

VICFA

PO Box 6838
Charlottesville, VA 22906

July 2012



VICFA

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

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

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:

July 2012

In This Issue:

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Annual Report Overview & Donation Request

PICKLE BILL
'Dacs Mislead Pickle People Yet Again

What's Happening
Upcoming VICFA event: Save The Date for a very exciting VICFA event that is scheduled for this fall; Plus, changes are underway for our Facebook page - so be sure to stay tuned on how you can keep up with VICFA on Facebook

VICFA Notes:
August Meeting & Announcements

VICFA ANNUAL MEETING: Annual Report & VICFA Project Updates

On Sunday, June 10, VICFA members and guests gathered at Joel Salatin's Polyface Farm, just outside of Staunton, VA, for VICFA's Annual Meeting. Enjoying an afternoon of fellowship and food (and a special performance of the VICFA song by Rik Lawhorne), information was shared concerning VICFA's current goals, projects, strengths and weaknesses.

Specifically, the Annual Report provided insight into VICFA's need for continued support. As a VICFA member, you have the power to help make a difference. By providing "strength in numbers", you contribute



JOEL SALATIN AT VICFA'S ANNUAL MEETING

to VICFA's agenda of protecting our food freedoms. As we know, affecting change isn't easy - nor is it cheap. VICFA works hard to be noticed throughout Richmond and Washington, D.C., as well as local Virginia communities - speaking out against Big Ag, and rallying to protect small farmers and the rights of consumers. To be recognized, we have to be seen and heard. Spreading the word through this newsletter, *VICFA Voice*, sending out email

messages to more than one thousand contacts in our database, and maintaining our website with important information are only a few of our standard operating costs.

Please contribute to our ability to remain active by making a donation to VICFA of either time, talent or money. Your financial donation works to significantly off-set our operating costs and help us to organize events and remain a powerful advocate for our food freedoms.

To support VICFA, please send a donation by mail or visit our website at www.vicfa.org.

A copy of the Annual Report, in full, can be found online at www.vicfa.org



LOIS SMITH AT VICFA'S ANNUAL MEETING



VICFA PRESIDENT, WAYNE BOLTON AT VICFA'S ANNUAL MEETING

'DACs MISLEADS PICKLE PEOPLE YET AGAIN

It's Saturday morning, June 23rd, 6:30 a.m. I get up and turn on the radio. And what do I hear to wake me up? An ad for an acidified food (pickles, salsa, etc.) preparation course to be held in Richmond by VDACS (Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services) in cooperation with VA Tech Extension services.

Grandma's pickles are so good; you can eat them, but you can't sell them because they may contain dangerous bacteria if not made correctly. (Pause here to scratch your head.) Come to our extension course held in Richmond and learn to make pickles safely, so you can be "certified" and sell them. For the paltry sum of \$250.00, you can take this course, but sign up now because there is a limit of 40 per class.

The ad even references the Acidified Foods section of the Code of Federal Regulations, 21 CFR, Ch I, paragraph 114. The only problem is that I happen to have these regulations in hand, and they require no such "certification" for home pickle producers. The closest language to such a requirement states in paragraph 114.10 Personnel:

"All operators of processing and packing systems shall be under the operating supervisions of a person who has attended a school approved by the Commissioner for giving instruction in food-handling techniques, food-protection principles, personal hygiene and plant sanitation practices, pH controls and critical factors in acidification, and who has been identified by that school as having satisfactorily completed the prescribed course of instruction."

So, if you wish to supervise others who are operating, processing and packing systems, this course would probably work for you. Otherwise, no!

Agencies have no common law or inherent jurisdiction or powers; they have only what is given them by statute. In this case, the adoption of the acidified foods section of the Code of Federal Regulations was authorized by a Virginia statute; and regulations do have the force and effect of law. But if the regulation does not say such a requirement is necessary for a home pickle producing person, and in fact is required only for a supervisor of pickle processing and pickle packing persons (systems), then home producers are specifically excluded. With respect to interpretation of the law, to put it in the vernacular, "what you see is what you got!"

So what is going on here? As I see it there are two scenarios:

No. 1. If enough of these courses are offered across the State with 40 persons per course, that's \$10,000 per course - no small chunk of change.

No. 2. VICFA has made several unsuccessful attempts to change the law with respect to exemption of home inspections for pickle producers selling at the home or at farmers' markets. Home inspection is now required under Virginia Law to sell pickles. In 2011, VICFA actually had to pull its own Bill because it had become so amended. One of the amendments would have required a course to be taken in pickle-making. Surprise!

If VDACS can get enough people to "bite" on this "course", then it will be much easier for them to amend any Bill VICFA might put in to lesson regulation, and actually make taking this course the law-- increasing regulation. Hey, the economy is bad and let's face it, the agencies need the money. Now if they could only convince everyone that pickles are *that* dangerous. ■

What's Happening

SAVE THE DATE

We have a very exciting event on the horizon! Please mark your calendar for **Sunday, September 30th** from 4:00 PM until 8:00 PM. Details are underway...but we can tell you that this event is something that you absolutely do not want to miss... let's just say that it involves a very provocative look at farm-to-table foods...and a gourmet meal! Check your email for upcoming announcements concerning this event. As we get closer to the date, you'll be receiving a formal invitation. You should also check our website often for updated information as it becomes available. Be sure to logon to www.vicfa.org to find out more!

FARMERS MARKET REPORT

June 2012 marks the final month of VICA President, Wayne Bolton's Farmers Market Report radio program. Though the insightful program will be missed, please rest assured that most of the broadcasts are online at our website. We are currently working to develop a catalog of archived broadcasts so that the programs can be located by topic as well as date.

FACEBOOK

Our Facebook group continues to be active and will soon be undergoing changes. We are integrating a Facebook "page" rather than the "group" that is currently active. Soon, our Facebook page will be public and more accessible to everyone - from current members to those interested in VICFA and our objectives. As the new Facebook page is developed, the current Facebook group page will be disabled, so be sure to stay tuned on how to migrate over to the new page so that you can continue to keep up with VICFA on Facebook. We'll be sure to post Facebook migration details and links on both the current Facebook group page as well as our website.

VICFA Notes

Don't miss our August Meeting

We will not meet in July

The August Meeting will be held in at Liberty Farm, in Paris, VA on August 12, 2012.

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME HOURS ARE NOW IN EFFECT

We will share in a potluck lunch at **1:00 pm**, followed by our general business meeting from 2:00 - 4:00 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, August 12, 2012
hosted by Liberty Farm
1037 Gap Run Road
Paris, VA
(571) 839-1143

DIRECTIONS:

Locate the I-66 and US 17 North junction (Exit 23). From here, take US17 North, towards Delaplane / Paris. Go 7.6 miles; and turn left on Gap Run Road. Liberty Farm (address 1037) is about 1/10th mile, on the right.

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

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