



**Virginia
Food
System**
COUNCIL

What We're Discussing Today

- ▶ Mission and vision
- ▶ Values as an organization
- ▶ History and initiatives
- ▶ Membership
- ▶ 2020 priorities
- ▶ ... Question, feedback, and discussion!

Our Mission

- ▶ Advancing a nutrient-rich and safe food system for Virginians at all income levels, with an emphasis on access to local food, successful linkages between food producers and consumers, and a healthy, viable future for Virginia's farmers and farmland.

Our Vision

- ▶ We envision a sustainable food system contributing to the health, economic vitality and social well-being of all Virginians.

Our Values

- ▶ Justice, fairness, and security
- ▶ Vibrant culture and healthy communities
- ▶ Nutritious food, clean water, and responsible land stewardship
- ▶ Inclusive economic prosperity and innovation

History

- ▶ Established at the statewide Food Security Summit in Charlottesville on May 11, 2007.
- ▶ Inaugural meeting with all 24 volunteer directors was held on March 18, 2009.
- ▶ Incorporated as a 501(c)(3) on October 14, 2009.

Initiatives

Virginia Farm to Table	Educate Elected Officials
\$10 a Week Take the Pledge Campaign	Food Security Summit
Virginia Urban Agriculture Summit	Farm-to-School Projects
Farm to Institution Initiative	Buy Fresh Buy Local
Regional Food Council Development	Silver Diner Eat Well, Do Well

Current Directors

Heidi Hertz, Asst. Secretary of Agriculture and Forestry, State of VA

Frank Johnson, Northern Neck Soil and Water Conservation

Chad Martin, City of Martinsville

Kim Niewolny, VA Co-op Extension

Eddie Oliver, VA Food Banks Federation

Amanda Parris, Carroll County Department of Tourism and A&M Farms Grass Fed Beef

Beth Schermerhorn, Skeo Solutions and Abundant Design Collective

Wilmer Stoneman, VA Farm Bureau

Kristen Suokko, Local Food Hub

Dominic Barrett, Shalom Farms

Eric Bendfeldt, VA Co-op Extension

Laurie Berman, Allegheny Mountain Institute

Maureen Best, LEAP

Sandy Curwood, VA Dpt. of Education

Trista Grigsby, VA Dpt. of Education

Corey DiLuciano, UVA Health Systems

Lynda Fanning, VA Dietetic Assoc. and UVA Food Collaborative

Christy Gabbard, Local Concepts and Chesapeake Foodshed Network

William Gray, Back Pocket Provisions

Molly Harris, Lulus Local Food and VaFAIRS

Priorities for 2020

1. Technical Assistance Networking
2. Equitable Access to Locally-Grown Food
3. Developing Growers and Value Chains
4. VFSC Governance & Leadership Practices

Questions? Feedback?

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