

VICFA
PO Box 6838
Charlottesville, VA 22906



VICFA

Virginia Independent Consumers and Farmers Association
President, Wayne Bolton
Vice President, Lois Smith
Treasurer, Rose Lawhorne
Secretary, Christine Solem

Editorial Review: Suzi Croes
Proof Reader: Susan Verbeeck and Shannon Sankar
Contributing Columnist: Christine Solem and Suzi Croes
Designer: Shannon Sankar

VICFA Voice is published monthly by a volunteer staff.
Copyright © 2013. All rights reserved. Distributed free to all members and select mailing list. No part of this publication may be used without written permission of the publisher. Contribute to this publication via email to editor@VICFA.net or by mail to Editor, VICFA, PO Box 6838, Charlottesville VA 22906.

Members At Large: Richard Altice, Suzi Croes, Ed Ely, Pearce Garner

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:

January 2013

In This Issue:

Message In A Bottle (I'll Send an SOS to the World)

What does food regulation have in common with the 1960s television series, *I Dream of Jeannie*?

Deregulation Ideas for Virginia

VICFA's reaction to ideas in Richmond and suggestions for positive progress.

House Bill 1430: The Boneta Bill

Update on one VICFA member's struggle for farm rights.

VICFA Notes: January Meeting & Announcements

Introduction by Suzi Croes

Welcome 2013, I for one am happy to see 2012 go, and with all the negativity that closed out last year I am looking forward to what this New Year can bring.

The legislative struggles of 2012 to farm and consumer food freedoms have raised more questions and the public appears to becoming more informed as a result. Happy New Year!

Message In A Bottle (I'll Send an SOS to the World)

By Lois Smith

Larry Hagman died recently, so I found myself reflecting on the show called "I Dream of Jeannie", which starred Mr. Hagman in as the fictional character Major Nelson. I realized that I felt the same sense of irritation with local food issues that I felt as a youngster watching that show. The television series was about an astronaut, Major Nelson, who found a bottle with a beautiful, all-powerful genie inside. Major Nelson was content with his government job and was often flustered by the genie's attempt to make him happy through her genie powers. As a child, I was annoyed at the stupidity of Major Nelson who held such power at his command, and yet discounted it so frivolously. Major Nelson had the opportunity to really make a difference, but he was too self-focused to think about the common good that such a discovery could afford.

You may be wondering what a television series about a man who finds a genie have to do with food issues. Well, I'll explain. VICFA's mission statement is the magical power that will solve all food issues. You would think that everyone would really understand and support such a novel concept. If people who claim that they want healthy, local foods stood together, unashamed, and demanded that the government back off our small farmers, just imagine the chain reaction! Next time that you go to a farmers' market, count how many vendors are selling baked goods and jams or jellies. Better yet, imagine farmers' markets without baked goods and jams and jellies. That could have been the reality if VICFA did not work to deregulate these food items, making baked goods and jellies staples at farmers' markets. So why is it that people cringe at VICFA's message and would love for us to put a cork in it?

Do you think that VICFA is preaching chaos and opposes all government input? The truth is that VICFA opposes regulation that hurts our ability to support a farmer's right to receive full value for what they produce through direct sales and the consumer's ability to source and purchase healthy food directly from the farm. We take personal responsibility seriously and hold tight to our freedoms in food choice. Food regulations are geared toward a food system of mass-production, which makes them burdensome and unnecessary for farmers who are selling directly to their neighbors. We do not need expensive, meaningless government stamps of approval at the taxpayers' expense on our local food that has been ineffective in keeping our food safe. Many of these regulations have proven to keep free market between farmers and consumers oppressed.

continued from page 1

The magical power of VICFA's mission statement can unleash a cure for the disease that is affecting the broken food system, not just manage the symptoms. Symptoms like environmental pollution, an unhealthy society, people not being able to afford land to farm, GMO, animal cruelty, emigration, rural communities disappearing, government subsidies, will be cured by direct farmer to consumer trade without government interference. When we talk about our simple mission statement, people treat us as though we are simple-minded because we think that the most important objective to help our local food system is to deregulate direct farm sales. Others trust throwing more taxpayers' money at food issues by creating more government agencies with the pretense of helping small farmers, to create more food security summits, and encourage government grants in hopes of solving these complicated problems. VICFA's approach is better. It allows farmers to work towards marketing their products for full value and consumers the opportunity to buy food that is worth the price!

I ponder why farmers and consumers keep looking to the government to solve our food problems. At this point, we have no choice but to have the government involved. The difference about the way VICFA looks towards the government is that we want the government to deregulate direct farm sales and to become uninvolved. That is the only farm issue that we look to government to solve. Twenty years ago, I started schooling my children at home. Most people assumed that education could not be done as well at home compared to a highly funded system. We proved them wrong. Once upon a time, people learned at home. They grew and purchased their food from small farmers without the government's approval. I believe that the reason food freedom is not in the Bill of Rights is because our fore-parents could not even fathom that our right to food choice would have to be protected!

One of the consequences of deregulating direct farmer to consumers sales would be the loss of government jobs. But on the flip side, we would gain more private sector jobs like independent farmers who do not use billions of tax money to create unhealthy food! Consumers could take the taxes that they saved and buy the healthy foods that they choose, and support farmers who support their values. I cannot understand why this irritates people unless they are content working within the government! We have the opportunity to be less self-focused and to think about the common good such a discovery can afford! Why keep this obvious opportunity bottled up? ■

"The rights of persons, and the rights of property, are the objects, for the protection of which, Government was instituted. These rights cannot well be separated. The personal right to acquire property, which is a natural right, gives to property, when acquired, a right to protection, as a social right." - James Madison

Deregulation Ideas for Virginia

By Suzi Croes

Virginia Governor Bob McDonnell, seeking to curb Virginia's budget, designed a task force to reform and deregulate unnecessary government policies, urging citizens to comment with their concerns.

VICFA's Vice-President, Lois Smith, responded by asking why, in 2012, when Delegate Habeeb (while sponsoring the 2012 Pickle Bill), suggested to the Agricultural Subcommittee: "Why don't we show the constituents that we can deregulate something as simple as a pickle", that it was the McDonnell Administration who opposed the deregulation of direct pickle sales to the consumer. She also inquired why, when charged with working on a solution to the issue of deregulating farm to

consumer sales of home produced pickles, he came up with a plan that required an acidification class and individual recipe approval and is more burdensome and costly to the small producer than the current regulation. In addition, the agencies that govern the policy are promoting the new suggested solutions as if they are already in effect to the unaware public.

VICFA members are encouraged to voice their suggestions, please contact Governor McDonnell at: <http://www.governor.virginia.gov/>

House Bill 1430: The Boneta Bill

In August 2012, VICFA member, Martha Boneta, had her Virginia Rights to Farm privileges threatened when she was informed by local government officials that, according to the changes made in July 2011 to the zoning ordinance, she would need a permit prior to hosting a children's birthday party at her farm shop at Paris Farms, in Fauquier County - or be fined \$5,000. She was also cited with two additional fines: \$5000 for operating a small farm shop on her property, and \$5,000 for advertising a pumpkin carving, despite having already obtained a business license for her farm in June 2011, before the zoning ordinance changes were made.

In response to Fauquier County governmental legislation infringing on the property rights of Martha Boneta, a press conference was held on January 8th at 11 AM, in House Room 1 located in the Virginia State Capital, 1000 Bank Street, in Richmond, Virginia. The conference was held by Scott Lingamfelter to introduce HB1430: The Boneta Bill. Featured speakers to conference included Mark Fitzgibbons, constitutional lawyer and co-author of *The Law That Governs Government* and Joel Salatin, a Virginia farmer who has been featured in many documentaries (*Fresh*, and *Food, Inc.*), and author of *Everything I Want To Do Is Illegal: War Stories From the Local Food Front*. The conference was open to the public and many came to offer support of Martha and her bill.

All 50 states have Right to Farm laws to protect traditional farming and ranching from encroaching suburbia and to help protect against non-farming residents moving near existing farms and creating nuisance lawsuits and county law changes that restrict the property use rights of farmers. The Boneta Bill is intending to strengthen the Virginia Right to Farm Act by expanding the defining section to include the commerce of farm-to-business and farm-to-consumer sales, and expanding the commerce and sale to items such as art, literature, artifacts, furniture, food, beverages, and other items that are incidental to the agricultural operation. House Bill 1430 would give farmers like Martha a cause of action against the county, or any official of the county, for violations of the Right to Farm Act. For a full text of the Bill please visit, <http://leg1.state.va.us/lis.htm>

For more info on Delegate Scott Lingamfelter visit, <http://va31st.com/>



We the people of the United States, in order to form a more perfect union, establish justice, insure domestic tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general welfare, and secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and our posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America.



VICFA Notes

Don't miss our Jan. Meeting

The Jan. Meeting will be held in Shipman, VA on Jan. 13, 2013.

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

VICFA would like to extend our appreciation to our host for this month's meeting. Thank you to: Anne, Dan, and Elizabeth Buteau.

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, January 13, 2013

12:00 Noon
hosted by Anne, Dan & Elizabeth Buteau
6556 James River Road
Shipman, VA
Phone: (434) 263-4946

DIRECTIONS:

From Charlottesville Area: South on Rt. 29 towards Lynchburg. Go about 30 miles to Lovingsston and turn left at the traffic lights (the 3rd Lovingsston exit). Turn right on James River Road/Rt 56 East. Go about 7 1/2 miles on this road and you come to our house on the left hand side, mailbox number: 6556, just before an old big white barn. (When you come down a mountain with 25 mph curves you are about 3/4 mile from our house.)

From the Lynchburg area: North on Rt 29, pass through Amherst, Colleen (Look for Blue Ridge Medical Center on right/Big Ice Cream Cone on the left). Go another 1 1/2 miles, turn right towards Shipman/OakRidge on Rt 653. Go to T junction (by the Corner Market) and turn right on James River Road/Rt 56 east. We are approximately 4 miles from this point, on the left, next to the big white barns. Mailbox number: 6556.

From the Farmville area: Go west on Rt 60. Go through Buckingham. Turn right on Rt 56. Cross the James River and we are 6 1/2 miles from there on the right. Mailbox number: 6556, next to big white barn.

GET IN TOUCH WITH US

To all of those who email, write or call, THANK YOU! We love hearing from you. As always, we invite you to get in touch with us. Share your thoughts, ideas, suggestions and feedback or news and information that you feel should be shared with VICFA members. We always appreciate your participation.

Email, call, write, or join our Facebook group to be a part of the discussion.

Countryside Natural Products Is Now:



And we have moved to a new, larger location in Waynesboro, Virginia.

- Certified Organic, Soy-Free Feeds
- Animal Health Products
- OMRI Approved Organic Gardening and Farming Products

Delivery Available Throughout Central Virginia
See our Website for Driver Dan Delivery Routes - Nationwide Shipping -

www.countrysideorganics.com
888-699-7088

801 2nd Street, Waynesboro, VA 22980

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.
Full page (size - 8"x10.5")	\$100	\$95	\$90
1/2 page (sizes - 8"x5.25" or 4"x10.5")	\$50	\$47.50	\$45
1/4 page (size - 4"x5.25")	\$25	\$23.75	\$22.50
1/8 page (size - 4"x2.5")	\$12.50	\$11.88	\$11.25