



VICFA Voice

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

March 2012

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Pickles! What A Stupid Bill

By: Lois Smith

All of the time, people ask me: “why pickles?” They tell me that it seems so trivial. As long time VICFA members are well aware, we originally had pickles on the kitchen bill that was passed in 2008. Unfortunately, in order for the remainder of the bill to be passed, we had to remove pickles from that bill.

If you have been to a farmers’ market lately, you realize the impact that our bill has had on both vendors and consumers. I cannot speak for anyone else, but personally, I would not waste my weekend going to a market that could not supply my food needs. The kitchen bill made it possible to sell baked goods, jams, jellies, and candies without paying the government a crazy fee (tax). So to answer the question of “why pickles”, I think that Delegate Habeeb said it all when he was addressing the Agriculture Subcommittee: “We talk about deregulations. Why don’t we show the constituents that we can deregulate something as simple as a pickle, since as you can see, there really is no reason to have a regulation against selling homemade pickles? The data show that they are safe!”

Here is what happened during this legislative session: We tirelessly lobbied. We had two co-sponsors on the Agriculture committee, Del. Edmunds and Del. Moorefield, signed to the bill. It was sponsored by Del. Habeeb from Salem, Virginia. He was asked to sponsor the bill from constituents after a dairy inspector went through the Salem Farmer’s Market and told people that they were not allowed to sell uninspected pickles (as their grandparents had once done). The bill went to vote in the agriculture sub-committee. This sub-committee was comprised of most of the same delegates as were there the last time that we had tried to get this bill through the house. We found ourselves facing Pointdexter, Knight, Orrock, Sickles - delegates who are against our bill. Naturally, they allowed the bill to die without a motion. This did not surprise us since they have always been against real freedom.

Next, we spent time calling around the General Assembly, trying to get an answer as to how the law works regarding getting a bill to a full committee vote. We found that everyone with whom we spoke had a different answer. As usual, everyone gave us the wrong answer. It is a good thing that we have Christine Solem in our group! She

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gave us the right answer as to how to go about getting a bill pulled out of the sub-committee and getting to a full committee vote. (I have to ask: Shouldn't the people that make the laws actually know the laws?)

Not one Delegate had the courage to pull the bill. One delegate even went as far as saying he would lose credibility with the other delegates if he pulled it. He did not seem to care that two of his constituents were asking him to pull it for a full committee vote. Keep in mind that this would simply be the opportunity to go for a vote!

So, alas, the Pickle Bill died. In the end, it looks as though today's Virginia communities will never experience the taste of homemade pickles. More importantly, our Virginia communities will not know what it means to be able to make a choice without the government's stamp of approval.

I am sad to be a part of a world in which my children are growing up in a culture that is not allowing them to think for themselves.

Meanwhile, I'll just say "Thank you, Government, for keeping us so very, very safe". ■

UPDATE: SCRAPIE CASE

Courty Of Appeals Affirms Albemarle Circuit Decision

APPEAL TAKEN TO SUPREME COURT OF VIRGINIA

On November 22, 2011, the Virginia Court of Appeals affirmed the Albemarle Circuit Courts's decision that Wayne Russell's challenge to the recently adopted Virginia Scrapie Regulations for goats and sheep was not filed in a timely fashion. Norman Lamson, attorney for Mr. Russell, promptly filed a petition for a rehearing by the 3 judge panel, and a petition for a rehearing by the entire court of ten judges. Both petitions were turned down.



A petition will, however, be filed with the Virginia Supreme Court to rehear the case. Oral arguments are expected to be heard this spring. If the petition is turned

down, nothing more can be done. Hopefully, this will not be the case.

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.

The requirements of these regulations are tantamount to the requirements for NAIS, which the federal government has ostensibly abandoned. It is very important that every effort be utilized to void these regulations.

For more details on this latest court skirmish, please contact Christine Solem by calling (434) 973-6505. ■

VICFA



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WORKING FOR OUR
FREEDOMS...

BUT WE NEED YOUR HELP

The work that we do is important and we cannot do it alone.

Please DONATE to VICFA!

The membership dues and donations that we receive go directly to support our missions. From our radio show to marketing to literature to this very newsletter, VICFA encounters costs as we work to make our voice heard. To help ensure that we can meet our costs and continue to spread information and calls to action, we need your on-going support.

At any time, you may make a donation via PayPal (visit our website: www.vicfa.org) or send a check donation to:

**VICFA
PO Box 6938
Charlottesville, VA 22906**



VICFA Notes

Come to our March 2012 Meeting

The March Meeting will be held in Partlow, VA on March 11, 2012.

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, March 11, 2012

hosted by Lois Smith

4949 Partlow Road

Partlow, Virginia

DIRECTIONS:

From Charlottesville/Richmond Area: Take I-64 East. Take the VA-208 exit, EXIT 143, toward Louisa/Ferndale. Turn left onto VA-208/Courthouse Rd. Continue to follow VA-208. Go for about 9 miles, then turn right onto Courthouse Sq/VA-208. Turn right onto E Main St/US-33/VA-208/VA-22. Continue to follow VA-208/VA-22. Louisa United Methodist Church is on the right. After about 6 miles, turn left onto E 1st St/US-522/VA-208. Big Johns Pizza is on the corner. Take the 1st left onto Louisa Ave/US-522/VA-208. Continue on this road. Mineral Volunteer Fire Dept is on the corner. After approx. 5.5 miles, turn right onto New Bridge Rd/VA-208. Continue to follow VA-208. After about 7 miles, turn right onto Lewiston Rd. After about 4 miles, turn left onto Dickerson Rd. After about 1.5 mile, turn left to stay on Dickerson Rd. After about 2.25 miles, Dickerson Rd becomes Duerson Ln. Go for approx. 2 miles, then turn right onto Partlow Rd. 4949 PARTLOW RD is on the left.

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VICFA

PO Box 6838
Charlottesville, VA 22906

VICFA

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President, Wayne Bolton
Vice President, Lois Smith
Treasurer, Rose Lawhorne
Secretary, Paula Fensom

Members At Large: Richard Altice, Suzi Croes,
Christine Solem, Emily Turtlewoman, Martha Boneta

Website: www.VICFA.org

E-group: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/VICFA>.

Editorial Review: Lois Smith and Anne Buteau
Proof Reader: Anne Buteau and Shannon Sankar
Contributing Columnist: Lois Smith
Designer: Shannon Sankar

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