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Write For VICFA! We'd love to feature your article in an upcoming newsletter.
Contact suzicroes@gmail.com

Join us for our Annual Meeting Mark Your Calendar NOW!

June 8, 2014 at Polyface Farm
in Swope, VA.

Hosted by Joel & Teresa Salatin

DIRECTIONS:

From I-81 take Exit 220 (Puts you on 262)
Take Middlebrook Ave/252 Exit
Follow this to Stop sign.
Turn LEFT onto Middlebrook Road (252)
Turn RIGHT onto Cedar Green Road (693)
Turn LEFT onto Hebron Road. (703)
Go about a mile, you will see a brick church on your right.
Turn LEFT onto Edson Creek Road (708)
Go ½ mile
Turn RIGHT onto Glebe School Road (708)(this appears to be a Y, stay right)
Stay right at 2nd Y. Go about 4 miles or so total
Turn RIGHT onto Trimbles Mill Road
Go ¼ mile to first left
Turn LEFT onto Shuey Road (713)(this will be gravel)
Follow for exactly 1 mile
Turn RIGHT at Polyface Farm sign (Pure Meadows Lane)

VICFA

Virginia Independent Consumers and Farmers Association
President, Lois Smith
Vice President, Richard Altice
Treasurer, Jay Smith
Secretary, Christine Solem
Members At Large: Joe Turner, Wayne Bolton, Suzi Croes, Ed Ely, Susan Verbeeck
Website: www.VICFA.org
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/19160169000/>

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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

April 2014

In This Issue:

'Frankenfood' - VA Subsidy for Non-GMO Export
VICFA President, Lois Smith, quoted in a March 2014 article on Watchdog.org

Glyphoste
A new study shows levels of Glyphoste in both animals and humans

PANNA - Pesticide News
What's in your blueberries?

Action Alert - Joel Salatin
Joel Salatin for Commissioner of Agriculture - let's make it happen!

VICFA Notes: Announcements
May meeting and information

Annual Meeting
Don't miss our VICFA Annual Meeting in Swope, VA this June

VICFA Voice Advertising Rates & Information

Soy Subsidy Stirs 'Frankenfood' Debate in Virginia

By Kenric Ward March 14, 2014
Watchdog.org Virginia Bureau

WINDSOR, Va. — The state of Virginia is helping an agricultural giant sell non-genetically modified soybeans to South Korea — while reaping little value at home.

Gov. Terry McAuliffe this week announced \$14,100 in matching funds to “enable Montague Farms to enter a new market, increasing and diversifying its opportunities for selling these value-added soybeans abroad.” Another \$14,100 is provided by Isle of Wight County, home of a Montague processing facility.

Montague has exported non-genetically modified organism (GMO) soybeans for more than 25 years. Heretofore, the privately owned firm focused on the Japanese market, “widely recognized for its demanding quality standards,” according to McAuliffe’s office.

Though Montague is netting a relatively small share of public dollars, critics say the export subsidy does even less for food security or quality stateside.

“The real shame is that they are making more money selling non-GMO to the Asian market,” said Lois Smith, president of the Virginia Independent Consumers and Farmers Association.

“Ninety percent of soybeans in America are GMO’d. Now we are granting money to grow non-GMO for other countries,” Smith told Watchdog.org in an interview.

While neither Virginia nor the nation requires GMO labeling, Timothy Wise of Tufts University says it’s ironic the state is subsidizing GMO-free efforts overseas.

“The state’s largest soy exporter probably does not need small public financing ... but small farmers trying to supply certifiably non-GMO soy could probably use support to participate in a certifiably non-GMO value chain, and not just for export,” said Wise, director of the Research and Policy Program at Tufts’ Global Development and Environment Institute.

GMO crops continue to spur vigorous scientific and political debate over chemically engineered “Frankenfood.” The World Health Organization acknowledges concern over “an undesirable level of control of seed markets by a few chemical companies.”

“Bottom line: We are giving grant money to farms to grow non-GMO for poorer countries,” Smith said.



Photo by Cain Madden -- Tidewater News; as printed on watchdog.org

Montague executive Tom Talliaferro said in a statement:

“Exports are what drives our business, so we are glad to have this assistance from the commonwealth of Virginia that enables us to continue to develop these markets.”

The company said it has invested \$600,000 on a new packaging system, a testing laboratory and warehouse.

Yet the payoff is peanuts for Virginians. McAuliffe’s office acknowledged that only three jobs will be added at Montague’s Windsor facility as a result of the state subsidy.

Steve Stanek, research fellow for budget and tax policy at the free-market oriented Heartland Institute, said:

“The federal government since the 1930s has made agriculture one of the nation’s most heavily subsidized and trade-protected industries, and now Governor McAuliffe has decided Virginia should add more weight to the nation’s government-backed agricultural bloat.”

Montague received its grant through the state’s two-year-old Agriculture and Forestry Investment Fund. It was the first disbursement under the McAuliffe administration.

Officials at Montague and McAuliffe’s office did not respond to interview requests. ■

This article first appeared on watchdog.org’s website in March. Article Reprinted With Permission.

Kenric Ward is chief of Watchdog.org’s Virginia Bureau. Contact him at kenric@watchdogvirginia.org or at (571) 319-9824. @Kenricward on Twitter.

Glyphosate in Animals and Humans

www.gmwatch.org

Glyphosate was detected in the urine and organs of dairy cows as well as in urine of hares, rabbits and humans in a new study - and chronically ill people had higher levels of the pesticide in urine.

Cows fed on GM-free feed had lower glyphosate concentrations in urine than cows fed with feed containing GMOs - yet another nail in the coffin for claims that products from GM-fed animals are no different from products from animals fed on non-GM feed. Humans eating predominantly organic food had lower levels of glyphosate in urine.



The finding that chronically ill humans had higher levels of glyphosate in urine than healthy humans suggests that high excretion of glyphosate cannot be assumed to be a sign of a healthy body that is efficiently eliminating the pesticide. This finding demands further research on the potential bioaccumulation of glyphosate in the human body.

Detection Of Glyphosate Residues In Animals And Humans

Monika Krüger, Philipp Schledorn, Wieland Schrödl, Hans-Wolfgang Hoppe, Walburga Lutz and Awad A. Shehat

Detection of Glyphosate Residuals in Animals and Humans. J Environ Anal Toxicol

4: 210. doi: 10.4172/2161-0525.1000210

Open access:

<http://omicsonline.org/open-access/detection-of-glyphosate-residues-in-animals-and-humans-2161-0525.1000210.pdf>

Abstract:

In the present study glyphosate residues were tested in urine and different organs of dairy cows as well as in urine of hares, rabbits and humans using ELISA and Gas Chromatography-Mass Spectroscopy (GC-MS). The correlation coefficients between ELISA and GC-MS were 0.96, 0.87, 0.97 and 0.96 for cattle, human, and rabbit urine and organs, respectively. The recovery rate of glyphosate in spiked meat using ELISA was 91%. Glyphosate excretion in German dairy cows was significantly lower than Danish cows. Cows kept in genetically modified free area had significantly lower glyphosate concentrations in urine than conventional husbandry cows. Also glyphosate was detected in different organs of slaughtered cows as intestine, liver, muscles, spleen and kidney. Fattening rabbits showed significantly higher glyphosate residues in urine than hares. Moreover, glyphosate was significantly higher in urine of humans with conventional feeding. Furthermore, chronically ill humans showed significantly higher glyphosate residues in urine than healthy population. The presence of glyphosate residues in both humans and animals could haul the entire population towards numerous health hazards, studying the impact of glyphosate residues on health is warranted and the global regulations for the use of glyphosate may have to be re-evaluated. ■

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FYI - Pesticide Action Network North America (PANNA)

The pesticide watchdog group PANNA or PAN for short, provides a public service website <http://www.whatsonmyfood.org/index.jsp> which builds on PAN’s 28-year tradition of making pesticide science accessible. Information gleaned from the USDA and offered up for public education about pesticides in their food. Think the government can keep you safe? Check on the foods you eat, they have charts included that show the levels used in comparison to organically grown foods.

Blueberries:

52 Pesticide Residues Found by the USDA Pesticide Data Program on Blueberries

“14 of the 52 pesticide residues found on blueberries are neurotoxins, which can harm brain development and contribute to falling IQ’s”. ■

VICFA ACTION ALERT - 3.28.14

JOEL SALATIN AS COMMISSIONER OF AGRICULTURE

A suggestion has been made by the President of the Board of Agriculture to people attending the Agriculture Board Meeting that we should recommend who we think will make a great Commissioner of Agriculture!

This would be wonderful news for all Virginians

Joel Salatin, of Polyface Farms, is a critically-acclaimed author, activist, and farmer who understands the rights of both farmers and consumers.

WE NEED YOUR VOICE!

Please write or call Gov. McAuliffe as soon as possible!

Ask our governor to appoint Joel Salatin as our next Commissioner of Agriculture.

CONTACT INFORMATION for Gov. McAuliffe:

804-786-2211

1111 East Broad Street,
Richmond, VA 23219

VICFA Notes

Don't miss our April Meeting

The April Meeting will be held in
Monroe VA on April 13, 2014.

**** DAYLIGHT SAVINGS HOURS ARE NOW IN EFFECT ****

VICFA would like to extend our appreciation to our host for this month's meeting. Thank you to Curt & Laura Knaup!

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, April 13 2014 at 1:00 PM

hosted by Curt & Laura Knaup

506 Peters Hollow Rd • Monroe, VA

DIRECTIONS:

From Charlottesville Area: Take I-64 W toward Staunton. Take exit #118 onto Monacan Trail Rd (US-29 S). Go for approximately 45 miles. Take ramp onto Richmond Hwy toward Amherst/Lexington. Take 3rd exit from roundabout onto S Main St (US-29-BR). Turn right onto Kenmore Rd. After about 5 miles, Continue on Matohe Rd. After about 2 miles, Bear right onto Peters Hollow Rd. Your destination on Peters Hollow Rd is on the right.

From the Northern Virginia Area: Take James Madison Hwy (US-15 S, US-29 S). Continue for about 56 miles. Take ramp onto US-250-BYP W, US-29 S, US-29-BYP S toward I-64/Lynchburg/Staunton/Richmond. After about 49 miles, Take ramp onto Richmond Hwy (US-60) toward Amherst/Lexington. Take 3rd exit from roundabout onto S Main St (US-29-BR). Turn right onto Kenmore Rd. After about 5 miles, Continue on Matohe Rd. After about 2 miles, Bear right onto Peters Hollow Rd. Your destination on Peters Hollow Rd is on the right.



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