

Albemarle County Food Audit

Community Food Systems

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Introduction

We conducted a food policy audit of Albemarle County, Virginia, in order to see whether the County currently addresses what we view as problems with the national food system, and if so, to what degree the problems are being addressed. In order to have a more sustainable food system, counties may implement a number of creative policies and/or programs. We used this food audit to assess the sustainability of Albemarle County's food system and to determine where there is room as well as desire for improvement. The five main categories for possible improvements were: public health, economic development, environmental benefits, social equity, and land conservation/access to land for food production.

Within the realm of **public health**, food systems are important because policies that affect the price of and access to different foods influence people's choices as to what they will consume. If those policies cause calorie-dense foods that are nutritionally poor to be lower in cost and more easily available than nutrient-rich foods, it follows that people will have unhealthy diets, and may develop diabetes or become obese. Thus, in this section, we addressed issues such as public awareness of healthy and local food options, prevention of obesity, zoning regulations that allow for community gardens, pesticide and chemical regulations, and transportation options that promote access to grocery stores and food markets.

With regards to **economic development**, we assessed what, if any, incentives there were for farmers to produce food locally and organically, for food to be processed and distributed locally, and for consumers as well as businesses to purchase those local farmers' produce. Additionally, we assessed whether, in the case of an emergency, there were contingency plans in place to backup the local food supply with a less regional one if there were to be a local disaster, or in case of high oil prices, an emergency plan to convert to a solely local food system.

To protect the **environment**, counties can create policies to reduce the carbon and pollution created by agricultural operations, to strengthen riparian buffers, and to decrease food waste by encouraging composting and foraging. We investigated several areas pertaining to the environment to see if Albemarle County enacted policies to preserve and protect the land, water, citizens, forestry, air, food, etc.

Improving the food system to make it more **socially equitable** for all members of society is strongly linked to improvements for public health, since the poorer citizens are the ones who tend to suffer the most from low-cost and easily assessable unhealthy foods. This is because they may be more focused on how far they can stretch a dollar than wealthier citizens. Also, they may lack their own form of transportation, meaning that must rely on the public transportation system, friends, or family. Thus, we assessed whether there were healthy local food stores in low-income areas and whether the public transportation system connected low-income people with these food stores and farmers' markets. Additionally, we examined whether an adequate emergency food system exists, and whether farm laborers have fair wages, access to housing, healthy working conditions, and access to healthy food.

Finally, we assessed whether Albemarle County had policies to **conserve land for food production** rather than development. This involved looking at various incentives for keeping land rural or preventing development in rural lands, such as: agricultural/forestall districts programs, conservation easements, purchase of development rights, transfer of development rights, or land use value taxation for farms, forests, and/or open spaces.

Albemarle County Characteristics

Albemarle County covers 726 square miles, and is located in Virginia's northern Piedmont region, adjacent to the Blue Ridge Mountains. The climate is mild, with the average

annual temperature of 57 degrees Fahrenheit, and a typical growing season of 210 days. The County is located within the James River basin, and has an average annual rainfall of 47 inches. The County is approximately 60% forested, and 95% is considered rural. The non-rural areas consist of the Development Area outside of Charlottesville, and the communities of Rivanna, Crozet, Hollymead, and Piney Mountain. Approximately 90,000 acres, or 20% of the County, is protected by conservation easements, which is a protection agreement between landowner and the County to restrict development.

The total population as of 2008 was 93,668, consisting of 83.7% white, 9.9% black, and 4.8% Asian. Foreign-born citizens consist of 7.3%. Approximately one fourth of the County is under the age of 18, while one eighth is over the age of 65. The median age is 37. Only 1% of the workforce are employees within the agriculture/forestry/hunting industry, and the average weekly wage in 2008 for these employees was \$468. The highest percentage of the workforce, 28%, works in the education industry making an average weekly wage of \$958.

There are about 40,000 homes in Albemarle County, the majority of which are detached single-family residences (65%). The second most available type of housing is the apartment, making up 14% of total homes. The median annual household income in 2007 was \$63,619, with 8.5% of the population under the poverty line (\$11,201 for a single person), compared to the 2007 state average median annual household income of \$59,562, with 9.9% of population under the poverty line¹. Currently, about 450 families receive housing assistance from Albemarle County Housing Division, and approximately 900 other families are awaiting assistance. The homeownership rate in 2000 was 66%.

The Albemarle County public school system consists of 16 elementary schools, five middle schools, and three high schools. The total number of students registered in the County in

2008 was 12,583. In 2004, Albemarle County Schools received the Golden Carrot “Special Mention” Award for Innovative Programs. The Golden Carrot Award is a nationally known honor given by the Physicians Committee for Responsible Medicine to school systems that do an exceptional job of providing healthy food. The schools’ meal prices currently are \$1.30 for breakfast and \$2.30 for lunch. The schools also offer free and reduced meal prices, and families must meet the USDA Income Eligibility Guidelines to receive these prices. About 24% of Albemarle County students receive free or reduced lunch.

Methods

To determine what Albemarle County is doing to foster a sustainable food system, we analyzed several documents produced by the County and by independent organizations. First, we "audited" the **Comprehensive Plan** for Albemarle County, which is a document required by the state of Virginia that guides development, growth, and change for the County, especially with regards to land and resource use. It must be updated at least every five years and defines government policy with regard to natural resources and cultural assets, land use, growth management, transportation, utilities, community facilities, rural use, economic development, and affordable housing. Each section of Albemarle County’s Comprehensive Plan has been added and amended to at different times, but the most recent additions were done in March of 2009.

We also examined the **Albemarle County Code**, which is available online in its most recent edition as of January 13, 2010. This County Code includes sections on agricultural and forestal districts, animals and fowl, building regulations, health and safety, motor vehicles and traffic, parks and recreation facilities, solid waste and recycling, subdivision of land, taxation,

wastewater and water systems, water protection, and zoning, all sections which may have policies that impact the food system. These different sections are referred to as “Ordinances”. We examined all Ordinances, but believed the Zoning Ordinance and Subdivision Ordinance were of particular importance. We also examined the **Stream Buffer Restoration Initiative**, which incentivizes planting of vegetation to improve water quality and decrease pollution. This information pertains to the environmental benefits category of our audit. Additionally, we examined Albemarle County’s **Acquisition of Conservation Easements (ACE)** program, which also has information and policies pertaining to the environment and land conservation.

Briefly, we audited **Albemarle County’s Land Use Law Handbook**, which was created to help citizens understand the land use laws. We especially focused on the section entitled, “Open-Space and Conservation Easements, Land Use Valuation, and Other Laws Related to the Use of Land” because it relates to the land conservation category of our audit.

We audited the “**Pedestrian, Bicycle, and Greenway Access**” section of the Department of Community Transportation Information to examine the idea of transportation to grocery stores from low-income neighborhoods.

The Albemarle Public School Board also has a **Student Wellness Plan**, which we audited to determine the County’s school regulations with regards to food, nutrition education, physical exercise, and food-service training in schools. The School Board also has a section of policy, which refers to **School/Community relations**, which we searched for information about relationships with the local farms and schools.

Additionally, we found several independent organizations with programs pertaining to our audit. The **Virginia Outdoors Foundation** creates easements to protect farmland and forests. The **Thomas Jefferson Soil and Water Conservation District** protects agricultural

land, creates riparian buffers, and manages several environmental programs. The Local Food Hub, is a non-profit distribution center and educational garden whose mission is to support small family farms, provide fresh, healthy food to the community, and inspire a new generation of farmers.² The **Piedmont Environmental Council** aims to protect the lands, culture, and communities of the Piedmont by connecting the people with policymakers and producing literature. We examined the Piedmont Environmental Council's Buy Fresh, Buy Local Campaign as well as their news bulletins about the County.

Finally, we examined **Albemarle County's FY 2007-2010 Strategic Plan** and **FY09 Strategic Plan tie to Budget**. Both set forth the goals and vision of the Albemarle County government and explain how it sees itself as its future.

Community Engagement

In order to accurately assess the food policies of Albemarle County and create food recommendations for its citizens, community feedback was crucial to our audit. By engaging with the Albemarle community who observe on a daily basis the effects of the current policies on public health, economic development, environmental impacts of food policy, social equity of the food system, and the access to land for food production, we established appropriate goals for improving these areas of food policy. We met with a variety of community members, such as government officials, county board members, farmers, non-profit organizers, and average working citizens, and compiled the results into appropriate food policy recommendations. The policies we recommend addressed the most pressing needs of the County and attempt to be as inclusive of all community members and policy makers' needs and concerns as possible. We

could not have accurately gauged food policy problems or the current conditions without interfacing with the public.

By talking with community members, our goal was to make recommendations that were beneficial to the community while economically and political feasible for implementation. We relied upon concrete, factual evidence and current laws in addition to community observations, opinions, and suggestions to create policy recommendations. We did not blindly recommend policies to prevent the hindrance of the wellbeing of the community and prevent conflicts with community needs.

Our professors and teaching assistant gave us a pre-made list of community contacts with whom they had met with prior to our course and deemed sources of valuable information for our audit. As a group, we emailed each of the contacts with a form letter that we had created and attached our audit and supplemental notes (Appendix A). We arranged meetings with as many community members as possible at their preferred times and locations in groups of two or three people in order to best capture what was discussed, except for one phone interview. To open the meeting we explained who we were, why we were conducting the audit, and answered any questions about it. Then, we listened as they gave us feedback about our audit. Once they had finished, we asked what policies they would implement or would wish to see us prioritize in our final presentation as well as how they would like to be characterized in our report. Finally, we made sure to have their contact information, and invited them to attend our presentation.

We met with a total of 11 community members. Their names and titles, granted at their discretion of identity, are as follows: Barbara Yager, Community Obesity Task Force; Joan McDowell, Principal Planner, Albemarle County; Ann Mallek, Beef Farmer and Supervisor representing White Hall district, Board of Supervisors; Susan Stimart, Business Development

Facilitator, Albemarle County; two members of the local government; a Community Nutrition Manager; a community member; Marissa Vrooman, Local Food Hub; Dawn Story, Piedmont Environmental Council Programs Coordinator; Wendy Roberman, Entrepreneur, C'ville Foodscapes.

Audit Findings

Public Health

Some of the County's strengths in the public health realm include the school system, which has a well-developed Student Wellness Plan, as well as a yearly farm-to-school week when local produce is served. The County has also created a medical weight loss program for its government and school employees, which emphasizes the County's push for public health. While it is not available to all citizens, the program has the potential to serve as a model for future programs. Several community groups, including the Community Obesity Task Force, Jefferson Area Board for Aging, and Local Motion, all provide support and resources to the community that benefit public health.

While the County and its community have many initiatives to benefit public health, community members have expressed a need for further education involving agriculture and nutrition, especially for children and low-income communities. It's commendable to note that three elementary schools do have school gardens, however these are individual school initiatives, not mandated by the County. One way to promote nutritional and agricultural education would be to require each school to have a garden that could also be used by the surrounding community.

Economic Development

Both in the documents we analyzed and by talking with various community members, we found that Albemarle County's government supports farmers and food-related business by providing technical support in venues such as the Albemarle Career Center, the Small Business Development Center, and the Virginia Cooperative Extension. The Albemarle Career Center, provided by the Department for Social Services and located in Charlottesville, is a "one-stop" location that provides job seekers with guidance and resources to find work. This could help link people who wish to farm or work in the food system. The Central Virginia Small Business Development Center (CVSBDC) provides "professional business consulting, training, and information resources" for small business start-ups.³ Finally, the Virginia Cooperative Extension provides resources and education about a number of topics including raising horses, cattle, sheep, and goats, as well as horticulture and natural resources.

The County also supports local food and agricultural businesses through their promotion of "Trails" as well as through the language of two zoning ordinance amendments which were passed on May 5, 2010.⁴ "Trails" such as the Monticello Wine Trail and an Artisan Trail (currently in the works), promoted through maps, brochures, and websites, encourage tourists to visit local wine and food producers. The two zoning ordinance amendments aided the food system economically by allowing farmers more leeway in the selling of their produce at farm stands and farmer's markets and by allowing wineries to host larger events more frequently. By relaxing these regulations, farmers and wineries have a greater chance of keeping their land in food and wine production rather than needing to sell.

Community groups such as Piedmont Environmental Council (PEC) and the Local Food Hub also encourage local food production. PEC produces a Buy Fresh, Buy Local guide, supports 8 farmer's markets throughout Albemarle County and Charlottesville, and provides

agricultural education through a partnership with Piedmont Valley Community College (PVCC). The Local Food Hub makes it easier for large institutions to contract with small farmers in aggregate by providing a distribution service and an insurance plan. They also have an educational farm, which teaches farming skills to community members, with a special focus on at-risk youth.

We did hear, however, from some community members, that the County could do more to strengthen the local food infrastructure with a small food business incubator, which could provide interns, monetary assistance or incentives. Also, Albemarle County lacks a regional processing center for meat production, which is important since cattle are one of the main agricultural products for the County. We also heard from several county members that a processing center could be used as a place to prepare dry and baked goods or as a cannery.

Environmental Benefits

Albemarle County requires farms to have a 25-foot riparian buffer and a sediment erosion control plan, both of which would help the food system by protecting the water and land of the farms used to grow local food. The County also has a policy to use safer greener chemicals in its own operations, called the Safer Chemical Management Procedure. This further protects the land and shows that the County values environmental protection, though these requirements do not extend to other businesses within the County. Also, independent companies have initiatives to protect the environment. For instance, Rivanna Water and Sewer Authority, which contracts with Albemarle County, composts the organic matter found in the wastewater it treats while Panorama Paydirt composts yard wastes. There is, however, no composting operation for food scraps yet in the County. There are also no limitations on pesticide use, which could be helpful since pesticides can runoff into our water and also the residue can stay on the food we eat.

Finally, there were no policies requiring farmers to fence cattle out of streams, either, which could protect the stream vegetation as well as the water.

Social Equity

We found less emphasis placed on the Social Equity components of our audit by the County Code, but we found many community organizations dedicated to increasing food accessibility for all citizens. C'ville Foodscapes, as mentioned above, partnered with the Quality Community Council (QCC), to provide individuals with limited means their own garden. Low-income community members can apply for Garden Grants from QCC, which provide funding for materials to construct a garden. C'ville Foodscapes will then provide free labor to create the garden, and teach landowners how to care for their garden.

JABA has also been making headway in providing nutritious, local, and fresh foods to a range of citizens. Currently, they have a gleaning program to collect unsold produce at farmers markets to distribute to and provide meals for JABA participants. They are also pushing the initiative to establish Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) machines at farmers' market so that they can accept the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) food stamps. Currently, EBT machines are being installed at the Charlottesville City Farmers Market, and JABA is pushing for other markets in the County to install the machines as well.

The Local Food Hub, a non-profit organization in Charlottesville that serves as a connection between small farmers, citizens, and small businesses, has an educational farm in Scottsville to educate the community on gardening and nutrition. For the past year, they have organized a program for at-risk children to work and learn on the farm once per week, as well as entertaining day trips from local schools. The educational farm hopes to expand to involve more

of the community, although they do have open volunteer days twice per month, and currently donate 25% of their produce to soup kitchens and food pantries.

There are several challenges to improving the social equity of food in Albemarle, including challenges posed by the transportation infrastructure. Albemarle's rural character and vast lands make it difficult to provide public transportation between low-income areas and food, thus making it more difficult for these citizens to access healthy foods. A lack of funding for improved transportation infrastructures further hinders this issue. Additionally, there are no incentives for food stores to develop in low-income areas, creating more challenges for lower-income communities to access food.

There is no monetary support for migrant worker housing in the County, meaning the farmer either has to provide the housing from his own budget, or the workers may have to find housing elsewhere, potentially at far distances from their worksite. This poses challenges to both the farmer and the worker. The farmer may be limited in the number of employees he can hire due to housing costs and arrangements, and the worker may be unable to work at certain farms if they are unable to find nearby housing or transportation arrangements.

Land Conservation

We found strong emphasis placed on land conservation and preservation in Albemarle from the Comprehensive Plan, the County Code, government programs, and numerous community members. The efforts towards preserving land for rural uses while maintaining neighborhood and development areas as they currently exist showed the County's strong dedication to supporting its rural character. Albemarle has an Acquisition of Conservation Easement program, which prevents future development in protected areas. Currently, about 90,000 acres, or 20% of the County is protected by conservation easements.⁵

Another land protection program is the Agricultural and Forestal District program, which provides land protection and land-use tax benefits for property that qualifies as an agricultural or forestal district. In exchange for protection and tax benefits, the landowner guarantees to limit development on the land. This policy reemphasizes Albemarle's dedication to preserving its rural character by discouraging rural landowners from developing or subdividing their land. Owners of farms larger than 5 acres or open spaces and forests larger than 20 acres are eligible for land-use taxation rather than market value taxation as long as they agree to certain stipulations in maintaining the current land-use. We did hear from community members, however, that the County would benefit if people with fewer acres could apply for land-use taxation as well. Also, this taxation program was apparently a voluntary one, and so Ms. Mallek had suggested making it permanent.

Additionally, there is a Neighborhood Growth Model to incentivize neighborhoods and development areas to increase their density while not expanding into rural areas. This plan is intended to promote infill in neighborhoods and developments to prevent a pattern of sprawl by further subdividing and building within existing areas.⁶ Both the Agricultural and Forestal District program and the Neighborhood Growth Model are important to food production and availability because of their ability to encourage the use of rural lands for agricultural and forestal uses, rather than industrial, and to sustain the rural 95% of the County.

Despite the strong efforts by the Comprehensive Plan, the County Code, government policies, and infrastructure to preserve Albemarle land, we heard several reoccurring challenges to land preservation from community members. Multiple community members expressed their disappointment in the lack of county funding for an Agricultural Support position. This position would be able to oversee food policies, production, distribution, education, etc., and could be a

critical player in continuing to preserve the lands while improving the food system. The County Code and county officials have approved the creation of this position, but there is no funding to fill the position. The lack of funding, a repeated theme throughout our audit, prevents Albemarle from achieving its full potential in land conservation and enacting food policies.

Additionally, there is no Transfer of Development Rights program, which would allow landowners in rural regions to transfer their development rights to landowners in the development areas. While this is supported in the comprehensive plan, it is an issue at the state level because there is no enabling legislation that would allow the County to create such a program. This program could supplement the Neighborhood Growth Model by further incentivize rural landowners to protect their lands from development while encouraging infill in neighborhoods and developments.

Our Analysis

Upon our analysis of Albemarle County's food system, we have found that there are community groups that actively support all five of the audit's topics. However, in terms of actual government policies that are in place, the County appears to emphasize land conservation and economic development for food related businesses the most. Their least emphasis is on social equity involving access to healthy food for low-income communities.

These findings were somewhat surprising to our group. We expected Albemarle County to be the most progressive with initiatives related to food compared to the Thomas Jefferson Planning District. We expected this because Albemarle's population was so much larger than its neighboring counties, and because of its adjacency to the city of Charlottesville. More people usually means more action, and we found this to be true, as cities tend to be places of more change than rural communities. The amount of food related groups in Albemarle is admirable.

However, we were surprised to see that although all these support groups existed, the County had few actual policies to back up these groups' advocacy. In fact, only a handful of policies speak directly of food, while more tend to allude to it through land conservation and economic development regulations and incentives.

The value of land conservation to Albemarle County was another exciting surprise when compared to the amount of people working within the field. Only 1% of the population has a career in agriculture or forestry, but this small percentage does not accurately depict the County's high value of land conservation. 60% of the land has been kept forested, and 95% is designated rural. As for the developed 5%, the County's Neighborhood Model states the desire to keep further development contained within that 5%, in order to preserve the rural land⁷. The Neighborhood Model as well as other documents advocate keeping the rural lands rural, which could be extended to say "for food production". It would be nice to see more food-specific language within the County's documents, in order to address the apparent support for it throughout the many community groups.

Final Community Priorities

Land-use Taxation for Farms Less Than Five Acres

Currently, farms, open spaces, and forests with some aspect of cultivation or preservation on more than five acres of land are eligible for tax breaks, while land less than five acres is not eligible, as mentioned above. Several of the community members we met with informed us of the ability to produce a vast and diverse amount of food and other agricultural crops on less than five acres, and stated that the current tax break eligibility requirements are unfair to small farms. Providing a tax incentive to keep small lands in food growth and production is yet another

incentive to maintain the rural character of Albemarle, which is consistent with the County Code. Unfortunately, land on less than five acres is excluded from the tax break.

The community members suggested that by including lands less than five acres in the land-use taxation plan, small farmers would not be forced to sell their land due to tax rates, which again would maintain and preserve agriculture and the rural character of Albemarle. The County already has land-use definitions, qualification requirements, and an application process for lands larger than five acres to apply for tax breaks, and could easily amend this to include lands less than five acres.

Incubate Food-Related Business

Several community members expressed that food-related businesses could have a greater chance of success, and could keep local food processing local, if businesses were given more assistance with their start-up costs. This type of assistance would promote the establishment of food-related business in Albemarle and stimulate economic development. Community suggestions were to provide funding and/or experienced professionals providing technical assistance at the beginning of a business to help it get started, which could otherwise prevent businesses from developing due to high costs. While the County does provide information and support to small business start-ups, more assistance and monetary support would be beneficial. A group of businesspeople, entrepreneurs, etc., could be hired by the County to assist local businesses in putting their business plans into action, including assistance with establishing a location, clientele, sales method, and everyday operations. This could dramatically increase the number of small businesses in the area, thus improving the food system by making it easier for food-related businesses to begin. Also, the barriers and requirements specific to food businesses could be identified in order to further enable this type of business development in the County.

Additionally, the County could provide grants or additional funding sources to small food-related businesses to incentivize the sale and consumption of local foods in the County. Consumer purchasing centers, or centers for consumers to purchase locally processed foods at a discounted rate, compared to non-locally processed foods, could further support small farms and businesses. Development agreements, or agreements between the County and a private business to develop an incubation center in a specified area, could also increase assistance to small businesses.

Rutgers University, in New Jersey, has a food incubation facility called the Rutgers Food Innovation Facility, which “enables product design, development, analysis, commercialization, and ongoing manufacture of products for sale to retail and foodservice markets”.⁸ The center provides educational classroom experience on operating a small business, selling and preparing foods, etc., as well as provides facilities to process, package, create, commercialize, and distribute food products in a USDA and FDA regulated facility. Small businesses that wish to participate in this center meet with a Business Mentoring Program, which assesses the clients needs and recommends a month time commitment to the center in order to achieve their goals.⁹ The clients sign up for a monthly allocation of hourly use of the facility, ranging from three to 20 hours per month. Their rate is \$85.00 per hour of use, and clients have access to a wide range of facilities during that hour. Rutgers has produced positive results and has helped numerous farmers and cooperatives, small food businesses, and retail and foodservice establishments to improve their operations, or get their operation off of the ground. Profitable businesses that used this innovation center include gourmet restaurants, growers, market owners, vineyards, wineries, and others.

In many of the examples of incubation centers we researched, a regional processing center was included. We will discuss the need and potential for a regional processing center below.

Agricultural Support Position

Though the Comprehensive Plan for Albemarle County suggests the creation of an agricultural support position, it is not currently funded. The County indicates that this position would be responsible for initiating many of its proposed strategies for increasing and improving agricultural and forestal uses. Among these strategies are community education, marketing strategies, and exploring agricultural support businesses and alternative agricultural uses¹⁰. Local agricultural businesses would benefit greatly by having a specific employee dedicated to improving their economic success. This agricultural support position could also start to address the lack of food-related language in the County documents, perhaps proposing additions to the Comprehensive Plan. The fact that the Board of Supervisors already approved this position and the large amount of responsibilities to be placed on this position further indicate the great need for it in the County.

An example of a similar position can be found in Pierce County, Washington, where they fund a “farming assistance, revitalization, and marketing specialist”. This position’s duties are to develop, promote, and coordinate a program designed to build on existing County efforts to preserve and promote the long-term viability of farming¹¹. Further description of the duties can be found on the County webpage link in the endnotes of this report.

Local Food Purchasing Policy

This would be a policy that provides monetary incentives or requirements to either the government or all businesses in the County to purchase a certain portion of their food locally. The benefits of this policy would be to generate economic activity within the region, as well as create competitively priced local food through steady, bulk sales.

A successful example of a local food purchasing policy is Woodbury County, Iowa, which in 2006 passed the first US policy mandating institutions to purchase locally grown organic food¹². Schools, jails, and other government-run institutions must procure food grown locally if it is available. However, if the price of the local food is substantially higher than the competitive price, the County is allowed to opt to purchase elsewhere. Fortunately, as sales of local farmers continue to increase, their ability to provide competitive prices on their products has made it affordable in Woodbury County. This policy has the potential to shift up to \$281,000 in annual food purchases into the regional system, therefore stimulating local economy. The policy also encourages restaurants and supermarkets to buy and sell local food as well.

Regional Processing Center

As mentioned above, the community members expressed a need for a federally inspected meat-processing center, kitchen, and cannery. Currently, the closest meat-processing center is in Harrisonburg, which is about 60 miles from Charlottesville and 75 miles from Scottsville. A regional processing center may incorporate areas for meat processing, baked goods, canning, and other non-meat activities. The specific uses of such a center should be determined by surveying the farmers of Albemarle. It would be great if this processing center could perhaps work with the Local Food Hub on the distribution end as well.

The County could develop policy that would attract a regional food processing center by creating incentives such as lower property taxes for processing centers, development agreements,

grants or rewards to companies that fill niches within the food processing infrastructure, or consumer purchase incentives.¹³ Above, we mentioned that often food business incubation occurs in conjunction with a local food processing center, and the Rutgers example was used. An example of a meat-processing center, however, would be True and Essential (T&E) Meats, which currently operates in Harrisonburg as a family-owned butchery and store. They sell meat in addition to humanely slaughtering animals for other growers, and they are the only slaughterhouse and full-service butcher shop in the Shenandoah Valley.¹⁴ Another example is a mobile meat processing unit, which is used on Lopez Island in Northwest Washington. The need for this mobile processing unit arose from the fact that the nearest processing center was 200 miles away on the mainland, and it was thus impossible to sell one's neighbor anything other than an entire animal, which required too much freezer space. The USDA-inspected unit was created out of an effort from Community Land Trust, the extension office, and the local producers.¹⁵

Education: Agricultural and Nutritional (including Cooking)

We heard from many community members that the farming population in Albemarle is aging, and that generational farms are much less common than they used to be. This brought up the issue of sustainability because a local food system will not be sustainable if there are no farmers to farm it. To counter this trend, the County could encourage and require agricultural education, both in schools to engage the youth from a young age, and also for unemployed people in the County. As the Community Nutrition Manager from JABA stated, teaching unemployed people to farm so that they will provide skilled labor for the County's farmers would be "a match made in heaven." To accomplish this, the County could mandate and fund agricultural education in schools or fund transportation to the Local Food Hub's agricultural

farm. We heard from Ann Mallek, who taught in Albemarle County schools for many years that “ag in the classroom” education, while promoted in the Comprehensive Plan, is often sidelined to focus on Virginia’s SOLs (standards of learning).

We also heard a need for increased nutritional and food preparation education for children and low-income families. This would help to combat rising obesity levels and would support local food production since people must know how to prepare fresh foods before they will buy them. Though the students already have some nutritional education, it may be beneficial to increase the amount of time spent learning nutrition as well as to incorporate it into hands-on activities that teach them how to cook or connect the food in a farm to the food on the table. This education could also be expanded to community members, especially those with limited resources.

An example of a program that combines agricultural and nutritional education for school children is the Portland State University’s Learning Garden Laboratory. The project involves Portland Public School students, PSU teacher-training graduate students, and community members in hands-on learning activities focused on food, nutrition, food culture, and agriculture. This program was initially funded in part by the city of Portland to the tune of \$125,000, which was matched by Portland State University.¹⁶

¹ Election 2008: Virginia Census Data. (2007). *The Washington Post Online*. Retrieved from <http://projects.washingtonpost.com/2008/elections/va/census/>

² Local Food Hub: *Supporting the Vitality of Central Virginia's Small Farms*. (2010). Retrieved from <http://www.localfoodhub.org/>

³ Central Virginia Small Business Development Center. (2010). Retrieved from <http://sbdc.avenue.org/>

⁴ Tubbs, S. (2010, May 5). "Albemarle Relaxers Rules on Farms, Wineries." *Charlottesville Daily Progress*. Retrieved from www2.dailyprogress.com/cdp/business/local/article/albemarle_relaxes_rules_on_farms_wineries/55808/

⁵ Albemarle County Board of Supervisor Candidates (2009, October 27) Candidates for Albemarle County Board of Supervisors. *Cville Weekly*. Retrieved from http://www.cville.com/index.php?cat=141404064431134&ShowArticle_ID=11802610091035747

⁶ Neighborhood Model. *Cvillepedia*. Retrieved from http://www.cvillepedia.org/mediawiki/index.php/Neighborhood_Model

⁷ Neighborhood Model. *Albemarle Community Development*. Retrieved from <http://www.albemarle.org/departments.asp?department=planning&relpage=2480>

⁸ Food Innovation Center. *Rutgers New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station*. Retrieved from <http://www.foodinnovation.rutgers.edu/incubatorcomplete.html>

⁹ Food Innovation Center. *Rutgers New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station*. Retrieved from <http://www.foodinnovation.rutgers.edu/servicesoffered.html>

¹⁰ Rural Areas Comprehensive Plan Implementation Update (2009, June 3). *Albemarle County Executive Summary*. Retrieved from http://www.albemarle.org/upload/images/Forms_Center/Departments/Board_of_Supervisors/Forms/Agenda/2009Files/20090603/RuralAreasAttachB.htm

¹¹ Farming Assistance, Revitalization, and Marketing Specialist (2009, February). *Pierce County Classification Descriptions*. Retrieved from <http://www.co.pierce.wa.us/xml/abtus/ourorg/pers/cd/farmingassistancerevitalizationandmarketingspecialist.doc>

¹² Woodbury County Policy for Rural Economic Revitalization "Local Food Purchase Policy". *Resolution*. Retrieved from <http://old.woodburyiowa.com/departments/EconomicDevelopment/WC%20LFPP%20v3.pdf>

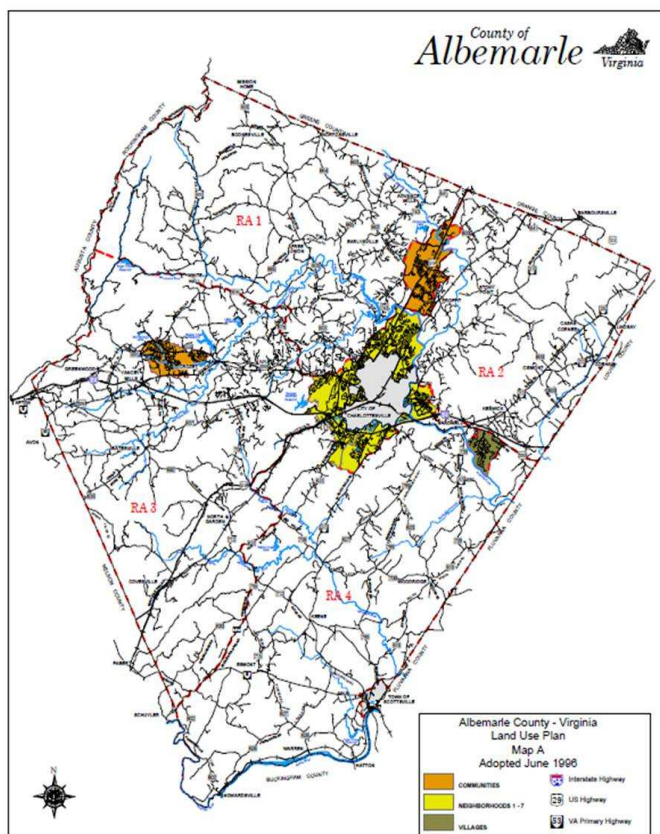
¹³ "DRAFT Strategic Plan 2009-2012." (2008). Boulder County Food and Agriculture Policy Council. Retrieved from www.bouldercounty.org/openspace/advisory/adv2009_pdfs/FAPC_Strategic_Plan.pdf

¹⁴ T&E Meats - True & Essential - Farm-Raised Local Meat by Cloud Salatin LLC. (2010). Retrieved from www.temeads.com/

¹⁵ "Mobile Meat Processing Unit, Lopez Community Land Trust." (2010). Sustainable Northwest. Retrieved from www.sustainablenorthwest.org/stories/mobile-meat-processing-unit-lopez-community-land-trust

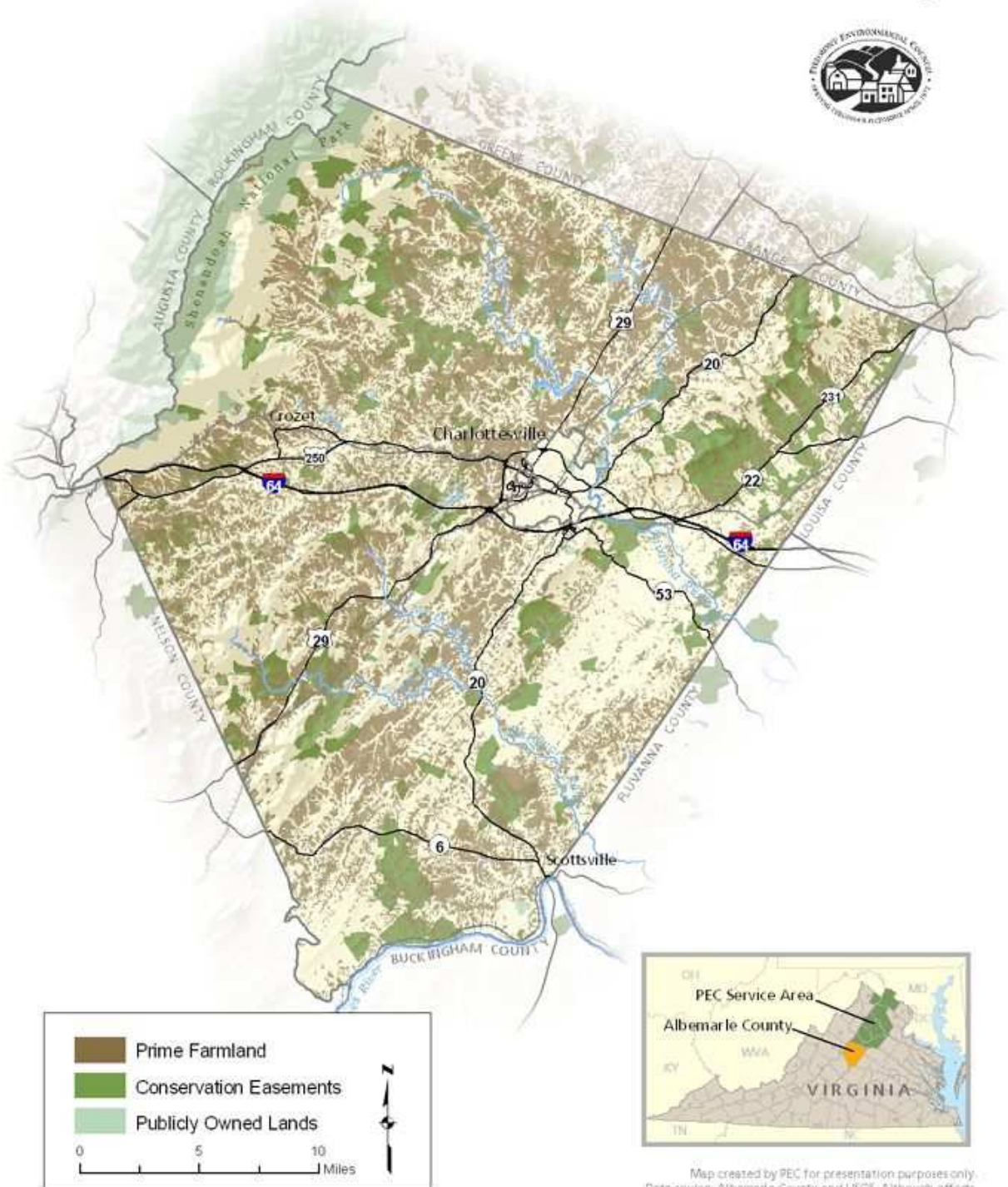
¹⁶ “Learning Gardens Laboratory.” (2010). Portland State University’s Graduate School in Educational Leadership and Policy. Retrieved from www.pdx.edu/elp/learning-gardens-laboratory

Appendix A: Graphics



Land Use Plan: Comprehensive Plan

Prime Farmland in Albemarle County



Prime Agricultural Lands, Piedmont Environmental Council:

http://www.pecva.org/anx/img/library/194/alb_primeag_4web_700.jpg



Local Food Hub: Educational Farm: Maple Hill, Scottsville.

Appendix B: Community Comments

List of Community Members Contacted and Met (alphabetically by last name)

Lori Allshouse: Strategic Development Coordinator, Albemarle County

Judy Berger: JABA Community Nutrition Manager

Pam Carter: Wellness Coordinator, Albemarle County

Ann Mallek: Beef Farmer and Supervisor representing White Hall district on Board of Supervisors

Joan McDowell: Principal Planner, Albemarle County

Wendy Roberman: Entrepreneur, C'ville Foodscapes

Susan Stimart: Business Development Facilitator, Albemarle County

Dawn Story: Piedmont Environmental Council Programs Coordinator

Marissa Vrooman: Local Food Hub

Juandiego Wade: former Transportation Planner for Albemarle County

Barbara Yager: Community Obesity Task Force

Contacted, but not Met:

Christina Pitsenberger: Albemarle County Schools Community Nutrition Manager

Peter Warren: Virginia Cooperative Extension Agent for Horticulture and Natural Resources

Comments From Community

Public Health

- School nutrition education has been pushed aside due to SOL stress.
- Planners want to encourage the link between farms and schools
- Bigger emphasis now on healthy eating than ever before
- Efforts to remove junk food from County vending machines. Issues are refrigeration and expiration dates as well as education about healthy food benefits.
- County now has a Medically-supervised Weight Loss program for school and government employees:
 - cost qualified under health insurance for morbidly obese and obese with co-morbidity (diabetes)
 - 6 month program: \$240 (which can be tough for bus drivers)
 - 1st 3 months: weight-loss nutrition program
 - 1 hour intake w/ nutritionist
 - 30-min meeting weekly throughout three months (meetings during work at the in-house clinic or on Sundays)
 - webinars on healthy eating and psychology of eating
 - 2nd 3 months: membership to ACAC with a “personal coach” to focus on activity (physicals at first... for some, first time seeing a doctor in a long time)
 - * first group rolls out in July: 65-68 people
 - 2 groups meet in person: Sundays or at work
 - 4 groups meet during a 1 hour long webinar at evening or over lunch hour
 - 25% are on CPAT machines for sleep apnea currently
 - learning to save money and be healthier by packing lunches instead of eating out
 - marketable for insurance programs b/c lowers premiums and therefore, decreases tax payers dollars... also, insurer looks like a good guy!
 - Insurer = Southern Health: the medical director himself is involved
 - got dietitian on board to be the preferred provider\

-This program removed barriers to weight loss by making it accessible, decreasing cost, and decreasing time it takes. BENEFITS: increased productivity, family benefits as well (one man reported a loss of 15 lbs for himself, 10 for his wife, and 8 for his daughter!), and increased education about healthy eating to be passed on to other people as well.

- Suggestion: review that ordinance and make sure chickens are encouraged.

Economic Development

- Non-profit local food support groups struggle with funding, which could be helped by government aid.
- Lack of new farmers and increasing average farmer age has led to decreased number of people in profession.
- Distribution centers allow institutions to order all their local food needs from one location.
- Distribution centers need increased sales in order to carry more farmers' produce.
- People need to pay true cost of food which is much higher than conventional prices.
- A regional marketing campaign is needed to explain the true cost of food.
- Agri-business communities are beneficial because local farmers work together to help each other as a whole.
- There is a rapid decrease of small farms, which are replaced by few large ones.
- Land leasing, when commodity farmers lease part of their land to beginning farmers, is a good idea because cost of land is the number one problem keeping new farmers from starting up.
- "Farmer to Farmer" program helps new farmers buy out retiring farmer's land. The new farmers then have a mentor and will help keep the land producing food when the other farmer retires.
- The internet is a great way to advertise small businesses.
- If restaurants see they have a market advantage of selling local produce, they are more willing to do so.
- Main problem in implementing new initiatives is investment risks, so need to get either a government grant or local wealthy investors.
- Natural Resources had an idea for an agricultural support person, but though it has been approved, as yet it is unfunded, and it will be unfunded for the foreseeable future. It will only be funded if when the economy picks up, the board at the time thinks that it is a priority
- The budget cuts were huge this year. Community Development is losing 8 ppl.... And zoning lost half of its staff.
- Local food stores: Great Value, Crozet; and Greenwood (local preserved wines and jams)

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- Over the past 15 years, the agribusiness group of the Chamber of Commerce has been trying to help small farmers be able to compete with larger farms in places like Iowa which have better soil and larger farms
 - Albemarle County has smaller scale farms which allows the farmers more control of their product since they are not beholden to a large middle person that controls their contracts. For example: Richfoods controls dairy products, and milk costs are very low now
 - There used to be 50 dairies in Albemarle County, now there are 3: 1 big and 2 small. Homestead Dairy bought out an old commercial dairy that was going out of business at a good price, and is a great success story with a “fantastic product.” They sell to Wholefoods of Tyson’s and Charlottesville
 - Commodity farmers (produce corn and soybeans and sell it to be processed elsewhere) who are 70 years old, and not interested in trying out new forms of farming are renting/leasing their corners of their land so that upstarts can farm different things. This is mutually beneficial since land costs are often the largest cost for new farmers and difficult is a farm is not kept generationally. An example is Waterpenny cattle farm in Northern Virginia where 40 acres are leased to a couple who runs a CSA, and they sell veggies.
 - Not everyone is in a good position for ppl to buy their produce.
 - Franciscan monastery sells gouda in White Hall, near Crozet, at Clark Hall Rd
 - Internet helps for direct sales
 - free website on Localharvest.com
 - Buy Fresh Buy Local (ann = affiliated partner)
 - o Melissa Wiley (PEC)
 - o Farmers can be organic, conventional, grassfed, etc.
 - o Must sell directly to customer
 - Designing Artisan Trail: Nelson and Albemarle: List of artisans (potters, etc.) as well as artisan farmers (cheese, cattle, wine, etc.)
 - Perception = that organic/local is more expensive, but when gas prices go up again, it won’t be... insulated from that, but may be more susceptible to local weather events
 - Regional Processing would be a great idea
 - lost that possibility at Buffalo Hill (Georgetown Farm) meat processing place b/c there was a fire
 - instead of building from the bottom up, it would be nice to rebuild a place with decent size road, or just have the cut/freeze part in a building and have mobile processing trailers (like is done with deer at the airport)
 - it would fill immediately

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- Farm Bill/Bureau has funds to help local foods that would cushion the blow of creating a new processing plant
 - idea in the works a while ago to create a cooperative between farmers, but each person would need to put in about 50,000 to fund the 3 million dollar structure... too much start up.. thought would be to have it in Buckingham County
 - Currently closest federally inspected processing plant is in Harrisonburg, VA... can take meat to smaller places that are not federally inspected, but only for selling a few pieces to neighbors, etc.
-
- Programs often need wealthy investment or government/foundation grants to get going
 - Small food businesses aren't very supported by the city/county except restaurants. C'ville Foodscapes created a model of a small business in the local food arena without needing a Master's degree. If they are successful, they will not grow to mega-size but create other small groups.
 - It would be nice for the City and County to have symposium on how to have more small businesses like this to make a dent in the foodscape here because it is likely that small businesses will be how local food finds a hold in Albemarle, not large ones. Any new business starting with local food will have the same issues. They need more small business incubators, and could use workers rather than advisors.
 - The support small food businesses receive are the following:
 - Support from SCORE (cash flow projections,etc. They can help guide, but limited because they are advisors. You can review your plan with them and they tell you where you are lacking and provide a free 3-hour class, and you can get support from a local business that does what you are lacking, i.e. marketing)
 - Small Business Development Association (Laura Gillesby- gets city and county money, but it is not controlled by city/county) The purpose is to support/incubate small businesses during the beginning phase when it's hard to start up)
 - It took a while for a small food business owner to figure out which liability insurance was needed, where to source it, and how to know what she needed for it. It would have been very helpful to have high school seniors who want to learn social marketing networking do that for the small businesses since the owners rarely have the time or desire to learn.
 - Another problem for small businesses is health insurance since good employees will often go to large businesses because they have better health care plans

Environmental Benefits

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- Governmental departments are now using Safer Chemicals. The Board of Supervisors passed regulations that limit the chemicals used for governments, schools, parks and recreation to fewer and safer ones.
 - Board of Supervisors new strategic goal: to reduce energy usage 30% by 2012
 - People can grow certain flowers which keep soil healthy and beneficial insects.
 - It would be great if the County put forth an initiative to help with sustainable/organic methods, like a rebate for non-toxic wood. You put in a raised vegetable bed with sustainable nontoxic wood and get a rebate. There could also be a rebate for rain barrels, which the City does (25-30% of the cost).

Social Equity

- Gleaning food from businesses and organizations is a great way to help low-income citizens.
- Local food will never be cheaper than conventional.
- There is a common perception that locally grown/organic is more expensive BUT buying locally is beneficial during gas price rises/crises because local food won't raise in price like largely transported food.
- Property tax is unfair to low-income land owners because they can't pay the tax as their land value rises so thus have to sell it to developers who then promptly develop it.
- Few restaurants/grocery stores in rural areas because little development encouraged
- There is local foods promotion in some rural areas, however, and last year, people looked at "county stores" in rural areas and tried to help them because had small lots and no septic systems. They worked with VDOT to decrease parking and urban landscaping requirements and allow the people to build septic tanks under the parking lots
- County store at Batesville has lots of local food, but people didn't buy it b/c they bought from food stands. Now there is food stand legislation. We used to have a plan to create little "Crossroads" villages in the Comp Plan, but not sure if it will stay because some communities did not want them. Maybe they will just have the stores. There has not yet been the personnel to figure this out.
- Who has access to community gardens? Is this good in all communities? Private land? Do you have to keep people out? Who gets to use it?
- Migrant workers: A few years ago there was talk about having better housing so that they could go and come back and have the same place, but that has fallen by the wayside... rules about them are in zoning laws. They work in orchards primarily (apple and peach), but also forestry yearround. There were several court cases about the forestry stuff, which helped them out, but food access is a problem.

-
- Hotel workers need bus routes because many do not have cars. They have suggested rideshare or buses. If a car came up, there would be about 25 of them running outside to try and ride it. Regional Transit Authority is being created to have routes to a variety of places
 - Lynchburg used to have a Farmer-Consumer Alliance which took small farmers' food on trucks to low income/subsidized housing project and senior housing areas as well as businesses
 - in the low income areas, he would sell at below retail prices b/c he could do it so fast, and didn't need to sit at a farmer's market for hours.. when his truck came, all the people would clamber on and grab what they wanted
 - increased seasonality of people's diets
 - 8-9 farmers and 4-5 housing developments
 - funding = issue: funded through foundation grants and Catholic charities
 - should have been let go by coordinator so that it was purely a deal between farmers and consumers, but it wasn't able to do that
 - **would this be possible in Albemarle County?
 - When people grow extra on their own garden plots, they could sell to the local food hub or donate a local food bank or donate the money from selling the vegetables to the "garden grants program" (C'ville Foodscapes and QCC partnership)

Land Conservation

- 1980s: Board of Supervisors rezoned the county so that there were 5% in development areas (Pantops, Hollymeade, Ivy, up RT 29 from Cville, Glenmore), and 95% in rural areas. Therefore, no new sidewalks will be built for old neighborhoods or in rural areas... only in new developments.
- Water, sewer systems do not go past urban area designation, and neither does much transportation... therefore, people in rural areas need to dig their own wells and septic tanks... people are incentivized to move into urban areas and preserve the rural areas for agriculture and forests
- Property tax increases that force land owners to sell their land decreases land conservation by opening up that land to developers.
- ACE = conservation easement program, which purchases development rights so that people cannot subdivide into 2-acre parcels and build. This helps people who need money (the land-rich, but money poor) while encouraging them to continue farming. The price they get is based off of calculations about how much money they make and other things.

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- Conservation easements do not require that people grow food. Hay is fine, and so is doing nothing, and preserving it for years to come. People gain a tax credit, though at the moment people are selling land to developers b/c they need the money. No one is buying though.
 - 1st conservation easement = North Garden farm... \$450,000
 - Purchase of development rights are a type of conservation easement
 - With transfer of development rights: so someone could develop high density in urban areas by buying off property rights from the rural areas. Perhaps this could work across Charlottesville/Albemarle boundaries
 - Virginia is one of the richest states, but lowest taxers, and there is a LARGE income spread. The focus is on property tax: land costs more now, so people who bought a long time ago are suffering because they cannot afford it. Land use value taxation for farms with smaller acreage would help.

Appendix C: Supplemental Audit Notes:

Last Updated: April 13, 2010

1. PUBLIC HEALTH

1a: Reduce and Prevent Community Obesity and Chronic Illness

Q1: Mention of goal for improving public health:

- a. Albemarle County School District Strategic Plan: Goal 1: 2005-07 Superintendent Priority 1.2: "In partnership with the community, school staff will create and/or maintain a school climate that supports students and staff to demonstrate ethical behavior and respect for diversity through daily actions and decision making; participate fully in civic life, act on democratic ideals within the context of community and global interdependence; and understand and follow a physically active lifestyle that promotes good health and wellness." Though this does not explicitly mention improving public health, it encourages a healthy lifestyle.
- b. School District Programming: Albemarle County Schools received Golden Carrot Award for innovative programs in 2004. "The Golden Carrot Awards go to food service professionals who approach child nutrition in an innovative way that encourages children to eat more healthfully. The winning programs feature low-fat meals; encourage kids to eat lots of fresh fruits, vegetables, and whole grains; provide vegetarian or vegan menu items; respect cultural diversity; offer non-dairy alternatives, and foster community partnerships. Albemarle deserves recognition for community partnerships, respecting cultural diversity, and employing creative

- methods for increasing vegan and vegetarian options in the school lunch room that involve the whole student community.”
- c. Albemarle County has an Occupational Health, Safety and Wellness Manager for its employees, demonstrating a care for public health.

Q2: Goal to reduce obesity:

- a. Comprehensive Plan: Albemarle County's Neighborhood Model is a guide for developing the County's designated Development Areas. It was appended to the Comprehensive Plan on May 16, 2001. Subsequent changes to the Land Use Portion of the Comprehensive Plan to reinforce the Neighborhood Model were adopted on July 10, 2002. Although no specific language about reduced obesity goals exist, it is implied by the Neighborhood Model's stress on "Pedestrian Orientation" in its design. "The Neighborhood Model proposes a walkable community, with sidewalks and paths provided in new development and a variety of destinations within a five-minute walk for residents. Pedestrian orientation requires a high degree of coordination among the other principles. All elements, density, building placement, street and path connections, mixture of uses, must be designed with pedestrians in mind. The result should be a walkable community that reinforces all of the other goals for the neighborhood."
- a. Though not for the entire County, the Occupational Health, Safety and Wellness Manager has created an affordable medically-supervised weight-loss program for government and school employees who are morbidly obese or obese with co-morbidities such as diabetes.

Q3: Overall wellness plan:

- a. Community Program: Local Motion. This organization is a private initiative to make citizens more active and coordinates healthy activities for citizens.
- b. School District Programming: Child Nutrition Program "The purpose of the Child Nutrition Program, in partnership with our school community, is to provide healthy and balanced meals by offering excellent service while promoting nutrition and wellness."

Q4: Farm to School programs:

- a. School District Programming: Schools have a Farm to School Week in November, where children are taught about farming and nutrition. Schools work with Local Food Hub and Farm at Red Hill to provide locally grown produce to students.

Q5. School purchasing local:

- a. School District Programming: All public schools serve locally grown apples the entire month of November.

Q6. Reduce available junk food:

- a. State Guidelines: Nutrition regulations for school food followed by Child Nutrition Program. “As part of the National School Breakfast and Lunch Program, the Child Nutrition Program follows the nutritional regulations set by the Virginia Department of Education School Nutrition Program. This means that school lunches provide 1/3 of the Recommended Dietary Allowances (RDA) for protein, calcium, iron, vitamin A and Vitamin C and 1/3 of the Recommended Energy Intake (REI) for calories over one week cycle menus. School breakfast must provide 1/4 of the RDA and REI. In addition, school meals comply with the recommendations of the most current Dietary Guidelines for Americans, including limits on fat calories. All food items on the bid require a CN label, which states its meal component equivalence.”

These food regulations are met by all Albemarle Public Schools.

- b. School District Programming: Albemarle County Schools were on the Governor’s Scorecard several times throughout the past decade.
- c. Albemarle County Student Wellness Plan 2007: Albemarle County Standards for Child Nutrition: “1. Milk choices include only fat free and reduced fat milk. 2. Juices are 100% fruit/vegetable with no added sugar. 4. Menus offer a choice of a variety of fruits and vegetables, with at least one being fresh (raw). 5. Whole grain foods are incorporated into the menu daily. 6. Extra grain options that are included with the meal and meet state of Virginia standards such as cake, rice crispy treats and brownie will be offered no more than twice per month. 7. A la cart items will contain no more than 35% by weight of sugar. 8. There are no fried products in elementary and middle school. Fried/baked potato items such as Fried food products are only served at high schools in a controlled portion size. 9. No food or and beverage items contain no with artificial sweeteners. 10. Food and beverage items contain no artificial trans fat.” Standards for snack items: “Each item will have no more than 35% by weight of sugar (except fresh, dried or canned fruits and vegetables, without sweeteners). 4. Each item will have no artificial sweeteners. 5. Each item will have no artificial trans fat. 6. Each item will have no more than 35% of total calories from fat, except nuts and seeds.” Also, with regards to vending machines: “Any vending machines that sell food or beverage that do not follow the guidelines standards of Albemarle County CNP will be turned off daily on school days, between 6:00 AM and the end of the school day. Examples of non-permitted items during the school day are soda, fruit drinks, flavored waters, iced tea, and candy bars.” These guidelines are put into place to reduce available junk food, but there is still room for improvement because “Cookies are the one exception to the standards and are offered once per week at elementary and middle schools,” and “High schools are allowed to offer ice cream products and cookies daily.”
- d. The Occupational Health, Safety and Wellness Manager of Albemarle County is working to transition the vending machines to healthy snacks, but confronts the barriers of expiration dates, lack of demand, and lack of refrigerated vending machines

Q7. Educate cafeteria workers:

- a. Albemarle County Student Wellness Plan 2007: Food service staff receives ongoing training on safety, sanitation and food preparation techniques used to comply with the USDA guidelines and to minimize the use of additional fats, salt and sugar.
- b. Community Program: Whole Foods Grocery funded food training program in 2004.

“The district received funding from Whole Foods Markets for a three-day training program for teachers, food service professionals, and community volunteers.” This training program provided citizens, including school cafeteria workers, with education on food nutrition and preparation.

Q8. Food based lesson plans:

- a. Comprehensive Plan: Natural Resources and Cultural Assets: Agricultural and Forestry Resources: p. 100: “Strategy: Working with the Agricultural and Forestal Districts Advisory Committee, develop and implement an active public education program to support and promote preservation of agricultural and forestry resources. Consider “ag in the classroom” or similar education in schools to teach children the importance of agriculture.” This suggests that the county promotes that the schools add agricultural education to their curricula. One problem here, as explained by a community member, was that the focus on S.O.L.s makes it difficult to fit in time for additional things such as food-based learning unless it is creatively integrated.
<http://www.agintheclasse.com/Pages/default.aspx>
- b. Comprehensive Plan: Rural Areas Plan: Agricultural Uses: p. 15: “The County Should . . . 7. Continue to support the Farm Tour as an educational tool. 8. Support agricultural education in the classroom; implement a farm day for children. 9. Encourage and promote agricultural related vocational education programs from middle school onward.” The Comprehensive Plan shows that several different types of agricultural education ideas are being considered for schools. See Rural Areas Plan Attachment B for details on following through with the ideas.
http://www.albemarle.org/upload/images/Forms_Center/Departments/Board_of_Supervisors/Forms/Agenda/2009Files/20090603/RuralAreasAttachB.htm
The barrier here, however, is that these programs would have been supported by an agricultural support position, which as of yet, is unfunded.
- c. School District Programming: “Food is Elementary” Curriculum.
“The district introduces “Food is Elementary Curriculum” in a series of lessons over 28 weeks. In it, children are introduced to new foods in the classroom in an interactive manner. Children taste, prepare, write about, and talk about new foods. Lessons are organized according to places in the world and serve as an opportunity to learn about food, culture, geography, math, and more. Pre and post-tests will be utilized to assess nutrition knowledge and retention of that knowledge. “

Not sure if this program is still in effect, but it did take place in 2004.

Q9. School gardens:

- a. Not mentioned in County documents, but a few individual schools have them such as Veggie Village at Yancey Elementary School, a garden at Woodbrook Elementary School, and Stone Brook Elementary School’s Environmental Outdoor Classrooms

Q10. Joint use agreement:

- a. Not mentioned.

Q11. Chain restaurants/calories on menus:

- a. Federal Policy: New requirement passed in Spring 2010 that restaurant chains with more than 20 locations have to post the calorie count next to items on the menu. This eliminates conflicting local and state laws about nutritional information. The Food and Drug Administration now have the jurisdiction to create a new national standard for menu labeling.

Q12. Tax on/discourage low nutritional value items:

- a. Community Program: JABA received \$7,000 donation from Wholesome Way in order to offer double value coupons at Charlottesville Farmer's Market for citizens using their SNAP vouchers. This gives extra incentive to buy healthy, local food.

Q13. Discourage SNAP for sugary foods and beverages:

- a. Not mentioned.

1b. Engage public by increasing awareness of healthy and local food options

Q14. Increase awareness of healthy lifestyle:

- a. The County's Occupational Health, Safety and Wellness Manager provides presentations on nutritional eating, health, and wellness for County and School employees, but these are not for all members of the County.
- b. Albemarle County Student Wellness Plan 2007: In terms of nutrition: "Schools will provide nutrition education that is interactive and teaches the skills necessary to adopt healthy eating behaviors and will be integrated in the comprehensive health education curriculum in grades K through 10. Nutrition education will be incorporated into the core curriculum. Each school will assign ownership of the comprehensive health curriculum to a department or particular staff member." For adults: "Parents will receive nutrition information in various ways: district newsletters, school newsletters, and letters sent home addressing specific nutrition issues such as sending healthy snacks and packing healthy lunches."
- c. Albemarle County Student Wellness Plan 2007: In terms of physical activity: "Instruction that helps students develop the knowledge, attitudes, behavioral skills, and confidence needed to adopt and maintain physically active lifestyles will be incorporated into the comprehensive health education curricula. Schools and/or district will provide information to parents on the benefits of physical activity and suggestions on ways to incorporate physical activity into the family's daily routine."

Q15. Definition for local food:

- a. Not mentioned.

Q16. Support production and distribution of local food:

- a. Comprehensive Plan: Rural Areas Plan: Agricultural Uses: p. 14: "In 1994, the Agricultural and Forestal Industries Support Committee presented a report to the Board of Supervisors. . . [T]hey recommended that marketing strategies for

- agricultural products, niche agriculture, and direct marketing operations be encouraged and promoted. They also requested that County policies support farmers regarding nuisance conflicts in Rural Areas. One of the County's challenges will be to maintain and increase agricultural uses on smaller parcels, as acreages devoted to farming decrease. Viticulture, the cultivation or culture of grapes especially for wine making, is an emerging leader in agriculture." The Comprehensive Plan shows here, as it does elsewhere that it encourages the production and sale of agricultural products and the continuation of farms. It seems to want to capitalize on its unique niche markets as well.
- b. Zoning Ordinance: Currently, Albemarle County is working through ZTA-2009-00018: Farm Stands, Farm Sales, Farmer's Markets: "This ordinance would repeal the existing regulations pertaining to wayside stands (5.1.19), farm sales (5.1.35) and farmers' markets (5.1.36) and establish new regulations for farm stands, farm sales and farmers' markets (5.1.47) regarding the respective uses, maximum structure sizes, and minimum yard and parking requirements; would allow farm stands and farm sales by right in the RA (10.2.1), MHD (11.3.1) and VR (12.2.1) zoning districts, allow farmers' markets by right in the NMD (20A.6), DCD (20B.2), C-1 (22.2.1), CO (23.2.1), HC (24.2.1), LI (27.2.1) (exterior or temporary or existing structures) and HI (28.2.1) (exterior or temporary or existing structures) zoning districts, and allow farmers' markets by special use permit in the RA (10.2.2), MHD (11.3.2), VR (12.2.2), R-1 (13.2.2), R-2 (14.2.2), R-4 (15.2.2), R-6 (16.2.2), R-10 (17.2.2), R-15 (18.2.2), PRD (19.3.2), PUD (20.3.2), LI (27.2.2) (new structures) and HI (28.2.2) (new structures) zoning districts; and would amend and add definitions of various terms related to farms stands, farm sales and farmers' markets (3.1), exempt off-site agricultural product signs from the requirement to obtain a special use permit (4.15.5), and exempt on-site agricultural product signs from the sign permit requirement (4.15.6); and, would create a new class of fees for a special use permit for farmers' markets and establish a fee of \$490.00, which is a 50% reduction in the fee that would be charged under current regulations. The proposed fee is authorized by Virginia Code § 15.2-2286(A) (6). A copy of the full text of the ordinance is on file in the office of the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors and in the Department of Community Development, County Office Building, 401 McIntire Road, Charlottesville, Virginia." The Ordinance is scheduled to go before the Albemarle Planning Commission on April 16, 2010, and the Board of Supervisors on May 5, 2010.

Q17. Guide to local food support:

- a. Community Program: Charlottesville Parks and Recreation offers the course "Home for Dinner: A Local Food Workshop".
 "How can I feed my family local food and stay within my budget? Where can I buy locally-produced milk and eggs? What's the difference between a CSA and a food cooperative? All of these questions and more will be answered in this three hour workshop that explores the local food scene." Charlottesville Parks and Recreation

offers this course at Tonsler Recreation Center for \$15/residents and \$22/non-residents.

- b. Community Program: Artisan’s Trail map is in the works and will be a big and comprehensive map of all local producers, including food/wine/crafts. It will be available online and by pamphlet.
- c. The Piedmont Environmental Council supports the: Buy Fresh, Buy Local guide, which is done throughout the states. There is a Charlottesville Area guide, however, and the 2009 version can be found at www.buylocalvirginia.org/ass/library/12/Cville_BFBLGuide_09.pdf Also, Albemarle County CSAs, caterers, eggs, grocers, dairy, meet, vineyard, u-pick fruits/veggies, produce, poultry, orchards, and other places can be found at www.buylocalvirginia.org/search/

Q18. Purchasing preference for local:

- a. Not mentioned.

Q19. Media campaign to support healthy eating:

- a. Community Program: Child Obesity Task Force is an organization that shows statistics of overweight children in the area and promotes changes.
- b. School District Programming: Child Nutrition News: “Child Nutrition News in a publication of Albemarle County Public Schools. It is published three times per year (Fall, Winter, Spring) and is distributed to all families.” This publication provides nutrition information, such as serving sizes and recipes, to families as part of the Child Nutrition Program’s mission to promote nutrition and wellness.
- c. School District Programming: Child Nutrition Program’s Carb Count Information: All food served in public schools is listed on the school district webpage with its portion size and amount of carbohydrates.
- d. School District Programming: Child Nutrition Program’s Elementary Menus: “The Child Nutrition Program Elementary Menu is published monthly and distributed to all Albemarle County elementary students.” The menus are also available online. Beyond listing the menu, these newsletters also have healthy recipes and nutrition facts for parents that promote nutrition and wellness.

Q20. Support Food Policy Council:

- a. Not mentioned.

1c. Flexible Policies and Zoning for creative and adaptive uses

Q21. Code allowance for open space or community gardens:

- a. Comprehensive Plan: Natural Resources and Cultural Assets: p. 7-8: “Open Space and Critical Resources Plan, adopted in 1992: four major systems of open space that extend across the boundaries of the Rural Area and the Development Areas: Major Stream Valleys, Important Farmlands and Forests, Mountains, and Cultural Resources. This Comprehensive Plan continues that effort to identify resources and to

recommend appropriate protection measures.” Since 1992, the Comprehensive Plan has noted the importance of open spaces for four main reasons, and farmland is one of those reasons, suggesting food production, but there were, however, no specific mentions of community gardens.

http://www.albemarle.org/upload/images/forms_center/departments/community_development/forms/Comprehensive_Plan/NATURAL_RESOURCES_&_CULRURAL_ASSETS_03_Open_Space_Resources.pdf

- b. Comprehensive Plan: Land Use Plan: pp. 8-9: “The Land Use Plan relies heavily on the Neighborhood Model that was appended to the Comprehensive Plan in 2001.” “The Neighborhood Model . . . [m]akes open space integral to overall design so that residents and workers can walk to a public park, experience preserved natural areas, and enjoy public gathering spaces.” The Comprehensive Plan encourages the creation on open spaces for natural areas, but does not explicitly mention community gardens.
- c. County Code: Chapter 18 Section 4.7 Open Space regulations
 “Open space shall be established, used, designed and maintained as follows:
 - a. *Intent.* Open space is intended to provide active and passive recreation, protect areas sensitive to development, buffer dissimilar uses from one another and preserve agricultural activities. The commission and the board of supervisors shall consider the establishment, use, design and maintenance of open space in their review and approval of zoning map amendments. The subdivision agent and the site plan agent (hereinafter, collectively referred to as the “agent”) shall apply the following principles when reviewing open space provided on a subdivision plat or site plan.” Doesn’t specifically mention gardens, but one could argue that agricultural activities mentioned in the code could include gardens.

Q22. Promote accessibility to community gardens for all neighborhoods:

- a. Not mentioned.

Q23. Land protections for farmers’ markets:

- a. As mentioned in Q16, there is currently a Zoning Text Amendment on Farm Stands, Farm Sales, and Farmer’s Markets that is going before the Albemarle Planning Commission on April 16, 2010, and the Board of Supervisors on May 5, 2010.

Q24. Pocket parks to community gardens:

- a. Not mentioned.

Q25. Allow abandoned lots for gardens or farms:

- a. Not mentioned.

Q26. Work with community land trust, non-profits, or allow low-income to sell produce:

-
- a. Not mentioned.

Q27. Code allow for residential zones to keep “farm” animals:

- a. Not mentioned.

Q28. Funding for food projects:

- a. Not mentioned.

Q29. Minimal on-site processing:

- a. Comprehensive Plan: Rural Areas Plan: p. 9: “Albemarle County envisions its Rural Areas as multifaceted places that will, over centuries, provide and protect the key elements that give the area its character. This vision is not a list of actions to be avoided, but a positive design to be achieved, maintained, and improved over the very long term, with the intention that the Rural Areas remain rural.” Element of this vision: “A strong agricultural and forestal economy, with large unfragmented parcels of land on which to produce their goods, opportunities to gain value from processing their own produce, and access to local markets.” The Comprehensive Plan envisions rural lands where farmers may produce their goods, process them, and take them to local markets.

1d. Promote multi-modal transportation options to food sources

Q30. Offer multi-modal transportation:

- a. Comprehensive Plan: Land Use Plan: p. 10: “Convenient routes for pedestrians, bicyclists, and buses and other transit including light rail will augment the street network. Public transit stops will be located within each Development Area. Walking to them will be safe and convenient. Waiting for transit will be comfortable and a normal part of activity in the Neighborhood Center.” Within the Comprehensive Plan’s Growth Management plan, it envisions multiple types of public transportation.
- b. Comprehensive Plan: Land Use Plan: Transportation: p173, 169: “The major transportation goals for Albemarle County’s rural areas are to preserve rural character while improving safety and multi-modal transportation choices. General Principles: 1. Plan, establish, and maintain a comprehensive County transportation system which supports the growth management policy and provides for necessary public safety. 2. Establish a transportation system that supports the preservation and enhancement of land use and environmental preservation goals, and that facilities are developed and built in a manner sensitive to the environment. 3. Encourage (1) the reduction of traffic congestion, pollution and energy consumption, vehicular miles traveled and (2) increased mobility of the general public, especially, handicapped and the disadvantaged, through the increased use of public transportation, car/vanpooling and park and ride lots. 4. Support regional transportation planning efforts by utilizing the

policies of the CHART Plan as the transportation principles for the County. They are as follows: The over-arching goal of the UnJam 2025 is to create a balanced, multi-modal transportation network, by A) Improving connections throughout the region; B) Improving mobility within neighborhoods, towns, and counties; and C) Making transportation choices which help foster livable communities” As it is clearly stated here, Albemarle wishes to create a multimodal transportation network.

- c. County Code: Ch. 18 Sect. 20A – “Neighborhood model intended to provide: pedestrian orientation, neighborhood friendly streets and paths, interconnected streets and transportation net works, parks and open space as amenities, neighborhood centers, buildings and spaces of human scale, relegated parking, mix of uses and use types, mix of housing types and affordability, redevelopment, site planning that respects terrain, and clear boundaries with the rural areas.”

**Note: all of these could lead to food stores and markets but none explicitly mention this.

Q31. Transportation for low income or migrant workers to grocery stores:

- a. Comprehensive Plan: Land Use Plan: Transportation: p. 188: “Fixed route services primarily connect outlying communities to the urban area, but routes to less populated centers are available as well. The following services are provided to the County by JAUNT: Rural public transportation services, including rural to urban commuter work runs[, and s]pecial services to the handicapped and elderly, including door-to-door prearranged personalized service.” The Comprehensive Plan states that it will transport rural people into urban areas, but does not do this for migrant workers, and in fact, the transportation to urban centers for work would be counter to what the migrant workers would need. In fact, migrant worker housing and transportation are supposed to be furnished by the farmers they help, according to Joan McDowell, Principal Planner for Rural Areas of Albemarle County.

Q32. Transport food to low income and migrant neighborhoods:

- a. Not mentioned.

Q33. Safe biking and walking paths to food sources:

- a. Comprehensive Plan: Natural Resources and Cultural Assets: Greenways: “Objective: Establish a Countywide network of greenway trails for conservation, recreation, transportation and education throughout Albemarle County, and linked to trails in the City of Charlottesville. The plan is to construct an approximately 52-linear-mile greenway network along streams and rivers over the next 50-ish years.” “Greenways can function to provide pedestrian and in some cases bicycle connections to natural, recreational, commercial and cultural resources. Portions of the planned greenway system in the County will be located near a large segment of the County’s population, allowing citizens to travel by foot and bicycle instead of by the automobile to parks, activity centers and commercial areas” This plan clearly

suggests a goal of linking citizens' homes to commercial areas, but it's objective is not to connect people with food sources, however.

Q34. Bus service connects neighborhoods and food stores, does it require more than 1 transfer:

- a. No specific mention.

Q35. Provide low-cost taxi or ride share to food sources?

- a. Comprehensive Plan: Land Use Plan: Transportation: p. 190 : **Recommendations for RideShare Program:** "Continue to recognize and support JAUNT as the primary public transportation provider for rural Albemarle County and the County's transportation disadvantaged. • Continue to support MPO and JAUNT ride-sharing services. • Participate with MPO and JAUNT to develop a regional system of park and ride lots. • Work with area employers through MPO to encourage development of ridesharing/vanpooling programs and travel demand reduction programs. Encourage development of ridesharing and travel demand reduction programs in evaluating rezoning and parking lot requests for major industrial, office, and commercial projects." Though this plan would like to expand to connect rural groups with commercial areas, it does not explicitly mention connecting them with markets.

Q36. Is transportation available during days and nights?

- a. Comprehensive Plan: Land Use Plan: Transportation: p. 190 : **Recommendations for RideShare Program:** "Consider expansion of service hours to include nights and weekends on appropriate routes to improve ridership and service." Thus, though transportation of RideShare does not occur at night yet, it is a goal to expand this service.

Q37. Bike path or sidewalk plan:

- a. Comprehensive Plan: Land Use Plan: Transportation: pp. 190-191 : "Walkways and bikeways provide for safe and convenient travel and improve the efficiency of the roadway system by reducing potential conflicts between motor vehicles and pedestrians/cyclists. Pedestrian and bicycle access improvements can also complement and enhance the mass transportation system by improving access to bus stops and places of economic activity. The provision of an effective pedestrian/bicycle system can also enhance the sense of community within developed or developing areas of the County by providing pedestrian/bicycle facilities that interconnect communities and facilitate and encourage interaction within the area. The Department of Community Development in cooperation with the Thomas Jefferson Planning District Commission has developed the Jefferson Area Bicycle, Pedestrian, and Greenways Plan." The Comprehensive plan clearly advocates the continued creation of walking/biking routes.

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- b. Community Program: Alliance for Community Choice in Transportation. “Safe Routes to School is a national program with the primary goal to improve the health of kids and the community by making walking and bicycling to school safer, easier, and more enjoyable. ACCT's local programs, made possible with funds from the Virginia DMV, include: 1) Providing in-school pedestrian and bicycle safety lessons for thousands of area students. 2) Facilitating walk-to-school events at elementary schools in both the City of Charlottesville and Albemarle County. 3) Working with school administrators, public officials, and local organizations to promote fitness and safety opportunities for the children of our community.
 - c. County Code: Ch. 18 Sect. 20A – “Neighborhood model intended to provide: pedestrian orientation, neighborhood friendly streets and paths, interconnected streets and transportation net works, parks and open space as amenities, neighborhood centers, buildings and spaces of human scale, relegated parking, mix of uses and use types, mix of housing types and affordability, redevelopment, site planning that respects terrain, and clear boundaries with the rural areas.”

*Note: Minimum school site sizes are in place: 15 acres for an elementary school with 600 students, 30 acres for a middle school with 750 students, and 45 acres for a high school with 1500 students. The county’s current high school sites exceed 60 acres. Requirements limit the ability to walk to school.

*Community Input – Joan McDowell, Principal Planner for Albemarle County, explained the County is not putting sidewalks into old developments or in rural areas, but is putting sidewalks in all new and future developments.

1e. Reduce community exposure to pesticides and chemicals in foods

Q38. Reduce pesticide use, appropriate enforcement:

- a. Comprehensive Plan: Natural Resources and Cultural Assets: Water Resources: “Apply pesticides and fertilizers, when necessary, in as limited amounts as necessary to complete the task. Empty containers should be disposed of properly. Chemicals should never be used, mixed, or stored near a well. To reduce the use of fertilizers and pesticides, use ground cover or mulch in lieu of a maintenance-intensive lawn.” The Comprehensive Plan suggests limitations of pesticides and fertilizers, but does not address appropriate enforcement.
- b. In June 2008, the Board of Supervisors approved a Safer Chemicals Management Procedure which “promotes the use of non-chemical methods and safer product alternatives” in County operations rather than using traditional synthetics, but this is only applicable for County operations, not for all businesses operating within the County.
- c. Virginia State Guidelines: [3.2-3906](#) of the Code of Virginia. VAC20-20-170. "Application and equipment. A. No person shall apply, dispense, or use any pesticide in or through any equipment or application apparatus unless the equipment or apparatus is in sound mechanical condition and capable of satisfactory operation. All

pesticide application equipment shall be properly equipped to dispense the proper amount of material. All pesticide mixing, storage, or holding tanks, whether on application equipment or not, shall be leakproof. All spray distribution systems shall be leakproof, and any pumps which these systems may have shall be capable of operating at sufficient pressure to assure a uniform and adequate rate of discharge. B. All pesticide application equipment shall be equipped with cut-off valves and discharge orifices to enable the operator to pass over nontarget areas without contaminating them. All hoses, pumps, or other equipment used to fill pesticide handling, storage, or application equipment shall be fitted with an effective valve or device to prevent backflow into water supply systems, streams, lakes, other sources of water, or other materials. However, these backflow devices or valves are not required for separate water storage tanks used to fill agricultural pesticide application equipment by gravity systems when the fill spout, tube, or pipe is not allowed to contact or fall below the water level of the application equipment being filled, and no other possible means of establishing a backsiphon or backflow exists.” The Virginia State Guidelines determine appropriate pesticide management, but it does not suggest limitations on that use.

Community Input – A member of the local school and government indicated many departments in the county are using “green chemicals” to clean their facilities in an effort to reduce the amount of toxins in the air and environment. Additionally, there was a regulation passed by the Board of Supervisors to promote, “careful spraying of weeds and cleaning of bathrooms”.

Q39. Protect farm workers from exposure:

- a. Not mentioned.

Q40. Protect food safety through proper training of farm workers:

- a. Not mentioned.

Q41. Encourage transition to low spray or organic to reduce chemical exposure:

- a. Comprehensive Plan: Rural Areas Plan: p. 14: “The Virginia Cooperative Extension Service recently published a report titled, Virginia Farmers Have Opportunity to Fill Organic Crops Market Niche. Organic farming provides opportunities for small and mid-size farming, according to the Extension Service.” This is more of a suggestion for small to mid-size farmers to go organic to capture the niche market rather than some sort of incentive program.

Q42. Encourage transition to organic or sustainable for increased carbon sequestration:

- a. Comprehensive Plan: Rural Areas Plan: p. 14: “Citizens attending the Rural Areas public meetings held during the winter of 2002-2003 confirmed the validity of the County’s policies to protect agriculture. In response to a survey given at the meetings, over 62 percent desired farms to be common and widespread. A visioning question revealed that citizens wanted to see support for working farms, but with the realization of the need for economic alternatives

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- to traditional farming. They also wished to see support for more sustainable management techniques on farms. Over 69 percent of the public meeting participants ranked agriculture as number one when asked how they would rank the land uses they would like to have within the County. Over 76 percent of the participants agreed that agricultural and forestal resources should be the primary land uses in the Rural Areas.” Though the County does not have a program, nor incentives to transition to sustainable or organic farming in its Comprehensive Plan, the Rural Areas Plan shows that the desire is there from the residents.
- b. Comprehensive Plan: Rural Areas Plan: p. 12: Guiding Principle 10: “Include the goals of the Thomas Jefferson Sustainability Council in rural area policy and code development. (These guidelines have been adopted as part of the Natural Resources and Cultural Assets Plan, where they are reproduced.)” The Comprehensive Plan sites a study on the benefits of growing organic and to incorporate the ideas of the Thomas Jefferson Sustainability Council, but does not mention a specific policy or program or the goal of carbon sequestration.

Q43. Offer incentives to transition to sustainable or organic:

- a. Comprehensive Plan: see above Q42. The Comprehensive Plan sites a study on the benefits of growing organic and to incorporate the ideas of the Thomas Jefferson Sustainability Council, but does not mention a specific policy or program.

2. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

2a. Support local food production

Q44. Working farmland tax incentives:

- a. Comprehensive Plan: Rural Areas Plan: p. 15, 4: “The County should . . . [e]ncourage the protection of prime agricultural soils and working farms from nonagricultural development through Rural Preservation Developments, conservation easements, Agricultural and Forestal Districts, the Land Use Taxation program, and the Acquisition of Conservation Easement program.” “Several tools for protecting the Rural Areas are in place. Albemarle County offers a use-value taxation program that reduces tax rates for lands in agricultural, forestal, horticultural and open space uses. As of spring 2003, the County’s voluntary agricultural and forestal districts program helped prevent intensification of use on nearly 65,000 acres of land.” The Comprehensive Plan mentions several incentives to preserve working farmland including: rural preservation developments, land use taxation programs, and agricultural/forestal districts.
- b. Albemarle County Code: Sec. 15-805 Valuation of real estate. “In valuing real estate for purposes of taxation, the director of finance or the county assessor shall consider only those indicia of value which such real estate has for agricultural, horticultural, forest or open space use, and real estate taxes shall be extended upon the value so determined. In addition to use of his personal knowledge, judgement and experience as to the value of real estate in agricultural, horticultural, forest or open space use, he shall, in arriving at the value of such land, consider available evidence of agricultural,

horticultural, forest or open space capability, and the recommendations of value of such real estate as made by the State Land Evaluation Advisory Committee.” This land use tax law is highly beneficial for farmers because it promotes the use of land for farming rather than development.

Q45. Purchasing preference for low-spray, organic or sustainable:

- a. Not mentioned.

Q46. Economic development support for food production:

- a. Comprehensive Plan: Economic Development Policy: p. 4: “Increasing support to local agricultural infrastructure such local food networks and programs. (The agricultural infrastructure provides markets and supplies to farmers and significant economic activity to Albemarle County as a whole.)” The Comprehensive Plan supports food production through the encouragement of local food networks.
- b. Comprehensive Plan: Rural Areas Plan: p. 15: “The County should . . . [e]stablish proactive support of agricultural land uses through the creation of an Agricultural/Forestral Support Program position that provides agricultural assistance that includes community education, marketing strategies, the exploration of agricultural support businesses and alternative agricultural uses.” The Comprehensive Plan also supports food production by creating an Agricultural/Forestral Support position.
- c. Community Program: The Local Food Hub is a “non-profit service organization located in Charlottesville, VA, working to strengthen and secure the future of a healthy regional food supply by providing small, local farmers with concrete services that support and advance their economic vitality and promote stewardship of the land.” This main goal is stated on the front page of their website and shows their strong desire to increase the economic development of the region.

Q47. Purchase of local food when available:

- a. Comprehensive Plan: Economic Development Policy: p. 8: “Priority Action Measures: To address issues identified in the 2007 updated data, the Policy’s short-term priorities include the following strategies: Objective I. Strategy 4. Increasing the promotion of local agricultural industry consistent with the goals, objectives and implementation strategies of the Comprehensive Plan, such as the purchase of local products, establishing a rural-support program and continuing a dialogue with farm-industry stakeholders.” The Comprehensive Plan suggests promoting local agriculture by purchasing local products.

Q48. Support system for seasonal labor for farms:

- a. County Service: Workforce Center on Hydraulic Road helps people find jobs, with leadership from the state. Several government officials from State Agencies as well as the Extension

Service come there to hire employees. This Center is funded by the County and managed by Goodwill. There is an employee who specifically helps farm workers.

Q49. Program to inspire and train new farmers, including immigrant assistance:

- a. Comprehensive Plan: Rural Areas Plan: p. 15: “The County should . . . [e]stablish proactive support of agricultural land uses through the creation of an Agricultural/Forestral Support Program position that provides agricultural assistance that includes community education, marketing strategies, the exploration of agricultural support businesses and alternative agricultural uses” . . . and “[e]ncourage and promote agricultural related vocational education programs from middle school onward.” The Comprehensive Plan does not, however, mention immigrant assistance explicitly, and the agricultural support position is as of yet, unfunded.
- b. The Virginia Cooperative Extensions office at Virginia Tech offers a variety of classes for farmers in subjects such as: chemical use, farm transfers, beef farming, goat and sheep farming, and horticulture. More information can be found at their website: <http://offices.ext.vt.edu/albemarle/>
- c. Community Program: Albemarle County Community Education for Adults offers the class “Successful Vegetable Gardening for Beginners”.
 “One of the main reasons that people garden is that vegetables from the supermarket cannot compare in taste, quality, or freshness with vegetables grown in the home garden. Vegetables are easy to grow and very rewarding at harvest time. This class will be geared to people new to vegetable gardening. Ralph has over 35 years of vegetable garden experience and will cover size, simplicity, soil, and sun. Start planning your garden now.” Single day courses offered for \$15 at Albemarle High School for adults, as part of the Albemarle County “Community Education for Adults” program.
- d. Community Program: The Local Food Hub educational farm at Maple Hill Farm has a group of declared “at-risk” children come volunteer once a week and learn about farming. The program is new, but is slowing opening up to allow more volunteers and education opportunities on the farm.
- e. Community Program: PVCC held a course last year called “The Small Farm Dream” which was exponentially successful and popular, showing the demand for more agricultural and agri-business education. The course will continue this upcoming year by popular demand, and will be joined by another course on specifically land assessment.
- f. Community Program: Open Gate Farm in Albemarle County is another farm that offers educational workshops to the community.

Q50. Incentives for retailers to purchase local food:

- a. Comprehensive Plan: Economic Development Policy: p. 8: “To address issues identified in the 2007 updated data, the Policy’s short-term priorities include the

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- following strategies: Objective I. Strategy 4. Increasing the promotion of local agricultural industry consistent with the goals, objectives and implementation strategies of the Comprehensive Plan, such as the purchase of local products, establishing a rural-support program and continuing a dialogue with farm-industry stakeholders.” The Comprehensive Plan does not mention any specific incentive program, but the idea of promoting agriculture through the purchase of local products is clearly stated. This is currently unfunded.
- b. Albemarle County holds the Small Business Award Ceremony annually to recognize and reward local small businesses. Last year’s winner was Horse and Buggy.
 - c. Albemarle County gave technical support to the Local Food Hub in 2009 to help them get underway with their operation.
 - d. Albemarle County supports and advertises local food/drink tourism through the Brew Ridge Trail, the Wine Trail, and the soon-to-be Artisan Trail, as well as the Buy Fresh Buy Local campaign. The county also supports the current proposal for a Winery Zoning Amendment to allow vineyards to hold weddings and other large events. This would increase revenue to vineyard owners, who normally must wait an average of five years before their vineyards begin to produce and make profit, which puts them at high financial risk.
 - e. Zoning: A large incentive for wholesale distributors of local food, such as Horse & Buggy and the Local Food Hub is that they are qualified as industrial land use areas since less than 15% of their space is used for retail. Thus, their property value is lower, and they pay lower property taxes.

2b. Support development of local processing infrastructure

Q51. Programs to support or incubate food related businesses:

- a. Comprehensive Plan: Economic Development Policy: Objective 1. Strategy 4; p. 4: “Increase the promotion of local agricultural industry consistent with the goals, objectives and implementation strategies of the Comprehensive Plan, more specifically by • Increasing support to local agricultural infrastructure such local food networks and programs. (The agricultural infrastructure provides markets and supplies to farmers and significant economic activity to Albemarle County as a whole.)• Establishing a proactive rural-support program that provides assistance to the local agricultural community, and that includes an on-going dialogue with farm-industry stakeholders.” The Comprehensive Plan suggests increasing support to local food networks and programs, which would suggest food related business. What is meant by support, however, is not defined.
- b. Wendy Roberman, with C’ville Foodscapes, has found Albemarle County’s programs to support or incubate food related business to provide advisory support, but providing labor would be crucial as well as explanations of what types of liability insurance are needed for food related business.

Q52. USDA kitchen or other processing facility available:

- a. Not mentioned.

2c. Support development of local distribution infrastructure

- Q53. Does the locality have a policy to allow local farmers' markets, tailgate markets, or farm stands?
- Comprehensive Plan: Rural Area Plan: p. 16: "Strategy 16: Support the marketing of farm products in the creation and operation of farmer's markets." The Comprehensive Plan not only allows local farmers' markets, but supports them.
 - County Code : Ch. 18 Sect. 22 – Commercial C-1: 22.2.1 – "By right (25.) Farmers' Markets permitted (reference 5.1.36)"
 - County Code: Ch. 18 Sect. 24 – Highway Commercial: 24.2.1 – "By right, wayside stands – vegetables and agricultural produce (reference 5.1.19), wholesale distribution, farmers' market." 24.2.2 – "By special use permit – livestock sales." 24.3 – "Minimum frontage required on a public street for the establishment of an HC district shall be one hundred and fifty (150) feet. Frontage of an HC district shall not exceed depth. This section shall not apply to HC districts established at the adoption of the zoning map."
 - Zoning Ordinance: As mentioned in Q16, there is currently a Zoning Text Amendment on Farm Stands, Farm Sales, and Farmer's Markets that is going before the Albemarle Planning Commission on April 16, 2010, and the Board of Supervisors on May 5, 2010.

Q54. Provide institutional support for farmers' markets and tailgate markets:

- Zoning Ordinance: As mentioned in Q16, there is currently a Zoning Text Amendment on Farm Stands, Farm Sales, and Farmer's Markets that is going before the Albemarle Planning Commission on April 16, 2010, and the Board of Supervisors on May 5, 2010. This amendment will allow farmers to sell their produce in a wider amount of places, including their own property.

Q55. Economic support for regional distribution center:

- Local Food Hub --- The Local Food Hub is a non-profit service organization located in the Piedmont of Central Virginia. This is a new business/operation in Albemarle County and it may grow in size to extend to other counties/regions or create a market for other such "Hubs" to develop. The Hub gathers food from Albemarle and surrounding counties (Nelson, Green, etc.), but the main target of distribution is within Albemarle County and the City of Charlottesville.

From the <http://www.localfoodhub.org/> :

“Our mission is to strengthen and secure the future of a healthy regional food supply by providing small local farmers with concrete services that support and advance their economic vitality and promote stewardship of the land.”

“Our goal is to increase the amount of fresh, locally grown food available to our community. We aim to expand the socio-economic profile of consumers of locally produced foods to include currently under-served populations.”

“We are a local food wholesale distribution hub with an outfitted warehouse located in Ivy, Virginia that moves local products to grocery stores, schools, senior facilities and restaurants.”

“We are working with City of Charlottesville Schools, Albemarle County Schools, and area private schools to provide our children with much needed fresh fruit and vegetables for their snack programs along with educational materials promoting healthful eating.”

2d. Support development of new businesses using locally sourced products & heritage foods

Q56. Incentives for businesses using locally produced food:

- a. There are lower tax rates for industrial use of land, including agriculture.

Q57. Support for identification and development of heritage seeds, food, products, etc:

- a. The Backyard Revolution is “a family-oriented celebration of our region’s cultural and agricultural heritage. The primary focus of this event is to offer a remembrance and a reskilling to the community by creating a bridge for the practical abilities, ingenuity and wisdom of our forebears, from the past into the present.” This event was held last year and will be held again this summer.

Q58. Program that supports stores that provide fresh, local options for low income:

- a. Not mentioned.

2e. Support increased Security of Food Supply

Q59. Emergency preparedness plan for disruptions in food supply:

- a. Not mentioned.

3. ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS

3a. Reduce community carbon footprint and reduce nonpoint source stream pollution

Q60. Goal to reduce foodprint:

- a. Not mentioned.

3b. Reduce nonpoint source stream pollution from agriculture

Q61. Reduce nonpoint source pollution from agriculture:

- a. Comprehensive Plan: Rural Areas Plan: Strategy 6; p. 15: “Revise the Zoning Ordinance to include performance standards for agricultural operations, such as confined animal feeding operations (CAFOs) that may cause serious negative impacts the environment.”
- b. County Code: Chapter 17 Section 211 Duty to comply, maintain and repair.
 “Upon approval by the program authority of an erosion and sediment control plan, each owner shall: 1) comply with all of the terms and conditions of the approved plan when performing, or allowing to be performed, any land disturbing activities or activities to correct an erosion impact area; 2) maintain and repair all erosion and sediment control structures and systems to ensure continued performance of their intended function; 3) comply with all requirements of this article; and 4) have a person holding a certificate of competence, as described in Virginia Code § 10.1-561, in charge of and responsible for carrying out the land disturbing activity.” Owners must have and maintain a erosion and sediment control plan.

Q62. Riparian buffers used to reduce nonpoint source pollution:

- a. Comprehensive Plan: Rural Areas Plan: p. 30: “Rivers and streams through the County, from intermittent and ephemeral streams to the Rivanna River, should have forested buffers wherever possible. Stream buffers and groundwater infiltration areas can also be incorporated into subdivision designs as protected areas, and would be especially effective where forest vegetation is either protected or reestablished. Where development is approved, impacts can be mitigated through creative measures including but not limited to conservation easement donations, riparian buffer plantings and corridor establishments, and habitat restorations.”
- b. County Code: Chapter 17 Section 317 Duty to retain or establish a stream buffer.
 “Except as provided in section 17-319, any land subject to this article and each stormwater management/BMP plan shall provide for stream buffers for the purposes of retarding runoff, preventing erosion, filtering nonpoint source pollution from runoff, moderating stream temperature, and providing for the ecological integrity of stream corridors and networks, as provided herein:
 C. On agricultural lands used for crop land, whether located in a development area, an area of infill and redevelopment, a water supply protection area or other rural land, the stream buffer shall include all perennial streams, non-tidal wetlands contiguous with these streams, and a twenty-five (25) foot buffer, measured horizontally from the edge of contiguous non-tidal wetlands, or the top of the stream bank if no wetlands exist. On these lands, the stream buffer shall be managed to prevent concentrated flows of surface water from breaching the buffer area. Each owner of crop land with a stream buffer shall have developed by the Thomas Jefferson Soil and Water Conservation District a soil and water conservation plan, or a component thereof, which, shall be based on an assessment of existing conservation practices of the crop land.”

- c. Albemarle County Strategic Plan: FY07-10: Goal 2; p. 10: “County staff believes that the development of a riparian buffer program will be a particularly important strategy for water resource protection and should be embarked on as part of this.”

Q63. Fence livestock from stream banks:

- a. Not mentioned.

Q64. Program to manage excess animal manure:

- a. Not mentioned.

c. Reduce Food Waste

Q65. Encourage foraging from unused locations:

- a. Not mentioned.

Q66. Local map for food foraging:

- a. Not mentioned.

Q67. Opportunity for gleanings from farms and restaurants:

- a. Community Organization: JABA gleanings from farmer’s markets for produce that would normally go to waste and gives it to local food banks.

Q68. Demonstration programs for composting:

- a. Not mentioned.

Q69. Offer central site for composting from homes and yards:

- a. Though no composting site was mentioned, there was a recycling program:

**** Does the locality have a recycling program?**

- a. County Code: Chapter 13 Article 2 Recycling. “The purpose of this article is to encourage and promote recycling throughout the county in order to protect limited natural resources for the benefit of its citizens.”

****However, many community developments do not offer recycling pick up to homes.**

There are several recycling centers in Albemarle Co. and Charlottesville, however, this makes it difficult for people to recycle who have limited or no transportation capabilities, live far away, can't find time, etc.

SOCIAL EQUITY

4a. Increase transportation system access to markets that sell fresh and healthful foods by underserved communities

Q70. Quality food for all citizens:

-
- a. School District Programming: Child Nutrition Program's free or reduced-priced meals. "Children who are members of households receiving Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits (formerly the Food Stamp Program) or who receive Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) are eligible for free meals regardless of income. Foster children who are the legal responsibility of a welfare agency or court may also be eligible for benefits regardless of the income of the household with whom they reside. Eligibility for the foster child is based on the child's income. Children who are members of households participating in WIC may also be eligible for free or reduced-priced meals based on the household's income. If the total household income is at or below the amounts on the income chart, your child (ren) may get reduced price meals for .30 cents for breakfast, .40 cents for lunch. A federally sponsored breakfast program is not available at every school." A letter is sent to all parents and guardians of students in the schools that explains the eligibility for free-reduced school meals.

****Note:** The locality follows the Federal Program, and did not create the program.

****Note:** The quality standards are not mentioned in the Federal Program, but are mentioned within the locality's school wellness plan.

**** Note:** This program is only for children, not for adults.

Q71. Bus service, taxi or ride share in rural as well as urban areas:

- a. See Q35: Comprehensive Plan: Land Use Plan: Transportation: p. 190 :
Recommendations for RideShare Program: "Continue to recognize and support JAUNT as the primary public transportation provider for rural Albemarle County and the County's transportation disadvantaged. • Continue to support MPO and JAUNT ride-sharing services. • Participate with MPO and JAUNT to develop a regional system of park and ride lots. • Work with area employers through MPO to encourage development of ridesharing/vanpooling programs and travel demand reduction programs. Encourage development of ridesharing and travel demand reduction programs in evaluating rezoning and parking lot requests for major industrial, office, and commercial projects." Though this plan would like to expand to connect rural groups with commercial areas, it does not explicitly mention markets or grocery stores.
- b. The county board has discussed the need for public transit to reach more low income neighborhoods in the county, however the proposed expansion has been halted by lack of funding.

Q72. Transportation available during day and evening in rural as well as urban areas:

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- a. See Q36. Comprehensive Plan: Land Use Plan: Transportation: p. 190 :
Recommendations for RideShare Program: “Consider expansion of service hours to include nights and weekends on appropriate routes to improve ridership and service.” Thus, though transportation of RideShare does not occur at night yet, it is a goal to expand this service.

Q73. Any studies to assess needs of low-income neighborhoods to gain access to fresh foods:

- a. Not mentioned.

Q74. Safe biking and walking paths to food sources in rural and urban areas:

- a. Not mentioned.

Q75. Farmers’ markets geographically accessible:

- a. There are eight total farmer’s markets in the city/county, which is much higher than most places in the US. Therefore, one could say that comparatively, Albemarle County markets are more accessible.

4b. Support location of grocers providing healthy local, foods in diverse and underserved locations

Q76. Expedited development review for food stores in underserved locations:

- a. Not mentioned.

Q77. Does locality recognize need for low income, immigrant and migrant populations to have access to fresh, healthful foods:

- a. Not mentioned.

Q78: Tax credits for opening food stores in certain locations:

- a. Not mentioned.

Q79. Any regulatory incentives, ie relaxed zoning requirements, to facilitate food stores:

- a. Comprehensive Plan: Historic Preservation Plan: p. 33:“RA zoning hinders the reuse of historic structures in certain “crossroads communities,” such as Batesville or Free Union, because buildings may not be permitted to be used for their historic purpose. In some cases this zoning regulation virtually guarantees their continued deterioration, and should be reexamined.” Though this does not explicitly suggest relaxed zoning for food stores, it suggests relaxed zoning in places that were historical crossroads and generally had “country stores,” which may be able to serve underserved rural populations.
- b. Community Feedback: Joan McDowell, Principal Planner, Rural Areas, Albemarle County: She mentioned that in 2009, she looked at “county stores” in rural areas and tried to ease zoning regulations for them by working with VDOT to decrease parking

and urban landscaping requirements, and to allow them to build septic tanks under the parking lots.

Q80. Offer predevelopment assistance to developers for grocery stores:

- a. Not mentioned.

4c. Increase availability of fresh and healthful foods for underserved communities

Q81. EBT machines at farmers' markets:

- a. Community Organization: JABA has just started using an EBT machine at the Charlottesville Farmer's Market in Spring 2010 and hopes to eventually expand to all other markets in county.

Q82. Dollar matching, or increased value (\$2 or \$3 for every one spent) opportunities for EBT dollars spent on healthful foods at grocery stores:

- a. Not mentioned.

Q83. Food sources accommodate WIC, Senior Nutrition, EBT:

- a. Not mentioned.

Q84. Farmers' markets enable \$2 or \$3 healthy food credit for every EBT dollar:

- a. Community Organization: JABA received \$7,000 donation from Wholesome Way in order to offer double value coupons at Charlottesville Farmer's Market for citizens using their SNAP vouchers. This gives extra incentive to buy healthy, local food.

Q85. Markets and stores accessible at multiple times of day:

- a. Not mentioned.

Q86. Mobile farm stands or carts:

- a. County Code: Chapter 12 Article 4: Solicitors and Peddlers. Exempt activities: "(1) Farmers or traveling gardeners selling, offering for sale or soliciting orders for any products grown, raised or produced by them. (2) Vendors of milk, butter, eggs, poultry, fish, oysters, game, meat, ice, wood, charcoal or other family supplies of a perishable nature." This article does not specify stands or carts, but does allow farmers to transport their produce by whatever means they choose to sell locally.

Q87. Faith, nonprofit or institutions have purchasing preferences for local foods:

- a. Community Organization: JABA is a non-profit organization that purchases local food as much as possible for its three commercial kitchens in the county.

4d. Support an effective emergency food infrastructure

Q88. Right to food security:

- a. Not mentioned.

Q89. Central directory of emergency food providers:

- a. Not mentioned.

Q90. System for referring people in need of food:

- a. Not mentioned.

Q91. Support coordination and cooperation between agencies:

- a. Not mentioned.

Q92. Opportunity for storage of fresh foods for providers:

- a. Not mentioned.

e. Support equitable working conditions for farm labor

Q93. Living wage policy for all who work, including farm labor:

- a. Not mentioned.

Q94. Access to fresh, healthful food for those who produce it:

- a. Not mentioned.

Q95. Ensure training for farm labor that is comfortable, accessible in native language:

- a. Not mentioned.

Q96. Adequate protection from pesticides:

- a. Not mentioned.

Q97. Opportunities for transitional farm labor to become engaged in local community:

- a. Not mentioned.

Q98. Person available for migrant farm workers to contact regarding community events:

- a. Not mentioned.

Q99. Map of farm worker camps:

- a. Not mentioned.

Q100. Housing opportunities for migrant workers:

- a. Comprehensive Plan: Affordable Housing Policy: p. H-3: "It shall be the policy of Albemarle County to support affordable housing for those who live and/or work in the County. In particular, the County will provide guidance, resources, and incentives to the nonprofit and for-profit development and financing communities to increase the supply of affordable housing (both rental and homeownership) for households with incomes between 0 and 80% of area median income by: • Promoting safe, decent, and affordable housing options for low-to moderate-income residents of Albemarle County and those working in and desiring to reside in Albemarle County; • Insuring variety/choice in housing and equal housing

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- opportunities; • Creating and preserving safe, high quality and sustainable neighborhoods;
 - Understanding diverse housing needs and special needs of various populations; and, • Directing assistance to those populations least able to attain safe, affordable housing through the private sector alone.” The Comprehensive Plan supports the creating of affordable housing, but does not specifically mention migrant workers.
 - b. County Code: Chapter 18 Section 2.2 Rural Area District Zoning By Special Use Permit. “The following uses shall be permitted only by special use permit approved by the board of supervisors pursuant to section 31.2.4: (Added 10-9-02)51. Farm worker housing, Class B (more than ten occupants or more than two sleeping structures).” Farmers must get special permit to have large groups of migrant workers housed on their land.
 - c. County Code: Chapter 18, Section 10. Allowed by Right in Rural Areas: “Farm worker housing, Class A (up to ten occupants and up to two sleeping structures)”
 - d. Zoning Ordinance: Section 5.1.44 Farm Worker Housing: Farm worker housing is required to meet certain standards as delineated here, and it must include concept plans, etc. that must be submitted to the County whether its Class A or Class B.

4f. Promote community involvement and ownership in local food system

- a. Not mentioned.

Q101. Community involved in organization of food opportunities:

- a. Individual donations are a critical part of getting most community programs and incentives off the ground.

Q102. Culturally appropriate fresh foods:

- a. Not mentioned.

Q103. Support for diverse, local, traditional - and fresh - food practices:

- a. Not mentioned.

Q104. Incorporate migrant workers in markets and community events:

- a. Not mentioned.

Q105. Opportunities for low income, immigrant, or migrant to participate in gardens or food projects:

- a. Not mentioned.

5. LAND CONSERVATION / ACCESS TO LAND FOR FOOD PRODUCTION

Q106. Land conservation for food production:

- a. Comprehensive Plan: Rural Area Plan: p. 4: “Several tools for protecting the Rural Areas are in place. Albemarle County offers a use-value taxation program that reduces tax rates for lands in agricultural, forestal, horticultural and open space uses.” According to Joan McDowell, Principal Planner for the Rural Areas of Albemarle County, as of December, 2009, the County’s voluntary agricultural and forestal districts program helped prevent intensification of use on nearly 88,100.63 acres of land with nearly 26 Districts and 1,041 parcels. The most important protection measures in place to protect agricultural lands and

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- forests are the Growth Management goal and the Rural Area designation. The Rural Area policy establishes that agricultural and forestry uses are the desired land uses in the Rural Area, rather than residential uses. Residential development in the Rural Area often conflicts with agricultural or forestry uses and has an adverse impact on the continuance of agriculture or forestry in an area. For this reason, the Growth Management goal assigns highest priority to the protection of agricultural and forestry resources in the Rural Area.
- b. Comprehensive Plan: Land Use: Growth Management Policy: p. 3: Goal: “**A.** Protecting the elements that define the Rural Area: 1) Agricultural resources 2) Forestry resources 3) Land preservation 4) Land conservation 5) Water supply resources 6) Natural resources 7) Scenic resources 8) Historical, archaeological, and cultural resources. **B.** Promoting the Development Areas as the place where a variety of land uses, facilities, and services exist and are planned to support the County’s future growth, with emphasis placed on infill development.”
 - c. Albemarle County Strategic Plan FY 07-10: p. 17: “Another tool is the County’s voluntary Acquisition of Conservation Easements (ACE) program, under which the County purchases development rights on qualifying properties. As of June 2007, roughly 68,000 acres were protected by conservation easements. Over 7,000 acres were placed in conservation easements between 2005 and June 2007 due to the outstanding efforts of the Virginia Outdoors Foundation, the Nature Conservancy, Piedmont Environmental Council, the Thomas Jefferson Soil and Water Conservation District, the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation, the Virginia Department of Historic Resources, the USDA Conservation Reserve Program, the Chesapeake Bay Foundation and the County’s ACE program.” This shows how well the programs are working.
 - b. County Code Chapter 18 Section 10 Rural Areas Zoning “The Rural Areas district was created for the preservation of agricultural and forestal lands and activities; water supply protection; limited service delivery to the rural areas; and conservation of natural, scenic, and historic resources. In regard to agricultural preservation, this district is intended to preserve the county's active farms and best agricultural and forestal lands by providing lot areas designed to insure the continued availability of such lands for preferential land use tax assessment in order to enhance the economy, and maintain employment and lifestyle opportunities. In addition, the continuation and establishment of agriculture and agriculturally-related uses will be encouraged, and landowners will be encouraged to employ Virginia State Water Control Board best management practices.”
 - c. County Code Chapter 18 Appendix A.1 ACE Program
Purpose of ACE Program:
 - 1. Establishing a program by which the county can acquire conservation easements voluntarily offered by owners to serve as one means of assuring that the county’s resources are protected and efficiently used;
 - 2. Establishing and preserving open-space and preserving the rural character of Albemarle County;
 - 3. Preserving farm and forest lands;

4. Conserving and protecting water resources and environmentally sensitive lands, waters and other natural resources;
5. Conserving and protecting biodiversity and wildlife and aquatic habitat;
6. Assisting in shaping the character and direction of the development of the community;
7. Improving the quality of life for the inhabitants of the county; and
8. Promoting tourism through the preservation of scenic resources.

Q107. Conservation easements for food production:

- a. Comprehensive Plan: Rural Area Plan: p. 4: “Another tool is the County's voluntary Acquisition of Conservation Easements (ACE) program, under which the County purchases conservation easements (which limit uses and development) on qualifying properties. One of the goals of the ACE program is to ensure that owners can afford to keep their land, while benefiting the community through long-term protection of agricultural, forestal, and open space lands.” The Comprehensive Plan supports conservation easements for agricultural lands, but these are not all for food production, some are hay.
- b. Albemarle County Strategic Plan FY 07-10: p. 9: “**Strategic Objective: 2.1** By June 30, 2010, increase the total combined acreage in permanent conservation easements and qualifying public parkland by 30,000 additional acres (50%) using public and private means.” The Strategic Plan encourages an increase in conservation easements.
- c. FY09 Strategic Plan tie to Budget: “The following entities are County partners in this endeavor. They work with landowners to assist with and/or hold voluntary conservation easements on their properties:
 - Virginia Outdoors Foundation (VOF)
 - The Nature Conservancy (TNC)
 - Piedmont Environmental Council (PEC)
 - Thomas Jefferson Soil and Water Conservation District (TJSWCD)
 - Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR)
 - Virginia Department of Historic Resources (DHR)
 - United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Conservation Reserve Program
 - County of Albemarle Acquisition of Conservation Easements (ACE) Program
 - County of Albemarle Public Recreational Facilities Authority (PRFA)
 - Chesapeake Bay Foundation (CBF)”
- d. Albemarle County Codes Appendix A1 ACE Program
Sec. A.1-103. Definitions and construction.

A. The following definitions shall apply in the interpretation and implementation of the ACE program:

(1) *Conservation easement*. The term “conservation easement” means a

nonpossessory interest in one or more parcels of one or more qualified easement holders under section A.1-109(E) acquired under the Open-Space Land Act (Virginia Code § 10.1-1700 *et seq.*), whether the easement is appurtenant or in gross, voluntarily offered by an owner and acquired by purchase pursuant to the ACE program, imposing limitations or affirmative obligations for the purpose of retaining or protecting natural or open-space values of the parcel or parcels, assuring availability for agricultural, forestal, recreational or open-space use, protecting natural resources, maintaining or enhancing air or water.

- e. Designated sales tax: A portion of the Food and Beverage sales tax revenue for Albemarle County (which is 4%) goes toward conservation easement purchases of a bundle of development rights. This money is given to ACE to handle those purchases.

Q108. Allow public space or land for food production:

- a. Not mentioned.

Q109. Creative leasing or finance models to reduce farmer start-up debt:

- a. Farmer to Farmer Program: This program is in place in the county, which helps new farmers buy out retiring farmer's land portion by portion at affordable prices. The new farmers then have a mentor and will help keep the land producing food when the other farmer retires.

Q110. Map of prime agricultural lands:

- a. Comprehensive Plan: Rural Area Plan:
<http://www.albemarle.org/departments.asp?department=planning&relpage=3004> Map E = existing conservation easements; Map F = important farmland by soils (prime, locally important, and unique classifications); Map G = important forestal soils; and Map H = land use taxation

Q111. Map of prime agricultural lands to conserve for food production, agri-tourism, heritage tourism, or other purposes supporting local food production:

- a. Comprehensive Plan: See Q110, but no more explicit map found that shows lands to save for food production, agri-tourism, heritage tourism, etc.

Q112. Limit development potential through PDR, TDR or other programs:

- a. Comprehensive Plan: Natural Resources and Cultural Assets: Agricultural and Forestal Resources: p. 99: "The Agricultural and Forestal Districts program whereby a landowner can voluntarily enroll in an agricultural/forestal district to provide the landowner with certain tax benefits and restrictions on state agencies such as the Virginia Department of Highways, public utilities, and government action to protect the agricultural and forestal use of the land. In exchange, the landowner agrees to limit development of the property during the specified number of years (4-10 years) the district is in effect. Albemarle County fully supports the purpose and intent of Agricultural/Forestal Districts, and respects the commitment which landowners make when they decide to enroll property in a district. In turn, Albemarle County agrees,

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- when possible, to protect those lands from intrusive land uses which threaten the continued agricultural or forestry use of those lands “for the production of food and other agricultural and forestal products,” and “as valued natural and ecological resources which provide essential open space for clean air sheds, watershed protection, wildlife habitat, as well as for aesthetic purposes.” (§15.2-4301 Virginia Code)” The Comprehensive Plan mentions agricultural and forestal districts programs as a way to limit development potential.
- b. Comprehensive Plan: Natural Resources and Cultural Assets: Agricultural and Forestal Resources: p. 100: “A PDR program is currently being developed by a committee appointed by the Board of Supervisors in 1997. Because a PDR program is limited by the availability of funds, it can provide only a limited, although effective, part of an overall resource protection program. The County’s PDR program is called ACE (Acquisition of Conservation Easements.)” The Comprehensive Plan mentions a Purchase of Development Rights Program that was in development in 1997 in order to limit development potential.
 - c. Comprehensive Plan: Rural Area Plan: p. 37: “TDR programs are not expressly enabled by the state legislature and, under the Dillon Rule, the power to establish them cannot be necessarily implied. Therefore, the state must pass enabling legislation for the County to be able to use this valuable planning tool. The legislature, so far, is unwilling to support TDR programs. The County should use every means available to advocate TDRs as a significant growth management tool that would support the goals and policies of the Comprehensive Plan.” Thus, the Transfer of Developable Rights is not utilized as a tool in Albemarle County according to the Comprehensive Plan.

- Q113. Green infrastructure plan that incorporates consideration for food production:
- a. Not mentioned.

[illegible]

25	Does the code allow for temporary and conditional use of abandoned lots for neighborhood gardens and/or urban farms?	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	
26	Does the municipality sponsor or work with an area community land trust in setting aside land for community? or nonprofit gardens? or gardens where low-income residents can grow produce for sale?	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	
27	Does the zoning code have language that supports residential "farm" animals; chickens, goats, roosters? (look for re-defining domestic animals)	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	
28	Are there funding streams available for food related projects, such as Community Development Building Grants?	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	
29	Are there regulations allowing flexibility for food producers to engage in minimal on-site processing?	yes	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	
d. Promote multi-modal transportation options to food sources										
30	Does the locality offer multi-modal transportation in the community?	yes	yes	no	no	no	no	no	no	
31	Does the locality have a policy or programs to provide multimodal transportation options in the community to enable transportation of low-income populations to grocery stores? Does it reference or include transportation for migrant farm workers from camps?	no*	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	The Comprehensive Plan mentions multimodal options, but does not specifically mention grocery stores or migrant workers. In fact, farmers are typically responsible for providing housing and transportation to these migrant workers.
32	Does the locality have a program that, alternatively, transports local produce to low-income neighborhoods and migrant farm worker camps? (e.g., trucks, food carts, etc.)	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	
33	Do safe biking and walking paths exist between neighborhoods and food stores and markets?	no*	no	no	no*	no	no	no	no	The Comprehensive Plan describes walking and biking paths between neighborhoods and commercial areas, but not specifically food stores or markets.
34	Does the locality have a bus service that connects neighborhoods directly with food stores and markets? Requiring no more than one bus change?	no*	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	The Comprehensive Plan mentions bus services, but it is not clear whether any link specific neighborhoods with markets or food stores.
35	Does the locality have a low-cost taxi or ride-sharing service that connects neighborhoods directly with food stores and markets?	yes	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	
36	Are these transportation services available at multiple times of day and evening?	yes*	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	The Comprehensive Plan mentions a goal of expanding the hours of service, but does not explicitly tell the times of its service.
37	Does the locality have a bike path or sidewalk plan?	yes	yes	no	no	no	no	no	yes	
e. Reduce community exposure to pesticides and chemicals in foods										
38	Does the locality have a policy or program to reduce pesticide use, with appropriate enforcement?	yes	no	yes*	no	yes	no	N/A	no	The Board of Supervisors approved a Safer Chemicals Management Procedure which which "promotes the use of non-chemical methods and safer product alternatives" in County operations rather than using traditional synthetics, but this is only applicable for County operations
39	Does the locality have or support a policy or program to ensure appropriate protection of all farm workers from exposure to pesticides? (e.g., training in farm worker language about dangers of pesticides, appropriate application and protection measures, provision of equipment, etc.)	no	N/A	no	no	no	no	N/A	no	
40	Does a program or regulation exist that ensures proper communication of sanitation and hygiene practices for farm workers to ensure food safety?	no	N/A	no	no	no	no	N/A	no	
41	Does a policy or program exist to encourage transition to low-spray, sustainable, or organic agricultural methods, to reduce human and environmental exposure to potentially harmful chemicals?	no*	no	no	no	no	no	N/A	no	The Comprehensive Plan mentions organic agricultural methods as a potential niche for small to medium sized farms, but it does not suggest policies or programs.
42	Does a policy or program exist to encourage transition to sustainable or organic agricultural methods, to provide increased carbon sequestration?	no*	no	no	no	no	no	N/A	no	The Comprehensive Plan sites a study on the benefits of growing organic and to incorporate the ideas of the Thomas Jefferson Sustainability Council, but does not mention a specific policy or program or the goal of carbon sequestration.
43	Is there a policy or program that offers incentives to farmers to switch to more sustainable growing methods?	no*	no	no	no	no	no	N/A	no	The Comprehensive Plan sites a study on the benefits of growing organic and to incorporate the ideas of the Thomas Jefferson Sustainability Council, but does not mention a specific policy or program.
2. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT										
a. Support local food production										
44	Does the locality offer working farmland tax incentives, such as agriculture/forestry districts?	yes	no	yes	no	no	no	N/A	no	
45	Is there a local government policy or preference for local agencies to purchase low-spray, sustainably grown, or organic food?	no	no	no	no	no	no	N/A	no	
46	Does the locality have economic development goals to support regional food production?	yes	no	no	no	no	no	N/A	yes	
47	Is there a local government policy recommendation for purchase of local food when available?	yes	N/A	no	no	no	no	N/A	no	
48	Is there a support system to supply existing farmers with steady and seasonal farm labor?	no	no	yes	no	no	no	N/A	no	Workforce Center specifically helps farm labor find work in the area.
49	Are there local government or other programs to inspire and train new farmers, including assistance to immigrants who may come from farming families?	no*	N/A	no	no	no	no	N/A	yes	There are local programs to train new farmers, but it does not specifically mention immigrants. Also VDACS has many programs. So does PEC and PVCC.

50	Are there economic development programs or incentives or other tools for retailers to favor purchasing local food?	no*	yes	yes	no	no	no	N/A	yes	The Comprehensive Plan encourages building up the local agricultural industry, but it does not mention any programs to do so. This is currently unfunded.
b. Support development of local processing infrastructure										
51	Are the financial or other programs to support or incubate food-related businesses?	no*	no	no	no	no	no	N/A	no	The Comprehensive Plan suggests increasing support to local food networks and programs, which would suggest food related business. What is meant support, however, is not defined. Wendy Robberman, with C'ville Foodscapes, has found Albemarle County's programs to support or incubate food related business to provide advisory support, but providing labor would be crucial as well as explanations of what types of liability insurance are needed for food related business.
52	Is there a USDA-inspected community cannery, kitchen, or other processing facility open to local farmers, food entrepreneurs, and the public?	no	no	no	no	no	no	N/A	no	
c. Support development of local distribution infrastructure										
53	Does the locality have a policy to allow local farmers' markets or tailgate markets?	yes	yes	no	yes	no	no	N/A	no	
54	Does the locality provide institutional support for local farmers' markets or tailgate markets?	no	yes	no	no	no	no	N/A	no	Zoning laws amended to expand where farmers can sell their produce.
55	Is there economic development support for businesses that provide regional distribution of regional food, such as a Food Hub?	no	no	no	no	no	no	N/A	yes	Local Food Hub
d. Support development of new businesses using locally sourced products & heritage foods										
56	Does the locality provide tax incentives, leasing agreements, or other incentives to support development of businesses using locally produced food?	no	no	yes	no	no	no	N/A	no	Lower tax rates for industrial use of land.
57	Does the locality have a policy or program to support the identification and development of local heritage seeds, crops, foods, and heritage food products?	no	N/A	no	no	no	no	N/A	yes	Backyard Revolution
58	Does the locality have a policy or program to support stores that offer fresh local produce, meats, dairy and eggs to low-income populations, including farm workers?	no	no	no	no	no	no	N/A	no	
e. Support increased Security of Food Supply										
59	Does the locality have an emergency preparedness plan that includes contingency plans for short-term interruption of food deliveries?	no	N/A	no	no	no	no	no	no	
3. ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS										
a. Reduce community carbon footprint and reduce nonpoint source stream pollution										
60	Does the locality have a policy or goal to reduce its community environmental "foodprint"?	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	
b. Reduce nonpoint source stream pollution from agriculture										
61	Does the locality have a policy or goal to reduce nonpoint source pollution from agricultural operations?	yes	no	no	yes	no	no	N/A	no	
62	Does the locality provide support for the establishment of riparian buffers along farmland streambanks, to reduce nonpoint source pollution?	yes	no	yes	yes	no	no	N/A	no	
63	Does the locality have a policy or goal to fence out all livestock from streamways?	no	no	no	no	no	no	N/A	no	
64	Does the locality have a policy or goal or participate in a program to manage excess animal manure?	no	no	no	no	no	no	N/A	no	
c. Reduce Food Waste										
65	Is there a policy or program to encourage foraging from unused home fruit and other gardens?	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	
66	Does the locality have a map for local food foraging?	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	yes	Piedmont Environmental Council
67	Is there a policy, program or opportunity for gleaning from local farms and restaurants?	no	N/A	no	no	no	no	no	yes	JABA
68	Does the locality offer demonstration programs to encourage composting?	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	
69	Does the locality offer a central site for composting home food and yard materials?	no	no	no	no*	no	no	no	no	The County does not have a central composting location, but it does have a recycling program.
**	Does the locality have a recycling program?	no	no	no	yes	no	no	no	no	
d. Reduce Pesticides and Herbicides in Groundwater and Surface Waters										
See 1.E.										
4. SOCIAL EQUITY										
a. Increase transportation system access to markets that sell fresh and healthful foods by underserved communities										
70	Does the locality have a policy to provide access to quality food for all citizens, especially those with greater need?	no	no	no	no	no	yes	no	no	
71	Does the locality have a bus service, low-cost taxi or ride-sharing service that connects low-income neighborhoods directly with food stores and markets (requiring no more than one bus change) - for rural as well as urban areas?	no*	no	no*	no	no	no	N/A	no	See Q35.
72	Are these transportation services available at multiple times of day and evening, in rural as well as urban areas?	no*	no	no	no	no	no	N/A	no	See Q36

73	Has the locality done any infrastructure, transportation or other studies to identify issues of low-income neighborhoods gaining access to quality food, in rural as well as urban areas?	no	N/A	no	no	no	no	N/A	no	
74	Do safe biking and walking paths exist between low-income neighborhoods and food stores and markets, in rural as well as urban areas?	no*	no	no	no	no	no	N/A	no	See Q38
75	Are farmer's markets geographically accessible by low income neighborhoods, in rural as well as urban areas?	no	yes*	no	no	no	no	N/A	no	What does "geographically accessible" mean? Cville Market next to Friendship Court, Meade Park market near low-income housing. Also there are eight markets in the city/county, which is higher than most places.
b. Support location of grocers providing healthy local, foods in diverse and underserved locations										
76	Does the locality have an expedited development and/or permitting process for groceries that will provide healthy, local foods in underserved locations - in rural as well as urban areas?	no	no	no	no	no	no	N/A	no	
77	Does the locality recognize through policy or programs the need for low income, immigrant populations, and migrant farm workers, to have access to grocers that provide local, fresh foods - in rural as well as urban areas?	no	no	no	no	no	no	N/A	no	
78	Are tax credits available to developers for opening a grocery store in certain areas?	no	no	no	no	no	no	N/A	no	
79	Are there any regulatory incentives, such as relaxed zoning requirements, that can facilitate new stores in underserved areas?	no*	no	no	no	no	no	N/A	no	The Comprehensive Plan does not mention incentives such as relaxed zoning to facilitate new stores in underserved areas, but it does suggest relaxing zoning laws around old "crossroads communities" which may have had country stores that could then serve the rural population.
80	Does the locality offer any predevelopment assistance to developers to expedite the review process?	no	no	no	no	no	no	N/A	no	
c. Increase availability of fresh and healthful foods for underserved communities										
81	Does the locality support the purchase/ use of Electronic Benefits Transfer (EBT) cards to provide low-income access to farmer's markets?	no	N/A	no	no	no	no	N/A	yes	JABA is helping to coordinate EBT cards in Charlottesville's City Market first, and then hopefully to all the other markets in the surrounding area
82	Does the locality support the policy of \$2 or \$3 for every EBT dollar, when the EBT is used at grocery stores or market venues for fresh, local food?	no	N/A	no	no	no	no	N/A	no	
83	Do farmer's markets and/or grocery stores accommodate WIC coupons, Senior Nutrition coupons, or EBT machines?	no	N/A	no	no	no	no	N/A	no	
84	Do farmer's markets enable \$2 or \$3 healthy food credit for every EBT dollar?	no	N/A	no	no	no	no	N/A	yes	JABA gives double voucher coupons for purchases at the Charlottesville Farmer's Market.
85	Are markets and stores accessible at multiple times and days to accommodate varying work schedules?	no	N/A	no	no	no	no	N/A	yes	There are farmer's markets in Albemarle County in several locations and at several different times. *combine with Cville?
86	Does the locality support, or are there programs for mobile farms stands and mobile food carts?	no	N/A	no	yes	no	no	N/A	no	Recent Ordinance on wayside stands making it more accessible
87	Do local faith, nonprofit organizations, and educational institutions (public and private) have policies to buy local food for events when available?	no	N/A	no	no	no	no	no	yes	JABA
d. Support an effective emergency food infrastructure										
88	Does the locality have a policy that its citizens have a "right to food security"? (cf. Belo Horizonte, Brazil)	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	
89	Does the locality support the provision of a central directory of all emergency food providers?	no	N/A	no	no	no	no	N/A	no	
90	Does the locality have a system for directing / referring people in need of food to the places that can help?	no	N/A	no	no	no	no	N/A	no	

91	Does the locality support coordination and cooperation among emergency food providers?	no	N/A	no	no	no	no	N/A	no	
92	Does the locality support a method, structure or storage facility for donations of fresh foods to emergency food providers?	no	N/A	no	no	no	no	no	no	
e. Support equitable working conditions for farm labor										
93	Does the locality support a living wage policy for all those who work, including migrant farm labor?	no	N/A	no	no	no	no	N/A	no	
94	Does the locality support access to fresh, healthful food by the farm laborers who are helping to produce the food?	no	no	no	no	no	no	N/A	no	
95	Does the locality provide or ensure that training for farm workers is provided in a comfortable training environment, and that the training is adequate and in their native language, and that someone is available to answer farm worker questions in their own language?	no	N/A	no	no	no	no	N/A	no	
96	Does the locality provide or ensure that adequate protection against pesticides is provided to farm workers?	no	N/A	no	no	no	no	N/A	no	
97	Does the locality have a program or support a program to encourage and enable transitional farm labor to become engaged in, or participate in, or become integrated into community events - such as through volunteering for county fairs, agricultural events?	no	N/A	no	no	no	no	N/A	no	
98	Does the locality have a clear contact for migrant farm workers to contact, to participate in any aspect of the community?	no	N/A	no	no	no	no	N/A	no	
99	Does the locality have a map of where farm worker camps are, to facilitate understanding and planning for their needs?	no	no	no	yes	no	no	N/A	no	
100	Are housing options available for migrant workers?	yes	yes	no	no	no	no	N/A	no	The housing is generally provided by farmers, but must comply with the Zoning Ordinance- Joan McDowell
f. Promote community involvement and ownership in local food system										
101	Are community members involved in the organization of markets or other food opportunities?	no	N/A	no	no	no	no	N/A	yes	individual donations
102	Are culturally appropriate, fresh food options available for immigrant and ethnic populations in stores?	no	N/A	no	no	no	no	N/A	no	
103	Is there support for diverse, local, traditional - and fresh - food practices?	no	N/A	no	no	no	no	N/A	no	
104	Does the locality support or have a program to incorporate the participation of local migrant workers into local food farmers' markets and farm stands, to integrate and protect workers while they're in the community, as isolation is a major factor in migrant worker life?	no	no	no	no	no	no	N/A	no	
105	Does the locality support or have a program to support community gardens and other agricultural opportunities for low income, immigrant and farm labor populations?	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	
5. LAND CONSERVATION / ACCESS TO LAND FOR FOOD PRODUCTION										
106	Does the locality have a policy to support land conservation for food production?	yes	yes	yes	no	no	no	N/A	no	
107	Does the locality encourage or support land conservation easements for food production?	yes	no	yes	no	no	no	yes	no	PEC can hold or receive easements on behalf of the state.
108	Does the locality clearly allow the use of public space or land for nonprofit community food gardens?	no	no	no	no	no	no	N/A	no	
109	Are there creative leasing or financing models to reduce start-up farming debt?	no	no	no	yes	no	no	N/A	no	Farmer to Farmer Program.
110	Does the locality have a map of its prime agricultural lands for conservation?	yes	no	no	yes	no	no	N/A	no	
111	Does the locality have a map of prime agricultural lands that it wishes to conserve for food production, agri-tourism, heritage tourism, or other purposes supporting local food production?	yes*	no	no	yes	no	no	N/A	no	There are maps at http://www.albemarle.org/departments.asp?department=planning&relpage=3004 , but they do not specifically mention what the lands are for.
112	Does the locality limit development potential in prime agricultural land through purchase of development rights, transfer of development rights, establishment of agricultural districts, or through other means?	yes*	no	yes	no	no	no	N/A	no	The Comprehensive Plan encourages the protection of agricultural land through agricultural districts and purchase of development rights, but not transfer of development rights.
113	Does the locality have a green infrastructure plan that incorporates consideration for food production into the plan?	no	no	no	no	no	no	N/A	no	
**	Does the locality encourage or support infill urban development to prevent sprawl from encroaching on agricultural land?	yes	no	yes	no	no	no	N/A	no	

Urban Chickens Farmland Trust	http://urbanchickens.org/Chicken-ordinances-and-laws	
	http://www.farmland.org/	
USDA	http://www.ers.usda.gov/Browse/view.aspx?subject=FarmEconomy	
	http://www.b.sustainable.org/	Based in Seattle; extensive list of indicators of sustainable living; addresses food and health concerns
Interesting Sites:	http://www.wallacecenter.org/our-work/current-initiatives	Wallace Center "supports entrepreneurs and communities as they build a new, 21st century food system that is healthier for people, the environment, and the economy."
	http://www.valeruddcenter.org/	
	http://www.phlpnet.org/	Public Health Law and Policy; several references to this site in the audit
	http://des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/water/wmb/repp/innovative_land_use.htm	New Hampshire; Innovative Land Use Planning Techniques Handbook
	http://nplanonline.org/	National Policy and Legal Analysis Network to Prevent Childhood Obesity
	http://nplanonline.org/products/healthy-mobile-vending-policies-win-win-vendors-and-childhood-obesity-prevention-advocates	National Policy and Legal Analysis Network to Prevent Childhood Obesity
	http://nplanonline.org/products/creating-healthy-food-zone-around-schools	National Policy and Legal Analysis Network to Prevent Childhood Obesity
	http://www.urbanfoodpolicy.com/	ⓂMunicipal Food Planning A-Z; New York