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Write For VICFA!

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

VICFA

Virginia Independent Consumers and Farmers Association
President, Lois Smith • cvcrs@mindspring.com • (804) 366-6051
Vice President, Richard Altice
Treasurer, Jay Smith
Secretary, Christine Solem
Members At Large: Joe Turner, Martha Boneta, Suzi Croes, Anne Buteau, Susan Verbeeck
Website: www.VICFA.org
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/19160169000/>

Editorial Review: Suzi Croes
Proof Reader: Susan Verbeeck and Shannon Sankar
Contributing Columnists: Lois Smith, Judith McGeary, and Suzi Croes
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:



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

December 2014

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December Meeting



VICFA At The Republican Advance

By: Lois Smith

VICFA attended the annual Republican Advance as a vendor. Christine Solem, Alyssa Tillet and Lois Smith pushed and made many aware of the Virginia Constitutional Amendment. VICFA is proposing this year at the General Assembly. Just to let our members know we have a sponsor in the Senate and House. At the event, we were able to acquire a few more co-signers for our bill and we made friends with some very well respected Virginians that committed to help our cause. If all this information seems vague, it is because we are keeping all the names private since our last sponsor backed out in fear of corporate lobby groups that have influential deep pockets. In hopes that this will give them less time to lobby intelligently. The public response was great! Many were surprised to hear that food choice is being controlled by special interest and special interest being protected by our regulators and legislators. Virginia citizen's support our efforts to reclaim our food and our health.

We shared the table with Farm to Consumer Legal Defense Fund, a nationwide friend in cause. We also brought Weston A. Price literature. Last year when we attended the advance we found out that most people did not have knowledge of eating healthy other than what mainstream propaganda tells them. It is exciting to get the chance to preach beyond the choir.

The Republican Creed states they are for "The Free Enterprise System". According to the USDA Rural Business Cooperative Service--free enterprise is an economic system that provides individuals the opportunity to make their own economic decisions, free of government constraints, and as private profit-potential businesses. The system allows for the privilege of individual ownership of property and the means of production. The key ingredient of the free enterprise system is the right of individuals to make their own choices in the purchase of goods, the selling of their products and their labor, and their participation in business structure.

Well, gee! Isn't that what we farmers and consumers are trying to do? It will be very interesting to see if a Republican legislator will vote against us, because they are voting against their own party's beliefs. The question is-what does the Republican Party do when so called Republican legislators do not uphold the Republican Creed? Let's hope the voters get outraged and replace them! Unfortunately, we can only judge the future by the past and since Farm Bureau and Agribusiness's influence seem to trump the Republican Creed, politics will go on as usual.

We realize food is a bi-partisan issue, VICFA would love to have Democrats co-sponsor our amendment. We are asking everyone's help in making that happen. Please call Christine Solem at (434)973-6505 if you can help with this endeavor! Merry Christmas and Happy Lobbying! ■

VICFA Presents Special Seminar: **January 10th 2015**

WHERE: Jefferson Madison Regional
Main Library • 201 East Market Street
Charlottesville, Virginia, 22902

WHEN: Saturday, January 10, 2015

TIME: 1:30 - 3:30 pm

Special Guest - Attorney Norman Lamson



Norman H. Lamson has been a sole practitioner in Charlottesville continuously for 33 years where he has a general practice, including agency matters, primarily in representing small farmers caught in regulatory mazes intended primarily for large corporate food manufacturers. He holds a B.A. from the College of William and Mary and a JD from the University Of Virginia School Of Law.



This is a free and "Open to the Public" forum to discuss the significance of the proposed Virginia Constitutional Amendment for 2015, as well as addressing questions regarding this landmark proposed Amendment for the state of Virginia.

"That the people shall have a right to acquire, for their own consumption, farm produced food directly at the farm with agreement from the farmer who produced it."

The Virginia legislative session will start January 14, 2015. **Come and find out what you can do to help!**

VICFA Action Alert

Please contact your Virginia State Delegate and Senator to Virginia General Assembly at their home office immediately!

Please ask them to support the following proposed amendment to the Virginia Constitution, which will be brought before them in January 2015:

"That the people shall have a right to acquire, for their own consumption, farm produced food directly at the farm with agreement from the farmer who produced it."

Contacting your Delegate and Senator only involves two simple emails and/or two short phone calls. To contact your representative by phone, simply speak with his or her aide or leave a voicemail message.

At this time, our representatives are in their home offices, making this the ideal time to contact them before the rush begins.

VICFA will provide more information once the legislation is filed.

Contact Information:

• <http://viriniageneralassembly.gov/house/members/members.php>

• <http://apps.lis.virginia.gov/sfb1/Senate/TelephoneList.aspx>

Call For Organizations To Help Fight FSMA Regulations

Dear colleagues,

I am reaching out to you, as a nonprofit that signed on to our letter in defense of the Tester-Hagan exemption for small farms and food businesses, to ask if you will speak up again. We need your help to pressure FDA into making the necessary changes to protect our local food producers.

As you know, the FDA recently proposed revised rules under the Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA). Although there are some improvements from FDA's earlier proposal, these rules will still impose significant unnecessary burdens on many farms and food businesses. Even FDA admits that its rules will drive some producers out of business and discourage others from starting up.

You can help by:

1) Signing on to our letter to defend the Tester-Hagan exemption:
<http://bit.ly/sign-the-tester-hagan-letter>

2) Submitting your own comments to the FDA on the substantive problems with the proposed rules.

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3) Spreading the word through your networks. Please let your members know about these issues!

The deadline for submitting comments to the FDA is **Monday, December 15.**

We will be accepting sign on's to our joint letter until the previous Friday, December 12.

Please let me know if you have any questions. We also have tools to help you spread the word to your networks posted at:

<http://farmandranchfreedom.org/alert-keep-small-farmers-food-producers-in-business/#share>

Thank you for speaking up for our local farmers and food producers!

- Judith

Judith McGeary
Executive Director
Farm and Ranch Freedom Alliance
www.farmandranchfreedom.org
Judith@FarmAndRanchFreedom.org
Office Phone: 254-697-2661

SAY NO to HR 4432

H. R. 4432 sponsored by Representative Mike Pompeo and named "Safe and Accurate Food Labeling Act of 2014" could end your right to know of GMOs in your food if passed. This bill will have its first reading Dec. 10, 2014. In addition to being a vehicle in paring down the sovereignty of the individual State's. It takes the GMO labeling issue putting it in the very hands of the agencies that allowed the development and marketing of GM foods to an uninformed public!

In a press release on the bill from Representative Mike Pompeo, The Safe and Accurate Food Labeling Act of 2014 is touted as a way, to "establish a federal labeling standard for foods with genetically modified ingredients, giving sole authority to the Food and Drug Administration to require mandatory labeling on such foods if they are ever found to be unsafe or materially different from foods produced without GM ingredients."

Some of the key points on the State rights gleaned from the Congressional Research Service (CRS) of the Library of Congress are...

- Preempts any state or local requirement respecting a bioengineered organism intended for a food use or application, or food produced from, containing, or consisting of a bioengineered organism.
- Sets forth standards for any food label that contains claims that bioengineering was or was not used in the production of

the food. Preempts any state and local labeling requirements with respect to bioengineered food.

- Requires the Secretary to issue regulations setting standards for a natural claim on food labels. Preempts any state or local regulations that are not identical to the requirements of this Act.

For a full read:

<https://www.congress.gov/bill/113th-congress/house-bill/4432>

Top five supporters of the bill (not surprising!)

PepsiCo Inc
Grocery Manufacturers Association
Monsanto Co
Natural Products Association
International Dairy Foods Association

What Can You Do?

• Sign the petition:

http://salsa3.salsalabs.com/o/50865/p/dialaction3/common/public?action_KEY=13738

• Make a donation:

https://salsa3.salsalabs.com/o/50865/p/salsadonation/common/public?donate_page_KEY=11610

For more information:

<http://www.opensecrets.org/lobby/billsum.php?id=hr4432-113>

The Congressional Research Service (CRS) of the Library of Congress works exclusively for the United States Congress, providing policy and legal analysis to committees and Members of both the House and Senate, regardless of party affiliation. CRS provides Congress with analysis that is authoritative, confidential, objective, and non-partisan. ■

VICFA Notes

Don't miss our December Meeting

Winter Hours in Effect

Our Next Meeting will be held in
Beaverdam, VA on December 14, 2014.

VICFA would like to extend our appreciation to our host for this month's meeting. Thank you to hosted by Susan Verbeeck!

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, December 14, 2014 at 12:00 pm

hosted by Susan Verbeeck

17145 Katy Lane
Beaverdam, VA 23015

DIRECTIONS:

From Richmond Area: From I-95 N; Take the VA-30 W exit, EXIT 98, toward Doswell/US-1. (go 0.22 miles); Turn left onto VA-30 W/Kings Dominion Blvd. (go 0.76 miles); Turn right onto US-1. (go 1.02 miles); Turn left onto Doswell Rd; Turn slight right onto Old Ridge Rd; Old Ridge Rd is 0.9 miles past Whitetail Dr (go 4.24 miles); Turn left onto Katy Ln. 17145 KATY LN is on the right.