



VICFA

Virginia Independent Consumers and Farmers Association
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 Select content for this newsletter sourced from *The Freelance Star*
 Designer: Shannon Sankar
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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: _____



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

December 2013

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The Passing of a Past VICFA President, Richard Bean

By Suzi Croes



Richard Bean
 Photo by James Scheuren
 c-ville.com

VICFA mourns the loss of past president and long time member Richard Bean. After a courageous battle with cancer, Richard passed away Wednesday evening, November 27, 2013 in his home surrounded by friends and family. A native of North Carolina and a graduate of Cathedral High School in Springfield Massachusetts, Richard showed a lifelong interest in animal husbandry earning a Bachelor Degree in Animal Science from Iowa State University. Upon graduating from college Richard served two years as a Peace Corps member in Iran. Later on Richard went to work for his father at BandB Market in East Longmeadow, Massachusetts and was owner/operator until he moved to Virginia in 1997 and started Double H Farm in Wingina Virginia.

A friend to VICFA, we know Richard best through his activism and staunch support of sustainable organic farming and freedom of food choice. Richards' willingness to take charge and speak out on the sustainable food issues is memorable. His Double H Farm in Wingina, Va was one of the first to market to local restaurants in Virginia. Many of us had the opportunity to sample the "fruit" of his labor as he donated his time and products from his farm to our VICFA events.

Richard left behind his two sisters, Margaret Bean of New Hampshire, and Pat Bean of Massachusetts; his three sons, David Bean and his wife, Josie and son, Jacob of Washington, Dana Bean, his wife, Judy and son, Kyle and daughter, Cassidy of Massachusetts, and Matthew Bean, his wife, Heather and sons, Aidan and Dylan of Massachusetts; and his loving partner, Jean Rinaldi of Massachusetts and Wingina, Virginia. We wish to express our condolences to the family.

Memorial services to be announced in the future. ■

What The Frack?

By Suzi Croes



Aerial view of hydrofracking wells. Photo courtesy of Safewatermovement.org

Virginia is currently on the map of the Texas-based Shore Exploration and Production Corp., who's intention is to drill for oil in the Taylorsville basin shale deposits east of Interstate 95. Taylorsville Basin is a formation that stretches from Hanover County into Maryland was formed about 227 million years ago, and is almost entirely buried

beneath Atlantic coastal plain sediments in Virginia and Maryland, according to Katie Hernon, a geologist with the Virginia Department of Mines, Mineral and Energy.

The company hopes to be drilling within a year to 18 months and would be the first to drill in Virginia's Coastal Plain. Shore will most likely be using hydraulic fracturing, or fracking, to release oil and natural gas from shale deposits and has secured leases on more than 80,000 acres in the area it wants to drill. While the industry claims this can be done safely, many are still concerned with the environmental impacts of fracking.

The Friends of the Rappahannock, a river conservation group will be hosting two workshops to discuss these issues; the meetings are free and are intended to provide a information for "Landowners considering leasing or who have already leased their land for oil drilling and for elected officials and members of the public concerned about landowner rights and the impacts of gas development."

The meetings will be held:

Wednesday, December 11, 2013, 6:30-8:30pm

Bowling Green Town Hall,
117 Butler Street,
Bowling Green, Virginia

Thursday, December 12, 2013, 6:30-8:30pm

General District Courtroom
George D. English Bldg
111 Polk Street
Montross, Virginia

For more information, contact Richard Moncure: 804-443-3448 richard.moncure@riverfriends.org; or Nancy Long at CCCA: 804-742-5612, Long5nancy@aol.com

We would like to thank the Friends of the Rappahannock for sharing this information and encourage you to visit www.riverfriends.org for more information. ■

How Can We Address Potential Impacts from Gas/Oil Drilling in the Taylorsville Basin?

Used with permission from www.riverfriends.org

Update Local Land Use Plans & Zoning Ordinances

Counties can update their plans to manage the location, pace and scale of shale gas or oil drilling. Local plans and codes can go far to either avoid or mitigate impacts on neighbors, communities, natural resources and other economic activities.

At the very least, the five counties with shale gas/oil leases should act immediately to review their existing plan and zoning codes for loopholes that leave little opportunity for local oversight.

Rockingham County found that outdated language for water wells in agricultural zones allowed a gas well driller to apply for a permit with little public review. The county tabled the request indefinitely and after two years of intense public scrutiny, the driller withdrew the request and allowed leases to expire on 13,000 acres. Also in 2013, intense local review of gas hydrofracking deterred a driller from seeking zoning approval in southwestern Washington County.

Consider the High Cost to Public Services & Traditional Economic Sectors: Counties can take a hard look at how negative impacts from shale gas or oil drilling drive up the need for additional county services, then weigh those costs against realistic projections of industry tax revenue.

Shore Exploration Corp. promises development of gas/oil resources will bring significant new tax revenue and jobs to the region. But communities in Pennsylvania, West Virginia and Ohio learned the hard way that the industry's claims of economic benefits were inflated and not widely shared, while negative impacts led to big increases in the cost of providing local services.

The Keystone Research Center in Pennsylvania will release a report in December documenting the increased community costs triggered by the shale gas industry – increased road maintenance, emergency medical services, criminal justice, public health services and a great loss in affordable housing. The study will provide tools a county can use to project local costs and benefits, based on the pace and scale of well development.

Counties also can consider the conflicts between the boom/bust cycle of energy development and the industrial footprint of gas/oil drilling with local efforts to sustain rural land uses that rely on high quality natural resources, such as farming, forestry, fishing, recreation and tourism.

Address the Water Issues: Local governments can press state officials to provide adequate oversight of gas or oil drilling in the Chesapeake Bay watershed. The state Oil & Gas Act contains special rules for our region, prohibiting drilling within 500 feet of most rivers, streams and wetlands, and requiring multi-agency review of environmental impacts before permits are issued. New state rules require a permit if a driller wants to use local groundwater to provide the three to eight million gallons needed for each hydrofracking well.

Civic groups can join with a local university to establish a water quality baseline before drilling takes place. Volunteers can provide the two years of quarterly monitoring needed to create the baseline. ■

Learn More About Hydrofracking: Friends of the Rappahannock: Richard Moncure at 804-443-3448 John Tippett 540-373-3448, ext. 111 www.riverfriends.org

Do You Have Questions About Hydrofracking in Caroline County?

Used with permission from www.riverfriends.org

What's happening in Caroline County? Texas-based Shore Exploration & Production Corporation holds leases for gas or oil drilling on 40,733 acres in Caroline County, about 12 percent of the county's land. Most leases are located around Sparta, between Routes 2 and 17. Caroline County has 48 percent of the 84,000 acres leased in the Taylorsville Basin shale deposit. The remaining leases are found in Essex (13,338 acres), King and Queen (6,010 acres), King George (10,443 acres) and Westmoreland (13,864 acres) counties.

What is hydrofracking? Drillers use high pressure to force millions of gallons of water, some sand and toxic chemicals a mile or more underground to break up shale rock and release gas or oil. While a form of hydrofracking has been used in southwestern Virginia, the controversial shale drilling industry active in Pennsylvania, West Virginia and Ohio is not yet underway in Virginia.

Is this different from traditional gas/oil wells in Virginia? Yes. Hydrofracking is completely different. It creates an industrial zone with acres of land bulldozed for well pads, heavy truck traffic on rural roads, large holding ponds filled with undisclosed waste fluid, gas flaring/venting at the well head that sounds like a jet taking off, and round-the-clock lights, noise and fumes during weeks or months of drilling.

Will it affect our water? Communities in Pennsylvania and West Virginia, where hydrofracking has been underway for years, report thousands of incidents of water contamination, most from well casing failures, spills, leaks from wastewater ponds, pipelines and trucks, and improper disposal. Streams were poisoned by wastewater spills and others dried up from excessive water withdrawals for drilling. Gas companies have been forced to truck in drinking water for many landowners and the livestock.

continued at Right

VICFA Notes

December Meeting

Our next meeting will be held in
Partlow, VA on December 8, 2013.
** Standard Time Hours **

We will share in a potluck lunch at 12:00 pm, followed by our general business meeting from 12:00 - 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 8, 2013 at 12:00 pm
Hosted by Lois Smith • (804) 366-6051
4949 Partlow Road
Partlow, VA, 22534

DIRECTIONS: From the Richmond Area: Take I-95 North towards I-64 West. Travel for 35 miles. Take Exit #110/ VA-639/Ladysmith. Turn LEFT onto Ladysmith Rd. Travel for 5.7 miles. Bear right onto Partlow Road. Travel for 8.8 miles. Destination is on the right.

From Charlottesville Area: Locate East High St (US-250-BR). Turn RIGHT onto Long St (US-250). Travel for 4 miles. Continue on Louisa Road (VA-22). Travel for 5 miles. Bear right to stay on Louisa Road (VA-22) and travel for 17.7 miles. Continue onto W Main Street (US-33) for 1.5 mile, then Bear RIGHT onto Jefferson Hwy (US-33) and travel for 6.6 miles. Turn LEFT onto Pendleton Rd (US-522) and travel for 3.8 miles. Turn RIGHT onto E. 1st Street (US-522), then turn LEFT onto Louisa Ave (US-522) and travel for 5.4 miles. Turn RIGHT onto New Bridge Rd (VA-208) and travel for 7.2 miles. Turn RIGHT onto Lewiston Road. Travel for 3.8 miles. Turn LEFT onto Dickerson Road. After 1.6 mile, Turn LEFT to stay on Dickerson Road. Travel for 2.3 miles. Continue on Duerson Lane for 1.9 mile. Turn RIGHT onto Partlow Road. Destination is on the left after 0.6 mile. 17145 KATY LN is on the right.

What about our roads? In Wetzel County, West Virginia, mountain roads are crumbling from the impact of thousands of heavy trucks hauling water, sand, chemicals, drip gas and industrial waste fluids. School buses there now have escorts to prevent accidents with heavy trucks.

Can we count on federal or state oversight? Congress exempted this type of gas/oil drilling from the Clean Water Act and the Safe Drinking Water Act in 2005. Virginia's Department of Mines & Minerals has not updated its regulations to address the specific or cumulative impacts of gas/oil hydrofracking and in 2011 had just seven enforcement staff to inspect the state's 7,783 gas and oil wells.

Have other communities welcomed hydrofracking? No. Elected officials in the Shenandoah Valley's Rockingham County and southwestern Virginia's Washington County are skeptical that state or federal oversight is sufficient to protect their communities from negative impacts. Potential gas drillers in both counties dropped or changed zoning requests for hydrofracking wells after scrutiny from officials and the public. ■

Dear Readers,

What do **YOU** think about fracking?
Email the editor: suzicroes@gmail.com



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we wish you and your family:

Merry Christmas
& **Happy Holidays!**

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