates).



From farm and home, directly to you.

Please come to VICFA meetings

New Meeting Format:

The general meeting is from 2:00 – 4:00

From 1:00 – 2:00 is a Board business meeting. Anyone may attend, only Board members may vote.

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

The October, 2009 VICFA meeting will be Sunday, October 18, at Paul and Brenda Lawler's near Green Bay.

Directions to Lawler's

From Charlottesville:

- From I-64 take Rt. 20 South through Scottsville to Dilwyn and Rt. 15 South
- Follow Rt. 15 South to Farmville and take Rt. 460 East toward Rice
- Just East of Farmville on Rt. 460, come around a bend - a sign for Twin Lakes will be on the right
- Green Bay Road will be the next right, take it.

- Go about 12 miles to Route 360, make a right
- Travel 0.3 mile - turn left on Levi Rd./Rt. 662
- Go 2 miles – turn left onto Nutbush Rd. and go 0.8 miles – we are on left, 8996 Nutbush Rd.

Lawlers: 434.696.2200

Coming meetings:

November: Robin Raver, Richmond

December: Anne, Dan and Elizabeth Buteau's, Shipman

DEXTER CATTLE FOR SALE IDEAL HOMESTEAD BREED

Easy keeping
Suitable for milk or beef
Forage raised

www.PurebredDexterCattle.org

GALLOWAY CATTLE FOR SALE

Great pasture beef
Purebred or for crossbreeding
Solid colors

<http://www.AmericanGalloway.com>

Cove Branch Farm
Charles C. and Marilyn Barnes
771 Barbour's Creek Road
New Castle, VA 24127
540.864.5230
ifarmueat@aol.com

New at Countryside...

Crystal Creek™ Products

**Nutritional Supplements &
Health Aids for Livestock**

-Natural

-Effective

-Environmentally Safe

Call Kevin or Keith for more information



COUNTRYSIDE NATURAL PRODUCTS
1688 JEFFERSON HWY
FISHERSVILLE, VIRGINIA 22939
888- 699-7088
www.countrysidenatural.com

VICFA Voice
Editor: Deborah Stockton
Editor@vicfa.net

AD RATES (non-members add
\$5.00)
Classifieds: \$5/25 words. \$5
each 1 – 25 word increment

VICFA E-group. Members
only.
To join, email Pearce Gardner
pearcegardner@gmail.com

From farm and home, directly to you.

VICFA

Virginia Independent
Consumers and Farmers Association
P.O Box 915
Charlottesville, VA 22902

We're on the Web!
www.VICFA.net

VICFA Membership Form

Please print:

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Email _____

How did you learn of VICFA? _____

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

VICFA
P.O. Box 915
Charlottesville, VA 22902

*If you would like VICFA to post information about your products on our website,
Please email editor@vicfa.net.*

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!