

# The Virginia Food Security Summit

Final Report  
Findings and Recommendations  
APPENDIX C  
SURVEY RESULTS

Charlottesville, Virginia  
May 11, 2007

# Virginia Food Security Summit

May 11, 2007

## Participant Survey

Thank you for taking a few minutes to fill out this survey. The purpose of this survey is to elicit your thoughts and ideas about the most important issues impacting food security in Virginia to help guide decision-making.

The Community Food Security Coalition defines food security to include: food safety, food production, food distribution, and access. For all of the following questions, please use this definition.

This survey will be compiled and the results will be included in a report about the Summit. The Summit report will be posted online on the Summit website, and also shared with Virginia's state agencies and nonprofit organizations.

Would you describe your interest in the food summit as:

- Professional
- Personal
- Both

If professional, how would you describe your affiliation? (Please check as many as apply)

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural         | <input type="checkbox"/> Local Government                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Public health        | <input type="checkbox"/> Food Service (restaurant, etc.) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Environmental health | <input type="checkbox"/> Academic                        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Federal government   | <input type="checkbox"/> Nonprofit                       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> State government     | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____                     |

If personal, how would you describe your interest? (Please check as many as apply)

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Personal health and life style              | <input type="checkbox"/> Ensuring a sustainable economy           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Public health and equity                    | <input type="checkbox"/> Ensuring food is free from contamination |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Preserving the regional landscape character | <input type="checkbox"/> Ensuring the hungry are fed              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Preserving Virginia's working lands         |   |

Please indicate the degree to which you agree/disagree with the following statements using this scale:

*Not sure*

Strongly disagree   1            2            3            4            5            6            7            Strongly Agree

\_\_\_ Food security is an important issue for Virginia.

\_\_\_ Virginia needs to develop a state food security policy.

\_\_\_ Children in Virginia's schools need more daily access to fresh, healthy food.

\_\_\_ Children in Virginia's schools could benefit from connections to local farms in their curricula and cafeterias.

\_\_\_ Virginia's farmers could benefit from connections to local school curricula and cafeterias.

\_\_\_ Virginia's communities could benefit economically from cooperative efforts to improve access and distribution for local food.

\_\_\_ Virginia could save more farms and working lands through the development and implementation of a food security policy.

**A state food policy should (check all that apply):**

promote economic viability of small working farms.

encourage and enable local food purchasing policies

promote economic viability of large working farms.

encourage and enable gleaning programs and distribution of food to the hungry

increase "local food dollars" circulating in Virginia's economy.

Other (specify) \_\_\_\_\_

promote more farmers markets or other direct sales mechanisms.

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Other (specify) \_\_\_\_\_

promote farm-to-school programs

\_\_\_\_\_

**A Virginia food policy is best undertaken by (check one)**

a legislative study commission that convenes public hearings or listening sessions and develops recommendations for policy.

a collaborative consensus-based stakeholder group.

a Virginia food policy council with representation from all sectors and interests that develops a food security plan for Virginia.

Other (please describe) \_\_\_\_\_

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What is your vision for a food security policy?

What concerns do you have about a food security policy?

What did you learn from the discussions today that you didn't know before?

What action(s) will you take as a result of today's summit?

Thank you!!  
Please hand in your survey before leaving today!  
If you forget to hand this in, please FAX to 434-924-0231 before May 18, if you wish your input to be included.

Below are the compiled results of the participant survey, which was provided to every participant in the Summit packet and collected prior to the end of the Summit.

- Out of 128 participants, 90 or 70% filled out the survey.
- Of all survey participants, 72% attended for both personal and professional interests (18% for professional only, 8% personal only).
- Of those who indicated professional interests (79), approximately:
  - 40% identified as agricultural affiliated
  - 30% identified as non-profit affiliated
  - 25% identified as government affiliated
- “Ensuring a sustainable economy” was the most common personal interest indicated by survey participants.
- Over 70% of the survey participants had a personal interest in the following issues:
  - ensuring a sustainable economy
  - preserving Virginia's working lands
  - preserving the regional character
- Over 50% of the survey participants had a personal interest in the following issues:
  - ensuring the hungry are fed
  - public health and equity
  - ensuring food is free from contamination
- Over 90% of survey participants agree or strongly agree that:
  - Virginia's communities could benefit economically from cooperative efforts to improve access to an distribution of local food
  - Food security is an important issue for Virginia
  - Children in Virginia's schools could benefit from connections to local farms in curricula and cafeterias
  - Virginia's farmers could benefit from connections with local school curricula and cafeterias
- Over 75% of survey participants agree or strongly agree that:
  - Children in Virginia's schools need more daily access to fresh, healthy food
  - Virginia needs to develop a state food security policy
  - Virginia could save more farms and working lands through development and implementation of a food security policy

### **A state food policy should:**

Over 75% of survey participants agree or strongly agree that a state food policy should:

- promote economic viability of small working farms
- increase "local food dollars" circulating in Virginia's economy
- promote more farmers markets or other direct sales mechanisms
- promote farm-to-school programs
- encourage and enable local food purchasing
- encourage and enable gleaning programs and distribution of food to the hungry

Half of survey participants agree or strongly agree that a state food policy should promote the economic viability of large farms

Additional suggestions include:

- Mandate an effort to develop state food safety regulations that support small/medium family farms and protect public health. Engage all stakeholders – farmers, community food advocates, public health professionals, as well as VDACS
- Provide grants to counties/municipalities to launch Food Policy Councils / develop Community Food Systems Plans
- Encourage infrastructure to allow meat/dairy processing at a local/regional land
- Prepare for future challenges from: oil depletion (fuel cost increases); climate change driven weather conditions; migration of populations due to sea level rise
- Increasing research and development on permaculture systems
- Keep farmland in farms! Encourage farming as a career.
- Environmental resilience
- Land use policy and planning
- Promote clean energy in food production and consumption
- Promote living wages and economic security strategies from farm to table
- Simplify the regulations that affect small farmers – have only those absolutely necessary
- Promote viability of “farms in the middle”
- Help farmers go to markets
- Promote accessible foods to those most at need
- Work to push state and federal policy that allow for easier local production for farmers (for example- making meat processing plants for small producers easier to be regulated / certified, e.g., not as many hoops to jump through as mass processors)
- Work on a local USDA certified meat processing plant in Charlottesville
- Hugh needs assessment / group study of needs assessment carried out by \_\_\_
- Apply for a grant and hire staff 0 otherwise nothing will get done because there is only 24 hrs in a day
- Work on pushing for better changes in Farm Bill
- Look at Latino populations’ access to healthy food
- Legalize raw milk
- I really think that we need to start grass roots / local with a food policy council for Central Virginia/Greater Ch’ville

- Address local hunger issues
- Create and ensure outlets for purchase / contact (like farmer's markets)
- Include registered dieticians (VA Dietetic Assn.) on Council
- Our farmers are capitals starved investment in rural economy
- Introduction of Landcare (Australia) in Virginia
- Establish a Food Policy Council with relevant state department heads involved for a minimum of 5 years
- Survey food deserts and help line up farmers producing healthy foods with new distributors of foods in deserts.
- Energy Desert (Peak Oil) planning
- Development of food policy councils (locally and regionally)
- Bridge the gap of technology with the farmer
- Encourage interest in farming in younger generations
- Support the development of infrastructure for local and regional foods.
- Eliminate burdensome regulation that create difficulty for farmgate \_\_\_\_\_ and home production
- Promote humane treatment of animals
- Growing food year-round in Virginia
- Policy that provides education, funding for small local farms and clean food
- What is a working farm? Promote economic viability of large working farms if owner in there, not a huge corporation
- Work to improve in a proactive way – our agricultural infrastructure
- Review current regulations (VDACS) to remove those whose effect is to selectively burden small and medium-sized producers
- Improve state processing and canning capability
- Promote the “organic” and “health side”
- Promote economic viability of large working farms. As long as these don't dominate policy's make-up.
- Promote more farmers markets or other direct sales mechanisms including directories of farms engaged in re-farm(?) sales
- Ensure labeling of foods produced with chemicals and sludge
- Encourage/facilitate an educational component
- Not be overly restrictive and do more harm than good.
- Control urban sprawl tax incentives for farmers
- Prevent misuse of organic labels by large corporate farms
- Get McDonald's, Subway, etc. out of our schools
- Promote farm-to-school programs. VA recently passed legislation to do this.
- Encourage and enable local food purchasing policies. There are many programs that currently do these things.
- Promote reward systems for “local support” from retailers
- Promote economic viability of large working farms as long as not industrial.

## **A Virginia food policy is best undertaken by:**

75% of survey participants indicated that a Virginia food policy is best undertaken by a food policy council with representation from all sectors and interests that develops a food security plan for Virginia.

Additional suggestions include:

- Strong farmer representatives are essential – all scales and kinds of independent family farms in Virginia.
- Legislative action driven by grass roots pressure
- This already exists in Virginia – The Center for Rural Virginia covers these issues. This could be expanded, no need to reinvent the wheel.
- Two-tier system of regional forums that have influence on the state-wide council
- A legislative study commission that convenes public hearings or listening sessions and develops recommendations for policy. Absolutely not.
- A Virginia food policy council with representation from all sectors and interests that develops a food security plan for Virginia. Provided small farmer voices dominate
- A Virginia food policy council with representation from all sectors and interests that develops a food security plan for Virginia. Bottom up, not top down approach.
- Greater Ch'ville local council
- Must organize local farmers and consumers
- A legislative study commission that convenes public hearings or listening sessions and develops recommendations for policy. No! No! No!
- Liked the Michigan model, curious about NM – not familiar with it
- Should include farmers and local municipalities
- A legislative study commission that convenes public hearings or listening sessions and develops recommendations for policy. No!! Too top down and not grassroots enough and would never get anywhere
- May best be served by smaller councils or coalitions that are regionally based since such diverse (very regionally based food systems) farm systems in state, and rural vs. urban differences (but needs to include government just not run by it!)
- I can't help but feel that any additional layers of government will absorb money needed by the farmer and consumers
- Grass roots efforts in concern with policy makers (from the bottom up)
- Local food groups assessing needs/challenges, building momentum and mandating regional/state actions
- Governor's Conference on
- Emphasize non-government representation
- Local people that know the land and need
- A legislative study commission that convenes public hearings or listening sessions and develops recommendations for policy. This will gather dust.
- A collaborative consensus-based stakeholder group. Could be an off-shoot of Food Policy Council or subsets because of multiple issues involved that need to be integrated.

- I'm not sure this is necessary.
- Begin with grass roots – MPO level food policy facilitated discussions
- Local food policy councils
- With public hearings and listening from time to time.

### **What is your vision for a food security policy?**

- Goals – eliminate hunger including hidden hunger (obesity / diabetes / poor concentration at school due to poor food)
- Aim for 80% of food eaten in Virginia, grown in Virginia; 50% within 100 miles – by 2020
- Strengthen farmer/consumer capacity to build community food systems around every city and within every county in Virginia – Start with County Food Assessment Plan in each city/county
- Promote public awareness of the issues
- Promote farmer's markets
- Develop plans for distribution to schools, retail stores, restaurants, etc.
- Protect funding for farmers through government policies to transition
- Protect farm land
- Greater accessibility and availability to locally grown and healthy food – not just food safety
- Increase access health foods for children
- Point from above. Ultimately based on permacultural and local grass pasture based system
- Representation of all interests
- When I think food security, I think of the security of the industry. Protecting animals from disease outbreak (Avian Flu, Foot and Mouth, Ecoli) and also making sure farms stay in Virginia through increasing the profitability and land conservation.
- Revitalize small-scale producers, create consumer awareness and education of benefits of local food vs. current globalization of food systems
- A network of family farmers linked to consumers – would include all of the supporting supply businesses, processing and distribution businesses/facilities.
- Maintaining growing land base for farming
- Economically viable opportunities for farmers to produce greater, more healthful diversity of crops, livestock and have more direct connection to consumers.
- Affordable, equitable access to a greater, more healthful diversity of food and more direct connection to farmers
- Involve all stakeholders
- Supports locally based food that is sustainable, and that everyone has access to.
- Local grass roots; with a grant; staff persons, consult with the Community Food Security Coalition (they have local councils set up all across the country) I don't understand why Steph didn't talk about this.
- Working on changing legislation for the better by spearheading local programs that support local healthy food, examples, we can use to convince legislatures that local systems can work and produce positive results.

- Small farmers, farmer's market, all types of support – availability / access to the hungry. Locate and deal with Food Deserts
- Aggressively increase the consumption and viability of local agriculture
- Policy that promotes Landcare (Australia) to mobilize farmer-consumer-land grant University, RC&D Councils, Soil & Water Districts to focus on specific landscapes
- Safe, affordable, accessible, sustainable, community based and centered, flexible, adaptable
- One size fits all, unfunded mandates, unclear meaning – what is security?
- Human health and happiness are integrally linked to the soils to the plants that grow in that soil, and to the animals who eat those plants. My vision is that this be recognized in every aspect of relevant policy at every jurisdictional level.
- Recommend policies to support farmers and infrastructure for local food.
- Facilitate institutional use of local foods (farm to school, jails, etc.)
- Great ideas in CA, Oregon, WA and other states like MA and NY as well. Would like to see best and appropriate in Virginia
- Forming an organized effort to bring land use directly tied to food security in Virginia
- That more importance is placed and implemented on promoting “local grow” direct from the farm in food purchasing
- Greatly increase local food availability and sales to institutions
- Promote people growing their own at home, too.
- Local-based
- Comprised of all stakeholders
- Integration of small, medium and large farms and a strong network linkup consumers, producers, buyers and institutions
- That is comprehensive in scope – looks at farm viability, energy, affordability of fresh food, farmland protection, etc.
- Advocate the 100 mile diet
- Is by making all the food that is grown in Virginia stay in Virginia
- Policy that embraces sustainable and regenerative methods encouraging greater numbers of small scale producers
- Education at all levels – headstart to seniors
- The policy should make it easier for farmers to market their products, protect/preserve farmland, start up new farms, and add incentives for raising food instead of commodity crops.
- Far reaching, based on an “asset” approach; practical, implementable
- Reduction of regulatory burden on producers and home production of value added.
- More farmers market option not govt. affiliated.
- Reduce export pushing by Commonwealth agencies and require Virginia First institutional buying.
- Mass fresh food markets like mass transit. One that allows and encourages daily availability of fresh food such as those existent in European cities

- One that encourages a re-education of what is wholesome and sustainably grown food
- The availability and accessibility of safe, nutritionally balanced, culturally acceptable and environmental sustainable foods to all people at all times.
- Steering (not driving)
- Support (not top-down)
- Don't know enough yet
- That it be fair and effective. We have the food, it's a distribution problem, at least for now.
- Interdisciplinary, inclusive
- More contact/connection/transparency on all levels. I trust an individual grower more than an overworked govt. inspection official
- A significant percentage of total food sold and consumed within Virginia Sourced, processed and retailed in Virginia.
- Awareness of money spent in waste towards non-local farms.
- Awareness of using "natural" methods to grow organically.
- Awareness of preserving the land and our health
- More emphasis on wide level and small farms
- "Grow Virginia, Buy Virginia" patterned after and adapted from Oklahoma's CSA program, particularly vis-à-vis distribution mechanisms
- An umbrella of knowledgeable members with focused groups under it implementing ideas, plans, regulations
- Comprehensive policy created with input from all stakeholders
- The term "security" confused many. Most felt that security meant "safe from contaminants". A different term would have been useful.
- Ensure sufficient food supply
- Continue to develop infrastructure to support farmers – all of the equipment, feed, fertilizer, etc., needed to produce crops
- Promote environmentally sound practices; high standards
- Imports, poor inspections, lack of trust in FDA
- Banned chemicals are used overseas by our trading partners and come back in our food
- Remove limits to "farm stands" to allow retailers opportunity to promote local items. Deregulate these foods to remove roadblocks for farmers.

### **What concerns do you have about a food security policy?**

- AVOID "top down" planning / design process that under-represents farmers and over-represents "talking heads" like myself! Need to emphasize sustainable / organic methods of production
- Some discussions tend to polarize the agricultural community = us – them; organic – conventional sustainable!
- New programs – farm – table, especially for children's access. Veg./fruits
- That "security" will lead to encourage approaches that emphasize "protection" of expert crops

- The policy must address the entire state from Northampton to Lee Counties and all of the variability in our state should be encompassed
- Ensure food security includes provisions to address children/elderly living with hunger / food insecurity
- That it will not include all agriculture. Agriculture is a business and needs to be safe and sustainable and not just focus on local small food production.
- Cost
- Corporate agribusiness intervention!
- That agribusiness and its government skills will dominate and co-opt the Buy Local movement – with the result that we become even more consumption driven
- Challenges of addressing land development pressure.
- Challenge of changing a heavily entrenched food supply chain and distribution system.
- Challenge of cultivating the next generation of farmers.
- Challenge of changing consumer behavior – values are increasingly in right place, but actual behavior will be slower to change.
- VDACS too involved
- That it will be developed without talking adequately to consumers and small to mid-sized farmers
- That this is overwhelming – there is no plan, farmers and organizers of summit are not completely in sync; lots of idealism, and realistic analysis of situation need action
- That it will drown in meetings – become too cumbersome to implement
- A state run program would soon become bogged down in bureaucracy.
- That it be focused on USDA Dietary Guidelines and therefore include education
- Restricting influence of corporate/big govt. money
- Fund (state and federal) local groups (Landcare) to develop and facilitate plans that make sense locally. The Australian example shows 80% of the nation recognizes the logo – there are more than 5,000 land care groups.
- That key players – farmers- aren't really interested
- Conflicts between diverse participants.
- Lack of it in Virginia
- Education, outreach and the need for summits like this where diverse organizations come together and learn from one another and connect.
- Dairy Industry in Virginia
- The complete lack of knowledge the general public has about where most of their food comes from.
- That it could be divisive if it does not include all stakeholders including both large and small farms, conventional vs. alternative production systems, and culturally diverse groups, rich and poor
- That it is not focused on large, corporate solutions, but genuine solutions that truly protect our food supply. It must be comprehensive.
- Shrinking farm lands increased chemical depend. farming practices
- Funding consistently

- Farmers normally don't have time to read up on stuff and be involved in organizations
- Lack of concern in public at large, GMOs, regulatory legislature that matches the scale of production
- Restrictive regulations without flexibility
- That it might actually add bureaucratic layers/impediments for Virginia farmers. There are already too many of (archaic) restrictions in our state, i.e., raw dairy products disallowed.
- That it be grounded in farmers' realities
- Producers will have less input and government agri-industry and academics will be overly represented (Note – less than 15% of attendees were farmers.)
- That it will become regulation driven and over-burdensome
- Focus on local food overshadowing other approaches.
- policy – laws – barriers to entry/market
- Too many regulations
- Don't know enough yet
- That it be made by corporation dinner law makers with “economic growth” as the bottom line goal
- Concern that the need to protect farmland through state policy regarding sprawl will get lost – need statewide urban/regional policy.
- I'm concerned that safety issues tend to translate into more regulation rather than more connection and communication. Regulations (which affect all farmers) are often precipitated by failures due to overly concentrated production, i.e., overuse of antibiotics, hormones, etc., and processing. These put an unfair burden on smaller producers.
- That government will impose a top-down, regulation – heavy system
- “Nanny state” involvement in small farms – tendency to confuse policy with production
- That it will be too focused on not helping the public and not preserving land.
- Top-down may cause resentment.
- It will be run by large farmers only, i.e., Farm Bureau and VDACS
- Conflicting and contradictory public policy – water use/availability versus industrial discharge, land application of sludge; energy production vs. clean air
- That it will become legislative heavy and be used against the people it's supposed to protect, i.e., heavy restrictions and regulations that rack up prices
- We need to realize the small amount of people buying organic and local and we need to ease into increasing that, not just jump into it.
- Not as much of a concern but I'd like to see more examples of successful food security policies
- Cost to the consumer (low income)
- Disparity between large and small producers
- Availability – will these food items be as close as Walmart or the bus line?
- Should not include discussion of “healthy” foods. Too many people mistakenly believe that local or small producer foods are healthier. There is NO evidence of this.

- Point of origin
- More local processor and canneries, employees
- Make information available through inspectors, extension agents, market managers, VDACS
- Over regulation by government agencies

**What did you learn from the discussions today that you didn't know before?**

- Surprisingly high poverty rates / hunger rates in Virginia, Charlottesville!
- “Local” meat relies on many non-local inputs – tremendous need for better infrastructure
- WIC program funded partly by Infant Formula Company (disturbing, possible counterproductive)
- Lots
- Too many to list (just getting started on this topic)
- How much hunger and lack of access to fresh foods exist in this country.
- Amount of food imported outside of USA
- Calories to transport food around is greater than calories in the food
- Lots! Too much to list
- Eat fresh and local paper - looks great
- Info on WIC, food stamps and ETC (?) at farmer's markets
- That there is a lot more interests in and activities supporting local food systems in Virginia than I thought
- Significance of profitability issues that Virginia farmers face.
- How little money is made available to WIC participants in general and how limited the pilot participation program is within the state.
- Significance of profitability issues that Virginia farmers face.
- How little money is made available to WIC participants in general and how limited the pilot participation program is within the state.
- The striking amount of money spent for agricultural imports from out of state
- Many informative and thought-provoking presentations. David Tatman did great!
- Details at chicken processing
- Lynchburg Grows program – great role model!
- Closest USDA certified meat processing plant is Richmond
- Problems of tobacco farmer's transitioning to other crops
- The amount of cost vs. profit for farmers. Now I have more empathy and concern for farms and their issues.
- So much
- What “food security” really means.
- More about what is going on in Virginia.
- More programs awareness
- Other perspectives on issues
- Seems like but for the Michigan Food Policy Council, a lot of stabs are being made with little coherence
- That my concerns about lack of infrastructure and support for local food, farmers markets, community gardens in Richmond is really a state-wide phenomenon and

that a lot of people would like this to change. There may be a critical mass; so, it may be a “ripe” area for reorientation of food policy in Virginia.

- W/C, Super Pantry and Food Bank needs
- We – the farmers – have to promote our agenda in a more active manner
- Lots of people working in this field
- Food safety
- Really liked David Tatman’s very honest and sobering “face” shared about the work we have that lies ahead
- I thought Ken Meter’s presentation was AWESOME!
- Underscored the need for Food Council of Virginia
- Can this Conference be held in February – this time of year is too busy for farmers/growers
- National statistics on food consumption
- How much wasted energy is used to transport food
- Lots
- About other organizations and their work
- Efforts to change the Farm Bill and the Bill’s content. It is so huge, it is not possible to keep abreast because of time constraints.
- Some very useful data/info on age economic potential from both Ken Meter and Michael Hamm
- Good data sets from Ken Meter
- That WIC vouchers are only 50% redeemable at pilot markets – because they only have funding for that!
- Excellent resources or successes elsewhere
- So many folks actively working on food security issues
- How vulnerable food supply is to shortage in the event of natural or man-made disruptions in supply
- Much about the WIC program
- Specific programs, resource materials, food, Food Policy Council, biodegradable plastics – good work being done.
- Glad to know this current national administration hasn’t completely stifled creativity, funding and environmental on these issues
- That WIC has a farmer’s market program, but it is only available in a few places and they discourage more than 50% participation.
- Virginia Alternative Ag programs
- Statistical realities
- Michigan strategies
- The many areas that are involved in food.
- Ideas about farmers markets, direct from the farm sales, and some of the obstacles to it like with meat sales
- There is a disconnect between the “no regulation” comments, the money in farm bill to local organic comments and actual reality.
- Learned much more about sustainable agriculture and Virginia agriculture as well as food policy.
- Learned more about policies affecting food security and the Farm Bill

- That more of Virginia needs to educate themselves about existing programs and councils
- That farmers have a difficult time finding/receiving information
- So much I didn't know.
- Ways to structure and participate in a food council.

**What action(s) will you take as a result of today's summit?**

- Stay in touch with the group (contact info given on yellow sheet) very successful for inspiring urban CFS project
- Suggested idea – resource for VA Food Security effort – The Food Project (Boston based)
- Buy more local produce
- A valley regional initiative and pilot farm-to-school project
- Increase buying at Farmer's Markets. Possibly participant in Actions for Healthy Kid = schools
- Investigate a food policy council for other states
- Get more involved with Food Bank.
- Forward contacts / info to Federation of Virginia Food Banks Director
- Connect with many of the people I met.
- Go to more local meetings
- Try to stay in touch and work with whatever group forms.
- Co-teach class offered by the Division of Continuing and Prof. Studies.
- Definitely will be following up on some of connections I made with individuals and learning more about some of the programs I have heard about.
- Not sure – it is overwhelming. I'd like to get involved with urban farm or farm to school program
- Work on a local level to change policy regarding hunger.
- Create course of study for myself about food planning.
- Promote a food council via the Virginia Dietetic Association.
- Become more involved, network with others, contact legislators
- Keep doing what I'm doing – introducing land care into the New River Basin [www.graysoilandcare.com](http://www.graysoilandcare.com)
- Look for a policy-making job.
- I would be interested in working on the advent of a Virginia Food Policy Council
- Further networking, continue to push for WIC, etc., in farmer's markets in Richmond.
- Working with local organizers to continue these discussions on a local level in the Richmond area
- Develop local county/city input to help develop a strong system of local grown direct from the farm purchasing.
- Write letter to my local paper about Summit and concerns
- Hope we get our Food Project proposal funded! If not, will still work hard to promote local food in Shenandoah Valley!
- Continue farming, participating in our local market and sell our produce roadside.

- Revisit menu ideas as it pertains to the senior population
- Do my part as a farmer to have a highly productive farm
- Increase involvement and hopefully production
- Network with community partners
- Become knowledgeable about Farm Bill
- I am going to try to change the make up/membership of “my” food council to include all the sectors of farming and food distributions for my region.
- Continue our efforts; share this gathering’s ideas with my colleagues in SW Virginia
- Report to various sources. Keep track of developments.
- Grass roots networking. Try to get involved with increasing my purchase of local the local urban farm
- Online research; local activism
- Lots more education at our farmers market; contact information available to public/market consumers
- Continue to work on helping promote Charlottesville farmers market and market central use (open new 501C3 to benefit market) and my farm.
- Organizing in my church – hope to follow-up with others attending today
- Stay involved
- Continue working for increased direct farm/consumer avenues of connection
- Try to organize efforts to learn from Intervale project in Burlington, VT for similar project in Charlottesville/Albemarle.
- Focus on keeping (or helping?) processing vertically integrated
- Research vegetable packing shed regulatory requirements
- I will be a promoter of growing organic and promoting local and healthy living.
- Continue working to develop data bases of suppliers, land conservation, sustainability, environmental restoration, consumer education.
- Continue opposing untested sludge application
- Continue buying locally from farms.
- Work toward smarter farm policy!
- Contact some other local to see if we can form a committee to offer our products and also create a farm market in our area
- Educating consumers regarding accessing healthy food grown locally.
- Continue to network, push VDACS to pay attention to what is needed.
- Study and act
- Share ideas with County leaders to advance current local efforts