

VICFA  
 PO Box 6838  
 Charlottesville, VA 22906

**VICFA**

Virginia Independent Consumers and Farmers Association  
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Website: [www.VICFA.org](http://www.VICFA.org)  
 E-group: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/VICFA>.

**Share this newsletter with a friend - encourage others to join VICFA!**

Annual membership is \$25.00.

Please make check payable to VICFA and send to PO Box 6838, Charlottesville, VA 22906.

**MEMBERSHIP FORM (please print clearly)**

\* Required fields

\*Date \_\_\_\_\_  
 \*First Name \_\_\_\_\_ \*Last Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Company /Farm Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 \*Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 \*City \_\_\_\_\_ \*State \_\_\_\_\_ \*Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 County \_\_\_\_\_ Congressional District \_\_\_\_\_  
 \*Phone ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_  
 E-mail \_\_\_\_\_  
 Website \_\_\_\_\_

**Producers, please list the products that you sell:**

\*Do you want to be listed in the Membership Directory?  Yes  No

Note. Your directory listing will contain all of the above information unless you indicate otherwise below.

**How did you hear about VICFA?**

**Comments:**



**Our Mission:** To promote and preserve  
 unregulated direct farmer-to-consumer trade that fosters  
 availability of locally grown or home-produced food products

December 2012

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**Introduction by Suzi Croes**

*The "corporate" hold on government and the American public appear to be as firm as ever, here in Virginia and on a national level; it seems that the windows of personal freedoms are closing. With our judiciary system not upholding our constitutional rights of free choice within our states, choosing instead, to blatantly disregard civil challenges, refusing to properly review cases and instead hiding behind questionable technicalities to avoid offending corporate America. Meanwhile, labeling which is required on everything, food, aspirin, cars...etc., (it is hard to imagine buying a car without a label) failed to win the vote in California with corporate money fueling an anti-proposition 37, which would require labeling of GMO ingredients. These trends have been changing the way we do business for decades...slowly, stealthily and with the resurgence in small farming and local trade, have been coming into the light as they have been restrictive to this new growth. The crazier it seems, the more questions arise and the more light exposing the issues. I, for one, am not disheartened, as many people will now be asking, "What are GMO's and what effect do they have on farming and my health?" As government regulations continue to be passed that foster restrictive trade, more people are and will be paying more attention than ever. Be diligent, stay informed, and be an active part of your freedom!*

**U. S. Supreme Court Denies Scrapie Regulation**

*By Christine Solem*

The United States Supreme Court has denied the Petition filed by Attorney, Norman Lamson, on behalf of Wayne Russell (husband of Kathryn Russell of Majesty Farm in North Garden, Virginia) to review the denial of Russell's challenge to the Scrapie regulations for goats and sheep by the Virginia Supreme Court. This denial was disappointing but not surprising, as the chances of a review by the U.S. Supreme Court are from 1 in 33 to 1 in 100.

There is nothing else that can be done at this time unless someone is prosecuted for not obeying the Scrapie regs, and in such case the regulations may be challenged as a defense to the prosecution.

These regulations are particularly burdensome as they require farmers to register their farms with the State in order to obtain a premise identification number and identify their animals. Farmers are also required to keep records ( which are subject to inspection by representatives of VDACS) every time that they buy, sell, barter, lease, trade, loan, exhibit, or otherwise move from one management to another, any sexually intact goat or sheep, unless that animal goes directly to slaughter. Any violation of these regulations is a first class misdemeanor, punishable by a year in jail and/or a \$2,500 fine.

Particularly disgusting is the fact that the merits of the Russell challenge, which were substantial, were never heard. Rather, the question of whether the filing of the appeal was timely occupied the Courts and served as an excuse for them to avoid looking at the merits.

It was always felt that the appeal by Russell was filed in a timely fashion; thus the perseverance. The Court of Appeals of Virginia danced around the matter to such an extent that it actually blurred the issue of  
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exactly what is a timely filing and make it much more difficult for anyone else challenging any regulation in the future. Attorney, Lamson, felt so strongly about the issue that he submitted an article, which is due to be published in the Virginia Trial Lawyers' Association journal, criticizing the Court's decision.

Unfortunately it is becoming increasingly apparent that the Courts are now stacked firmly in favor of the "powers that be", their offer of refuge for the ordinary citizen to challenge regulations is a mere travesty. ■

For more information contact: Christine Solem at (434) 973-6505.

## Monsanto Throws GMO Victory Party in California

Used with permission from [www.cornucopia.org](http://www.cornucopia.org).



VIEW FULL SIZE INFOGRAPHICS ON OUR WEBSITE: [WWW.VICFA.ORG](http://WWW.VICFA.ORG)

Sacramento, CA — After a deluge of allegedly misleading advertisements paid for in large part by pesticide and biotechnology corporations, California voters defeated Proposition 37, which would have given them the right-to-know whether the foods they buy at the grocery store contain genetically engineered ingredients (GMOs).

With 95% of the vote counted, according to the California Secretary of State's office, the proposal was defeated 53-47%.

"Genetically engineered foods found on market shelves have most commonly been altered in a lab to either be resistant to being sprayed by large amounts of toxic herbicides, or to produce, internally, their own insecticide," explains Mark A. Kastel, Codirector of The Cornucopia Institute.

"Corporations that produce both the genetically engineered crops and their designer pesticides, in concert with the multi-billion-dollar food manufacturers that use these ingredients, fought this measure tooth and nail, throwing \$46 million at the effort that would have required food manufacturers to include informational labeling on GMO content on their packaging," Kastel added.

Many food activists nationwide looked to the California initiative as

"the last best hope" for GMO labeling in this country. Such labeling is required throughout Europe, and by scores other countries worldwide. In the US, polls indicate that over 90% of citizens support labeling and the right to choose if they have not been deluged by misleading advertisements paid for by biotechnology corporations. But both Republicans and Democrats in Washington have been unwilling to address the issue, likely due to massive campaign contributions from the biotechnology and agribusiness lobbies.

The failure of Proposition 37 does not leave consumers completely in the dark about genetically engineered (GE) foods, since foods without GE ingredients are already widely available and clearly carry the USDA "organic" seal. Federal law prohibits the use of GE seed or ingredients in any product labeled "organic."

In some ways, the "organic" label goes much further than what Proposition 37 would have required, since organic meat, milk and eggs must come from animals that were not treated with GE hormones and fed a diet that is free of GE ingredients. Proposition 37 would not have required labels on meat, milk and eggs from animals given GMO feed. Alcoholic beverages were also not covered under proposition 37. Organically labeled beer, wine and spirits are increasingly available in the marketplace.

"Organic foods are already required by federal law to be free from genetic engineering," says Steven Sprinkel, an organic farmer in Ojai, California who fought for prop 37 passage. "And the icing on the organic cake is that certified organic foods are also grown without a long list of dangerous and toxic chemicals and pesticides, hormones, antibiotics and other drugs that are routinely used in conventional agriculture."

Despite its defeat, Proposition 37 achieved at least one of its goals. The question on the ballot, which forced biotechnology corporations and food manufacturers to defend their experimentation with our food supply and with public health, has likely increased awareness about GE foods among California consumers.

The biotechnology and food manufacturing industry's efforts to defeat Proposition 37 revealed just how terrified these corporations were of consumers knowing what they are eating.

"If corporations truly believed that genetically engineering our food supply is in society's best interest, they should be happy for consumers to know which foods contain their genetically engineered materials," says Cornucopia's Kastel. "Their obvious fear of people knowing what they're eating raises serious questions about their products' safety, and more and more consumers are making that connection."

The campaign to label genetically engineered foods also shed light on the dedication to organic principles, or lack thereof, by the corporate ownership of many iconic organic brands. For weeks, organic consumers have flooded consumer relations phone lines and Facebook pages of organic and "natural" brands such as Horizon Organic (Dean Foods), Silk (Dean Foods), Kashi (Kellogg) and Cascadian Farm (General Mills) when they learned that the corporate owners of these brands were spending hundreds of thousands of dollars to defeat Proposition 37.

In what turned out to be a David and Goliath campaign fight, a diversified group of independent food manufacturers, retailers and activists that espouse their commitment to the principles of sustainable agriculture and to producing healthy, wholesome and pure food, stepped up to the plate by making contributions to the "Yes on 37" campaign.

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Consumers can view a scorecard illustrating the financial contributions of various organic brands by viewing Cornucopia's infographic at [www.cornucopia.org/2012/08/prop37](http://www.cornucopia.org/2012/08/prop37). "We hope this information will empower consumers to vote in the marketplace and support the true heroes in this industry," Kastel added.

Meanwhile, some corporations that should have stepped up to the plate gave token contributions at the eleventh hour. Whole Foods, a corporation with net sales as high as Monsanto's—both have approximately \$11 billion in annual sales—contributed a mere \$25,000, just two business days before the election, Cornucopia noted in its research. On the other hand, Monsanto contributed \$8,113,000 to the "No on 37" campaign effort.

"Had we seen the same level of enthusiasm for consumers' right-to-know from Whole Foods as we saw against the right-to-know from Monsanto, the playing field would have been more level, and the misleading information spewed by giant corporate agribusinesses would quite possibly not have prevailed on election day," said Kastel. "Meaningful participation from Whole Foods could have been a game changer." ■

Learn more! View the eye-opening infographic on our website: [www.vicfa.org](http://www.vicfa.org) and learn more about "37" at [www.cornucopia.com](http://www.cornucopia.com)

## VICFA Notes

### Don't miss our Dec. Meeting

The Dec. Meeting will be held in Partlow, VA on Dec. 9, 2012.

**\*\* REGULAR HOURS ARE NOW IN EFFECT \*\***

We will share in a potluck lunch at 12:00 pm, followed by our general business meeting from 1:00 - 3:00 pm. VICFA membership meetings are open to the public. Please bring a dish and a big helping of enthusiasm to share. Broaden our reach - invite a friend or neighbor to join you.

**Sunday, December 9, 2012**

hosted by Lois Smith

4949 Partlow Road, Partlow, VA

### DIRECTIONS:

**From Charlottesville Area:** Locate Luisa RD (VA-22). Bear right to stay on Louisa Rd (VA-22). Continue on W Main St (US-33). After 1.7 miles, Bear right onto Jefferson Hwy (US-33). After 6.6 miles, Turn left onto Pendleton Rd (US-522). After 3.8 miles, Turn right onto E 1st St (US-522). Turn left onto Louisa Ave (US-522). After 5.4 miles, Turn right onto New Bridge Rd (VA-208). After 7.2 miles, Turn right onto Lewiston Rd. After 3.8 miles, Turn left onto Dickerson Rd. After 1.6 mi, Turn left to stay on Dickerson Rd. Continue on Duerson Ln. After 2 miles, Turn right onto Partlow Rd. Your destination on Partlow Rd is on the left.

**From Northern Virginia/Richmond Area:** Take I-95 North toward I-64. After 35.1 mi, Take exit #110/VA-639/Ladysmith. After .02 miles, Turn left onto Ladysmith Rd. Proceed for 5.7 miles. Bear right onto Partlow Rd, continue for 8.8 miles. Your destination on Partlow Rd is on the right.

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*Happy Holidays!*

from your friends at VICFA!

## Advertise in VICFA Voice!

**Classified Ad rate per month, prepaid:**  
\$5 first 25 words, \$ 0.20 per word thereafter.

**Display Ad rate per month, prepaid:**

PAGE SIZE	1 MONTH	6 MONTHS	12MO.
<b>Full page</b> (size - 8"x10.5")	\$100	\$95	\$90
<b>1/2 page</b> (sizes - 8"x5.25" or 4"x10.5")	\$50	\$47.50	\$45
<b>1/4 page</b> (size - 4"x5.25")	\$25	\$23.75	\$22.50
<b>1/8 page</b> (size - 4"x2.5")	\$12.50	\$11.88	\$11.25