



# Virginia Food Security Summit

## Envisioning a Sustainable Food System for Virginia

*Good food from Virginia's farms can grow jobs, build health, and protect land!*

May 11, 2007  
Alumni Hall, 211 Emmet Street South  
Charlottesville, VA

Virginia's food system is a broad, dynamic enterprise. Developments in the food system are driven by consumers, industry, agribusiness, small farms, universities, regulatory agencies, and local government. The sustainability of the food system will depend on the ability of these groups to help define decisions made today that will certainly affect tomorrow's opportunities.

This Summit has been developed to offer the opportunity for individuals from diverse food system backgrounds to openly discuss issues affecting the sustainability of Virginia's food system. Summit participants will have the opportunity to discuss food, nutrition, health, medicine, policy, and environmental trends that will shape the future food system. A summary report of the Summit will be distributed to state decision-makers with participant questions, concerns, and ideas to help guide the development of a sustainable and secure food system in Virginia.

Summit goals:

- To raise awareness and understanding in the Commonwealth of the need to improve Virginia's food security;
- To help people in different professions to make connections and discuss possibilities for new policies, research, pilot projects, or other actions to improve Virginia's food security; and
- To explore the need for a stakeholder "round table" or state-level Food Policy Council to develop an integrated food security strategy for Virginia.

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- ❖ USDA Agricultural Marketing Service
- ❖ WahooRidge Catering

# AGENDA

**8:00 Registration**  
*Free parking validation available only for parking in the Emmet-Ivy Garage*

**8:30 Welcome and Introductions**  
*Tanya Denckla Cobb, Senior Associate, Institute for Environmental Negotiation, University of Virginia*  
*Joe Eifert, Ph.D., Associate Professor and Extension Specialist, Department of Food Science & Technology, Virginia Tech*

## PART I: THE BIG PICTURE

**8:40 Looking at Virginia's Food Security**  
*Moderated by Timothy Beatley*

- What is a Secure and Sustainable Food System?  
*Timothy Beatley, Ph.D., Teresa Heinz Professor of Sustainable Communities, Department of Urban and Environmental Planning, School of Architecture, University of Virginia*
- Virginia Agriculture, What Are We Growing and Where Are We Going?  
*Spencer Neale, Senior Assistant Director, Commodity/Marketing Department, Virginia Farm Bureau Federation*
- Macro trends for Virginia food security: food imports, food exports, hunger, economic "leakages"  
*Ken Meter, Ph.D., President, Crossroads Resource Center, Minneapolis, MN*
- Discussion

**9:40 Participant Mini-Visioning for Virginia's Food Security**  
*Developing a Vision for Virginia's Food System: what is your vision for enhancing Virginia's food system security in the next 10 years? What are your table's top 2-3 broad goals or elements of a vision?*

**10:00 Break**

## PART II: POLICIES THAT AFFECT VIRGINIA'S FOOD SECURITY

**10:15 Keynote Speaker: An Integrated Approach to Food Policy - Lessons and Successes**  
*The Robert L. Plavnick Lecturer in Urban and Environmental Planning*  
*Michael Hamm, Ph.D., C.S. Mott Professor of Sustainable Agriculture, Department of Resource Development, College of Agriculture and Natural Resources, Michigan State University, and Director, C.S. Mott Group for Sustainable Food Systems, and Council Member of Michigan Food Policy Council*

**11:00 Healthy Food, Local Farms, and Local, State, Federal Policy**  
*Moderated by Tanya Denckla Cobb*

- The Federal WIC (Women, Infants, Children) food program package: proposed changes and impacts on farmer's markets  
*Donna Seward, Director of WIC (Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children) and Community Nutrition Services, Virginia Department of Health*
- Farm Bill issues relating to community food security  
*Stephanie Larsen, Policy Organizer, Community Food Security Coalition*
- VDACS Specialty Agriculture Initiative  
*Charles Green, Project Manager, Agricultural Development Services, Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services*
- State regulatory issues, representing smaller sustainable farms  
*Katherine Smith, President, Virginia Association for Biological Farming*
- Discussion

**12:00 Participant Mini-Discussions for Virginia's Food Policy**

*Developing ideas for policy needs in Virginia: what are your table's top 2-3 ideas for ways to strengthen Virginia's food security through policy (could be local government, state, or federal level)?*

**12:30 Lunch**

**PART III: INITIATIVES, LESSONS, MODELS AND INSPIRATION**

**1:15 Public Health Issues and Innovations**

*Moderated by Joe Eifert*

- Innovations in Reducing Food Insecurity (Hunger and Poverty) in Virginia  
*Marty White, CEO, Blue Ridge Area Food Bank*
- Innovations in Access to Healthful Food in Virginia (Obesity, Diabetes, Poverty)  
*Kathy Hosig, Ph.D., Virginia Action for Healthy Kids, Associate Professor, Virginia Tech*
- Innovations in Microbial Food Safety  
*Renee Boyer, Ph.D., Assistant Professor and Extension Specialist, Department of Food Science & Technology, Virginia Tech*
- Discussion

**2:00 Strategies to Increase Environmental and Economic Farm Viability**

*Moderated by Renee Boyer*

- Strategies to make small farms viable (agri-tourism, agri-business, value-added, etc.)  
*Andy Hankins, Extension Specialist in Alternative Agriculture, Virginia State University*
- Strategies and Weak Links For Viable Small-Scale Meat Production  
*David Tatman, Hilldale Farm, Fluvanna County*

**2:35 Community-based Strategies for Sustainable Food Systems**

*Moderated by Tim Beatley*

- Urban Ag Strategies: Growing a Urban Agriculture Food System Economy  
*Michael VanNess, President, Lynchburg Grows*
- Creating a regional food policy council  
*Barbara Schwenk, Accomack-Northampton Planning District Commission, and A-N Food Policy Council*
- A Regional Approach To Increase The Viability of Small Farms (Preview of evening session)  
*Anthony Flaccavento, Executive Director, Appalachian Sustainable Development (ASD)*

**3:30 Break and Move to Small group discussions**

**3:45 Facilitated Small Group Discussions**

*Topics Suggested During the Summit Will Be Finalized and Posted*

*Choose the Small Group Topic That Most Interests You*

*Locations of Small Discussions are Noted in The Maps in Your Summit Folder*

*Your Discussion Group Will Discuss the Following:*

- *What 1 or 2 actions (leverage points) around this topic might offer the greatest potential for increasing Virginia's food security with the least amount of effort?*
- *Are there initiatives underway around this topic that you would like to share or announce to the Summit?*
- *What specific initiatives around this topic, if any, would you or your organization like to contribute to?*

**4:40 Wrap up of Summit**

*Small group sharing of results/top ideas*

*Next steps*

**5:00 Adjourn**

## PART IV: COMMUNITY “TOWN HALL”

6:00 Community Potluck Dinner  
Front Lawn, Albemarle County Office Building (inside if raining)  
401 McIntire Road

### Directions

- 1: Go toward the corner with tennis courts, turn RIGHT onto US-250 BR / UNIVERSITY AVE. (Up the hill toward the Rotunda)
- 2: Turn LEFT onto 5<sup>th</sup> STREET / MCINTIRE RD / US-250 BR.
3. Follow 5<sup>th</sup> STREET/ MCINTIRE RD. 0.2 miles
- 4: At the stop light at the foot of the hills, see Office Building - an old high school at the corner of Preston/McIntire
5. Continue straight through stop light and TURN LEFT into parking lot

## COMMUNITY POTLUCK AND TOWN HALL CO-HOSTED BY “EAT LOCAL” & UVA GREEN GROUNDS GROUP

EAT Local is a community-based forum for all people interested in enhancing the sustainability of the larger Charlottesville regional foodshed. It has no membership fees and welcomes all community people at its monthly meetings. It is working on several projects, including urban agriculture and the establishment of a community food center.

EAT LOCAL WEBSITE: <http://www.tjpc.org/environment/eatlocal.asp>

EAT LOCAL LISTSERVE: <https://list.mail.virginia.edu/mailman/listinfo/sustcomfood>

UVA GREEN GROUNDS GROUP:

[www.virginia.edu/newcomb/sac/search\\_display.php?org\\_id=580](http://www.virginia.edu/newcomb/sac/search_display.php?org_id=580)

## POTLUCK BBQ FEATURING: The Sustainable String Band

*With talented local bluegrass musicians!*

Mike Ioakimedes, Mandolin

Gabe Robey, Guitar

James Wilkinson, Guitar

7:00 Community “Town Hall” Discussion at Albemarle County Office Building Auditorium  
*Moderated by Tim Beatley*

**Strategies to Increase The Viability of Small Farms Through a Regional Approach**  
*Anthony Flaccavento, Executive Director, Appalachian Sustainable Development (ASD)*  
Open moderated discussion about community initiatives that participants wish to share and community food system sustainability: needs, challenges, and opportunities

9:00 Adjourn