

Virginia Food Security Summit

Speaker Biographies

Timothy Beatley

Timothy Beatley is Teresa Heinz Professor of Sustainable Communities, in the Department of Urban and Environmental Planning, School of Architecture at the University of Virginia, where he has taught for twenty years. Much of Dr. Beatley's work focuses on the subject of sustainable communities, and creative strategies by which cities and towns can fundamentally reduce their ecological footprints, while at the same time becoming more livable and equitable places. His most recent books on this topic are *Green Urbanism: Learning from European Cities* (Island Press, 2000), and *Native to Nowhere: Sustaining Home and Community in a Global Age* (also published by Island Press, December, 2004). Dr. Beatley holds a PhD in City and Regional Planning from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Renée Boyer

Dr. Renée R. Boyer is an assistant professor and extension specialist in Food Science & Technology Department at Virginia Tech. Dr. Boyer's research focuses on the development of pre and post harvest interventions to improve the safety of fresh and fresh cut produce products. She is also interested in interactions between foodborne pathogens and plant surfaces including attachment and biofilm formation. Dr. Boyer's extension program focuses on educating consumers on safe food handling and preparation to prevent foodborne illness. She provided leadership for the state's Food Safety Team, a team of extension agents through Virginia Cooperative Extension focuses on consumer food safety education.

Tanya Denckla Cobb

Tanya Denckla Cobb is Senior Associate at the UVA Institute for Environmental Negotiation where, since 1997, she facilitates and mediates a broad range of community, environmental, and agricultural issues. Tanya co-founded and now serves as faculty for the Virginia Natural Resources Leadership Institute where she teaches consensus building, facilitation, and interest-based negotiation. She has worked for the federal government in international labor rights and served as Executive Director of two urban forestry nonprofit organizations. She authored "The Gardener's A-Z Guide to Growing Organic Food," and co-teaches a graduate course at UVA on food system planning.

Joe Eifert

Joe is currently an Associate Professor and Extension Specialist in the Department of Food Science and Technology of Virginia Tech. His Extension program emphasizes microbiological safety and quality issues for poultry processors and food safety education for a variety of audiences. Additionally, he teaches graduate courses in "Food Regulatory Affairs" and "Applied Food Microbiology and Sanitation." Dr. Eifert received his graduate degrees in food science and technology from Virginia Tech, and his B.S. degree in biology from Loyola Marymount University. Previously, he worked as a laboratory manager for the Nestlé USA Quality Assurance Laboratory in Columbus, Ohio, and as an analytical chemist for the U.S. Food and Drug Administration in Los Angeles, California.

Anthony Flaccavento

Anthony Flaccavento was a founding member of Appalachian Sustainable Development (ASD) and has been the Executive Director since its origination in October 1995. Under his leadership the organization has helped to create an infrastructure of sustainability in both agriculture and forestry, in southwest VA and northeast TN. ASD helped form Appalachian Harvest, a production and marketing network involving approximately 50 farmers. In the area of sustainable forestry, he helped establish a solar dry kiln and wood products primary processing center, Sustainable Woods, located in Castlewood, Virginia to promote ecological timber harvesting and "green building" in Virginia and Tennessee.

ASD and Anthony have received numerous awards, among these, the Ford Foundation Leadership for a Changing World Award, the Virginia Green Building Award, the designation as one of ten 2005 "non-profit" innovators by Amazon.com, and the selection as a National Food and Society Policy Fellow by the Thomas Jefferson Agriculture Institute. Anthony holds a bachelors degree in Agriculture and Ecology from the University of Kentucky and a master's degree in Rural Development from the University of Pittsburgh. He has several published articles and book chapters on subjects related to sustainability and local economies, and makes presentations around the country on these topics. He and his family raise three acres of certified organic produce on a farm just outside Abingdon.

Charles Green

Charles is a Project Manager-Specialty Agriculture in the Agribusiness Development Services Unit of the Virginia Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services (VDACS). As a Project Manager, Charles works to foster a sound agricultural economy and to help create jobs and economic investment in Virginia by recruiting value-added agricultural businesses and by facilitating the expansion and diversification of existing agricultural enterprises. Prior to joining VDACS, Charles served as head of the International Marketing Office at the North Carolina Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services (NCDA). He was also the Corporate Transportation Manager for Coastal Lumber Company, the largest privately owned hardwood lumber company in the United States. Charles holds an undergraduate degree from Virginia Tech and a Masters in Business Administration from Campbell University. Charles lives in Henrico County with his wife, Marcy and children James and Katherine.

Michael Hamm

Michael Hamm is the C. S. Mott Professor of Sustainable Agriculture at Michigan State University and head of the C.S. Mott Group for Sustainable Food Systems at MSU. The work of the C.S. Mott Group is focused on small- and medium-scale family farm viability, equal access by all members of a community to a healthy diet, and pasture-based animal systems. Previously, while at Rutgers University he was co-founder and director of the New Jersey Urban Ecology Program, an effort that addressed sustainable food systems issues, as well as the founding director of the Cook Student Organic Farm. He does research in the areas of community food security, community and sustainable food systems.

Andy Hankins

Mr. Hankins has served as Extension Specialist-Alternative Agriculture in Virginia since 1987. He is stationed at Virginia State University in Petersburg. He provides educational programs in production and marketing of non-traditional farm products such as medicinal herbs, garlic, cut flowers, mushrooms, specialty fruit and vegetables, exotic livestock, value-added farm products and certified organic vegetables, grains and livestock. He also provides educational programs concerning development of agricultural tourism in Virginia. Andy Hankins grew up on a 27 acre farm in Bedford County, Virginia. He received a Bachelor of Science Degree in Agriculture from Berea College in Kentucky. From 1977 to 1987, Andy served as an Agriculture Extension Agent first in King and Queen County and later in Madison County. He went back to college at Virginia Tech to receive a Masters Degree in Animal Science, before becoming a state specialist. Mr. Hankins currently lives with his wife and son in New Kent County, Virginia.

Kathy Hosig

Kathy Hosig received her BS degree and completed the Coordinated Undergraduate Program in dietetics in Human Nutrition and Foods from Virginia Tech in 1985. She has been a registered dietitian since 1985 and worked part-time as a clinical dietitian in West Lafayette Indiana while completing her doctoral degree in nutrition at Purdue University (1992). Her dissertation research was related to dietary fiber and bile acid metabolism. Kathy completed a Master's of Public Health degree from the University of North Carolina – Chapel Hill in 2001. She was an Assistant Professor in the Department of Dietetics and Nutrition at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences in Little Rock, Arkansas for 4 years and Assistant/Associate Professor in the Department of Health Sciences at Western Carolina University (NC) for 8 years before joining the Department of Human Nutrition, Foods & Exercise at Virginia Tech in 2004. Her current research interests are in community nutrition, specifically working with children and with older adolescents as they transition to young adulthood.

Steph Larsen

Steph Larsen originally hails from the icy regions of northwest Wisconsin, where in her very first job as a teenager she pollinated corn. She has a bachelor's degree in geology from the University of WI at Eau Claire, and her master's degree in geography from the University of Wisconsin, where her research focused on sustainable agriculture. She has been the policy organizer for the Community Food Security Coalition since 2005, and currently lives in Washington, DC.

Ken Meter

Ken Meter, president of Crossroads Resource Center in Minneapolis, holds 36 years experience in community capacity building as a journalist, researcher, educator, and administrator. His pioneering "Finding Food in Farm Country," and "Neighborhood Income Statement and Balance Sheet" studies have helped spark local development in locales across the U.S. Meter taught economics and journalism at the University of Minnesota and economics at the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard where he also was awarded a mid-career Public Service Fellowship. He serves as an economic and strategic advisor to the Aldo Leopold Center for Sustainable Agriculture at Iowa State University.

Spencer Neale

Spencer Neale has been a commodity specialist with the VA Farm Bureau Federation in Richmond for fifteen years. He follows state, national and world agriculture production, marketing and economic issues. His primary areas of emphasis are the livestock, aquaculture, equine, apple and cotton sectors as well as animal health, value-added agriculture and national policy issues related

to agriculture. Prior to joining FarmBureau, Mr. Neale was a managing partner of a family beef cattle and sheep operation in Orange County. He attended Washington and Lee University in Lexington, VA.

Barbara Schwenk

Barbara Schwenk is an Economic Development Coordinator with the Accomack-Northampton Planning District Commission. Barbara's work experience is checkered: corporate research services, printing industry, management recruiting, and construction and grants management. Her educational experiences were similar by starting as a history major and finishing with business communications. Most recently, she completed the University of Oklahoma's Economic Development Institute training. Her interest in sustainable agriculture evolved over many years of avid organic gardening and flower farming. Her food policy work at the A-NPDC started with the award of a SARE Community Innovation Grant aimed at reducing food dollar leakage out of the region.

Donna Seward

Donna T. Seward has a Bachelor of Science degree in Health Care Management from Park College in Fort Bliss, Texas. Donna is a Fellow in the American College of Healthcare Executives (FACHE), the National Association of WIC Directors (NAWD) and is the State WIC Director representative to USDA's National Advisory Council on Maternal, Infant and Fetal Nutrition for 2006- 2009. With over 30 years of experience as a WIC Director, Donna has administered the WIC program for San Marcos, Texas from its inception, which included writing the grant proposal and acquiring staff as well as establishing purchasing procedures and accounting practices. Donna has also served as WIC Director for 45,000 participants per month in El Paso and Hudspeth Counties in Texas. As the Director of the Division of WIC and Community Nutrition Services (DWCNS) in Richmond, Virginia, Donna manages all aspects of the Department including community nutrition, WIC nutrition education, breastfeeding, operations, vendor relations and information technology, as well as the coordination of all grant submissions related to those areas.

Katherine Smith

Katherine Smith joined the local food scene when she moved to Rockbridge County, Va., in 1987 and began a small market garden. Since then she has sold locally through a food coop, serving on its board, and at a farmers market, of which she was co-manager. She's also an Extension Master Gardener. A member of the Virginia Association for Biological Farming since 1986, she is currently its president.

Michael Van Ness

Michael G. Van Ness, Executive Director Lynchburg Grows
Michael Van Ness, Esq. is one of the founders of Lynchburg Grows and has served in a pro bono capacity as both the corporate counsel and special advisor concerning non-profit issues for Lynchburg Grows. Mr. Van Ness received his Juris Doctor from the Northwestern School of Law of Lewis and Clark College in Portland, Oregon. He completed his Bachelor of Science in Forestry and Wildlife Sciences with an option in environmental conservation from Virginia Tech. Mr. Van Ness has served in a variety of capacities in many regional and state non-profit organizations and has received numerous awards for his leadership efforts.

David Tatman

David Tatman is a career officer with the US Army and a part time farmer in central Fluvanna County, Virginia. His talk will reflect lessons learned from working with his spouse, Catherine, (who farms full time), and their two teenage daughters, on Hilldale Farm. They raise chickens for meat and eggs, sheep and beef, as well as some market vegetables. They also make hay on other farms around historic Wilmington, VA. (Catherine also is a market manager for the Fluvanna Farmers Market.)

Marty White

Marty has served as Chief Executive Officer of the Blue Ridge Area Food Bank Network since February 2001. Prior to his appointment as CEO, Marty served as Associate Director of the Food Bank from 1999 - 2001. Marty currently serves on the board of directors of the Federation of Virginia Food Banks, serving as the Vice Chairman and will assume the Chairmanship of the Federation board in July 2007. Prior to joining the staff of the Food Bank, Marty served for eight years on the Board of Directors of the Blue Ridge Area Food Bank Network. Marty has had a varied career, spending over 21 years in the Newspaper and Television Industry and prior to joining the Food Bank served as Chief Executive Officer of the Staunton /Augusta Chamber of Commerce. Marty is originally from Lynchburg Virginia and is married with four children and three grandchildren.