

Louisa County Food Policy Audit Final Report



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Overview and Project Goals

The goal of the food policy audit for Louisa county is to read over official documents of Louisa county and contact representatives in the locality to determine the extent of the security and sustainability of the local food system. The purpose of the audit is as a first step in creating a sustainable system that meets the goals of the Louisa residents. The audit will determine what steps have already been taken to ensure local food security and sustainability and will allow us to work with Louisa community members to create recommendations for future improvements.

The five areas we will be examining will be public health, economic development, environmental benefits, social equity and land conservation in the context of the local food system. The public health section of the audit looks at issues such as decreasing obesity, raising awareness of healthy living, promoting healthy eating, supporting community gardens, and reducing exposure to pesticides in food. Economic development focuses on supporting local food production, processing, and distribution and the creation of new local food businesses. Environmental benefits looks at how the community is working to reduce its carbon footprint, food waste, and stream pollution. We will look at issues of social equity such as improving transportation to grocery stores, supporting grocery stores and farmers markets in underserved areas, increasing availability of healthy foods to the community, supporting equitable farm working conditions and creating an emergency food infrastructure. Land conservation looks at preserving potential agricultural land, reducing start-up farm debt and limiting development in agriculture land.

Louisa County is a predominantly rural county, and is proud of its history, agricultural resources and scenic landscapes. Only about 10% of the county is considered urban, while 71% is in forestal lands, 16% in crop, pasture and open land and 3% in water bodies. Some of the main goals in their Comprehensive Plan include maintaining their rural heritage, promoting environmental stewardship and promoting agriculture and forestry.

According to a 2009 Census estimate, Louisa's population makes up roughly 4% of the entire Virginia population at 33,078. The population as of 2008 was 18.8% African American, compared to 19.9% for Virginia, 51% female, which is generally the same for Virginia, and only 1.4% Hispanic, compared to 6.8% for Virginia as a whole¹. The majority (71.7%) of the adult population (those >25) has a high school degree, compared to 81.5% of Virginia residents, and 14% have a bachelor's degree, compared to 29.5% of all Virginia residents.

The median household income for Louisa County is \$54,777 compared to the Virginia median of \$61,210. Louisa, however, stands out in the sector of home ownership, with 81.5% of its residents owning a home, compared to 68.1% of Virginians.² Of Louisa County industries providing employment, 15.6% are in educational, health and social service, 14% are within manufacturing, 13.4% in construction, and 11.5% of Louisa industries involve retail trade. Government employees constitute 17% of the workforce, 74% are salaried or provided a private wage, and 9% are self-employed or not incorporated.² As of October 2009, unemployment rose slightly above the state average in Louisa at 7.8% (Virginia, 6.4%). Louisa describes itself as

¹ U.S. Census Bureau, "State and County QuickFacts: Louisa County, VA," n.d., <<http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/states/51/51109.html>> (accessed March 10, 2010).

² City-Data, "Louisa County, Virginia (VA)," n.d., <http://www.city-data.com/county/Louisa_County-VA.html> (accessed April 15, 2010).

becoming a “bedroom community,” with only 36.4% of its residents both living and working in the county. Many residents commute to urban areas such as Richmond and Charlottesville. For males, the most common industry is construction (23%) and health care for females (13%). Only 4% of males are involved in agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting industries.

Agriculture in Louisa County is focused in livestock, poultry, and their products, which constitute 76.45% of the total market value of agricultural products sold. 8.09% of this value is found in nursery, greenhouse, floriculture, and sod. There are 1395 harvested acres of corn for grain, 758 harvested acres of wheat for grain, and 1468 harvested acres of soybeans for beans. Vegetables constitute only 13 harvested acres in Louisa.²

Agriculture and forestry are major industries in the county, both with regards to the economy and the character of the community. In the Comprehensive Plan, Louisa County is concerned with limiting urban and suburban growth to certain areas (namely the towns of Mineral and Louisa) in order to protect valuable agriculture land and the county waterways. Because issues like environmental stewardship are so valuable to Louisa, it is likely that sustainable food policy practices will eventually become a part of the Comprehensive Plan. Good food policy has the potential to protect the environment, support the local economy and foster a sense of community, all of which are important goals outlined in the Comprehensive Plan.

Some of the important places around Louisa County include Lake Anna, the Twin Oaks Community and the Green Springs National Historic Landmark District. Lake Anna is a major tourist destination and provides a large number of jobs to residents. Boating and fishing are the

² City-Data, "Louisa County, Virginia (VA)," n.d., < http://www.city-data.com/county/Louisa_County-VA.html > (accessed April 15, 2010).

two major attractions to the park, but it also features 15 miles of hiking trails for hiking, biking, and horseback riding and camping facilities. The lake is known for its populations of largemouth bass, crappie, and bream. Managed deer hunt, a method to control deer populations, is allowed that allows individuals to participate through a lottery. Mirroring Louisa County's emphasis on education, Lake Anna features an Environmental Education Center.³

The Twin Oaks Community, an egalitarian community founded more than 40 years ago, includes ecological sustainability as one of their goals. Community members grow most of their food organically and sell tofu to nearby natural food stores. Because they build their own building, Twin Oaks is able to incorporate multiple facets of alternative energy, including solar features, extensive insulation, solar hot water, and permaculture landscaping.⁴

Lastly, Green Springs is a privately owned historic area recognized by the National Park Service and the source of much pride to Louisa County. It spans over 14,000 acres in Louisa County and is made up of homes and farms preserved in their authentic conditions, many dating back to the nineteenth century and earlier.⁵

Methodology

Initial Document Review

To create our initial audit of food policy in Louisa County, we looked through documents available online looking for language related to food policy. We read through the Louisa County

³ Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation, "Virginia Parks: Lake Anna," 2006, < http://www.dcr.virginia.gov/state_parks/lak.shtml> (accessed May 4, 2010).

⁴ Twin Oaks, "Twin Oaks Intentional Community," n.d., < <http://www.twinoaks.org/index.html>> (accessed May 4, 2010).

⁵ National Park Service, "Green Springs," n.d., < <http://www.nps.gov/grsp/index.htm>> (accessed May 4, 2010).

comprehensive plan, the zoning ordinances, documents on the Louisa Extension office homepage, relevant information on the county school homepage and on the websites of related organizations such as community outreach programs such as JABA.

Compiling Document Findings, Creating the Draft Audit

After reading through the relevant documents, our class decided as a group how to compile and present the information. We decided on a simple excel spreadsheet indicating which food policy language was present and a separate word document of supplemental notes describing our findings. The supplemental notes describe the food policy in place in Louisa and any ambiguous findings and include specific textual references.

List of Resources:

- County of Louisa Comprehensive Plan (2001, 2006) - downloaded
- Comprehensive Plan updates and public comments, 2005
(http://www.louisacounty.com/LCcommdev/PP_CompPlan.htm#)
- Code of Ordinances for Louisa County (http://library1.municode.com/default-test/home.htm?infobase=12480&doc_action=whatsnew)
- Zoning definitions
(http://www.louisacounty.com/LCcommdev/PP_ZoningUses.htm)
- GIS Map (<http://gis.timmons.com/louisaims/gis.aspx>)
- Louisa County Parks and Recreation (<http://www.lcpr.info/>)
- Clean Community Commission (<http://louweb.louisa.org/CCC/>)
- Community Cupboard, emergency food pantry
(<http://www.louisacounty.com/LCliving/cupboard.htm>)
- Louisa County Public Schools
(<http://www.lcps.k12.va.us/education/district/district.php?sectionid=1>)
- School Comprehensive Plan – downloaded
- Breakfast menu, Wellness Newsletter – downloaded
- Wellness grant
(<http://louisacounty.va.schoolwebpages.com/education/components/whatsnew/default.php?sectiondetailid=18638&itemID=1628>)
- Twin Oaks – Independent Group (<http://www.twinoaks.org/>)
- Local foods search (<http://www.buylocalvirginia.org/search/search-result.cfm?type=any&County=459&keyword=>)

- Virginia/Louisa County Census Bureau Quickfacts (<http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/states/51/51109.html>)
- Louisa County City-Data (http://www.city-data.com/county/Louisa_County-VA.html)
- National Park Service: Green Springs (<http://www.nps.gov/grsp/historyculture/stories.htm>)
- Virginia Dept. of Conservation and Recreation: Lake Anna (http://www.dcr.virginia.gov/state_parks/lak.shtml)

Contacting Community Partners

During our document review, we compiled a list of possible community contacts, including members of the local government, school employees and directors of community outreach organizations. In addition, our graduate assistant, Jessica Ray, provided us with another list of similar community contact options. We divided the list evenly, and each group member called or emailed several contacts to make interview appointments.

Community Partner Interviews

Most interviews were conducted in Louisa County with two group members present. Questions asked depended on the line of work of the interviewee, though some questions regarding the audit and food policy in Louisa remained the same. We created an interview template with key questions, so each interview followed the same general format. Some of the questions from the template drew on important interview questions we had decided on as a class. At the end of each meeting, the interviewee was invited to the final class presentation and was given an invitation.

Seven interviews were conducted in total. All interviewees were asked the following question, with some variation based on their occupation:

- What do you do as [job position]?
- What comments or questions do you have about our food policy audit?
- How would you say food policy (or lack of) affects you in your line of work?

- Do you think fresh, nutritious food is generally available and accessible to most Louisa residents?
- What policy options do you think are most important in improving access and availability?

All interviewees were asked to name their own priorities from which they believed Louisa County would benefit most. The table of interviews conducted for the audit can be found below.

Name	Title, Organization (government/non-government)	Date
Donna Isom	Director, Community Cupboard (non-government)	3/31/10
Ginger Dillard	Nutrition Services, Betty Queen Center (non-government)	3/31/10
Becky Vigon	Manager, Mineral Farmer's Market (non-government)	4/1/10
Randy Herman	Nutrition Director, Louisa County Schools (government)	4/2/10
Tracy Nezda	Extension Agent, Extension Office (government)	4/2/10
Jeremy Camp	Director, Community Development (government)	4/2/10
David Holtzman	Senior Planner, Community Development (government)	4/2/10

Compiling Interview Findings, Follow-up

Following each interview, the notes from each interviewer were compiled and discussed. Key findings were recorded in a document with all interview notes. Information from the interviews was used to update the Louisa food policy audit and supplemental notes by drawing on suggestions of community members on items we had missed or misinterpreted.

At the end of each meeting, the interviewee was asked if he or she had any questions or would like to learn more about any policies. A follow-up email was sent within a week of the meeting thanking the interviewee and providing any additional information they requested.

Final Write-up and Synthesis of Information

Following the final interview, all the information gathered during the document review and community partner meetings was analyzed. Information on current food policy in Louisa was compared with general trends towards new policies discussed in community meetings. Other findings included an analysis of what community members believed were the most important new policies for Louisa to adopt and the positives and negatives of the current system.

Successes and Challenges During the Process

Completion of the Louisa County food policy audit has been both rewarding and frustrating. One thing we learned during this process is that, especially for a less populated rural county like Louisa, there is only so much you can learn from documents available online. The comprehensive plan was a great resource to learn about the general values of the county, but it gives little information on the up-and-coming policies and ideas emerging in the community. We found the community meetings to be vastly more helpful in understanding food policy in Louisa and what the community thinks of such policies and programs.

One difficulty we faced was having enough time to complete the meetings and interviews. We believe we spent far too much time researching documents, which forced us into a time-crunch for the community engagement portion of the project. Through this experience and others, members of our group have learned that community engagement always takes much longer than you expect and that delays and setbacks must be anticipated. It was particularly difficult for our group to schedule meetings since each trip was at least 2.5-3 hours including driving.

Regarding the meetings themselves, community members were almost all extremely enthusiastic to speak to us and interested in our work. We did not receive any negative or hostile treatment during our interviews.

Audit Findings

A large portion of our audit findings and our general knowledge of Louisa County's food system came out of our interviews with community stakeholders. While our document research uncovered only a few "YES" responses to audit questions, our conversations with people working in Louisa revealed that there is a much stronger effort toward public health and an equitable food system than is reflected in the county's documents.

Public Health

Louisa's Comprehensive Plan does not specify a goal for improving public health, but as a region within the Thomas Jefferson Health District, it does fall under the health provisions for the district. The only public health issue we could find was that of food safety at "establishments such as restaurants, school cafeterias, hospital cafeterias, and temporary event vendors." The TJHD's Environmental Health Program inspects food establishments and works to educate about food borne illnesses.

Louisa's public school system has done much to ensure that children eat healthy food while in school. None of the schools sell junk food in their vending machines, but follow the Virginia Action for Healthy Kids guidelines for filling them: no sodas, no snacks over 300 calories, and all whole-grain cookies and snacks. Most bread items on the breakfast and lunch menus also contain whole grains (at least 51%). This is a higher percentage than is required by

the USDA because Louisa believes strongly in the importance of whole grains in a healthy diet. While most of the breads served are no longer cooked in the school kitchens, schools do still cook dinner rolls on site. Raw meat can no longer be cooked on site due to safety regulations.

Public schools have to follow USDA guidelines for menu-planning (reduced fat is emphasized) and Virginia Department of Education guidelines on when meals can be served. The Nutrition Director felt that these guidelines were beneficial, but worried that increased restrictions (e.g., reduced salt) resulting from the First Lady's emphasis on school nutrition might make food tasteless. Last November, Louisa schools participated in the Farm-to-School week by purchasing and serving apples from local growers. The Nutrition Director would like to continue participating in this week and to increase the amount of local foods served, but the challenge is finding appropriate foods that are available when school is in session, which only briefly overlaps with Virginia's growing season. Items on the agenda for Louisa's Nutrition Director include getting nutrition education in classrooms, revamping Louisa's school wellness policy, creating a school garden at the new Moss Nuckols Elementary, creating higher education opportunities for school employees and putting nutrition facts on school menus.

Louisa's Extension Office compliments the efforts taking place in the schools, as well as other areas of public health, through educational programs. The Family Wellness Services provide educational programs on finances, diets, kids' eating habits, parenting and childcare. In one interview, a stakeholder brought up a concern about cooking knowledge, saying that even if people have access to fresh and healthy food, "if people don't know how to prepare something, they won't eat it." This is one area that the Extension Office tries to address through its education programs. Its mission to reduce obesity includes efforts such as 4-H education about healthy snacking, Nutrition Core (educates about nutrition, health, wellness, physical activity,

food safety, and home food preservation), Healthy Weights for Healthy Kids (a research-based program to educate youth about smart nutritional choices) and diabetes testing. Still, several stakeholders mentioned a desire to see more education efforts in the county--about food preparation, buying local, sustainable growing practices, how to eat healthily on the SNAP program and general nutrition for students and their parents.

Transportation was one area where stakeholders felt improvements would make a huge impact on residents' access to fresh, healthy food. While JAUNT buses will take people anywhere in the county (e.g., grocery stores) Monday through Friday, as one stakeholder said, "they can only do so much." JAUNT does not run on weekends and so cannot take people to farmer's markets on Saturdays. With more funding, said one stakeholder, JAUNT could start weekend rides. This is important for people who don't have vehicles or can't afford gas in a rural community like Louisa, and especially for particular populations like seniors and people with disabilities. Louisa's Comprehensive Plan also suggests improvements on biking and pedestrian paths, especially "around schools and shopping centers." However, for many residents in Louisa, walking to a grocery store would not be feasible with the locations of stores as they are now or with difficulty walking, and even biking would prove difficult with large bags of groceries. Some sort of public transportation would be helpful for Louisa residents.

Reducing community exposure to pesticides and chemicals was another area of the audit where we found some documentation of efforts in Louisa. Although the Comprehensive Plan does not require any sort of reduction in pesticide use on crops due to some confusion over whether that responsibility lies with Louisa or the state of Virginia, it does recommend reduced use to protect groundwater: "When land uses are proposed within an area vulnerable to pesticides used with the proposed land use, Extension Agents can consult with landowners about

the risk of pesticides in the area, and if appropriate, recommend alternative pesticides to protect groundwater." One stakeholder thought that Louisa residents would be interested in food policy related to pesticide use. There is also a note in the Zoning Ordinances to dispose of septic tank sludge underneath the ground so as to prevent contamination of county food supplies.

Finally, many community members that we spoke with expressed a desire to see more community gardens in Louisa. Creating gardens would increase access to fresh, local food by growing it right in the community, and it would educate people about where food comes from and how to grow things and be more sustainable as individuals or families. Several stakeholders informed us of plans already in motion to create a community garden next to the Community Cupboard on land owned by the county and another at the new elementary school Moss Nuckols. Other community members suggested seeking support from the local government for community gardens in vacant lots and in trailer parks, and creating gardens on unused land owned by local churches. The Louisa Comprehensive Plan and Zoning Ordinances both mention the importance of preserving open space in the county, although for use as recreational space and environmental buffers that reduce impervious surfaces. None of the county documents specify preserving open space for the purpose of creating community gardens. Additionally, "farm" animals such as poultry and livestock may be kept in residential areas as long as they are 300 feet from adjacent properties.

Economic Development

Every part of Louisa County has access to one of three farmer's markets in the area: the Louisa, Zion Crossroads and Mineral Farmer's Markets. We were only able to speak with the manager for the Mineral market, which one stakeholder described as the most diverse of the

three markets. At the Mineral market, at least 75% of each stand's products must be homemade or homegrown, and all stands are local with the exception of a couple from North and South Carolina for added diversity. Most of the foot traffic at the market is thought to be from Mineral residents, but the market tries to attract people commuting between Charlottesville and Richmond or who spend time at Lake Anna, as well. There are about ten farmers at the market each week, ranging from professional farms to people with productive personal gardens who sell occasionally. Farmers are not policed at the market, and the market's manager feels this lack of food policy or regulations helps make the market successful. The only people liable are the sellers themselves because the market is held on private land.

One stakeholder says that “the USDA is doing a pretty good job” with agricultural regulations but also expressed concern about some upcoming policies that might affect farms and the farmers market. There is a food safety bill in the works which would make it more difficult for smaller farms to comply, potentially forcing them to close. It might not only affect how farmers raise produce but whether they could sell canned items, etc. Continuing the regulatory conversation, one stakeholder thought that a little government oversight is good, but not too much. Another stakeholder echoed that sentiment, saying, "Step back and let the farmers do what they've been doing!"

When asked what policies would be most important in improving access to healthy food in Louisa, several stakeholders responded by saying that local agribusiness should be better supported. In the words of one stakeholder, "Eating local is important because it supports our economy." Promoting the Buy Local campaign, removing restrictions on small farms, supporting grocers who supply fresh, healthy food and procurement of local foods in schools were all mentioned in interviews. Another community member would like to see more support

of the local tobacco industry because it is also an important part of Virginia agriculture and the economy. Louisa does offer tax incentives to landowners who maintain their property in agriculture through Agricultural-Forestal Districts (AFDs), in order that “residential development is slowed and county resources are not overburdened.”

While Louisa does not have a specific policy of supporting the purchase of local foods, it does state in the Municipal Code that "The county may, in the case of a tie bid, give preference to goods, services and construction produced in such locality or provided by persons, firms or corporations having principal places of business in the locality, if such a choice is available." We did not find a guide to local foods or any other language supporting procurement of local foods in any documents.

One last comment from an interview relating to economic development was that many residents of Louisa like to hunt. The stakeholder thought this should be a form of food security represented in our audit.

Environmental Benefits

A strong emphasis in one community interview was on reducing food waste in Louisa, where the stakeholder asserted, "It is sinful to throw away a loaf of bread when you know someone else could use it." The Food Lion in Louisa has a policy of not allowing people to glean produce or meat--only bread products. Walmart, however, has just approved the Community Cupboard to be one of eight food banks to glean fresh foods. Community Cupboard staff had to go through training on safe storage and transport of food items before they could be approved. When the Community Cupboard has excess food, they donate it to mental health facilities, daycares and the SCHIP program to avoid waste. However, JABA's Betty Queen

Center will not always accept excess food from the Community Cupboard because JABA donations must meet JABA's and Virginia Department of Aging's dietary guidelines for low salt, low sugar and low cholesterol, be properly packaged and fit JABA clients' specific dietary guidelines.

The Mineral Farmer's Market also has a gleaning program. The market's manager goes around at the end of each Saturday and picks up unsold produce to donate to the Community Cupboard. Farmers were all very receptive to the program, saying that most of the leftover produce would have gone into the compost otherwise.

Louisa's Comprehensive Plan also mentions various efforts to reduce the county's environmental footprint and nonpoint source stream pollution. It states that the county's design standards were created to protect the local watershed and natural environment in a variety of ways, although without mentioning agriculture specifically. These design standards mention the use of "natural vegetation to mitigate effects of stormwater runoff through infiltration and filtering" and minimum 100-foot riparian buffers around the county's reservoirs "to filter out sediment and other non-point source pollutants from runoff before it reaches those critical water resources." Zoning Ordinances also recommend the reduction of stormwater erosion, but none of these documents specify practices related to agriculture. Additionally, the ordinances prohibit the "storage of gasoline, kerosene and other petroleum products and flammable liquids, dynamite, blasting caps and other explosives, pesticides and poison and other such materials which could result in hazard to life and/or water pollution in the event of flooding."

Social Equity

Louisa has several programs seeking to provide food for residents of Louisa with greater need. The Community Cupboard provides food for low-income residents, with the mission of "Working to ease hunger with compassion." It began as an attempt to get USDA food to seniors in the Louisa area. The idea was that seniors would sign up to pick up food regularly from the Cupboard, but they found that many people did not sign up, so now a JABA representative signs up for them and delivers the food. The Community Cupboard now provides supplemental food products for income-eligible families once a month. It serves 650 families and about 1300 individuals, about 96% of which receive food stamps. The amount of food given to a family is determined by how many people are in the household. Most of the Cupboard's food comes for free from the USDA and is delivered from the Central Virginia Food Bank in Richmond. Other food comes from donations from the Wal*mart, Food Lion, Farmer's Foods, a variety of local civic groups, churches and farms, gleaning from the Mineral Farmer's Market and donations from private gardens. Despite the donations from local farms and gardens, local produce never makes up the majority of the foods given out, and those donations are usually during the summer and fall. The Cupboard is also able to purchase food beyond what is donated to them, and when asked about what factors influence the kind of food that is purchased, a stakeholder responded that for the Community Cupboard, price is a major factor. Storage is also an issue; they try not to buy too many perishable items so as to avoid waste. They do own several industrial-sized refrigerators, however, which can store a large amount of cold donations.

One stakeholder felt that there could be more coordination between agencies serving low-income and needy populations in Louisa. There are many agencies out there -- Social Services, Community Cupboard, JABA, Extension Office and others -- and increased communication

could improve access to healthy food via education for these populations. The director of the Community Cupboard told us that sometimes single mothers will come into the office having been referred there by Social Services to get free diapers for their children, but will have never heard that the Cupboard can provide them with food as well. Therefore, increasing awareness of Louisa's resources would be an important step towards food equity. We were not able to get in contact with Louisa's Social Services.

Although Louisa has not done a needs-assessment of low-income areas in relation to food access, the Comprehensive Plan does state the importance of bike and pedestrian facilities and of open space. If used to improve routes to food retailers and open space for community gardens, these efforts would help improve access to fresh food for low-income residents.

To serve its elderly population, Louisa is supported by Jefferson Area Board of Aging, which has a goal of procuring local food for its clients, acknowledging "the insecurities of the conventional food system." When determining what food to purchase for its clients, JABA considers the food's packaging, the dietary guidelines of the client and the VDA dietary guidelines for seniors. There is also a JABA CSA effort, where farmers come and the senior residents buy food from them directly. JABA cannot endorse this because of legal issues, but the farmers come and sell their products from the back of their vehicles. Additionally, Meals On Wheels is set to start in July this year.

We could not find any language in county documents supporting equitable working conditions for farm laborers in the area, but one community contact assured us that there is a policy regarding housing for migrant workers.

Two programs still in the planning process would benefit low-income residents of Louisa. First, the manager of the Mineral Farmer's Market said that an Electronic Benefits

Transfer (EBT) machine is in the works for the market this year to enable people on the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) to buy food at the market. It is a long process, so in the meantime, they hope to at least hand out SNAP applications and direct people to the food bank. Second, the School Backpack Program is set to start in September of this year to provide children at risk for food insecurity with food to take home for the weekends.

Land Conservation and Access to Land for Food Production

The Comprehensive Plan of Louisa strongly emphasizes conservation of lands for the preservation of the county's "rural character." It declares, "We should work to preserve the rural nature of Louisa, perceived as open spaces such as agricultural and forestry lands, through designation of such areas and initiating conservation design development standards for new development." It does not specify that these spaces and land should be used for food production, however. Map 14 of the Comprehensive Plan shows the agricultural and forestal districts of Louisa, and the Zoning Ordinances state the purpose of this map as "promoting health, safety, order, prosperity, the conservation of natural and historic resources and the general welfare." Land use taxation is also used to preserve agricultural lands, as described in the Economic Development section.

While Louisa already has a lot of policies promoting land conservation, community contacts mentioned a few concerns. One stakeholder thought that farmers would benefit from more resources and education programs regarding good growing practices and how to be sustainable on a small scale. Another stakeholder was concerned that not many young people want to go into farming today, despite a large portion of Louisa's youth growing up on farms. Several stakeholders wanted to see more support from the county for community gardens.

Analysis

From our document review and community interviews, we found that there are several important resources available to improve food access for Louisa residents, as well as newly-formed initiatives aimed at increasing access of local and healthier foods. In addition to the nation-wide SNAP initiative, the Community Cupboard is an important supplemental food program for Louisa residents. Other organizations in the area, such as JABA and the Virginia Cooperative Extension, are working towards improving the diets of at-risk populations such as low-income families and the elderly. Social services in Louisa also is likely to play an important role in improving food access, though they were not available for interview for this project.

In addition to the resources already in place, we encountered a variety of new initiatives in Louisa aimed at improving access of fresh, healthy food for residents. We were impressed with the school initiatives to reduce junk food and increase education on health and nutrition. Community gardens were also popular proposals in Louisa that were not mentioned in any official documents. We noted that both the public schools and the Community Cupboard had plans in place to start community gardens on their land.

Our findings indicate that within organizations working closely with food access and diet issues, there is a wealth of knowledge on the food system and ideas for improving it. The lack of official policy on food in Louisa seems to stem from government officials simply being unaware that the issues are present. When asked whether food policy was an important topic to Louisa residents, one stakeholder simply said no, most people did not consider it an important issue. Another stakeholder mentioned that people might be interested in food policy in how it relates to food safety or pesticides on food. Overall, though, the question of providing fresh, nutritious and

local foods to Louisa residents is not on the minds of those people working outside the food system. Even among several stakeholders working in the same building, those who did not work directly with food or diet programs were not as aware of the access issues or involved with programs to improve the food system.

It is hardly surprising that a lack of awareness about the food system seems to be the reason for limited government initiatives. Many people do not immediately notice the connection between food and social equity or food and local economics. One stakeholder emphasized the importance of making people aware of all the resources available, and we believe this sort of public education is a critical starting point to improving the Louisa food system. First and foremost, Louisa residents must be informed of what the term “food system” means, and how it affects their health and their jobs and their children. Organizations currently involved in food access issues must coordinate their efforts and work together to reach the greatest number of people. Finally, it is crucial that all those involved must let their local government officials know that food policy is an important issue to them that must be addressed by government policies as well as grass-roots efforts.

Personal Reflections

This project was an eye-opening experience for us, and a great introduction to fieldwork in food policy. One of the most encouraging things about the project was how enthusiastic all of our community stakeholders were. They were all genuinely interested in the topic we brought to the table and had insightful recommendations for our audit and for future policy in Louisa County. While it is clear that there are many difficult barriers to increasing healthy food access to rural areas like Louisa, we have seen such creative initiatives that we believe the food

revolution is truly touching all parts of the country. We hope this research will help our stakeholders and the residents of Louisa achieve their goal of a healthy and sustainable food system.

Louisa County Priorities

The top five policies identified by our community stakeholders as their chosen priorities for Louisa County included: creating community gardens; improving public transportation; encouraging procurement of local foods, especially in schools; increasing awareness of the food resources and opportunities available in Louisa and promoting farming as a profession; and helping local farmers by removing restrictions and helping them find a place in the market for their products.

The first priority, creating community gardens, is already in the works at the Community Cupboard and the public schools. Additional steps could be taken to promote the gardens, for example by including gardening at schools as one of the encouraged activities in a school wellness plan. A new school wellness plan is in the works for Louisa, and including the school garden as an example of increasing access to fresh and local food would be an excellent first step towards more positive food language in official documents and policies. The City of Los Angeles Child Nutrition Policy⁶ has many school nutrition recommendations that are already in place for Louisa and could serve as a good template for a countywide child nutrition policy or for food-related language for a school wellness plan.

Schools could also promote their community garden during Farm-to-School week, by bringing in local farmers to help at the garden or my simply reinforcing the benefits of eating foods grown in your community or locality. Missoula County Public Schools⁷ have an

⁶ City of LA Child Nutrition Policy,
<http://eatbettermovemore.org/sa/policies/pdf/LAChildNutrition.pdf>

³⁴excellent resolution detailing the benefits of participating in Farm-to-School programs and giving kids hands-on education about how food is grown.

Transportation is a problem that will require a much longer-term solution, and is especially difficult in a rural area such as Louisa. One aspect of transportation that is already mentioned in the Comprehensive plan is the use of safe bicycle and walking routes. Because Louisa is a rural and scenic area, increasing safe bike routes all around the county could encourage exercise, improve access to food stores and increase tourist travel to Louisa. The Chicagoland Bicycle Federation⁸ has started several initiatives that could help Louisa improve bicycle transit, such as including bicycle safety education in schools and sponsoring bicycling events to raise awareness about bike transportation and funding for new routes.

Of course, bicycle transit is not always the most practical, and many stakeholders mentioned increasing the JAUNT bus route as an important goal. Increasing the availability of JAUNT buses, such as having buses run on Saturdays when the farmer's market is open, would be an excellent first step by building on existing infrastructure. Other opportunities that have been suggested in the article "Recipes for Change: Healthy Food in Every Community" by Linda Shak, et al.⁹ One that could be implemented in Louisa is a shuttle sponsored by grocery stores or even one of the farmer's market. She states that this is economically advantageous for stores since it increases revenues by providing low-income neighborhoods with access to stores that they otherwise would not have shopped at.

The third community priority, increasing procurement of local foods, especially in schools, would mean healthier food options for kids as well as support for the local economy.

⁷ Missoula County Public Schools resolution, <http://eatbettermovemore.org/sa/policies/pdf/text/MTmissFarmSch.pdf>

⁸ Chicagoland Bicycle Federation, <http://www.preventioninstitute.org/component/jlibrary/article/id-207/127.html>

⁹ "Recipes for Change: Healthy Food in Every Community", Linda Shak et al.

There are already signs in Louisa that local procurement is an interest in the county, as there is a flyer on the Louisa County website encouraging people to buy from local farmers to support the economy. Schools, however, face tremendous barriers to including local food in their menus, including higher costs, less convenience and the need for additional cooking training for cafeteria workers. A report at the University of Minnesota in the Hopkins school district⁹ summarizes many of these difficulties and potential policy suggestions. One suggestion that we believe is feasible in Louisa is looking to distributors already providing food to schools and finding out which of their products, if any, are Virginia grown. This would be the simplest and cheapest way to increase local food consumption through existing channels. The schools can also influence distributor's products by making it clear that buying local is a priority for them.

The goal of increasing awareness about food opportunities and resources is one that can be achieved in many ways. The Mineral Farmer's Market already uses local media to advertise the market. Other opportunities for growth in this area include greater collaboration between the non-profit organizations such as Social Services, the Community Cupboard, the VA Extension office and JABA. A widely distributed, collaborative publication could make people more aware of the variety of food supplementation programs available and be a resource for other information, such as health recipes or food-related events in Louisa. As for encouraging farming as a profession, we believe community gardens and food education in schools is a good first step towards getting the next generation involved in food production. Other stakeholder priorities, such as removing restrictions on small farms, would also serve as catalysts by making the farming profession a more attractive one for young people. The Alachua County

⁹ "Making the Farm/School Connection: Opportunities and Barriers to Greater Use of Locally-grown Produce in Public Schools", JoAnne Berkenkamp.

Recommendations to Maximize Local Food Production and Processing¹¹ includes many suggestions for improving land use and business growth which could be adapted for use in Louisa County.

The final stakeholder priority, removing restrictions on small farmers and helping them find a place in the market, ties in to numerous food system goals, such as increasing availability of healthy food, improving the local economy and conserving farmland. Some changes to farm regulations must be pursued at the state level, but county residents can start by being aware of the policies in place and informing their representatives that they want policies to support the small farmer. The Pottawattamie County Farm to Fork Action Plan¹² is a comprehensive list of opportunities to support local food producers, such as providing technical support, identifying potential markets, developing a farmer mentor program and researching financial incentives available to producers. Since the VA Extension Office already provides some of these services, they could use the ideas in the Action Plan to expand or modify their services. If this is not feasible due to financial constraints, the Action Plan and Alachua County Recommendations could be used simply as examples for the Louisa Municipal government of how food policy language can be incorporated into existing county goals such as economic growth or land preservation.

¹¹ Alachua County Recommendations to Maximize Local Food Production and Processing, <
<http://eatbettermovemore.org/sa/policies/pdf/text/200905211730170.AlachuaLocal%20Food.pdf>>
(accessed May 5, 2010)

¹² Pottawattamie County Farm to Fork Action Plan, <
<http://eatbettermovemore.org/sa/policies/pdf/text/200910151610310.PottawattamiFarmtoFork.pdf>>
(accessed May 5, 2010)

Appendix A: References and footnotes

- ¹ U.S. Census Bureau, "State and County QuickFacts: Louisa County, VA," n.d., <<http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/states/51/51109.html>> (accessed March 10, 2010).
- ² City-Data, "Louisa County, Virginia (VA)," n.d., <http://www.city-data.com/county/Louisa_County-VA.html> (accessed April 15, 2010).
- ³ Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation, "Virginia Parks: Lake Anna," 2006, <http://www.dcr.virginia.gov/state_parks/lak.shtml> (accessed May 4, 2010).
- ⁴ Twin Oaks, "Twin Oaks Intentional Community," n.d., <<http://www.twinoaks.org/index.html>> (accessed May 4, 2010).
- ⁵ National Park Service, "Green Springs," n.d., <<http://www.nps.gov/grsp/index.htm>> (accessed May 4, 2010).
- ⁶ City of LA Child Nutrition Policy, <<http://eatbettermovemore.org/sa/policies/pdf/LAChildNutrition.pdf>> (accessed May 5, 2010)
- ⁷ Missoula County Public Schools resolution, <<http://eatbettermovemore.org/sa/policies/pdf/MTmissFarmSch.pdf>> (accessed May 5, 2010)
- ⁸ Chicagoland Bicycle Federation, <<http://www.preventioninstitute.org/component/jlibrary/article/id-207/127.html>> (accessed May 5, 2010)
- ⁹ "Recipes for Change: Healthy Food in Every Community," Linda Shak et al.
- ¹⁰ "Making the Farm/School Connection: Opportunities and Barriers to Greater Use of Locally-grown Produce in Public Schools", JoAnne Berkenkamp.
- ¹¹ Alachua County Recommendations to Maximize Local Food Production and Processing, <<http://eatbettermovemore.org/sa/policies/pdf/200905211730170.AlachuaLocalFood.pdf>>
- ¹² Pottawattamie County Farm to Fork Action Plan, <<http://eatbettermovemore.org/sa/policies/pdf/200910151610310.PottawattamiFarmtoFork.pdf>> (accessed May 5, 2010)

Appendix B: Community contacts

Name	Title	Organization	Email	Phone
Donna Isom	Director	Community Cupboard	d.isom@cvalink.com	(540) 967-3577
Jeremy Camp	Director	Community Development	JCamp@louisa.org	540-967-3466
David Holtzman	Senior Planner	Community Development	DHoltzman@louisa.org	
Randy Herman	Nutrition Director	Louisa Co. Public Schools	hermanrs@lcps.k12.va.us	540-894-5115
Tracy Nedza	Extension Agent	Louisa Co. Extension Office		540-967-3422
Ginger Dillard	Nutrition Services	Betty Queen Center	gdillard@jabacares.org	(540) 967-4435
Susan Colvin (did not)		VA Cooperative Extension	sbcovlin@vt.edu	540-967-3422

respond)				
Becky Vigon	Manager	Mineral Farmers' Market	market@townofmineral.com	(540) 854-7626
Susan Carter (met with Ms. Dillard instead)	Case Manager	JABA	scarter@jabacares.org	
Judy Berger (did not respond)	Senior Center Director	JABA	jberger@jabacares.org	434-985-2047
Charles Rosson (did not respond)	Agriculture Agent	Louisa Co. Extension Office	crosson1@vt.edu	540-967-3422
Paula Molina (Met with Ms. Dillard instead)	Center Manager	JABA Louisa Community Center	pmolina@jabacares.org	(540) 967-4432
Paul Oswell (no longer a director, have not heard from interim)	Director, Louisa DSS	Department of Social Services	Paul.Oswell@dss.virginia.gov	540-967-1320
Willie Gentry (did not respond)	Chairman	Board of Supervisors	LCBS_CD @ louisa.org	540-894-6437 (Cell)
Wendy Morris (did not respond)	Outreach Worker; Rural Outreach program	Monticello Area Community Action Agency	macaalou@verizon.net	540/967-9522
Gary Rice (no longer at Health Dept.)		Louisa Health Department		540-967-3707

Appendix C: Community comments

What roles do the stakeholders interviewed play in Louisa's food system?

- Director of the Community Cupboard runs the food bank/distribution center, which began as an attempt to get USDA food to seniors in the Louisa area. The Thomas Jefferson Area Food Bank wanted to reach out to seniors and was able to do so through the Cupboard. The new warehouse for the Cupboard was just built. The idea was that people would sign up to pick up food regularly from the cupboard, but they found that many people did not

sign up, so now a JABA representative signs up for them and delivers the food. The director attends a monthly food policy meeting with the food banks to learn about new food policies affecting Louisa, which are set by the Central Virginia Food Bank.

- The Extension Office is the educational arm of social services serving a five-county area including Louisa. The family wellness portion of the Extension services includes education related to finances, diets, kids' eating habits, parenting and childcare.
- The Extension Office has programs working toward reducing obesity: healthy snacks at 4-H programs, the "Nutrition Core" program (which includes Master Food Volunteers, who educate about food safety, preparation and nutrition through the "Ultimate Food Experience" [from the Va Extension Office: A Virginia MFV is an individual who acts on behalf of Virginia Cooperative Extension (VCE) as a volunteer educator within his or her community after receiving training in FCS through cooperative programming with VCE. These volunteer educators serve as partners with VCE to promote, inform, and work with community leaders, industry and individuals presenting programs on all aspects of FCS, including nutrition, health, wellness, physical activity, food safety, and home food preservation.]), Healthy Weights for Healthy Kids and diabetes testing.
- The duties of Louisa County Schools' Nutrition Director include menu planning, food purchasing and personnel. Menu planning and food purchasing involves going to school nutrition food shows to do product testing through the professional association, then allowing students to sample different types of pizza (e.g.) and having students then give their preferences.
- Duties of the director of the Mineral Farmer's Market (the largest farmer's market in Louisa) include getting more people to attend the market, answering questions about the market and giving out and processing applications for the market. The director also created the website (www.mineralmarket.org) and works with the department of agriculture to find local farms for the market.

Food in schools:

- Louisa will start a school backpack program in September 2010 to provide children at risk for food insecurity with food to take home for the weekends.
- Items on the agenda for Louisa County Schools include nutrition education in classrooms, revamping Louisa's school wellness policy, creating a school garden at the new Moss Nuckols Elementary, higher education opportunities for school employees and putting nutrition facts on menus.
- Most items on Louisa's school menus now contain at least 51% whole grain; this is a higher whole grain standard than USDA's. Schools follow the Virginia Action for Healthy Kids guidelines for filling vending machines (no sodas, whole grain cookies, naturally carbonated juice "Switch" and snacks all under 300 calories).
- Most breads are no longer cooked in the school kitchens, except dinner rolls (which are 70/30 whole grain). Meats are no longer bought raw because of safety, but kitchens are full-service.
- Schools do not source locally or connect with local farmers to get school food, except during Farm-to-School week in November. Last year local apples were brought in, but not much local produce is available in November. A colleague uses meat from local

farmers, which is a possibility. Schools plan to participate in Farm-to-School week again next year.

- School systems get government entitlement dollars based on the number of kids in schools and the number of schools in the system. They use that money to make commodity orders (processed meats), which are made for the year on December 15. A school system's nutrition director can choose from a list of processors through the Electronic Commodity Ordering Software (soon to change).
- Forty-four percent of Louisa students are on free and reduced lunch program; it's computerized and anonymous, so there is no stigma.

Farmer's markets:

- At the Mineral market, 75% of each stand's products must be homemade or homegrown. There are a couple of vegetable resellers from North and South Carolina to add diversity to the products available.
- Most of the foot traffic at the market is thought to be from Mineral residents, but the market tries to attract people commuting between Charlottesville and Richmond or who spend time at Lake Anna, as well.
- There are about ten farmers at the market each week, ranging from professional farms to people with productive personal gardens who sell occasionally.
- Another project in the works is getting EBT machines at the market. That is a long-term project; right now they hope to at least hand out SNAP applications and direct people to the food bank as a start.
- The media in Louisa has been great in portraying the farmer's market with advertising, letters to the editor, etc. They consider the market to be not-for-profit.
- One stakeholder said that the Department of Agriculture and the Farm Bureau have been great in working with the farmer's market.
- One stakeholder said they are working on getting the JAUNT bus to go to the farmer's market.

Role of emergency food providers:

- Louisa's Community Cupboard provides supplemental food products for income-eligible families once a month.
- It serves 650 families monthly, and about 1300 individuals. About 96% of the families served receive food stamps. The amount of food given to the family is determined by how many people are in the household.
- Most of their food comes for free from the USDA and is delivered from the Central Virginia Food Bank in Richmond. Other food comes from donations from the Walmart (supply center?), Food Lion, Farmer's Foods, a variety of local civic groups, churches and farms, gleaning from the Mineral Farmer's Market and donations from private gardens.
- Despite the donations from farms and gardens, local produce never makes up the majority of the foods given out; those donations are usually during the summer and fall.

- Louisa will start Meals On Wheels in July 2010.
- One community stakeholder emphasized that the programs are successful because the community is very supportive and generous, always donating their food and efforts.
- Local farmers can donate their surplus to the food bank.
- Angel Ministries do not typically ask for farmers' surpluses. The food from the Angel Ministries, however, is not well balanced--sometimes people will only get corn or cereal. Angel Food Ministries is a national program. You can buy boxes of food at reduced rates and it's open to everyone. Sometimes the boxes will have a good amount of fruits/vegetables -- but are they nutritional or canned in sugar/salt?
- One stakeholder said the Emergency Food Pantry in Louisa is not a very strong program. It's only supported by churches.

What impacts choices made about what food is purchased by individuals and groups in Louisa?

- For the Community Cupboard, price is a major factor. Community stakeholder says that USDA foods provided are “free with quality” and are nutritious. The Community Cupboard must follow certain nutrition guidelines for the foods they give out. Storage is also an issue; they try not to buy too many perishable items so as to avoid waste.
- In Louisa's schools, USDA guidelines and knowledge about what foods kids like are used to purchase foods and plan menus.
- One stakeholder said that convenience influences food purchasing decisions most in Louisa.
- Shopping options in Louisa include: a Food Lion and two small markets where people can purchase food. The local farmer's market is only seasonal (spring/summer/early fall).
- One stakeholder said that because seniors eat pretty well anyway, nutrition is not the greatest concern at JABA.

Food Waste:

- One community stakeholder noted Food Lion has a policy of not allowing people to glean produce or meat--only bread products.
- The Betty Queen Center will not accept excess food from the Community Cupboard due to JABA regulations on dietary guidelines for seniors.
- There are two churches near the Community Cupboard which help with storage of perishable items. When the Community Cupboard has excess, it gives it to mental health facilities, daycares and the SCHIP program to avoid waste.
- After the market each week Becky goes around and picks up unsold produce and gives it to the Community Cupboard. Farmers were all very receptive to the program, saying that most of the leftover produce would have gone into the compost otherwise. Spotsylvania County also recently started a similar project on gleaning.

Details we missed in the document audit:

- Question 100: Housing of migrant workers IS included in zoning ordinances.
- Cafeteria workers are part of the ServeSafe program, with training in food safety.

- Many people in Louisa hunt, providing a form of food security not represented in our audit.
- One stakeholder recommended we look through SOLs for nutrition education.
- There are three farmer's markets within reach of the county: Zion Crossroads, Mineral and Louisa (every part of the county has access to one).
- Stakeholder was unsure, but for Question 13, it is thought that people may be educated about nutrition through Social Services. We have not been able to get in contact with Social Services.

How food policy affects Louisa residents:

- One stakeholder says regulations on gleaning; transport and storage of emergency food in Louisa are good--not excessive or burdensome.
- One stakeholder finds USDA policies regarding schools helpful but is concerned that Mrs. Obama's push toward healthier schools may create restrictions that may be too strict (e.g., restrictions on salt, when they are already required to reduce fat, would make food tasteless). State regulations from the Virginia Department of Education determine what times meals can be served in schools; these tend to work *with* national regulations, not against them. The nutrition director must follow these minimum regulations but is allowed to make them stricter because children are an at-risk population.
- One stakeholder says that “the USDA is doing a pretty good job” but is also worried about some upcoming policies that might affect farms and the farmers market.
- There’s a food safety bill in the works which would make it more difficult for smaller farms to comply, potentially forcing them to close. It might not only affect how farmers raise produce but whether they could sell canned items, etc.
- One stakeholder thinks a little government oversight is good, but not too much.
- At the farmer's market, the only people liable are the sellers themselves because the market is held on private land. Farmers are not policed, and the lack of food policy or regulations helps make the market successful.
- One stakeholder says there’s been a resurgence of victory gardens lately, and policy makers should not be telling people what they can and can’t grow.
- One stakeholder would like to see more support of the local tobacco industry because it is also an important part of Virginia agriculture and the economy.
- There is a JABA CSA effort -- farmers come and the senior residents buy food from them directly. JABA cannot endorse this because of legal issues, but the farmers come and sell their products from the back of their vehicles.

Are Louisa residents concerned about food policy?

- One stakeholder said that Louisa residents would probably be interested in food policy related to safe food production and pesticide use.
- One stakeholder believes food policy is not something Louisa residents are interested in, saying that most people don’t care unless it affects them directly.

- "Food is on more peoples' minds today than in the past as a means to stay healthy. Our culture is pointing fingers at our food systems, but I foresee a society change in the works."

Is fresh, nutritious food generally available to Louisa residents?

- One stakeholder mentioned preparation as a concern regarding access to fresh, nutritious food: if people don't know how to prepare something, they won't eat it. Another stakeholder noted that the Extension Office does work to educate in this area.
- One stakeholder thinks fresh, nutritious food is definitely accessible through schools, although cost must be taken into account. Schools provide fresh fruits and vegetables once a week.
- One stakeholder would like to see schools and nursing homes getting fresh produce and thinks the county government should have a hand in it: "They need to work with the school board and work with the farmers who are willing. I'm trying to facilitate."
- Many children in Louisa live on farms, so they probably have access to fresh, nutritious food; however, many also live in poverty and probably do not.
- One stakeholder does not think fresh and nutritious food is generally available. The produce at the farmer's market isn't that fresh because it has travelled several hundred miles.
- One stakeholder thinks there's a lot of ignorance about food assistance in Louisa. Additionally, because Louisa is such a poor county the general public has a "feed them anything" attitude.
- One stakeholder questioned whether the food in the grocery stores is really all that fresh or accessible.

What policies would be most important in improving access to and availability of fresh, nutritious food in Louisa?

- Increasing awareness of healthy and local food options, along with inter-agency communication about resources like the Community Cupboard.
- Several stakeholders said community gardens were important, one specifying government support of changing vacant lots to gardens and another suggesting that trailer parks could be given subsidies to have community gardens. One also mentioned that churches also have space for potential community gardens; oftentimes, churches have acres of unused land.
- Reduce food waste. One stakeholder said, "It is sinful to throw away a loaf of bread when you know someone else could use it."
- Eliminate hunger: although no one in Louisa is starving, a stakeholder noted, "no one should have to go to bed hungry."
- Land use: one stakeholder expressed concern that not many people want to go into farming nowadays.
- Several stakeholders mentioned transportation, considering Louisa is a rural community: a more structured transit system would be beneficial for food access, perhaps a service

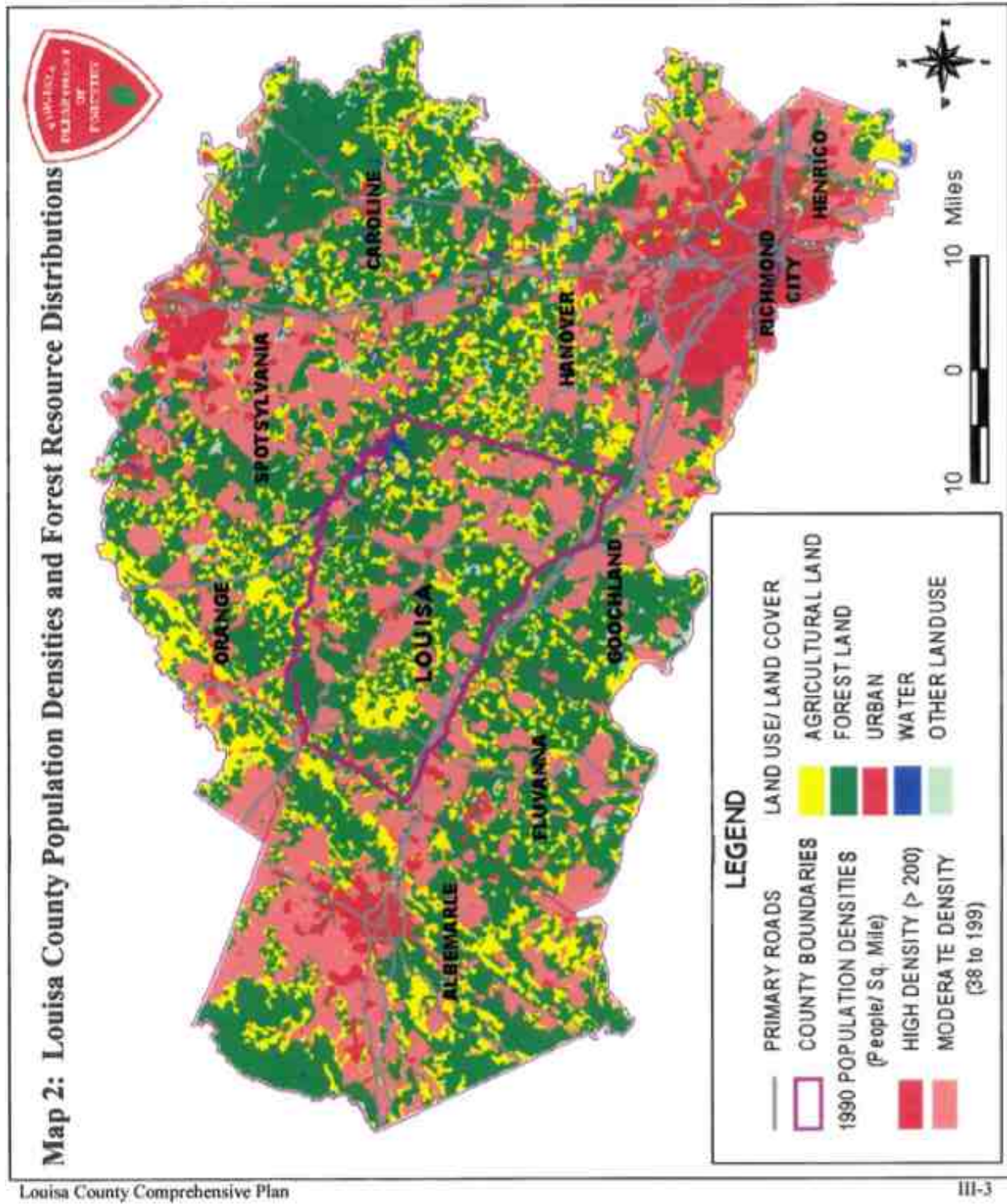
for particular populations such as the disabled or seniors. One stakeholder said that many people don't have vehicles or can't afford gas in Louisa. The JAUNT bus is the only option, but "they can only do so much." Another said that there's an extensive JAUNT route during the week in Louisa so people can get to work around the county and all the way in Charlottesville. This does NOT run on the weekend, however. Farmer's markets are on the weekend. More funding could result in weekend JAUNT rides.

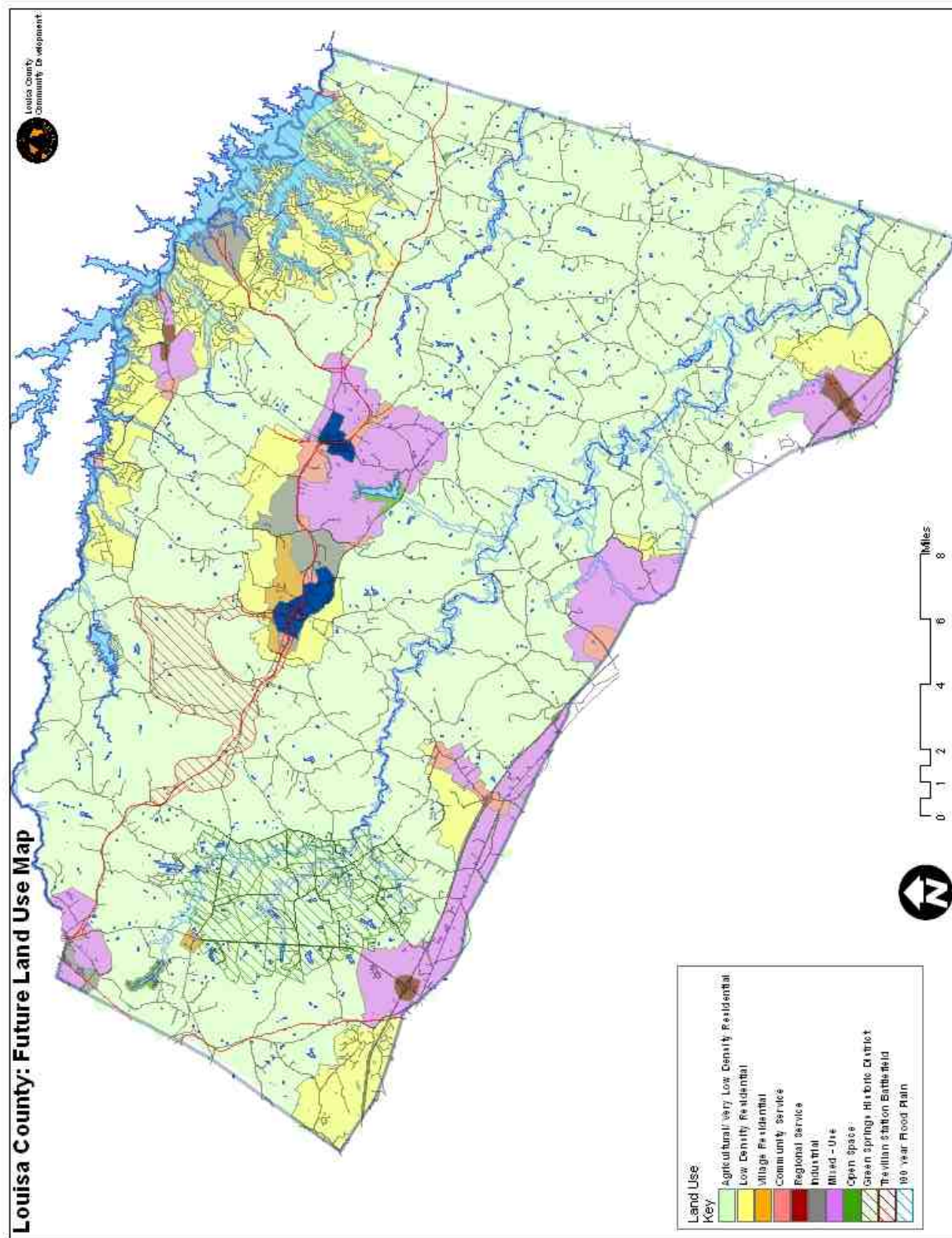
- Education about food preparation, buying local, how to be sustainable on a small scale and good growing practices.
- Promotion of local agribusiness (Buy Local).
- Several stakeholders were interested in removing restrictions on small farms and helping them to find a place in the market.
- Supporting grocers to supply fresh, healthy food (especially in convenience stores).
- Creating a local distribution center.
- Education about nutrition through the SNAP program.
- Seminars on nutrition for students and parents.
- "Step back and let the farmers do what they've been doing" --One stakeholder supports as little policy as possible with as much support as possible.
- Schools getting produce from local farms.
- Procurement of local foods.

Other comments:

- One stakeholder mentioned concern that we still have hungry people in America and most of the corn we're growing is for feed.
- One stakeholder mentioned that there are lots of elderly people in Mineral.
- There is a plan for Brackett's Farm for a community garden.
- The Local Food Hub has an educational farm in Louisa.
- Acorn Community writes news articles in Louisa and has a seed bank.
- The Community Cupboard recently got approval to be one of 8 food banks chosen to glean foods from the Walmart stores. They had to go through training on safe storage and transport of food items. One stakeholder said that "Walmart throws away 500 million pounds of food a year."
- There are plans to build a community garden next to the Louisa Resource Center (where the Community Cupboard is located). The land is owned by the community.
- "There are enough people with backyard gardens to support at least one of our senior centers." Many people in Louisa have enough space to grow their own food and they can the surplus for the winter months. There's less of this now, but it used to be the sole method for eating.
- "Eating local is important because it supports our economy." "We're seeing the first generation with a lower life expectancy."
- One stakeholder tried a garden in Louisa in an empty lot, up on a hill, but it did not work out because the soil in Virginia is not the best. It was hard to till given its location on a hill, but Parks and Rec plowed it for them.
- Louisa has a grant now for \$2 trips to medical appointments to anywhere in the county.

Appendix D: Maps and visuals





Appendix E: Louisa County Food Policy Audit (Document page numbers omit Audit; Resume at Appendix F)

LOUISA COUNTY FOOD POLICY AUDIT

NOTE: References to "LOCAL FOOD" includes local wineries, breweries, and cideries.

By: Anastasia Carihfield
(amc7w@virginia.edu), Brian
Hickey (bth2b@virginia.edu), and
Kate Wellons (kcw9q@virginia.edu)

	Does the code allow for temporary and conditional use of abandoned lots for neighborhood gardens and/or urban farms?	no	no	no	no	no	N/A	N/A	no	
25	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	N/A	N/A	no	
26	Does the zoning code have language that supports residential "farm" animals; chickens, goats, roosters? (look for re-defining domestic animals)	no	yes	no	yes	no	N/A	N/A	no	Louisa County Zoning Ordinances (Sec. 86-66.1), Louisa County Municipal Code (Sec. 14-5)
27	Are there funding streams available for food related projects, such as Community Development Building Grants?	no	no	no	no	no	N/A	N/A	no	
28	Are there regulations allowing flexibility for food producers to engage in minimal on-site processing?	no	no	no	no	no	N/A	N/A	no	
29										

d. Promote multi-modal transportation options to food sources

	Does the locality offer multi-modal transportation in the community?	no	no	no	no	no	N/A	N/A	no	
30	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	N/A	N/A	no	
31	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	N/A	N/A	no	
32	Do safe biking and walking paths exist between neighborhoods and food stores and markets?	no	no	no	no	no	N/A	N/A	no	
33	Does the locality have a bus service that connects neighborhoods directly with food stores and markets?	no	no	no	no	no	N/A	N/A	no	
34	Requiring no more than one bus change? Does the locality have a bus service, low-cost taxi or ride-sharing service that connects neighborhoods directly with food stores and markets? Requiring no more than one bus change?	no	no	no	no	no	N/A	N/A	no	Interview - JAUNT
35	Are these transportation services available at multiple times of day and evening?	no	no	no	no	no	N/A	N/A	no	
36	Does the locality have a bike path or sidewalk plan?	yes	no	no	no	no	N/A	N/A	no	Louisa County Comprehensive Plan (V-51-56)
37										

e. Reduce community exposure to pesticides and chemicals in foods

	Does the locality have a policy or program to reduce pesticide use, with appropriate enforcement?	no*	no	no	no	no	N/A	N/A	no	Louisa County Comprehensive Plan (IV-18-19)
38	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	no	no	no	no	N/A	N/A	no	
39	Does a program or regulation exist that ensures proper communication of sanitation and hygiene practices for farm workers to ensure food safety?	no	yes	no	no	no	N/A	N/A	no	Louisa County Zoning Ordinances (Sec. 78-34)
40	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	N/A	N/A	no	
41	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	N/A	N/A	no	
42	Is there a policy or program that offers incentives to farmers to switch to more sustainable growing methods?	no	no	no	no	no	N/A	N/A	no	
43										

2. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

a. Support local food production

	Does the locality offer working farmland tax incentives, such as agriculture/forestry districts?	yes	no	no	no	no	N/A	N/A	no	Louisa County Comprehensive Plan (IV-15)
44	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	N/A	N/A	no	
45	Does the locality have economic development goals to support regional food production?	no	no	no	no	no	N/A	N/A	no	
46	Is there a local government policy recommendation for purchase of local food when available?	no	no	no	no	no	N/A	N/A	no	
47	Is there a support system to supply existing farmers with steady and seasonal farm labor?	no	no	no	no	no	N/A	N/A	no	
48	Are there local government or other programs to inspire and train new farmers, including assistance to immigrants who may come from farming families?	no	no	no	no	no	N/A	N/A	no	
49	Are there economic development programs or incentives or other tools for retailers to favor purchasing local food?	no	no	no	no	no	N/A	N/A	no	
50										

b. Support development of local processing infrastructure

	Are the financial or other programs to support or incubate food-related businesses?	no	no	no	no	no	N/A	N/A	no	
51	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	N/A	N/A	no	
52										

c. Support development of local distribution infrastructure

	Does the locality have a policy to support local farmers' markets or tailgate markets?	no	no	no	no	no	N/A	N/A	no	
	Does the locality provide institutional support for local farmers' markets or tailgate markets?	no	no	no	no	no	N/A	N/A	no	
	Is there economic development support for businesses that provide regional distribution of regional food, such as a Food Hub?	no	no	no	no	no	N/A	N/A	no	
d. Support development of new businesses using locally sourced products & heritage foods										
	Does the locality provide tax incentives, leasing agreements, or other incentives to support development of businesses using locally produced food?	no	no	no	no	no	N/A	N/A	no	
	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	no	no	no	no	N/A	N/A	no	
	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	N/A	N/A	no	
e. Support increased Security of Food Supply										
	Does the locality have an emergency preparedness plan that includes contingency plans for short-term interruption of food deliveries?	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	
3. ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS										
a. Reduce community carbon footprint and reduce nonpoint source stream pollution										
	Does the locality have a policy or goal to reduce its community environmental "footprint"?	yes	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	Louisa County Comprehensive Plan (IV-2-3)
b. Reduce nonpoint source stream pollution from agriculture										
	Does the locality have a policy or goal to reduce nonpoint source pollution from agricultural operations?	yes	yes	no	no	no	N/A	N/A	no	Louisa County Comprehensive Plan (IV-12), Louisa County Zoning Ordinances (Sec. 86-212)
	Does the locality provide support for the establishment of riparian buffers along farmland streambanks, to reduce nonpoint source pollution.	yes	yes	no	no	yes	N/A	N/A	no	Louisa County Comprehensive Plan (V-4), Louisa County Zoning Ordinances, Stormwater Management Act of the Code of Virginia (Sec. 38-102, 38-125)
	Does the locality have a policy or goal to fence out all livestock from streamways?	no	no	no	no	no	N/A	N/A	no	
	Does the locality have a policy or goal or participate in a program to manage excess animal manure?	no	no	no	no	no	N/A	N/A	no	
c. Reduce Food Waste										
	Is there a policy or program to encourage foraging from unused home fruit and other gardens?	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	
	Does the locality have a map for local food foraging? Are there a policy or program or opportunities for gleanings from local farms and restaurants?	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	Interview - Community Cupboard
	Does the locality offer demonstration programs to encourage composting?	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	
	Does the locality offer a central site for composting home food and yard materials?	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	
	See 1.E.	See 1.E.	See 1.E.	See 1.E.	See 1.E.	See 1.E.	See 1.E.	See 1.E.	See 1.E.	
4. SOCIAL EQUITY										
a. Increase transportation system access to markets that sell fresh and healthful foods by underserved communities										
	Does the locality have a policy to provide access to quality food for all citizens, especially those with greater need?	no	no	yes	no	no	N/A	N/A	yes	JABA (website), Community Cupboard (Louisa County website)
	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 changes) - for rural as well as urban areas?	no*	no	yes	no	no	N/A	N/A	no	Louisa County Comprehensive Plan (III-38-39), JAUNT (website)
	Are these transportation services available at multiple times of day and evening, in rural as well as urban areas?	no	no	no	no	no	N/A	N/A	no	
	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*	no	no	no	no	N/A	N/A	no	Louisa County Comprehensive Plan (IV-10)
	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	N/A	N/A	no	Louisa County Comprehensive Plan (V-51-56)
	Are farmer's markets geographically accessible by low income neighborhoods, in rural as well as urban areas?	no	no	no	no	no	N/A	N/A	no	
b. Support location of grocers providing healthy local, foods in diverse and underserved locations										
	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	N/A	N/A	no	
	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	N/A	N/A	no	
	Are tax credits available to developers for opening a grocery store in certain areas?	no	no	no	no	no	N/A	N/A	no	

	Are there any regulatory incentives, such as relaxed zoning requirements, that can facilitate new stores in										
79	underserved areas?	no	no	no	no	no	N/A	N/A	no		
80	Does the locality offer any predevelopment assistance to developers to expedite the review process?	no	no	no	no	no	N/A	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	no	no	no	no	N/A	N/A	no		
82	Does the locality support the policy of \$2 or \$3 for every EBT dollar, when the EBT is used at farmer's markets or other market venues for fresh, local food?	no	no	no	no	no	N/A	N/A	no		
83	Do farmer's markets and/or grocery stores accommodate WIC coupons, Senior Nutrition coupons, or EBT machines?	no	no	no	no	no	N/A	N/A	no		
84	Do farmer's markets enable \$2 or \$3 healthy food credit for every EBT dollar?	no	no	no	no	no	N/A	N/A	no		
85	Are markets and stores accessible at multiple times and days to accommodate varying work schedules?	no	no	no	no	no	N/A	N/A	yes	Interview - several farmer's markets	
86	Does the locality support, or are there programs for mobile farms stands and mobile food carts?	no	no	no	no	no	N/A	N/A	no		
87	Do local faith, nonprofit organizations, and educational institutions (public and private) have policies to buy local food for events when available?	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	no		
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	N/A	N/A	no		
89	Does the locality support the provision of a central directory of all emergency food providers?	no	no	no	no	no	N/A	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	no	no	no	no	N/A	N/A	no		
91	Does the locality support coordination and cooperation among emergency food providers?	no	no	no	no	no	N/A	N/A	no		
92	Does the locality support a method, structure or storage facility for donations of fresh foods to emergency food providers?	no	no	yes	no	no	N/A	N/A	no	Interview - Community Cupboard	
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	no	no	no	no	N/A	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	N/A	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	no	no	no	no	N/A	N/A	no		
96	Does the locality provide or ensure that adequate protection against pesticides is provided to farm workers?	no	no	no	no	no	N/A	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	no	no	no	no	N/A	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	no	no	no	no	N/A	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	no	no	N/A	N/A	no		
100	Are housing options available for migrant workers?	no	yes	no	no	no	N/A	N/A	no	Interview - zoning ordinances	
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	no	no	no	no	no	no	no		
102	Are culturally appropriate, fresh food options available for immigrant and ethnic populations in stores?	no	no	no	no	no	N/A	N/A	no		
103	Is there support for diverse, local, traditional - and fresh food practices?	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	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	N/A	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	yes	no	no	N/A	N/A	no	Interview - gardens planned	
5. LAND CONSERVATION / ACCESS TO LAND FOR FOOD PRODUCTION											
106	Does the locality have a policy to support land conservation for food production?	yes*	no	no	no	no	N/A	N/A	no	Louisa County Comprehensive Plan (II-1)	
107	Does the locality encourage or support land conservation easements for food production?	yes*	no	no	no	no	N/A	N/A	no	Louisa County Comprehensive Plan (IV-12)	
108	Does the locality clearly allow the use of public space or land for nonprofit community food gardens?	no	no	no	no	no	N/A	N/A	no		
109	Are there creative leasing or financing models to reduce start-up farming debt?	no	no	no	no	no	N/A	N/A	no		

110	Does the locality have a map of its prime agricultural lands for conservation?	yes*	yes	no	no	no	N/A	N/A	no	Louisa County Comprehensive Plan (IV-16), Louisa County Zoning Ordinances (86-3)
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.	no	no	no	no	no	N/A	N/A	no	
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	yes	no	no	no	N/A	N/A	no	Louisa County Comprehensive Plan (IV-14-15), Louisa County Zoning Ordinances
113	Does the locality have a green infrastructure plan that incorporates consideration for food production into the plan?	no	no	no	no	no	N/A	N/A	no	

Appendix F: Audit supplemental notes

1. PUBLIC HEALTH

1a: Reduce and Prevent Community Obesity and Chronic Illness

Q1: Mention of goal for improving public health:

a. The Thomas Jefferson Health District Environmental Health Program discusses improving public health for Louisa, Fluvanna, Albemarle, Greene and Nelson Counties: "We protect public health by permitting and inspecting establishments such as restaurants, school cafeterias, hospital cafeterias, and temporary event vendors (booths at public fairs). We help to insure that food is prepared and maintained safely to prevent food borne illnesses (salmonella, etc). We investigate reports of food borne illnesses and work with businesses and citizens to educate and correct deficiencies." <<http://www.vdh.state.va.us/LHD/ThomasJefferson/environmental/food.htm>>

b. The School Nutrition Director is currently revamping the school wellness policy.
[Community Interview, See Compiled Interview Notes]

Q2: Goal to reduce obesity:

a. Louisa County public schools serve low-fat and mostly whole-grain foods in an effort to reduce and prevent obesity. [Community Interview, See Compiled Interview Notes]

Q3: Overall wellness plan:

a. Not mentioned

Q4: Farm to School programs:

a. Louisa County public schools participated in the Farm to School day last November and intend to continue participating. [Community Interview, See Compiled Interview Notes]

Q5: School purchasing local:

a. Local foods are not currently purchased, but the School Nutrition Director would be interested in doing so if it were feasible. [Community Interview, See Compiled Interview Notes]

Q6: Reduce available junk food:

a. Louisa County public schools sell only whole grain and 300-calorie-or-less snacks and naturally carbonated juice, and no sodas, in their vending machines. [Community Interview, See Compiled Interview Notes]

Q7: Educate cafeteria workers:

a. Not mentioned

Q8. Food based lesson plans:

a. Currently not mentioned, but the School Nutrition Director is in the process of adding these. [Community Interview, See Compiled Interview Notes]

Q9. School gardens:

a. A school garden is in the works for the new Moss Nuchols Elementary being built. The School Nutrition Director would love to see more school gardens. [Community Interview, See Compiled Interview Notes]

Q10. Joint use agreement:

a. Not mentioned

Q11. Chain restaurants/calories on menus:

a. Not mentioned

Q12. Tax on/discourage low nutritional value items:

a. Not mentioned

Q13. Discourage SNAP for sugary foods and beverages:

a. This is an issue that stakeholders would like to see addressed. [Community Interview, See Compiled Interview Notes]

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

Q14. Increase awareness of healthy lifestyle:

a. Louisa Extension Office Family and Consumer Sciences provides education programs regarding diets and healthy eating habits in kids. Master Food Volunteers educate about food safety, preparation and nutrition throughout the community. [Community Interview, See Compiled Interview Notes]

Q15. Definition for local food:

a. Not mentioned

Q16. Support production and distribution of local food:

a. Not mentioned

Q17. Guide to local food support:

a. Not mentioned

Q18. Purchasing preference for local:

a. The Louisa County Municipal Code mentions "Preference for local products and firms" in its Procurement section: "The county may, in the case of a tie bid, give preference to goods, services and construction produced in such locality or provided by persons, firms or

corporations having principal places of business in the locality, if such a choice is available."
<http://library1.municode.com/default-test/home.htm?infobase=12480&doc_action=whatsnew>
[See Sec. 60-16]

Q19. Media campaign to support healthy eating:

- a. Not mentioned

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. In the Louisa County Comprehensive Plan on chapter V page 69 (V-69) there is a reference regarding open space: "Clustering of buildings allows for development of sites and maintaining open space. Units are sited closer together, leaving a greater expanse for natural areas, which can act as visual or environmental buffers from adjacent uses. Clustering is central to conservation planning and use of planned unit developments." Open space is referenced in the context of conservation of natural areas and community gardens are not specifically mentioned.

- b. On page IV-10 of the Comprehensive Plan another reference to open space states: "More compact development designs reduce the cost of development and promote watershed protection by reducing impervious areas, conserving natural areas, and providing community recreational space.

- c. Section 70-61, Note 1 of the Louisa County Zoning Ordinance states that the preservation of real estate devoted to agricultural, horticultural, forest and open space uses within its boundaries is in the public interest and ordains that the real estate shall be taxed in accordance with the Code of Virginia. In addition, Section 86-192.1 states that open space promotes attractive and unique developments that are also environmentally conscious. It states that not less than 30 percent of total acreage shall be open space, whether dedicated to public use or retained privately

Q22. Promote accessibility to community gardens for all neighborhoods:

- a. The Community Cupboard has plans to create a community garden on the county-owned property surrounding the cupboard, where residents visiting the food pantry could access fresh produce as well. [Community Interview, See Compiled Interview Notes]

Q23. Land protections for farmers' markets:

- a. Not mentioned

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. The Louisa County Zoning Ordinance states, in Section 86-66.1, Yard Regulations, that animal waste treatment systems for either livestock or poultry shall be located no closer than 200 feet from any property line and 500 feet from any adjacent residence, domestic water supply, school, church or public recreation area off the property.

b. The Louisa County Municipal Code does not specifically allow residential farm animals, but it mentions "Burial or cremation of animals or fowl which have died," implying that owning fowl may be allowed. <http://library1.municode.com/default-test/home.htm?infobase=12480&doc_action=whatsnew> [See Sec 14-5]

c. Agriculture is allowed as an accessory use in the R-1 and R-2 districts, except that farm animals and fowl may not be raised or kept on lots which are closer than 300 feet to any adjacent property line. [Community Contact]

Q28. Funding for food projects:

a. Not mentioned

Q29. Minimal on-site processing:

a. Not mentioned

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

Q30. Offer multi-modal transportation:

a. Not mentioned

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

a. Not mentioned

Q32. Transport food to low income and migrant neighborhoods:

a. Not mentioned

Q33. Safe biking and walking paths to food sources:

a. Not mentioned

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

a. Not mentioned

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

a. JAUNT buses will take residents anywhere in the county if they call ahead of time, usually 24 hours. [Community Interviews, See Compiled Interview Notes]

Q36. Is transportation available during days and nights?

a. Not mentioned

Q37. Bike path or sidewalk plan:

a. The Comprehensive Plan contains numerous suggestions to improve bike paths and pedestrian walkways (pages V-51 to V-56), especially in the towns of Mineral and Louisa. The plan notes that the Zoning Ordinances do not reflect these suggestions and may need to be updated. The plan does not specifically mention improving access to food or grocery stores, but there is an emphasis on connecting localities with safe bike networks and improving pedestrian walks around schools and shopping centers.

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

Q38. Reduce pesticide use, appropriate enforcement:

a. The Louisa Comprehensive plan, on pages IV-18 to IV-19, references several studies in the 1980's and 1990's regarding local government programs to regulate pesticide use, however there seems to be confusion as to whether the regulation responsibilities should fall to the state or localities. The plan states: "It seems, then, that local governments could limit the application of pesticides within such areas though a control of certain land uses generally linked with specific pesticides...However, these types of local controls seem to conflict with a recent decision by the General Assembly to control pesticide use at the state level."

Reduced pesticide use is not required or enforced, just recommended: "When land uses are proposed within an area vulnerable to pesticides used with the proposed land use, Extension Agents can consult with landowners about the risk of pesticides in the area, and if appropriate, recommend alternative pesticides to protect groundwater."

Q39. Protect farm workers from exposure:

a. Not mentioned

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

a. Section 78-34 of Louisa's Zoning Ordinances states that it is unlawful "to dispose of the sludge and other material removed from septic tanks except by depositing it under the surface of the ground in such manner that it will not be exposed to the atmosphere or endanger the source of domestic water or food supplies."

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

a. Not mentioned

Q42. Encourage transition to organic or sustainable for increased carbon sequestration:
a. Not mentioned

Q43. Offer incentives to transition to sustainable or organic:
a. Not mentioned

2. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

2a. Support local food production

Q44. Working farmland tax incentives:
a. According to the Louisa Comprehensive Plan, approximately 9.2% of the agricultural/forestal lands in Louisa are considered Agricultural-Forestal Districts (AFDs). The plan states: "AFDs were established by the State of Virginia as a means for counties to offer incentives to landowners to maintain their property in agriculture and forestry...The rural nature of the landscape is maintained and the tax rates remain low since residential development is slowed and county resources are not overburdened" (IV-15). The emphasis is on maintaining the county's rural character, though the incentives could also be used to encourage food production.

Q45. Purchasing preference for low-spray, organic or sustainable:
a. Not mentioned

Q46. Economic development support for food production:
a. Not mentioned

Q47. Purchase of local food when available:
a. The Louisa County Municipal Code mentions "Preference for local products and firms" in its Procurement section: "The county may, in the case of a tie bid, give preference to goods, services and construction produced in such locality or provided by persons, firms or corporations having principal places of business in the locality, if such a choice is available."
<http://library1.municode.com/default-test/home.htm?infobase=12480&doc_action=whatsnew>
[See Sec. 60-16]

Q48. Support system for seasonal labor for farms:
a. Not mentioned

Q49. Program to inspire and train new farmers, including immigrant assistance:
a. Not mentioned

Q50. Incentives for retailers to purchase local food:
a. Not mentioned

2b. Support development of local processing infrastructure

Q51. Programs to support or incubate food related businesses:

- a. Not mentioned

Q52. USDA kitchen or other processing facility available:

- a. Not mentioned

2c. Support development of local distribution infrastructure

Q53. Allow for farmers markets or tailgate markets:

- a. Not mentioned

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

- a. Not mentioned

Q55. Economic support for regional distribution center:

- a. Not currently mentioned, but stakeholders have expressed an interest in creating a distribution center. [Community Interview, See Compiled Interview Notes]

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

Q56. Incentives for businesses using locally produced food:

- a. Not mentioned

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

- a. Not mentioned

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 footprint:

- a. The design standards recommended in the Louisa County Comprehensive Plan were created to protect the local watershed and natural environment in a variety of ways, including: protection of local streams, lakes and estuaries; protection of sensitive forests, wetlands and habitats; urban wildlife habitat through natural area preservation, reduction of stormwater pollutant loads; and reduced soil erosion during construction (IV-2 to IV-3).

3b. Reduce nonpoint source stream pollution from agriculture

Q61. Reduce nonpoint source pollution from agriculture:

a. Design Standard #4 of the Comprehensive Plan is to "Use natural vegetation to mitigate effects of stormwater runoff through infiltration and filtering" (IV-12). This section describes many advantages to using buffer systems to protect stream water quality, though the recommendations are for general protection and do not mention pollution from agriculture sources specifically. The section also includes recommendations for pesticide management (see Q38).

b. Section 86-212 of the Zoning Ordinance for Louisa prohibits the "storage of gasoline, kerosene and other petroleum products and flammable liquids, dynamite, blasting caps and other explosives, pesticides and poison and other such materials which could result in hazard to life and/or water pollution in the event of flooding.

Q62. Riparian buffers used to reduce nonpoint source pollution:

a. The Comprehensive Plan states: "Surrounding the County's reservoirs, open space represents a minimum 100-foot riparian buffer intended to filter out sediment and other non-point source pollutants from runoff before it reaches those critical water resources" (V-4).

b. Section 38-102 states that the Stormwater Management Act of the Code of Virginia will "maintain the integrity of stream channels for their biological functions and drainage, minimize the impact of development upon stream erosion, and preserve and protect water supply facilities from stream erosion and nonpoint source pollution. Furthermore, Section 38-125 explains that Non-structural measures such as "minimization of impervious surfaces, stream buffer reforestation, providing additional stream buffer areas, flow splitting and dissipation, wetland restoration, and development design that reduces the rate and volume of runoff" will be encouraged to satisfy water quality requirements of the article.

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 Cupboard recently became one of eight of sixty sites approved to glean from WalMart locations and to get trained on how to glean and transport food items. [Community Interview, See Compiled Interview Notes]

Q68. Demonstration programs for composting:

a. Not mentioned

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

a. Not mentioned

4. 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. JABA has a "Local Food Initiative" which aims to provide elderly residents of Region Ten in Central Virginia with "local goods and services," acknowledging "the insecurities of the conventional food system." <<http://www.jabacares.org/page/full/local-food-initiative/>>

b. Louisa has a Community Cupboard which provides food for low-income residents. Its mission is "Working to ease hunger with compassion." <<http://www.louisacounty.com/LCliving/cupboard.htm>>

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

a. When the 2006 Comprehensive Plan was written, the JAUNT bus service for the elderly was the only form of public transportation in Louisa. The bus runs between Charlottesville and the town of Mineral (III-38, III-39A). The Plan includes a list of suggested projects from the Thomas Jefferson Rural Area Transportation study, which include increased JAUNT routes and services, though no other form of public transportation is suggested.

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

a. Not mentioned

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

a. The Louisa Comprehensive Plan states: "The Center for Watershed Protection examined some of the myths and facts associated with smaller lots and clustering and found that open space design was selling, cost less to produce, creates a sense of community when linked with bike and pedestrian facilities, is not solely for upper-bracket incomes, and could be accomplished with no net loss of units" (IV-10). This is not a needs assessment of low-income areas but has implications for increased food access in low-income areas when these lots have pedestrian routes and open space is used for community gardens.

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

a. Reliable biking and walking paths are not currently present, though there are plans to increase routes (see Q37). No mention of walking/biking paths in relation to food access.

Q75. Farmers' markets geographically accessible:

a. Not mentioned

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

Q76. Expedited development review for food stores in under served 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. Not mentioned

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. Not mentioned

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. Not mentioned

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

a. Farmer's Foods and Food Lion are open every day all day. The Louisa and Mineral farmer's markets both run Saturdays, but the Zion Crossroads market runs Fridays. [Community Interview, See Compiled Interview Notes]

Q86. Mobile farm stands or carts:

a. Not mentioned

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

a. Not mentioned

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. The Community Cupboard has three industrial-size in addition to regular-size refrigerators to store cold donations. [Community Interview, See Compiled Interview Notes]

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. We did not find this provision in Zoning Ordinances, but a stakeholder said there is a policy regarding housing for migrant workers. [Community Interview, See Compiled Interview Notes]

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

Q101. Community involved in organization of food opportunities:

a. Not mentioned

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. The Community Cupboard has plans to create a community garden on its property, which is owned by the county. [Community Interview, See Compiled Interview Notes]

5. LAND CONSERVATION / ACCESS TO LAND FOR FOOD PRODUCTION

Q106. Land conservation for food production:

a. Part of the Vision Statement for the Louisa County Comprehensive Plan states: "We should work to preserve the rural nature of Louisa, perceived as open spaces such as agricultural and forestry lands, through designation of such areas and initiating conservation design development standards for new development" (II-1). Conservation of agricultural land is a key aspect of the Comprehensive Plan, though it is phrased in terms of maintaining a rural character and food production is not mentioned.

Q107. Conservation easements for food production:

a. Conservation easements are mentioned in the Comprehensive plan as a method of open space management on page IV-12. They are not mentioned with reference to food production, however, but preventing over-development. The first positive aspect described for conservation easements is "guarantees protection from further development".

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. Not mentioned

Q110. Map of prime agricultural lands:

- a. Map 14 of the Comprehensive Plan (IV-16) is of the Louisa County Agricultural and Forestal Districts as well as the Green Springs Historic District. There is no map with areas described as "prime" agricultural land.

- b. Section 86-3 of the County's Zoning Ordinance states that map of Louisa County is "ordained for the purpose of promoting health, safety, order, prosperity, the conservation of natural and historic resources and the general welfare."

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

- a. Not mentioned

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

- a. Purchase of Development Rights (PDR), Transfer of Development Rights (TDR) and Agricultural Forestal Districts (AFDs) are all mentioned in the Comprehensive Plan on pages IV-14 to IV-15 as means to control development. The major goals are to preserve agriculture and forestry areas; there is no mention of food production. Land Use Taxation is also used for preservation: "This reduction in tax assessment has been shown to be essential in supporting a profitable agricultural/forestal business" (IV-17).

Q113. Green infrastructure plan that incorporates consideration for food production:

- a. Not mentioned

Community Food Systems 2010
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Project Overview

The Greene County food policy audit addresses five essential components of the local food system to evaluate the overall strength of the county's food policy. A well-established and transparent food system is an essential part of any community, and necessitates support through appropriate policy. Food resources require thoughtful infrastructure, planned just as thoroughly as a community's water, school and road systems. Policies governing food have social, cultural, economic and environmental implications. Greene County is fortunate to have a rich agricultural heritage and an abundance of natural resources. While the county has identified this as its major strength, there is currently a disconnect between the business of agriculture and the local edible goods produced. This audit identifies current practices and policies that influence the quality

and quantity of Greene County's food.

This audit identifies Greene County's food related policies and evaluates the subsequent effects on public health, economic development, the environment, social equity, and land conservation. Thorough analysis of these topics provides a picture of how the local food system functions within the community, identifies gaps and needs, and reveals community priorities for moving food policy forward in Greene County. The public health component of the audit will assess access and availability of fresh food



Greene County scenic view

as it correlates with prevention of obesity, chronic illness, and general well-being. The economic development portion examines support systems and opportunities available for local producers and small business owners. Environmental benefits of a local food system that will be noted include policies that support watershed protection, the prevention of non-point pollution, as well as initiatives that reduce waste. Social equity will be assessed in terms of the availability of public transportation connections to markets and grocery stores, support systems for residents dealing with food insecurity and whether fresh, high quality food is easily accessible to residents of all demographics. Finally, land conservation efforts will be documented, because the preservation of agricultural lands and green space directly affect the county's production capacity. A healthy, functional, economically viable food system depends on the county's commitment to these five categories.

Greene County, Virginia is a quickly growing suburb of Charlottesville, VA. Between 1990 and 2000 the county saw 48% growth in population - one of the largest increases in population in the country. It remains small at just under 18,000 residents and retains a significant rural character, especially as one

nears Shenandoah National Park and the Blue Ridge Mountains. The median household income in the county is \$45,931, compared to \$46,677 in the state of Virginia. 33% of students in Greene County are approved for reduced or free lunch, which is lower than the state's average of 37% of students. The top crop items in Greene are forage, corn and grapes, and the most common livestock include turkeys, cattle and pheasants. The average age of farmers in Greene is 61 – three years older than the state average of 58 years old. The county is one of the gateways for Central Virginia to the National Park. Its largest commercial area, Ruckersville, sits at the intersection two major arteries, Route 29 and Route 33. Much of the suburban growth has happened in this area. Within several miles numerous new homes have been built and significant new commercial development is in process, including the construction of a Walmart Super Center.

The county seat is Stanardsville. Stanardsville is a small town of just over 500 residents. Most of the town, and a good portion of adjacent areas are listed on the National Register of Historic Places as a historic district. There are several other landmarks in the town, including a historic courthouse, an inn, and a small shopping center. Greene County has a relatively low poverty rate at 6.6%, but Stanardsville has



Autumn Hill winery

a high rate at 15.1%. The Stanardsville Area Revitalization Program (*STAR*) is a local non-profit working to restore the community infrastructure, including the streetscape and pedestrian system in the town, to revitalize the historic commercial core of the county. There is a push within the organization to increase the number of local restaurants serving fresh food. The Greene County farmers' market is a small seasonal farmers' market that occurs on Saturdays just outside of Stanardsville at the Greene County Technical Educational Center.

There is some small scale farming in the county. Autumn Hills Winery and Stone Mountain Winery anchor local wine production. Planet Earth Diversified is a hydroponic farm that produces vegetables and fruit year-round. There are a number of small vacation rentals that grow food for guests to eat seasonally. Alpacas are raised in the area. Much of the county is rural and individuals grow food in gardens. There is



Stanardsville

relatively low exposure for farming and food related businesses in Greene County on the web. Beyond promoting local restaurants and agriculture as a means for economic stimulus, food policy is not something that residents and officials in Greene County have considered significantly.

Methodology

Analysis took place in two parts. First, laws, ordinances, guidelines and planning documents currently supported by the county were recorded. If a foundational or essential element of a local food system existed within the policy in question, this was marked with a, "yes," in the database. The source of the policy was then cited and quoted in a separate document. The policy being evaluated must have been culturally appropriate, accessible and available to the community in order to receive a "yes." The spreadsheet and its supplementary notes are included as Appendices A and B of this document.

The main documents that were reviewed in the initial audit stage were the 2010 Draft Comprehensive Plan, the land use-based taxation program (enacted by the 'Right to Farm' law), zoning ordinances delineating Agricultural and Forrestral districts, the Greene County School System Strategic Plan and Wellness Plan, as well as publications released by multiple nonprofit organizations contributing to food security in the area. A sampling of these documents has been included in the Appendix.

After the preliminary exploration of the policies in place, community members were consulted to verify the findings. Specific questions were posed to various stakeholders, including government employees and private citizens. These meetings served to identify any additional tax incentives, school and community programs, or funding options that allow or restrict Greene County residents from maintaining a physically, economically and environmentally healthy relationship with food.

Community engagement in Greene County food policy audit was extremely important. Much of the food-related work currently happening in Greene County is not represented on websites or in newspapers. Since documentation of food related programs

and policies were not widely available, incorporating the knowledge of community members allowed us to perform a much more accurate audit. Receipt of community suggestions and information created a more comprehensive understanding of food culture in the county. This culture represents unofficial norms or goals of the community that are not written anywhere, but are in effect, policy. Interviewing community members was an important part of understanding desires in the community, and was essential in crafting applicable recommendations.

Stakeholder meetings were also an effective tool in initiating the conversation on food policy among Greene County residents. Engaging community members and decision makers in conversations about food policy often brought to light issues that the residents had not previously considered. By highlighting food and agriculture's role as an important feature of successful communities, the community members will be paying closer attention to the treatment of food policy in Greene County.

Findings

Overall, Greene County is an area rich in agricultural history and pride, with great potential to increase access and distribution of nutritious, fresh food. Many of the policies in

place provide a good starting point, but stop short of truly encouraging a complete, secure food system in the county. Similarly, many programs are in place to address hunger, food distribution and economic progress, however, results have been limited by a lack of coordination between the organizations.

General Governance

Zoning ordinances play an important role in the development of a community by dictating which land uses are appropriate in which areas. The Greene County zoning ordinance is a relatively typical ordinance in Virginia. It identifies several important districts to the culture of the community, including conservation, agriculture, residential, business, and several others including Planned Unit Development, and Senior Residential. The most important zones in the ordinance as they relate to food are the conservation, agriculture and the R-1 residential districts. These ordinances are the only ones that directly deal with agriculture and food production. The business districts do not specifically identify food related businesses other than restaurants in the code, and when restaurants are noted, they do not identify a specific type and could include fast food.

The agricultural districts are open to most agricultural uses, including intensive options, and allow for processing facilities on site. Several wineries and other farming operations take advantage of this opportunity. The county encourages farming operations that are conducive to agritourism. Consequently, the agricultural district allows for service uses such as inns, bed and breakfasts, and restaurants in addition to farming. The conservation districts allow less intensive agriculture, in the interest of preserving natural resources. The R-1 residential district allows for some of the most inventive, “urban” farming opportunities. It allows, by right, light agricultural uses in the district, which opens the door to planting in abandoned lots, or creating community gardens. It also allows for the keeping of livestock and fowl with a special use permit. Obtaining this permit is not simple, but is generally granted with some oversight.

The 2010 Greene County Draft Comprehensive Plan provides direction for a county proud of its historical, agricultural and rural qualities, with goals of sustainable growth. While little consideration is given to food production and distribution within the region, the goals of the plan align well with the requirements of a functional food network. The focus on livable communities, conservation of agricultural land,



Raising cattle is a very common practice in Greene

multi-modal transportation options and pride in Greene County heritage sets the framework for a more flexible, accessible, and robust food system.

The three main focus areas of the Comprehensive Plan are land-use, transportation and economic development. Land-use is dictated by the growth area boundaries, which not only protect agricultural land from degradation, but also encourage more compact, mixed-use communities. These communities ideally have small and large scale grocery stores (although this is not explicitly stated – the plan calls for ‘a mix of services’) with patrons living close enough to walk or bike. The Plan also advocates for the use of conservation easements, a transfer of development rights or purchase of development rights program, a land use taxation incentive, as well as continued dedication of Agricultural and Forrestral districts. In 2001, 14,721 acres were in



Greene County Transit

Agricultural and Forrestral districts, and 6,201 acres were under easements held by the Virginia Outdoors Foundation. The county is creating an environment conducive to food production by placing a high priority on preserving agricultural lands.

Transportation goals in the Comprehensive Plan echo the goals of the recently completed US 29/33 Multimodal Corridor Study. There is an emphasis on creating safe, active, multi-modal corridors between growth centers, and improving the major arterials connecting Greene County with the region. Creating trails and encouraging walkable streets throughout the commercial ‘loop’ will improve access to grocery stores and farmers’ markets. These trails and walkable networks will be particularly important to low-income community members without access to a car. Improving active transportation will also aid in increasing the physical health of residents. The Comprehensive Plan goal of reducing childhood

obesity is intended to be met as a result of this increase in physical activity. The Plan does not mention improving the quality of food in the schools, or providing nutrition education, which would play a large role in combating obesity.

To improve the economic situation of the county, the Plan recommends increasing historical, agricultural and eco-tourism. Retail and food service is currently the largest private-sector industry in Greene County, and many of the vineyards, bed and breakfasts and Civil War sites have gained national recognition in tourism blogs and magazines. The county encourages tourism through its website, and has plans to create maps of Civil War resources, and put more effort into advertising local events (such as the Strawberry Festival, County Fair and farmers' markets). Celebrating history and culture is an essential part of Greene's development plan, however, there effort should not overshadow the economic potential of modern-day agricultural pursuits. An increased focus on food production, processing and distribution centers would create jobs, bring in money and improve the ability of the county to feed itself in an emergency situation. There is no mention of migrant workers in the Comprehensive Plan, however, their role in vineyard

operations and other mid-to-large scale farms should not be ignored. This population will need to be addressed.

Economic Development and Food Related Businesses

Greene County is committed to economic development. The county has identified a diverse commercial tax base as important to the county. To that end, the county has done several things that many communities do to promote business. They have worked to develop a branding for the community that celebrates the county's connection to the Blue Ridge as well as the rest of central Virginia. The community has also worked to reinvest in its downtown and the county seat – Stanardsville.

The non-profit group that has been heading up revitalization efforts is the Stanardsville Area Revitalization (STAR) program. The organization has not been solely focused on food related issues, but as a part of revitalization efforts they have been involved in a number of efforts to promote the community using food events. Leaders of STAR noted that wine festivals have been successful in bringing visitors into the county. Greene holds two wine festivals a year – one is the Monticello Trail Wine Festival in the spring, and the other is the Discover Virginia Wine Festival in the late

summer. The majority of the festivals are held on a large property that opens onto Route 33 – the major east west highway that crosses the county and links into the Shenandoah National Park and the Skyline Drive.

There have been several efforts to bring the festivals closer to the town so that local businesses might feel the spillover effect from the many visitors. Festivals have averaged between 1,000 and 1,500 visitors each. It has been difficult to find a site that would accommodate the parking necessary for a large crowd, as well as provide the limited access necessary to comply with the Virginia Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control (VABC) standards. The community has holds an alcohol-free Strawberry Festival in early June in downtown Stanardsville with significant success. This event serves as an excellent fundraiser, and its success provides motivation for moving the wine festivals into Stanardsville. Relocating the wine festivals downtown would provide economic incentive worth the extra hassle of locating a site that complies with the necessary stipulations.

Local businesses are also important to Greene County's economy. The town has several locally owned restaurants as well as an independent grocer. The businesses do not

serve exclusively local food, and some do not specifically source any of their food locally.

Restaurants in Greene source their food from a number of distributors and wholesale stores in the region. Additionally several of the fast-food restaurants in the county are owned by local franchisees. While these restaurants do not serve particularly healthy options, they do provide an opportunity for local entrepreneurs to make a relatively large amount of money.

There was some concern about sourcing meat at restaurants from back door sales. Concerns about food safety, quality, and consistency were key. One major anxiety was the ability to have consistent cook times for meals. When someone eats at a restaurant they pay a premium to have someone prepare it as well as the experience. If the experience is subpar or the food is not great, customers might not return, and it is a risk that restaurants take when they source food from different places. The ability to source foods at restaurants locally was interesting but several things would have to be done to make it work for those businesses.

Restaurants, especially when they are smaller, do not have a lot of time to work on sourcing ingredients. A single distributor, supplemented with other purchases, may be the best option for small restaurants. Sourcing locally requires

that a owner think about what is in season, where they can get it from, what the quality is like, and how it fits into the regulations that they must fulfill for health codes and insurance rates. A general liability policy could be near \$10,000 for a business like this, and would be crippling if rates grew at all. If distributors were able to source locally and efficiently for restaurants it could be easier. The Local Food Hub does have a presence in Greene, specifically providing distribution to the school. Smaller institutions and businesses could also tap into this resource.

Community members also talked about the varying definition of, “local.” Many distributors are locally based – the owners are Virginian, the businesses pay taxes in the

state, they employ Virginians who pay taxes and live locally, and the distributors might also be participating in local life as well. When a business buys from this distributor, they might essentially consider that they are purchasing locally. The definition of local is really determined by the values that a business, citizen, or locality has. If the values are more economically driven, then the definition of local might be much more in line with where the ownership of a business really is and whom they employ – not necessarily where they get their food from. If the values are more closely aligned with where the food specifically comes from, then that may lead to more locally sourced foods. There are certainly a number of different value systems that can lead to different food sourcing outcomes – these essentially need



Forage/hay is one of Greene's top crops

to be defined by the community or business that is making decisions about how they are crafting food related policies.

Community members did note one concern about fair regulations between food related businesses of different scales. One community member was concerned about how incorporated and established food businesses were held to higher standards of regulation than people at farmers' markets or unincorporated food businesses – like home based caterers. Incorporated businesses are required to be inspected, pass health code, carry insurance, pay taxes, and other things that unincorporated businesses are not. While additional regulations might stifle smaller businesses or unincorporated businesses, equality in regulation seems to be a goal that the community would like. It could manifest itself lower regulation or support for the businesses that do incorporate, rather than additional regulation on markets or unincorporated businesses.

Community members also noted the significant number of food and agricultural businesses that are near Greene County, but not directly in it. Wolf Creek Farm is very nearby in Madison County. The Shenandoah Valley – especially the Harrisonburg area, which is near by, has

a number of food businesses too. One of note to community members in Greene is a large company that ships many of the live herbs that can be bought in grocery stores – they are all grown organically.

Several inventive programs were also noted, but they have, so far, not been able to get off of the ground. One proposal was to use the heat that is generated from a gas station in the county to help heat a greenhouse to grow hydroponic plants. The heat could be pumped into the greenhouse so that there would be enough heat to be able to grow fruit and vegetables year round. A number of complications and costs kept the project from getting off the ground. Overall, there is an awareness of what food can mean for the community. One common comment was that if just one more restaurant opened in Stanardsville, it could lead to a real food business district and help revitalize the area. A number of community members said that the issue was not convincing the business to come, but instead to find who might open the business at all. Several people noted the bypass as something that really hurt businesses and restaurants in the town. Grants for restaurants or food businesses (or any new small business) were noted as things that could help. Low interest loans were also noted, but definitely not as enthusiastically as grant programs to help

entrepreneurs get off the ground. The next step is developing an action plan on how to meet some of the goals and find funding sources for programs.

Education

The School District Strategic Plan is short and general. The plan does not offer any guidance for the meals that are served to students, however, most aspects of school menu planning are already regulated by the USDA. Goal 6 of the plan states a need to develop “efficient systems for development, allocation and alignment of resources.” This goal could easily be applied to mealtime, and the purchasing and allocation of food. The Virginia Cooperative Extension has worked with the Virginia Departments of Education

and Agriculture, as well as local farms to bring Farm-to-School into the region. In 2010, Farm to School week will happen by state resolution. Greene County is currently participating throughout the year, using a portion of the USDA commodities budget toward locally farmed produce.

The school system has a Wellness Policy outlining goals for nutritional education and physical activity. The Wellness Committee, which is required by the state, meets five times a year, and consists of a representative from each school (usually the physical education teacher), the assistant superintendant of human resources and the nutrition supervisor. The committee discusses school policies, and makes recommendations to teachers, such as stopping



Greene County schoolbus

the practice of rewarding good behavior with candy, or taking away physical activity as punishment during the school day.

The school website and strategic plan made mention of improving wellness and decreasing obesity rates, but action items were never mentioned. However, this is not an indicator of the progress of the county. Carole Haas, the Greene County Schools Nutrition Supervisor, and Deborah Brown, the Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources have taken many steps to increase healthful and local food options available to students, and reducing daily access to non-nutritive foods. Vending machines in each school have been stripped of junk food, and some vending machines were simply removed. A fresh vegetable option is served at lunch, in addition to the cooked vegetable. Currently, soda machines only vend water and juices, and ice cream has been limited to a once a week treat in the elementary schools. Fortunately, students have responded positively to the changes, while the only complaints have come from a select number of staff members who are unwilling to give up their afternoon sweets.

Carole Haas is the supervisor of 23 cafeteria staff workers, and one secretary. She alone takes care of all the meal planning, food ordering and nutrition education in

all of Greene County Public Schools from kindergarten to 12th grade. About \$54,000 is spent on food from USDA Commodities, and \$20,000 of that is budgeted for fresh produce. A small portion of this produce comes from local farmers. Greene has been participating in the Farm to School program, and gets a weekly delivery of local produce from the Local Food Hub, operated out of Charlottesville. While the local foods are well-received, incorporating local food into menus is a time consuming process that restricts the amount that Ms. Haas can utilize. Local foods require that seasonality be considered, which is difficult when planning meals far in advance for a very large population. Ms. Haas would require a larger staff and increased budget in order to incorporate a significantly higher amount of local, fresh produce into the school meal plans.

The parents, students and administrative staff of the Greene County School System have been supportive and open to new food practices within the schools. Ms. Haas and Ms. Brown have found their only hurdles to be time, money and USDA regulations. Haas believes that things will improve as the USDA slowly improves regulations, and encourages more fresh produce to be served in schools. She also spoke positively about First Lady Michelle Obama's, "Let's Move" initiative, which recommends that

each school have it's own nutrition coordinator to implement meal standards and teach nutrition education.

Ms. Haas and Ms. Brown are both advocates of having mandatory physical education classes for all grade levels, which could potentially include gardening as an option. An added benefit to including gardening in the curriculum is fostering interest in agriculture in the young people of Greene. The current lack of interest was noted by multiple community members, and is particularly problematic for a county that views the growth of agriculture and agritourism as a main economic development tool. While incorporating agriculture and gardening into the curriculum is an excellent idea, Ms. Haas and Ms. Brown recognize that it is difficult to fit any extra lessons into a curriculum that is already struggling to accommodate the academic pursuits required by federal guidelines.

In order to increase awareness of the importance of physical health, Ms. Haas and Ms. Brown plan to piggyback off of the popular annual Arts Festival. The festival, which displays the artistic talents of the community through art exhibits and performances, is extremely well attended by a wide range of community members. They

hope to hold a health festival concurrently at the event next year, to capitalize on the already high attendance. Concurrently, the 4H club of Greene County is attempting bridge the nutrition education gap in the school-age population by offering a foods, nutrition and health program as part of their regular schedule. This is an especially valuable program because it offers a clear link between farming, food, nutrition and supply security.

Community Programs and Non-Profits Addressing Food Insecurity

Hunger and food access are addressed through nonprofits in the area, such as the Jefferson Area Board on Aging (JABA), the Greene County Food Bank operated by the Women's Club of Greene County, and multiple church sponsored soup kitchens and pantries. JABA is a very active organization in the county, whose mission to improve local food access spans far beyond aging populations. In the words of Judy Berger, JABA's Community Nutrition Manager, "Healthy aging begins well before retirement." Developing healthy habits at an early age will significantly affect health and food choices one makes as an adult, so fostering opportunities for community involvement in a nutritious, local food system is a main priority of the organization.



Grace Church in Stanardsville

The Department of Social Services (DSS) readily addresses food insecurity with their clients on a daily basis. The agency distributes a list of locations, hours and rules of each food bank in the area. It also runs a monthly distribution program in conjunction with Angel Food, a national food bank. DSS recently obtained an EBT machine for Angel Food distribution and James Howard, the Director of the Greene County DSS, believes that this will open the door to the farmers' market for everyone. Mr. Howard plans on including the hours and location of the county's farmers' market in the existing list of food banks.

Moving Forward

Greene County has enormous potential to develop into a secure, profitable, healthy, and accessible food network. Positive food practices and policies can certainly be established based on the county's cultural heritage, agricultural resources, and innovative community members. Priorities for moving



The Lafayette is a popular restaurant in Stanardsville

forward were derived from stakeholder observations and recommendations.

These actions include improving nutrition education in the community, providing direct entrepreneurial support to local producers, protecting and capitalizing on existing agricultural assets, and better coordination between efforts to prevent food insecurity. These are broad goals that can be achieved through a variety of actions.

Nutrition education was a high priority for all the community members interviewed, and most expressed a desire for nutrition education to be included in the academic curriculum. Improved nutrition education could also result from extra-curricular activities, such as the health fair, or creation of a school garden and garden club. Increasing the fresh food budget for school meals would gradually increase nutrition education, as students become accustomed to healthier options and develop positive eating habits.

A very successful nutrition education program is nearby. The Quality Community Council (QCC) in Charlottesville has created several programs to improve nutrition education and cooking as a part of the services that they provide to low-income residents in the city. The QCC was concerned that nutrition education would be too dry and boring of a topic for community members to spend any time on, so they started at the end. Instead of developing classes on what foods were more nutritious or better to eat, they began to offer cooking classes to residents in the community. They taught people to cook healthful meals and showed people what the end product could be. This helped develop interest in other efforts that the group was hoping to implement. By showing residents what they could make, the QCC has been able to teach people to farm, to understand how food choices affect their diet, and how exercise and activity also play into their health.

Capitalizing on existing resources and providing entrepreneurial support to small business owners and farmers go hand in hand. Agriculture is broadly recognized as Greene County's greatest asset. It will economically benefit the county to conserve the existing agricultural land, while encouraging the younger population to take part in the

farming, processing and distribution of local goods. Greene can utilize the VCE's extensive knowledge of agriculture and processing techniques to teach classes in innovative farming techniques and vineyard maintenance.

Another suggestion that would benefit Greene County financially, was to require all businesses opening in the county to sell a certain percentage of locally produced goods. In conjunction with provision of grants and tax incentives, this policy could significantly increase the demand for Greene County products, while increasing the availability of fresh, local food available. This will become especially important in Ruckersville, where the new Walmart will undoubtedly generate many new jobs, while creating difficult competition for local producers. Partnering with this large retailer will be key.

While it is difficult to find specific policies from other localities where direct entrepreneurial and financial support is provided to farmers and





Great Value is the major grocery store in Stanardsville

food related businesses, a number of programs do exist that could be tailored and fit to deal specifically with these efforts. The important part of any program is being deliberate and strategic with the support that is provided. People providing support, especially financial support should be able to answer what they hope to accomplish or change in the community with the resources they provide, where they want the support to go, and what specific activities they hope to encourage.

A general example to explore might be broader economic development policies or downtown development policies. Downtown development policies sometimes include significant cash grants to investors in property who undertake renovations that improve the district. They also sometimes pay entrepreneurs who are starting businesses to help with some start up costs. The principle would be the same with food related grant programs. The main principle for any locality would be to ensure

that the programs that they develop add to the network of food related businesses and food opportunities for the community.

Greene County's various organizations working to decrease the food insecurity would benefit from a more coordinated effort. All of the individual programs need a centralized marketing effort that will allow people requiring their services to easily locate the appropriate resource. Making SNAP benefits available at the farmers' market is a good first step toward affordable fresh food, but its success will depend on this option being properly publicized. JABA has successfully established an EBT machine to the Charlottesville market, and JABA representatives have indicated that many programs that are successful in Charlottesville will eventually work their way out into the surrounding counties. Programs in the works that could benefit Greene County include gleaning from markets and grocery stores and providing vouchers for low-income and senior residents to use for fresh, local food.

Residents, community leaders, and interested stakeholders in Greene all expressed a desire to have more comprehensive action, to continue to protect and capitalize on the number of assets that are in the community, and to continue the

conversation related to food and the community. A solid foundation for all of these goals is the development of a food policy council or a food council. Food councils are sometimes governmental groups, but are often community driven groups who have an interest in improving or considering the food system in a community.

Food policy councils or groups have become popular in larger cities and different places across the country. Hartford, Philadelphia, and Berkeley are a few communities that have developed groups whose main charge is to address and work towards a food system that better serves the needs of the community. Each group has a different form because each community is different. All have a connection to the government but operate somewhat independently. They have found ways to implement programs ranging from helping subsidize grocery stores in difficult markets to helping create urban gardens and farmers markets. Berkeley has worked to improve

sourcing for food in schools.

A food policy council in Greene could meet a number of the community goals. If there were concerns about stretching volunteers thin or there not being enough interested parties, possibly a region-wide food policy council could be created. The TJPDC currently does not have a council and since the region has many different component parts that make up a larger food system, this could be a scale where Greene was able to participate without creating too many stretches on people's time.

Most importantly, it is essential that Greene County residents continue the food system conversation. Significant physical, cultural and economic benefits can be realized through a more diverse, locally focused food system in the area. Existing policies in the county reflect appreciation of a rich, agricultural heritage, and the next step is to make the connection between agriculture and food processing and distribution.



Stanardsville Town Hall



Greene is full of rural, scenic views

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* Removed. Please see powerpoints from presentation on class page

A. List of Acronyms

BFBL	Buy Fresh Buy Local Guide (PEC's)
CSA	Community Supported Agriculture
EDA	Economic Development Authority
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
ESC	Erosion and Sedimentation Control
GCT	Greene County Transit
GCPS	Greene County Public Schools
JABA	Jefferson Area Board on Aging
PDR	Purchase of Development Rights
PEC	Piedmont Environmental Council
SBDC	Small Business Development Center
STAR	Stanardsville Area Revitalization
TDR	Transfer of Development Rights
TJPDC	Thomas Jefferson Planning District Commission
USDA	United States Department of Agriculture
VABC	Virginia Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control
VCE	Virginia Cooperative Extension
VDCR	Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation
VOF	Virginia Outdoors Foundation

B. Food Policy Audit

[illegible]

[illegible]

		Does the locality offer demonstration programs to encourage composting?	no	no	no	no	no	n/a	n/a				
		Does the locality offer a central site for composting home food and yard materials?	no	no	no	no	no	n/a	n/a				
d. Reduce Pesticides and Herbicides In Groundwater and Surface Waters See I.E.													
4. SOCIAL EQUITY													
a. Increase transportation system access to markets that sell fresh and healthful foods by underserved communities		Does the locality have a policy to provide access to quality food for all citizens, especially those with greater need?	no	no	no	no	yes	no	no			(http://www.vgreene.com/community_matters/Food_Bank/INDEX.html, http://www.jabacares.org/page/full/community-centers,	
70		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	yes	n/a	n/a				
71		Are these transportation services available at multiple times of day and evening, in rural as well as urban areas?	no	no	no	no	yes	n/a	n/a			Daytime only, limited rural through Green County Transit and Jaunt	www.goa.us, http://www.ridijaunt.org/orange-green.aspx
72		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	no	no	no	no	n/a	n/a				
73		Do safe biking and walking paths exist between low-income neighborhoods and food stores and markets, in rural as well as urban areas?	yes	no	no	no	no	n/a	n/a			2010 Draft Comprehensive Plan, page 56	http://www.tjplc.org/GreeneCo/materials/FullComPlanDraft9_3_10.pdf
74		Are farmer's markets geographically accessible by low income neighborhoods, in rural as well as urban areas?	no	no	no	no	no	n/a	n/a				
b. Support location of grocers providing healthy local foods in diverse and underserved locations		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	n/a	n/a				
76		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	n/a	n/a				
77		Are tax credits available to developers for opening a grocery store in certain areas?	no	no	no	no	no	n/a	n/a				
78		Are there any regulatory incentives, such as relaxed zoning requirements, that can facilitate new stores in underserved areas?	no	no	no	no	no	n/a	n/a				
79		Does the locality offer any predevelopment assistance to developers to expedite the review process?	no	no	no	no	no	n/a	n/a				
c. Increase availability of fresh and healthful foods for underserved communities		Does the locality support the purchase/use of Electronic Benefits Transfer (EBT) cards to provide low-income access to farmer's markets?	no	no	no	no	no	n/a	n/a				
81		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	no	no	no	no	n/a	n/a				
82		Do farmer's markets and/or grocery stores accommodate WIC coupons, Senior Nutrition coupons, or EBT machines?	no	no	yes	no	no	n/a	n/a			Great Value currently accepts WIC and SNAP benefits	
83		Do farmer's markets enable \$2 or \$3 healthy food credit for every EBT dollar?	no	no	no	no	no	n/a	n/a				
84		Are markets and stores accessible at multiple times and days to accommodate varying work schedules?	no	no	n/a	no	no	n/a	n/a				
85		Does the locality support, or are there programs for mobile farms stands and mobile food carts?	no	no	no	no	no	n/a	n/a				
86		Do local faith, nonprofit organizations, and educational institutions (public and private) have policies to buy local food for events when available?	no	no	n/a	no	no	n/a	n/a				
d. Support an effective emergency food infrastructure		Does the locality have a policy that its citizens have a "right to food security"? (cf. Belo Horizonte, Brazil)	no	n/a	no	no	no	n/a	n/a				
88		Does the locality support the provision of a central directory of all emergency food providers?	no	n/a	no	no	no	n/a	n/a				
89		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	n/a	n/a				

C. Food Policy Audit Supplemental Notes

Greene County Food Audit Supplemental Notes

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1. PUBLIC HEALTH

1a: Reduce and Prevent Community Obesity and Chronic Illness

Q1: Mention of goal for improving public health:

- a. *2010 Draft 2010 Draft Comprehensive Plan, page 18: "The abiding principle for all growth area categories is the walkability of new and retrofitted development. The 'walkability circle' is 1/4 mile in radius and represents an approximately 5 minute walks. It is optimal for the center of the walkability circle to have an identifiable non-residential use. This may be as simple as a small park or civic green or in a higher intensity applications a commercial or civic center." (Overall goal of developing mixed-use communities and green spaces connected by multi-modal corridors is expected to improve physical health of the population.)*
- b. *School district strategic plan goal number six states a need to develop "efficient systems for development, allocation and alignment of resources." The Wellness Plan states that it is, "committed to improving the nutrition, fitness, and health of students, faculty, staff and community members. The appreciation of good nutritional habits and a physically active lifestyle promote cognitive development."*

Q2: Goal to reduce obesity:

- a. *2010 Draft Comprehensive Plan, page 102: "Improve the health and wellness of students with exercise and diet. Continue to coordinate school wellness programs with parks and recreation programs." (Not a specific goal, but an interest in increasing green space as a way of reducing obesity and increasing public health.)*

Q3: Overall Wellness Plan:

- a. *2010 Draft Comprehensive Plan, page 111: "Securing natural amenities in close proximity to living spaces increases quality of life for residents and has been shown to enhance property values. Health benefits, from decreased obesity rates to better air quality, have long been associated with sufficient green space nearby."*

b. The county's 4H is run through the VCE and an integrated part of their curriculum focuses on Nutrition and Wellness.

Q4: Farm to School programs:

a. Not mentioned anywhere on website, however the county does participate in the farm to school week and there has been a local new story about their membership in the program.

Q5. School purchasing local:

a. Carol Haas, Greene County School Nutrition Supervisor, uses a portion of her USDA Commodities budget to purchase local produce from the Food Hub.

Q6. Reduce available junk food:

Not Mentioned

Q7. Educate cafeteria workers:

Not Mentioned

Q8. Food based lesson plans:

a. Carol Haas, Greene County School Nutrition Supervisor, used to teach nutrition education in the classroom, with food to taste test donated from Whole Foods. She did this for 10 years, however recent strains on time and money have prevented her from doing this lately.

Q9. School gardens:

Not Mentioned

Q10. Joint use agreement:

Not Mentioned

Q11. Chain restaurants/calories on menus:

Not Mentioned

Q12. Tax on/discourage low nutritional value items:

Not Mentioned

Q13. Discourage SNAP for sugary foods and beverages:

Not Mentioned

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

Q14. Increase awareness of healthy lifestyle:

Not Mentioned

Q15. Definition for local food:

Not Mentioned

Q16. Support production and distribution of local food:

- a. 2010 Draft Comprehensive Plan, page 79: *“The market growth in local foods over the last several years has benefited farmers in Greene County. The Greene County farmers’ market runs monthly from June to October at the Greene County Technical College on Route 33. About a dozen other markets are in operation seasonally in the region, at which Greene County farmers have the opportunity to sell their produce directly to customers. A growing number of grocers, restaurants, and Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) groups in the Charlottesville area are providing food from farmers in the region.*

Q17. Guide to local food support:

- a. 2010 Draft Comprehensive Plan, page 79: *“The Piedmont Environmental Council has a ‘Buy Fresh Buy Local’ campaign to encourage residents to purchase food from farmers in the region. Several Greene County producers that are currently participating in this program. The Virginia Independent Consumers and Farmers Association (VICFA) also works to promote small-scale agriculture in Greene County, mostly at the level of the state legislature” Comprehensive Plan recommends maintaining and promoting awareness of tax incentives for farmers, supporting farmers’ markets, partnering with Virginia Cooperative Extension to recruit young farmers, encouraging annual events like the Strawberry festival, as well as collecting stories from generational farmers to produce a pamphlet or documentary about the area’s farming heritage.*

Stated Goals on page 139 include, “Partner with the Greene County office of Virginia Cooperative Extension to help recruit young farmers and reduce the barriers to entry inherent to farming in the area. Encourage annual events such as the County Fair and the Strawberry Festival. Promote agritourism businesses targeted toward the D.C. metro area. Collect stories from generational farmers to produce a pamphlet or documentary about the area’s farming heritage.”

Q18. Purchasing preference for local:

Not Mentioned

Q19. Media campaign to support healthy eating:

Not Mentioned

Q20. Support Food Policy Council:

Not Mentioned

1c. Flexible Policies and Zoning for Creative and Adaptive Uses

Q21. Code allowance for open space or community gardens:

- a. 2010 Draft Comprehensive Plan, page 114: *“Roof drain disconnection, rain gardens, well-placed drainage basins, and various water treatment or filtration practices are other elements of watershed design. At the household level, individuals can use rain barrels or other catchment devices to capture rainwater and reuse for household purposes. A new*

stormwater management policy being considered by the Virginia DCR includes provisions to allow each of these design features to meet future mandated requirements.”

b. VOF and PEC easements.

c. The zoning ordinance provides a number of zones where open space is key, and the goal of the zone is to preserve open space. It also allows for light agricultural use in a number of zoning classifications, including Residential-1.

Q22. Promote accessibility to community gardens for all neighborhoods:

Not Mentioned

Q23. Land protections for farmers’ markets:

Not Mentioned

Q24. Pocket parks to community gardens:

Not Mentioned

Q25. Allow abandoned lots for gardens or farms:

a. Article 5 of the 2009 Zoning Ordinance, allows light agriculture (including raising live-stock and poultry with special permit) in R-1 zones. Abandoned lots could be a part of this.

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

Not Mentioned

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

a. Article 5 of the 2009 Zoning Ordinance, allows raising poultry in residential areas is allowed with a special permit in certain zones (R-1).

Q28. Funding for food projects:

Not Mentioned

Q29. Minimal on-site processing:

a. Article 4 of the 2009 Zoning Ordinance allows processing and processing facilities are allowed in agricultural districts and conservation districts.

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

Q30. Offer multi-modal transportation:

a. 2010 Draft Comprehensive Plan, page 138: “Integrate a variety of transportation options, including pedestrian, bicycle, transit and other vehicular traffic.” An encouraged funding source on page 114, “Transportation Enhancement Program (TEP), intended to encourage alternative transportation projects, such as bicycle and pedestrian facilities, beautification projects, and environmental mitigation. Funds are administered through VDOT as a reimbursement to localities for up to 80% of eligible project costs.”

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

Not Mentioned

Q32. Transport food to low income and migrant neighborhoods:

Not Mentioned

Q33. Safe biking and walking paths to food sources:

- a. *2010 Draft Comprehensive Plan: Transportation goal, page 72, "Maximize walking and biking opportunities by using the street cross-sections in the Mixed Use Village and Town Centers and Mixed Use Residential areas for all transportation improvements. Promote internal connectivity through use of short block lengths and multiple access points especially in the Mixed Use Village and Town Centers and Mixed Use Residential areas."*
- b. *Local small bus system to Charlottesville with Jaunt. This is a bus system that has a limited radius and schedule, but can be ordered for pick up and drop off on a routine basis. (www.ridejaunt.org).*
- c. *Greene County Transit (GCT) runs Monday through Friday 7:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m., and Saturday 9:00 am to 4:00 p.m. Seniors ride for free on Saturdays. Rides are \$2.50 per stop in the county, \$3.00 in Charlottesville, and require scheduling 24 hours prior. The service is on-demand only, and its 28 vehicle fleet includes 5 wheelchair accessible vans. (www.gcva.us)*

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

- a. *Local small bus system to Charlottesville with Jaunt. This is a bus system that has a limited radius and schedule, but can be ordered for pick up and drop off on a routine basis. (www.ridejaunt.org)*
- b. *Greene County Transit (GCT) runs Monday through Friday 7:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m., and Saturday 9:00 am to 4:00 p.m. Seniors ride for free on Saturdays. Rides are \$2.50 per stop in the county, \$3.00 in Charlottesville, and require scheduling 24 hours prior. The service is on-demand only, and its 28 vehicle fleet includes 5 wheelchair accessible vans. (www.gcva.us)*

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

- a. *Greene County Transit (GCT) runs Monday through Friday 7:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m., and Saturday 9:00 am to 4:00 p.m. Seniors ride for free on Saturdays. Rides are \$2.50 per stop in the county, \$3.00 in Charlottesville, and require scheduling 24 hours prior. The service is on-demand only, and its 28 vehicle fleet includes 5 wheelchair accessible vans. (www.gcva.us)*
- b. *A free ride to the grocery store is offered once weekly from the Stanardsville JABA Center.*

Q36. Is transportation available during days and nights?

- a. *Greene County Transit (GCT) runs Monday through Friday 7:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m., and Saturday 9:00 am to 4:00 p.m. Seniors ride for free on Saturdays. Rides are \$2.50 per stop in the county, \$3.00 in Charlottesville, and require scheduling 24 hours prior. The service is on-demand only, and its 28 vehicle fleet includes 5 wheelchair accessible vans. (www.gcva.us)*

Q37. Bike path or sidewalk plan:

- a. *Chapter Four of the US 29/33 Multi-Modal Corridor Study, recommends shared path design guidelines for multiple types of roads.*

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

Q38. Reduce pesticide use, appropriate enforcement:

Not Mentioned

Q39. Protect farm workers from exposure:

Not Mentioned

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

Not Mentioned

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

- a. *2010 Draft Comprehensive Plan, page 81: "Encourage farming techniques that help protect farmland and water quality. Encourage organic and/or hydroponic farming. Promote use of riparian or vegetated buffers to a minimum width of 35 feet on either side of streams to protect fish and help keep water clean. Encourage Best Management Practices (BMPs) such as no-till, contour plowing, cover crops that conserve soil integrity and health, rain-water filtration, and the reduction of overland flow of water to area streams."*

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

Not Mentioned

Q43. Offer incentives to transition to sustainable or organic:

Not Mentioned

2. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

2a. Support local food production

Q44. Working farmland tax incentives:

- a. *2010 Draft Comprehensive Plan, page 81: "Investigate county measures to encourage and retain farming and land use operations. Maintain land use taxation and promote awareness of tax incentives for farmers. Partner with other organizations to encourage conservation easements for agriculture and forestry. Concentrate future development into growth areas in accordance with the land use section of the 2010 Draft Comprehensive Plan."*
- b. *Land Use Taxation is available in Greene County.*

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

Not Mentioned

Q46. Economic development support for food production:

- a. *2010 Draft Comprehensive Plan: Page 81, "Achieve recognition of farming and farmers as a vital part of the county's future and make them a part of tourism. Encourage annual events such as the County Fair and the Strawberry Festival. Promote agritourism businesses targeted toward the D.C. metro area. Actively celebrate farming heritage. Collect stories from generational farmers to produce a pamphlet or documentary about the area's farming heritage. Support local agriculture through the Buy Fresh, Buy Local campaign and promote a year-round farmers' market."*

Q47. Purchase of local food when available:

Not Mentioned

Q48. Support system for seasonal labor for farms:

Not Mentioned

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

- a. *2010 Draft Comprehensive Plan, page 139: "Partner with the Greene County office of Virginia Cooperative Extension to help recruit young farmers and reduce the barriers to entry inherent to farming in the area...Collect stories from generational farmers to produce a pamphlet or documentary about the area's farming heritage."*

Q50. Incentives for retailers to purchase local food:

Not Mentioned

2b. Support development of local processing infrastructure

Q51. Programs to support or incubate food related businesses:

Not Mentioned

Q52. USDA kitchen or other processing facility available:

Not Mentioned

2c. Support development of local distribution infrastructure

Q53. Allow for farmers markets or tailgate markets:

- a. *2010 Draft Comprehensive Plan, page 81: "Support local agriculture through the Buy Fresh, Buy Local campaign and promote a year-round farmers' market."*
b. *Articles 4, 5 and 9 of the 2009 Zoning Ordinance allow for temporary and roadside markets in business zones, residential zones, and agricultural zones.*

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

Not Mentioned

Q55. Economic support for regional distribution center:
Not Mentioned

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

Q56. Incentives for businesses using locally produced food:
Not Mentioned

Q57. Support for identification and development of heritage seeds, food, products, etc:
a. 2010 Draft Comprehensive Plan, page 139, "Collect stories from generational farmers to produce a pamphlet or documentary about the area's farmign heritage." This isn't a direct policy, but could be a starting point.

Q58. Program that supports stores that provide fresh, local options for low income:
Not Mentioned

2e. Support increased Security of Food Supply

Q59. Emergency preparedness plan for disruptions in food supply:
a. Hazard Mitigation Ordinance, page 12: Hazard mitigation ordinance requires that emergency plans and places of shelter be mapped out and displayed in libraries and public spaces. Places of food distribution have not been included. (<http://www.gcva.us/dpts/plan/Hazard%20Mitigation%20Plan.pdf>)

3. ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS

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

Q60. Goal to reduce footprint:
Not Mentioned

3b. Reduce nonpoint source stream pollution from agriculture

Q61. Reduce nonpoint source pollution from agriculture:
a. The Chesapeake Bay Foundation and the EPA have set standards for all of the water basins related to the Chesapeake Bay.

Q62. Riparian buffers used to reduce nonpoint source pollution:

a. *2010 Draft Comprehensive Plan, page 141: "Promote voluntary establishment of new 'riparian buffers' around 3rd order streams to protect valuable surface water resources and maintain existing riparian buffers....Consider adopting Watershed Protection Design Standards."*

b. *Erosion and Sedimentation Control (ESC) Ordinance: "Except as provided herein, no person may engage in any land-disturbing activity until he has submitted to the Program Administrator for the County of Greene, Virginia an erosion & sediment control and stormwater management plan for the land-disturbing activity and such plan has been approved, a bond posted and a permit issued by the plan-approving authority." The ESC plan must comply with the Virginia Erosion and Sediment Control Handbook and the Virginia Stormwater Management Handbook.*

Section 38-75 includes ater quality requirements: "Minimal use of paved channels, curb & gutter and underground pipe, along with maximum use of vegetated channels, planting beds, level spreaders and other measures designed to promote on-site infiltration of stormwater into the ground. Conveyance of all impervious surface runoff through either on-site stormwater management pond(s) containing permanent pool(s) of water (whose volume and surface area equals at least two-thirds of the 10-year storage)." While these standards don't specifically reference riparian buffers, vegetated channels and planting beds also protect rivers from nonpoint pollution. (<http://www.gcva.us/dpts/plan/esc-swmordinance.pdf>)

Q63. Fence livestock from stream banks:

Not Mentioned

Q64. Program to manage excess animal manure:

Not Mentioned

3c. Reduce Food Waste

Q65. Encourage foraging from unused locations:

Not Mentioned

Q66. Local map for food foraging:

Not Mentioned

Q67. Opportunity for gleanings from farms and restaurants:

Not Mentioned

Q68. Demonstration programs for composting:

Not Mentioned

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

Not Mentioned

4. 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. *The Greene County Food Bank is administered by the Woman's Club of Greene County. Food is distributed from the Social Services office located at 10009 Spottswood Trail in Stanardsville. The office is open Monday through Friday, 8:30 AM until 4:30 PM.*

"The Greene County Food Bank is the only source of emergency food assistance that is located in the county and available to residents in need on a daily basis. The food bank is able to help the hungry through the generous support of the community. Donations stay in the county and are used to feed the hungry in Greene County." (http://www.vgreene.com/community_matters/Food_Bank/INDEX.htm)

b. *JABA offers home delivered meals and Ensure from its Greene County Center located in Stanardsville. (<http://www.jabacares.org/page/full/community-centers>)*

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

Not Mentioned

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

a. *Greene County Transit (GCT) runs Monday through Friday 7:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m., and Saturday 9:00 am to 4:00 p.m. Seniors ride for free on Saturdays. Rides are \$2.50 per stop in the county, \$3.00 in Charlottesville, and require scheduling 24 hours prior. The service is on-demand only, and its 28 vehicle fleet includes 5 wheelchair accessible vans. (www.gcva.us)*

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

Not Mentioned

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

a. *2010 Draft Comprehensive Plan, page 56: "The 2004 Town of Stanardsville Safety, Circulation and Beautification plan calls for an improved sidewalk and crosswalk network. Public workshops held in conjunction with this 2010 Draft Comprehensive Plan update have also highlighted the need to improve pedestrian and bicycle accommodations in Stanardsville and in other growth areas throughout the county. The Jefferson Area Bicycle, Pedestrian and Greenway Plan was adopted by the Planning District in 2004. This plan recommended a network of on-street bicycle routes and off-street greenways throughout the county to connect population centers and recreational areas.*

In the last five years, VDOT has redoubled efforts to encourage cycling and walking throughout the state. A number of policies have been passed, according to VDOT in order to, 'accommodate bicyclists and pedestrians, including pedestrians with disabilities, along with motorized transportation modes in the planning, funding, design operation and maintenance of Virginia's transportation network."

Q75. Farmers' markets geographically accessible:

Not Mentioned

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

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

Not Mentioned

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

Not Mentioned

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

Not Mentioned

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

Not Mentioned

Q80: Offer predevelopment assistance to developers for grocery stores:

Not Mentioned

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

Q81. EBT machines at farmers' markets:

Not Mentioned

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

Not Mentioned

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

a. Grocery stores yes, farmers' market no.

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

Not Mentioned

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

Not Mentioned

Q86. Mobile farm stands or carts:

Not Mentioned

Q87. Faith, nonprofit or institutions have purchasing preferences for local foods:
Not Mentioned

4d. Support an effective emergency food infrastructure

Q88. Right to food security:
Not Mentioned

Q89. Central directory of emergency food providers:
Not Mentioned

Q90. System for referring people in need of food:
Not Mentioned

Q91. Support coordination and cooperation between agencies:
Not Mentioned

Q92. Opportunity for storage of fresh foods for providers:
Not Mentioned

4e. Support equitable working conditions for farm labor

Q93. Living wage policy for all who work, including farm labor:
Not Mentioned

Q94. Access to fresh, healthful food for those who produce it:
Not Mentioned

Q95. Ensure training for farm labor that is comfortable, accessible in native language:
Not Mentioned

Q96. Adequate protection from pesticides:
Not Mentioned

Q97. Opportunities for transitional farm labor to become engaged in local community:
Not Mentioned

Q98. Person available for migrant farm workers to contact regarding community events:
Not Mentioned

Q99. Map of farm worker camps:
Not Mentioned

Q100. Housing opportunities for migrant workers:

Not Mentioned

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

Q101. Community involved in organization of food opportunities:

a. The Greene County Farm Bureau and the Ruritans organize the farmers' market on Saturday mornings during the summer months. The Ruritans is a national club, focused on community service. The market is publicized through PEC's Buy Fresh Buy Local Guide, JABA and VCE.

Q102. Culturally appropriate fresh foods:

Not Mentioned

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

a. 2010 Draft Comprehensive Plan, page 81: "Achieve recognition of farming and farmers as a vital part of the county's future and make them a part of tourism. Encourage annual events such as the County Fair and the Strawberry Festival. Promote agritourism businesses targeted toward the D.C. metro area. Actively celebrate farming heritage. Collect stories from generational farmers to produce a pamphlet or documentary about the area's farming heritage. Support local agriculture through the Buy Fresh, Buy Local campaign and promote a year-round farmers' market."

Q104. Incorporate migrant workers in markets and community events:

Not Mentioned

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

Not Mentioned

5. LAND CONSERVATION / ACCESS TO LAND FOR FOOD PRODUCTION

Q106. Land conservation for food production:

Not Mentioned

Q107. Conservation easements for food production:

a. The County and the Piedmont Environmental Council purchase easements for conservation of open space and agricultural land. The PEC has a local chapter and representation in Greene County.

Q108. Allow public space or land for food production:

Not Mentioned

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

Not Mentioned

Q110. Map of prime agricultural lands:

a. Prime agricultural lands are identified in the zoning ordinance map as the highest priority lands for conservation. These lands are zoned as agricultural.

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

a. 2010 Draft Comprehensive Plan, page 78: "The county has also used Agricultural and Forestal Districts as a support measure. These are voluntary agreements between land-owners and the local government to decline from development in exchange for eligibility for land use taxation and limitations of eminent domain. When the program began in 1982, 23,315 acres were enrolled. The number of acres in the program had fallen to 14,721 by 2001. Conservation easements, legal agreements to keep land open or in agricultural use in perpetuity, are another available tool. Greene County does not directly purchase conservation easements at this time, but several parcels in the county have been preserved specifically for farming through the Virginia Outdoors Foundation. A total of 6201 acres in Greene County are under an easement held by VOF." Agriculture needs to be strongly defined, and food specifically mentioned as the product.

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

a. 2010 Draft Comprehensive Plan, page 115: "Support voluntary implementation of the recommendations of the county Green Infrastructure Study. Encourage the voluntary dedication (through proffers and other tools) of land in conservation easements or Agricultural and Forestal Districts. Consider adopting a Purchase of Development Rights or Transfer of Development Rights program."

Q113. Green infrastructure plan that incorporates consideration for food production:

a. The TJPDC recently published a green infrastructure plan for the region. It does not specifically mention food production as a part of it.

D. List of Community Member Comments and Recommendations

Greene County Community Comments

Participating Community Members:

Matt Benson

Community Viability Specialist, Virginia Cooperative Extension

Judy Berger

Community Nutrition Manager, Jefferson Area Board on Aging

Debbie Brown

Assistant Superintendant of Human Resources and School Wellness Committee Member, GCPS

Roy Dye

*Executive Director, *STAR**

Carole Haas

Supervisor of School Nutrition, GCPS

James Howard

Director, Department of Social Services

Cathryn Kloetzli

Manager, Greene County Farmers' Market

Don Pamenter

*President, *STAR**

Tony Williams

Economic Development Authority Manager

Economic

- Much of the local produce comes from Michael Clark at Planet Earth Diversified.
- Economic development and tourism development is focused on bringing festivals to the area.
- Not much support for new food venues within Stanardsville
- Most parents work outside of county (in Charlottesville) and probably do their grocery shopping there.
- There are a number of opportunities for government to further support food related businesses in the county, region, and statewide. One possibility might include cooperative buying for hard goods for smaller establishments. An example would be VDACS, or some similar organization buying wine bottles and corks in significantly higher bulk to help achieve economies of scale.

- Local food and wine needs to find ways to be competitive. Virginia wine almost unilaterally costs more than any wine from any other part of the world. Look how much Retail Relay charges – no one except the incredibly rich can afford Joel Salatin’s chicken tenders at \$20 a pound.
- If there are migrant workers in Greene, they have almost no visibility with anyone that we talked with. Everyone in the county believes that there are fewer (or no workers) compared to the average because most farms are small.

Education

- Schools used to have half an hour of nutrition education monthly. USDA food guide pyramid was the basis for lesson plans. Whole Foods donated food for tasting/cooking (for almost 10 years).
- A field house with workout equipment is open occasionally for the community to use.
- Parents have shown interest in assisting with a student garden, however no follow-through.
- Meals are currently based on calorie control – they are required to provide 1/3 of the RDA for lunch and 1/4 for breakfast.
- 9th graders have a health class, but it’s mostly about substance abuse, and mental health.
- Vending machines have been stocked with healthy foods, or removed all together. Some staff rooms still vend junk food, because of complaints.
- A fresh vegetable option is supplied in school lunches, in addition to the cooked vegetable. Ice cream availability has been cut to once a week (as opposed to being available every day). Students have responded positively.
- Local produce is supplied by the Local Food Hub, and usually comes from within a 40 mile radius.
- Junk food still sold at extracurricular activities. Money is used to fund the activities.
- Annual walk to school day is May 1st, 2010. It’s usually well attended.
- Students aren’t interested in the agricultural heritage of the county.
- Parks and Recreation has programs for kids under 12, and about 20-30% of high schoolers are involved in sports. No other options are available to encourage young people to be active.

Social/Cultural

- No shelter in Greene County. Recent study shows that Greene County residents make up 3% of the total population of homeless in the district.
- Dept. of Social Services runs WIC and uses Angel Food Network.
- Food banks and soup kitchens are predominantly run by churches in the county.
- No migrant worker camps. It is commonly believed that there are no migrant workers in the county, because most of the farms are so small. Large dairies and vineyard would have need, however.
- Community members and students don’t have time to eat or be active. Many commute from Charlottesville and go straight for fast food or unhealthy options.

Access

- Not many small, local grocery stores.
- Green County Great Value used to carry local produce
- Greene County Transit runs a bus from the senior center to the grocery store on Tuesdays and Wednesdays. Free. Money comes from state and federal grants + private donations.
- The large grocers in the county do take WIC and EBT, but not all of the small grocers in the outlying areas do.
- A list of food banks is supplied by the Dept. of Social Services to their clients, but farmers markets are not currently included.

Recommendations

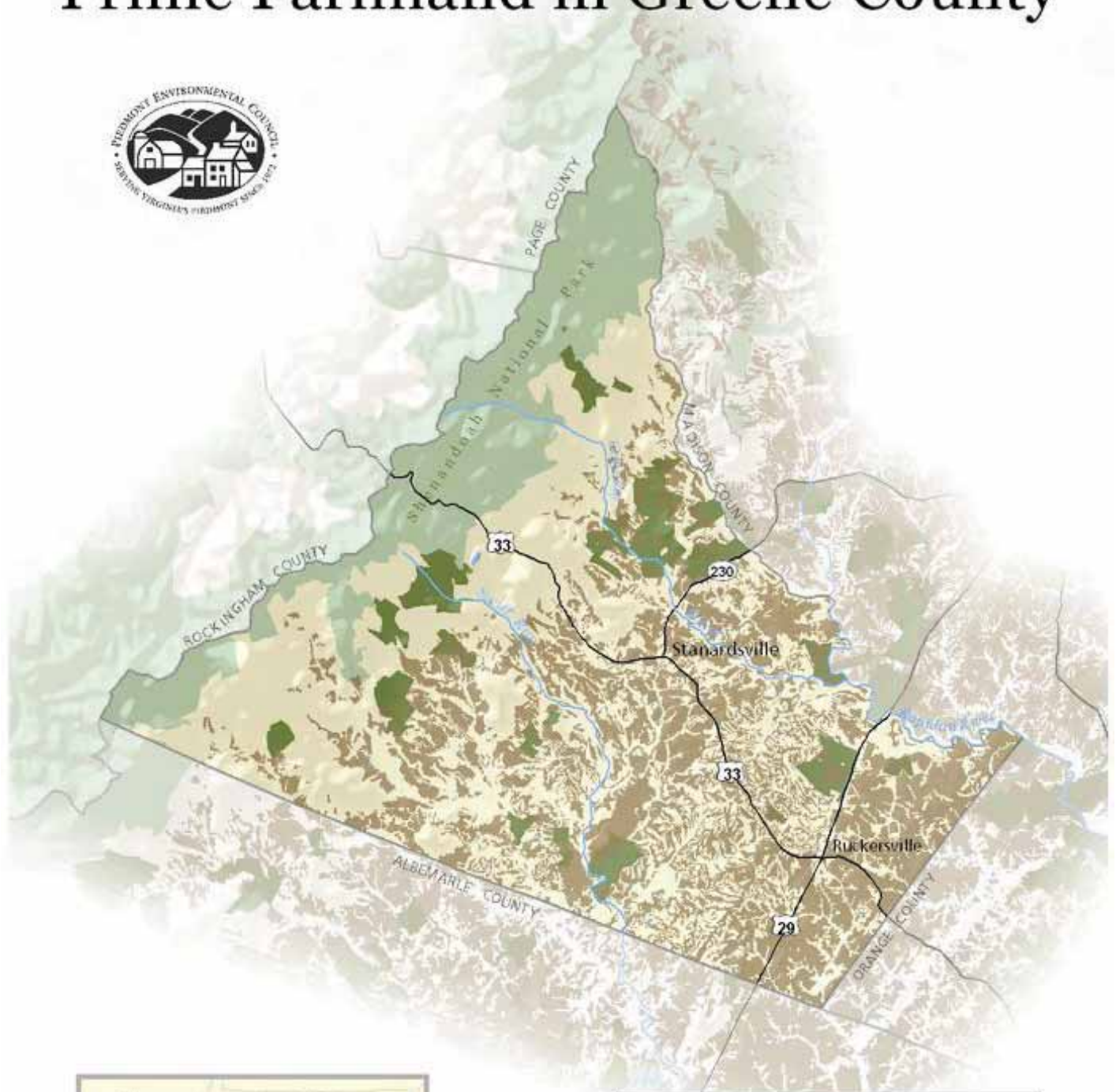
- Local government should make nutrition education part of curriculum in schools. Growing food should also be included.
- Nutrition education should especially be available/required for low-income populations.
- Create a local system for workers looking for work and farming establishments looking for workers – perhaps through the library, VCE, the Workplace and DSS.
- Encourage VCE to run classes on farm labor skills/vineyard maintenance.
- Train people to do agricultural work, rather than bring in migrant workers.
- Get an EBT machine for Standardsville market, if it makes sense financially. (Machines run from \$800 – 1,200.)
- Apply for grant to fund EBT machines -- Charlottesville received a grant to get the EBT system at the farmers market – through the Wholesome Wave Foundation
<http://wholesomewave.org/>
- Schools need to have mandatory physical education every day.
- USA Commodities should provide more money for fresh foods, as well as the labor necessary to include them in school menus. (Such as a nutrition coordinator in every school, as recommended by Michelle Obama's 'Let's Move' campaign.)
- Have a health fair during the annual Arts fair at the high school. The fair is well-attended and would be a good venue to publicize healthy living.
- Create cooperative buying programs to help drive common hard costs for local producers down.
- Provide county economic support – beyond low interest loans – potentially in the form of grants to small businesses and food related businesses to help encourage new start-ups.
- Find a way to help support businesses that are independent and can support local venues and food when things like town bypasses are built. Financial mitigation may be necessary.
- Help local growers/farmers with standardizing their product so that it is more appealing to restaurants and larger buyers.
- County support for innovative projects, like using service station and gas station excess heat to warm green houses is necessary. A number of interesting ideas have come up similar to the gas station-green house option, but some more support needs to come from somewhere.
- Find a way to do more with tourism and farming than just festivals.

- Ensure the affordability and accessibility of the farmers market is publicized through the VCE and DSS.
- Agricultural, social and cultural history of Greene County and Virginia should be taught in the schools – it is a very rich history.
- The local government should require all grocery stores to purchase a minimum amount of produce/goods from local producers.

F. Greene County Map of Prime Farmland

*Created by the Piedmont Environmental Council and also available online:
http://www.pecva.org/anx/img/library/197/greene_primeag_4web_700.jpg*

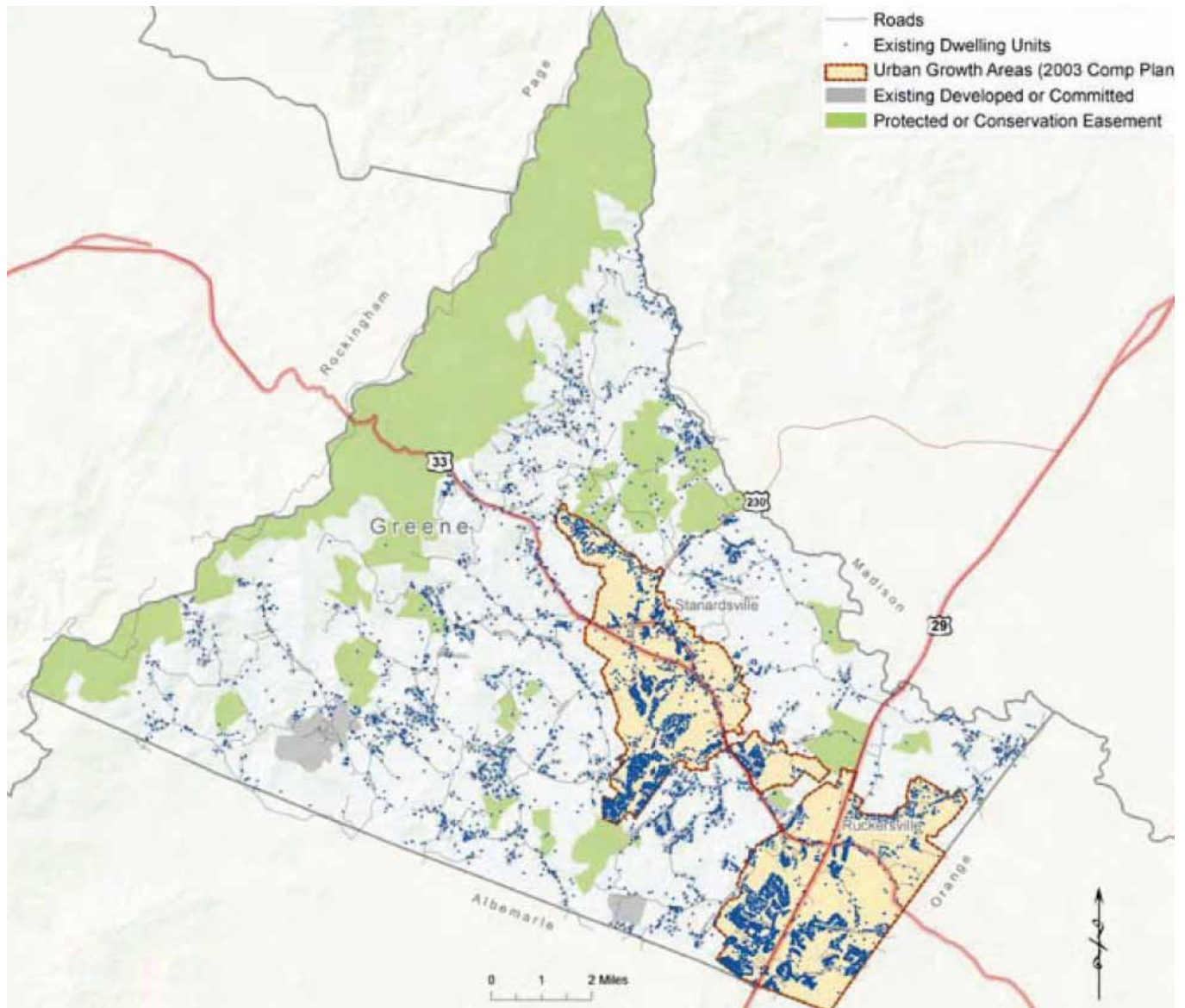
Prime Farmland in Greene County



Map created by PEC for presentation purposes only.
Data source: Greene County and USGS. Although efforts
have been made to verify data, accuracy is not guaranteed.

G. Greene County Map of Growth Area

*Created by the Thomas Jefferson Planning District Commission and the Greene County Planning Commission and also available online:
<http://www.tjpd.org/greeneco/index.html>*



H. Summary of 2010 Draft Comprehensive Plan

*The full length 2010 Draft Comprehensive Plan is available online at:
http://www.tjpd.org/GreeneCo/materials/FullCompPlanDraft3_3_10.pdf*

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Greene County Comprehensive Plan is the guiding document for the county, integrating a wide range of subjects into a coherent vision for future growth and physical development in the county. There are 16 topic-areas chapters in this Comprehensive Plan, as well as a profile of the county's past and present and a chapter on implementation and funding.

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN VISION STATEMENT

A visioning process was a first step in determining the wishes of county residents. This vision has guided the development of this comprehensive plan.

In community workshops, participants identified the things they value most in the county, thus helping to identify those things to be protected and enhanced. In the following graphic, the larger type words are the ones voiced the most. After this exercise, participants focused on a vision statement, which follows:



Greene County will conserve and enhance the quality of life enjoyed by its residents by preserving the County's rural character and natural beauty and by guiding growth and development. Greene County will achieve this vision by:

- Conserving farmland
- Planning for diverse housing needs
- Planning for various modes of travel
- Supporting existing businesses
- Attracting low impact, environmentally friendly industry
- Encouraging tourism
- Creating employment opportunities for its citizens
- Providing quality schools and recreational areas, and
- Conserving the County's natural resources and cultural and historical heritage.

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GREENE COUNTY: FROM PAST TO PRESENT

John Lederer, a German colonist, became the first known European to explore the land during a 1669 expedition. . For many years after this discovery, Greene County would still remain relatively unknown to European settlers.

By the early 18th century, Lieutenant Governor Alexander Spotswood was drawn to the area to mine iron from the hematite rocks in the region, enticing groups of German settlers to join him. He led a group of horsemen on the famous “Knights of the Golden Horseshoe” expedition through what is now Swift Run Gap into the Shenandoah Valley. Not long after this, most of the fertile land in the county, a total of about sixty thousand acres, had been offered as grants under the English King George I. The Octonia Stone near Stanardsville marks the corner of an original parcel from 1722 with an eight figure below a cross to indicate the eight landowners given the grant.



The Town of Stanardsville was established in 1794 by William Stanard, a grandson of one of the original grantees. By the early 19th century, the town had grown into a thriving community with numerous services. Ruckersville started as a collection of farmers and it had developed a small business district by the early 20th century, most of which was removed with the building of US 29. Greene County was officially designated as an independent county in 1838, named after Revolutionary War hero Nathaniel Greene. Stanardsville was selected as the new county seat. The first Board of Supervisor’s meeting was held in 1871.

Greene County hit its population growth spurt rather suddenly in the 1970’s. The County had only grown by 12% in the 130 years before 1970. Then between 1970 and 2008, the county grew by 240%. Greene County is very much a community in transition, a reality that underscores the importance of ensuring that whatever the county evolves into reflects the wishes and aspirations of those who live here.

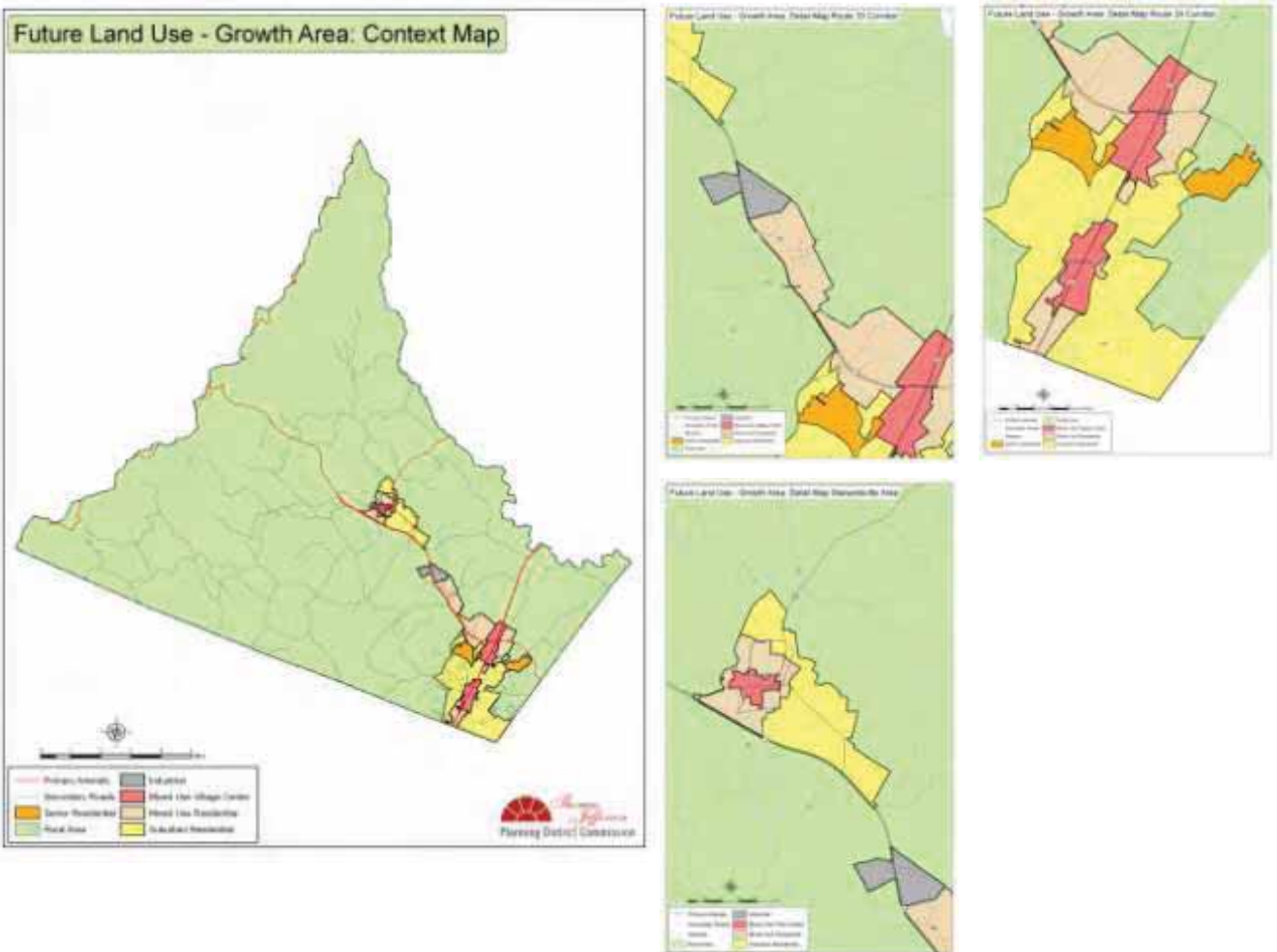
FUTURE LAND USE

This chapter begins by evaluating the existing land use conditions and future trends. The next section defines the future land use growth area and place types that are designated to receive a majority of new growth. The third section provides some broad design guidelines for growth areas, tailored to each place type. The next section describes guidelines for any growth that may occur in the rural areas, as well as a set of preservation and mitigation tools to help maintain the rural character of the county. Finally, a section on goals and implementation strategies provides tools for how the community’s vision can realistically be achieved.

This Comprehensive Plan lays out a future land use vision that includes a discrete growth area and the retention of significant rural areas. Within the growth area, five development types are identified: Mixed Use Village/Town Center; Mixed Use Residential; Suburban Residential; Senior Residential; and Industrial. These development types range from the most focused and concentrated growth in the Mixed Use Village/Town Center to a more dispersed residential area, Suburban Residential. Both Mixed Use Residential and Senior Residential allow for higher density residential development and the Mixed Use Residential calls for small-scale commercial and civic uses as well. Prevailing community wishes are for the county to retain its rural character and to preserve and promote the county’s agricultural

heritage. Guidelines for the Rural Areas call for the voluntary use of clustering and conservation subdivisions as well as creative ways to buffer rural development from the passerby. Of the county's approximately 100,000 acres, 6,420 acres are in the growth area, leaving the remaining acreage rural.

The following maps show the county as a whole and then a series of three maps that focus on the specific areas within the designated growth area. These maps detail the Route 29 corridor encompassing Ruckersville and Corner Store; the Route 33 corridor between Ruckersville and Stanardsville; and the greater Stanardsville area.



Growth areas should be desirable and attractive places to live and work. Such desirable places take the pressure off the rural areas and help decrease the rural suburbanization of the county. Growth areas should be the destination of choice. The planning principles applied in rural areas help retain the rural character of the county, even as a degree of rural growth occurs.



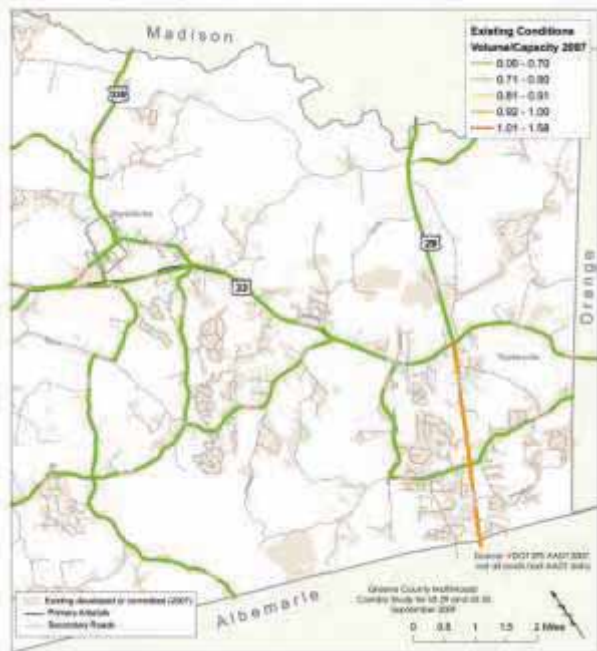
The Future Land Use chapter concludes with goals that guide the overall growth in the county:

- Support land use practices that help retain the rural character of the county
- Promote business and residential development in a manner that focuses growth in the designated growth area
- Focus the majority of business, office, higher density residential development and institutional uses in the Mixed Use Village and Town Centers
- Encourage developments in the designated growth area to include traditional neighborhood design principles

TRANSPORTATION

This chapter provides a summary of existing transportation conditions, makes the connection between transportation and land use, identifies transportation needs and makes recommendations on how to meet these needs. These recommendations include access management strategies, a thoroughfare plan, connectivity measures, future street types and traffic calming techniques. One of the existing conditions, the capacity of roads to handle the volume of traffic, is especially important when projected into the future. As the following maps show, two road segments are expected to be above capacity: Route 29 from the Albemarle County line to Ruckersville, and Route 743.

Greene County - Existing Conditions 2007 - Volume to Capacity

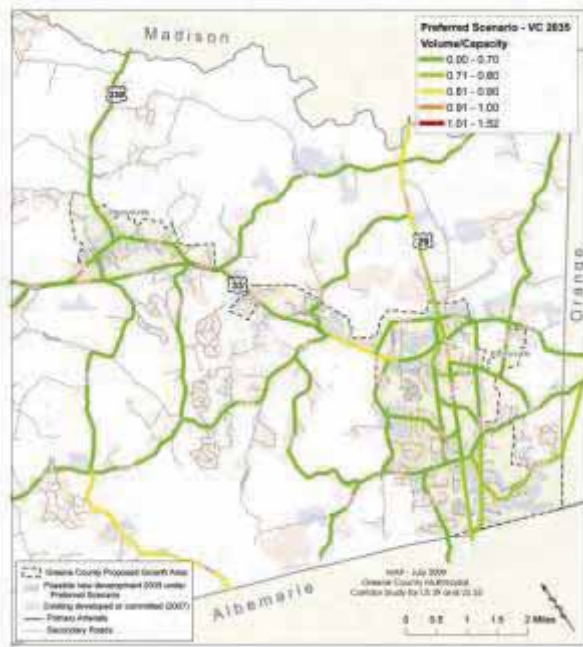


Greene County - 2035 Trend Road Network Analysis



In order to address this capacity issue, this Comprehensive Plan places emphasis on alternative modes of travel – walking, biking, and transit – and plans for a additional roads to help ensure vital roadways do not exceed their capacity:

Greene County - 2035 Preferred Scenario and Optimized Network Analysis

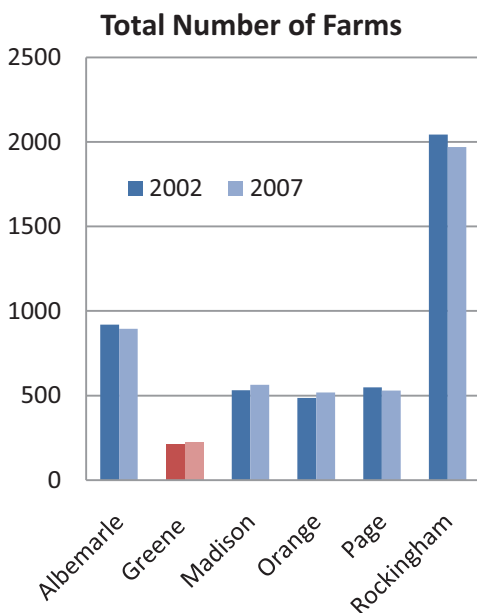


- Coordinate land use strategies with transportation planning to provide multiple travel options and improved accessibility
- Increase convenient access to key destinations for all modes of travel
- Promote safe travel for pedestrians, bicyclists and motorists
- Promote additional intra-county and external transit options
- Minimize the environmental impacts of new roadways and other areas with significant impervious surface
- Promote travel demand management to help reduce the volume of traffic on county roads

-
- 6** Draft Greene County Comprehensive Plan March 3-10 Executive Summary

AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY

Greene County has a tradition of farming and forestry that goes back to its earliest days, and residents have repeatedly confirmed their strong desire to see this heritage perpetuated into the future. Preserving farmland and forestland lies at the crossroads of many aspects of the Comprehensive Plan, from caring for the county's natural resources and heritage to ensuring continued economic development through production and tourism.



While there has been a slight decline in the acreage devoted to farming, the total number of farms in the county actually increased. Small scale agriculture and niche farming appear to be on the rise, thus explaining this increase in the total number of farms.

Sixty four percent of land in Greene County is forest cover but approximately 110 acres are lost per year.

Forests provide an important economic function to residents of Greene County. When all of the economic activity generated from the forestry sector in Greene County is taken into account, over \$11 million dollars annually is added to the Virginia economy from this sector.

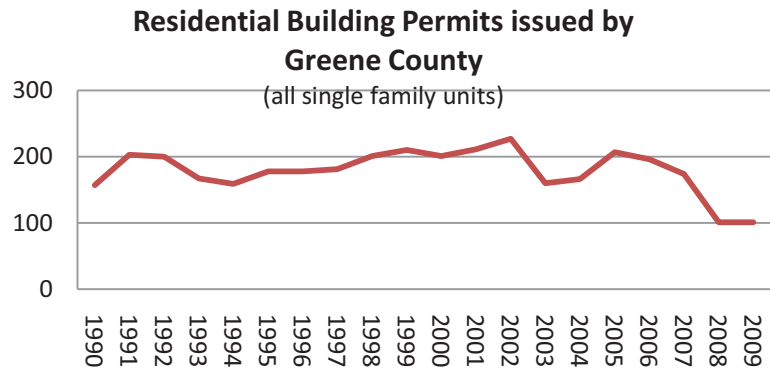
The chapter concludes with a set of goals designed protect and enhance the county's tradition in farming and forestry.

- Investigate county measures to encourage and retain farming and land use operations
- Protect forest resources in parallel with protecting agricultural resources.
- Encourage and promote specialty and niche farming such as equestrian, vineyard, nursery and greenhouse crop activities.
- Attract and retain young farmers
- Encourage farming techniques that help protect farmland and water quality
- Achieve recognition of farming and farmers as a vital part of the county's future and make them part of tourism
- Actively celebrate farming heritage

- Support local agriculture through, for example a farmers' market and Buy Fresh, Buy Local campaign

HOUSING AND COMMUNITY SERVICES

The availability of decent, affordable housing for all residents is an important goal for Greene County. This challenge becomes particularly relevant for the elderly population and others with limited means or special housing needs. After two decades of fairly consistent growth in housing stock, the number of residential building permits issued by Greene County has dropped in the last ten years, with the most precipitous drop occurring between 2007 and 2008.



The federal Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) has defined housing affordability at no more than 30% of gross household income. According to the 2000 U.S. Census, approximately 17% of Greene County owners were in unaffordable housing, while 27.6% of renters would be classified as such.

Skyline Community Action Program (CAP) offers a number of services to assist Greene County residents with housing affordability. Through the HOME Program in Greene County, Skyline CAP offers down payment and closing costs assistance to first-time homebuyers as well as rehab assistance. Skyline CAP also offers indoor plumbing/rehab assistance to Greene County homeowners in cooperation with Albemarle Housing Improvement Program (AHIP). There is an Emergency Home Repair Program in Greene County as well.

According to the 2000 census, 6.6% of the residents of Greene County have income below the federal poverty line. This segment of the population, as well as others who may have a temporary lack of resources, have special needs. The county department of Social Services runs several programs to assist families, children, and adults in need.

The Greene County Public Library, established in the 1960's, moved into its current home in Stanardsville in 2003. The library contains 33,000 volumes. In 2008, library visits totaled 71,237. Book circulation, the number of items checked out, was 103,757. On average in 2008, 986 residents per month used the library's Internet computers.

The primary medical facilities serving residents of Greene County are the University of Virginia Health System and Martha Jefferson Hospital, both located in Charlottesville with branches in Albemarle County. The Greene Care Clinic is a not-for-profit clinic offering free medical exams, prescriptions and

lab services for limited-income residents who do not have health insurance. Greene Family Medicine is a private practice in Ruckersville.

Based on the needs of Greene County identified in this chapter, the following goals were established:

- Support affordable housing initiatives in the county
- Encourage more private medical facilities in the county, including comprehensive walk in and emergency health care services
- Expand services for seniors in the county
- Maintain and enhance a robust library system in Greene County.
- Encourage more accessible housing to meet the special needs of people with disabilities.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Greene County's commercial land use is already concentrated in certain areas and along certain corridors and the county intends to continue to encourage growth specifically in the growth areas defined in the Future Land Use Chapter of this Comprehensive Plan. Doing so makes the most efficient use of infrastructure, opens up prime transportation corridors, and protects rural areas from more intensive uses.

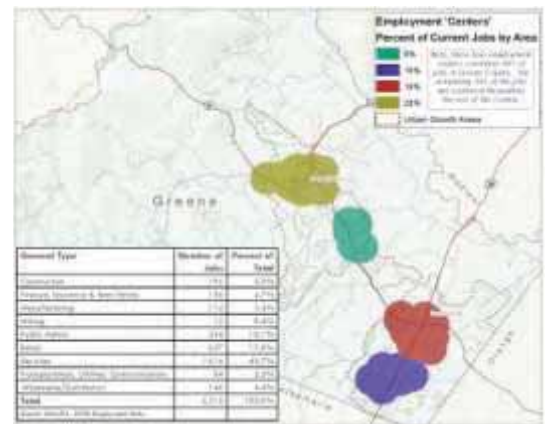
Retail and food services is the largest private-sector industry in Greene County. 40% of all new hires in the second quarter of 2008 were in the retail or food service industry.

Although manufacturing and warehousing do not comprise a large share of the total Greene County economy, they serve an important function for economic development and job creation nevertheless. Most industry is concentrated along US 33 southeast of Stanardsville.

The Greene County Economic Development Authority (EDA) is the local government agency with the role of emphasizing Greene County's competitive features to attract new industrial, retail, commercial and tourist businesses, and to help existing businesses grow. The Chamber of Commerce facilitates interactions between local businesses and advocates for their concerns at a broader level. It hosts a Visit Greene County website, as well as coordinates volunteer efforts from the business community.

Goals for economic development are:

- Create incentives for development in preferred commercial growth areas



- Encourage mixed-use development in growth areas that offers commercial, office and residential development. Support commercial growth in Ruckersville, Stanardsville and the Route 29 corridor within areas designated for growth by the land use plan.
- Enhance image of Greene County as a business-friendly location
- Support rural broadband service to all portions of the county
- Coordinate targeted areas of commercial development with adequate infrastructure: water, sewer and transportation
- Recruit businesses that have well-paying positions and provide services that are missing in the community
- Improve attractiveness and accessibility on the Route 29 corridor
- Identify and develop an economic anchor in Stanardsville that increases foot traffic.

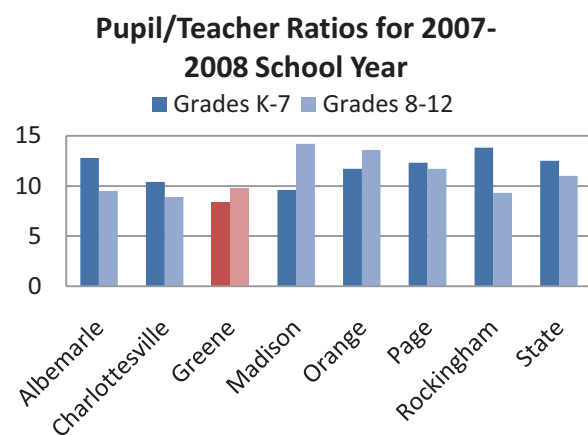
EDUCATION

The Comprehensive Plan addresses education because of the impact it exerts on quality of life, economic development, and the way Greene County grows and changes in the future. The Greene County public school division consists of Greene County Primary School (grades Pre-K through 2), Ruckersville Elementary School (grades K through 5), Nathanael Greene Elementary School (grades 3 through 5), William Monroe Middle School (grades 6 through 8), and William Monroe High School (grades 9 through 12). Ruckersville Elementary is located one mile west of the intersection between US 29 and 33, and all of the other schools are located within the city limits of Stanardsville. School administration offices are also in Stanardsville.

The student to teacher ratios for the 2007-2008 school year were among the lowest in the region. In fact, only five of the 133 school districts in the state reported lower student to teacher ratios. The average ratio for grades K-7 is 8.4, and the average for grades 8-12 is 9.8. The data shows that Greene County students enjoy a high level of personalized instruction and access to a teacher.

Comprehensive Plan goals for education are as follows:

- Encourage Piedmont Virginia Community College to establish a satellite center in the county
- Ensure that high school graduates are either trained for the work place or prepared to successfully attend institutions of post-secondary education



- Ensure that all students achieve SOL objectives
- Improve the health and wellness of students with exercise and diet
- Increase community awareness and support for public education as an essential part of the quality of life.
- Work to retain high-quality teachers for Greene County public schools.
- Create volunteer teaching opportunities
- Create a state-of-the-art magnet Vocational Technical center

LAW ENFORCEMENT AND EMERGENCY SERVICES

The Greene County Sheriff's Office is responsible for providing law enforcement, courtroom security and the service of civil process for the jurisdiction of Greene County. Beyond investigative and patrolling functions of law enforcement, the Sheriff's Office offers services such as Search and Rescue, (SRT) Tactical Operations and water rescue, neighborhood watches, and public outreach.

Three volunteer fire departments serve Greene County, located in Stanardsville, Ruckersville, and Dyke. In 2008, Greene County reported 38 volunteer firefighters and 9 civilian personnel. In 2007, Greene County Fire Departments responded to 601 incidents and provided aide to 46 of these. Greene County Rescue Squad is a non-profit organization that responds to emergency 911 calls with volunteer-staffed ambulances. The rescue squad responded to 2095 calls in 2009.

Greene County has hazard mitigation plans in place at both the county and regional levels. The Greene County Emergency Operations Plan is modeled off of the federal "all hazards-all disciplines" plan, which is designed to direct the employees, volunteers, citizens, and visitors of Greene County through any type situation which may arise.

There are six goals for Law Enforcement and Emergency Services:

- Ensure that law enforcement and emergency services meet the needs of a growing population
- Support volunteers with paid fire and rescue staff, when required, to assure adequate 24-hour coverage
- Ensure that all staff and volunteers have the necessary equipment to perform their tasks
- Ensure well coordinated emergency response and disaster management planning
- Maintain adequate School Resource Officers to safeguard school facilities and grounds as well as to spearhead community involvement in safety training and intervention
- Update the county's Hazard Mitigation Plan and ensure that adequate resources would be available for such a scenario

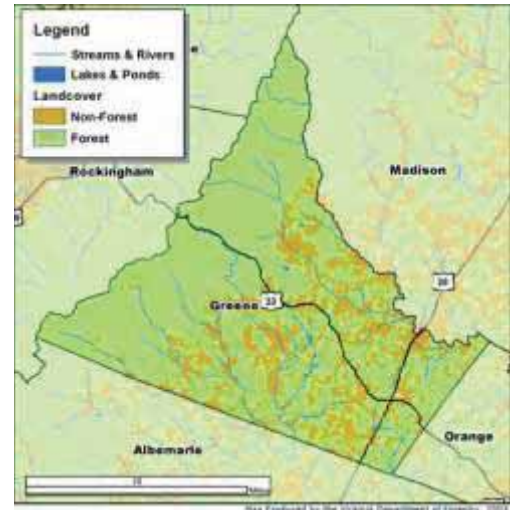
NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT

The county is situated in two river basins, the Rapidan and the Rivanna, both of which flow into the Chesapeake Bay. Maintaining clean water not only protects the drinking water source for residents, but helps to preserve fish habitat and the natural course of the waterways both within the county and for communities downstream.

Portions of Greene County, particularly the Shenandoah National Park and various smaller state-owned lands, are managed in order to preserve their natural condition while allowing the public to enjoy use of the land. The national park comprises a total of 197,438 acres, 79,579 of which are designated as wilderness.

The five preservation tools discussed are:

- Dark Sky Protection
- Erosion and Sediment Control and Stormwater Management
- Green Infrastructure
- Riparian Buffers
- Watershed Design Standards and Low Impact Development



The important issues in natural resource and environmental protection are addressed in the following goals:

- Protect and conserve surface and groundwater resources, especially headwaters of key rivers and tributaries.
- Enact measures to protect Greene County's irreplaceable natural resources and become a model county for natural resource stewardship.
- Encourage open space dedication, riparian buffers, pervious surfaces and other best management practices.
- Create governmental and public awareness of the importance of preserving natural resources while accommodating residential growth.
- Enact natural resource protection measures through development standards.
- Refer to Green Infrastructure Study as a means to protect ecologically sensitive areas.

PARKS AND RECREATION

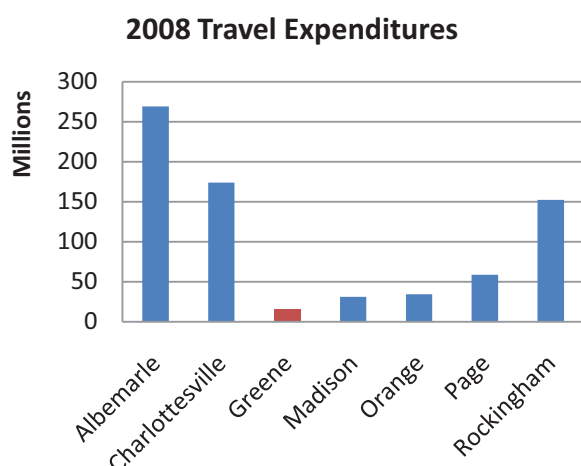
The Greene County Parks and Recreation department oversees operations of the county-owned parkland as well as numerous recreational activities held throughout the year. Greene County has one district park, the Greene County Community Park. It is comprised of 64 acres of county-owned land purchased in 1996, located along Route 33 between Stanardsville and Ruckersville. The park currently offers soccer fields, a children's playground, a disc golf course, nature trails for jogging and walking, and a large picnic shelter built by the local Ruritans club.

In September of 2008, the County Board of Supervisors adopted a Master Plan for phased improvements to Greene County Community Park.



The following goals were identified:

- Create a county park in Ruckersville.
- Complete Phase One of master plan for Greene County Community Park
- Support the development of a public swimming area.
- Continue informing residents of programs.
- Provide additional activities for children, teens, and adults.
- Encourage “pocket parks” and interconnected trails in new neighborhoods.



Greene County has several assets for a vital tourism industry. Proximity to Shenandoah National Park and many acres of scenic rural lands provide an ideal backdrop for visitors, and various amenities exist to serve those who do visit. When compared to counties in similar situations, it is clear that Greene County has not completely tapped into its full potential as a tourism destination, as the table reveals. In 2007, \$14.44 million was spent in Greene County, generating approximately 210 jobs. This is lower than the amounts spent in any of the surrounding localities.

Heritage and cultural tourism is an important sector of the overall tourism industry in America. The region surrounding Greene County, with world-class attractions such as Monticello and the University of Virginia, is particularly well suited for capturing this market. Greene County itself has historical attractions and relevant services with potential to capitalize from some of the regional market.

The Shenandoah National Park is perhaps the single most important resource for tourism to Greene County. A total of 15,285 acres of the national park reside in Greene County. The Swift Run Gap entrance, one of four entrances to the park, is directly accessible from Route 33. In 2006, the National Park Service recorded 1,076,150 visitors to the park. In order to attract a share of these visitors, the county would need to orient the range of services and promotional efforts toward meeting their specific needs.

A number of entities are involved with promoting tourism in Greene County. The Greene County Visitors' Center moved from its location near Stanardsville on Route 33 to a new location along Route 29 in 2009, in order to increase exposure to the large volumes of vehicles that travel along this corridor. The center directs visitors to destination sights and appropriate services in the county, and disseminates materials such as maps and brochures. The Economic Development Authority that contracts with the private entity running the visitors' center also coordinates other promotional material and maintains a website. The Greene County Chamber of Commerce maintains a "Visit Greene County" website with links to area attractions, bed and breakfasts, and local businesses that may cater to visitors. The Charlottesville-Albemarle Convention and Visitors' Bureau presents visitors information for the region, including many sites and services in Greene County. Other certified centers in the area also point to Greene County attractions. At the state level, a "Virginia is for Lovers" guide and website is published each year for attractions throughout the state.

In concluding this chapter, the Comprehensive Plan identifies five tourism goals:

- Preserve important scenic, historic, cultural and natural resources as crucial to tourism.
- Provide information for residents and visitors about local events.
- Establish and fund an organizational structure to plan, implement and coordinate tourism activities.
- Create an environment through tourism that promotes economic vitality, generating new opportunities for business, more employment, and increased local tax revenues.
- Encourage travelers on Route 33 to stop and frequent local businesses

WATER SUPPLY AND WASTEWATER

The water supply needs of Greene County are serviced by the Rapidan Service Authority (RSA). RSA's water treatment plant for Greene County, which draws water from the Rapidan River, is located on Route 29 just north of the bridge. The plant has a maximum treatment capacity of 1.2 MGD and was last upgraded in 2001. As the county has experienced residential and commercial development over the last several decades, the average daily water demand has grown at a rate of 4.25% per year. This growth rate in water demand has consistently been higher than the population growth rate of 3.45% per year.

Based on projections made by WW Associates for a Regional Water Supply study in April 2008, the area's water demand was to catch up with supply by 2009. The peak daily flow demand was expected to be 1.2 MGD by the summer of 2009, which would require the water treatment plant to operate near full capacity. The study recommends a new pump storage reservoir with a minimum safe yield of 3.5 MGD and a new water treatment plant with a capacity of 3.0 MGD, expandable up to 6.0 MGD to meet future demand.

The Rapidan Service Authority also manages wastewater for Greene County. All Greene County wastewater is processed through Stanardsville Wastewater Treatment Plant. WW Associates designed the new 0.6 MGD secondary wastewater treatment facility for the U.S. Route 29/33 corridor area of Greene County. The plant has been designed to meet future nutrient regulations using biological nutrient removal.

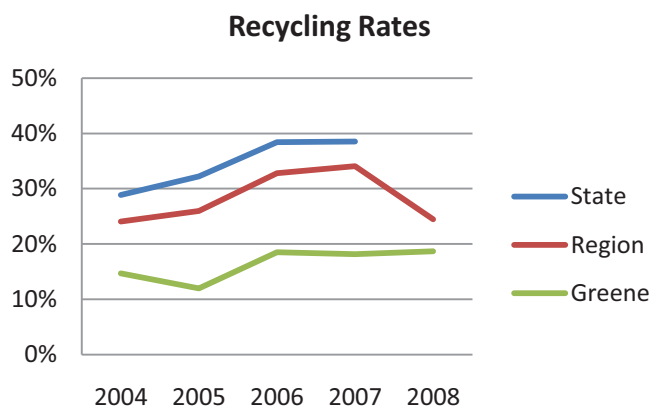
The following goals conclude the Water Supply and Wastewater chapter:

- Establish a safe and reliable water supply to meet the projected needs for business and residential growth through 2050
- Investigate alternative options for public water supply, including the construction of a water impoundment, to meet projected demands for the next twenty five years or more.
- Promote water conservation
- Protect valuable water resources through education and implementation of riparian (rivers and streams) buffers

- Provide adequate water pressure and supply for Stanardsville to encourage commercial and residential development.
- Ensure the integrity of wastewater treatment facilities through comprehensive system upgrades, including the Town of Stanardsville
- Direct residential and commercial growth to designated areas by proactively planning and constructing services which will be restricted to those identified areas
- Utilize public/private partnerships to assist in funding wastewater treatment system construction

SOLID WASTE

Currently, all waste is managed at the Greene County Transfer Station, but capacity of this site may be met in the near future. Future management of waste will require any combination of increased recycling rates, reduction of per person solid waste generation, or an increase in capacity and operations of the Greene County Transfer Station. In 2008, Greene County generated a total waste stream of 65,066 tons,



52,915 of which were not recycled but allocated for a landfill. Of the disposed solid waste, there were 27,516 tons of residential waste and 25,399 tons of commercial waste. An additional 12,151 tons of Greene County solid waste was recycled in 2008, with paper, metal, and wood waste comprising the bulk of recycled materials. Greene County's recycling rate was 18.7% in 2008.

Four goals conclude the Solid Waste chapter:

- Maximize recycling of solid waste materials, to reach a minimum recycling rate of 25% by 2015, by providing a full range of options that are easily accessed by county residents
- Participate in the region's household hazardous waste collection days
- Prohibit household trash burning under county code
- Continue to manage and operate the solid waste facility efficiently and within budget goals

I. Greene County Schools Wellness Plan

Also available online at [/greenecounty.va.schoolwebpages.com](http://greenecounty.va.schoolwebpages.com)



Public Information

05.06.10

Wellness Policy

Mission Statement

The Greene County School Board is committed to improving the nutrition, fitness, and health of students, faculty, staff and community members. The appreciation of good nutritional habits and a physically active lifestyle promote cognitive development.

- The practice of healthy nutritional habits can lead to lower risk of the development of diabetes, obesity and high blood pressure and other chronic health conditions.
- Physical fitness is developed through the promotion of moderate to vigorous lifelong physical activities.

Statistics

- Approximately 13% of all school-age children are obese
- Approximately 15% of all school-age children are overweight
- 51% of school-age children consume less than one serving of fruits and vegetables a day
- 84% of school-age children consume too much fat
- Obesity related diseases cost the national economy more than 1 billion dollars every year
- Childhood obesity rates have tripled over the past two decades.
- In 1969, 80% of kids played sports every day-that number is now down to 20%
- The percentage of children who are overweight has more than doubled, and among adolescents the rates have more than tripled since 1980

Goals

Nutrition Education

- State and district health education curriculum standards and guidelines include both nutrition and physical education.
- Students in grades K-12 receive nutrition education that is interactive and

- teaches the skills they need to adopt healthy eating behaviors.
- Nutrition is integrated into health education curricula.

Physical Activity

- Students will be given opportunities for physical activity during the school day through recess periods, physical education classes, walking programs and the integration of physical activity into the academic curriculum.
- Students should be given opportunities for physical activity through a range of after-school programs including interscholastic athletics and physical activity clubs.
- Each school Principal in conjunction with Physical Education teachers should complete the Governor's Nutrition and Physical Activity Checklist.

Nutrition Standards

- Set guidelines for foods and beverages sold in vending machines, snack bars, school stores and concession stands on school campuses.
- Establish guidelines for foods and beverages sold as part of school-sponsored fundraising activities.
- Encourage all school personnel to be health conscious for all school celebrations.

Other School-Based Activities

- Provide a clean, safe, enjoyable meal environment for students.
- Ensure fundraising efforts are supportive of healthy eating.
- Provide student access to physical activity facilities outside school hours.
- Promote strategies for parents, teachers, school administrators, students and community members to serve as role models in practicing healthy eating and being physically active both in school and at home.

Local Wellness Policy Component

Setting Nutrition Education Goals:

Nutrition education is offered in the school cafeteria as well as in the classroom, with coordination between the School Nutrition Program staff and teachers.

- Nutrition education information will be provided by the School Nutrition Program for use in the classroom.
- Nutrition information will be displayed in the cafeterias and other areas outside of the classroom.
- School Nutrition Program staff will participate and/or make nutrition information available for events in the schools and community (Health Fairs, P.T.O. meetings, and student orientations).

Monitoring and Evaluation:

1. Principal
2. School Nutrition Program
3. Local Wellness Policy Committee

Local Wellness Policy Component 2

Setting Physical Activity Goals:

- Grades K-5 will receive regular physical activity through Physical Education and recess averaging a minimum of 150 minutes per week.

- b. Grades 6-8 will receive regular physical activity through Physical Education and health education.
- c. Grades 9 and 10 receive physical activity through Physical Education to average 110 minutes a week.
- d. The school division will sponsor a Walking Challenge program encouraging the school community to be an active participant.
- e. High School will offer a complete interscholastic program.
- f. Implementation of a division wide walking program during the school day.
- g. Encourage students, staff and school personnel to be active supporters and participants of the local government recreation programs.

Monitoring and Evaluation:

- 1. Building Principals
- 2. Physical Education Teachers
- 3. Assistant Superintendent
- 4. Local Wellness policy Committee

Local Wellness Policy Component 3

Establishing Nutrition Standards for All Foods Available on School Campus during the School Day

1. All foods made available on campus will comply with the current USDA Dietary Guidelines for Americans:

- Vending Machines
- Fundraisers
- Student Stores
- School Parties/Celebrations

a. School Nutrition Program will provide the USDA Dietary Guidelines to a select committee (parents, teachers, staff, and school officials) who will choose the food selections for vending, concession stands, and student stores for their particular school.

b. Alternative suggestions will be provided to the schools for Fundraising events, class parties/celebrations, and student rewards.

c. Nutrition information will be made available and displayed on vending machines and bulletin boards throughout the school.

Monitoring and Evaluation:

- 1. Principals
- 2. SNP Director
- 3. Local Wellness Policy Committee

Local Wellness Policy Component 4

Setting Goals for Other School-Based Activities Designed to Promote Student Wellness

- a. Obtain funding for facility improvements and renovations.
- b. Continue to provide access to the Outdoor track and weight room facility to the public after school hours.
- c. Maintain safe playground equipment and outdoor basketball facilities at all elementary schools.
- d. Encourage community volunteers.
- e. Create Wellness/Nutrition web page as part of the school division web page.
- f. Physical Education teachers will develop and implement a bi-annual student

fitness assessment to include Body Mass Index.

Monitoring and Evaluation:

1. Wellness Committee
2. Principals
3. SNP Director

This policy will be modified based on legislation.

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J. Excerpts from the 2009 Zoning Ordinance

*The full length 2009 Zoning Ordinance is available online at:
<http://www.gcva.us/dpts/plan/ords.htm>*

Article 4

Agricultural District, A-1

Statement of Intent

The Agricultural District covers those portions of Greene County most suitable to agriculture. It is designed primarily to protect farming in the County while accommodating kindred rural occupations and limited residential use. The District consist of areas lying outside of designated growth clusters; those areas presently being used for agricultural purposes; and those areas where the soil and topographical characteristics are most favorable for farming. It intends, furthermore, to protect against overcrowding of land and to discourage undue density of population in relation to the larger purposes of this zone. The establishment of this District recognizes that residential growth in certain desirable rural areas will occur: its intent is to ensure that this growth takes place in an orderly, well-planned, and sensible way, and that it is not fundamentally injurious either to the current practices of farming, the future viability of agriculture in Greene County, or the maintenance of a predominantly rural character and quality of life in this zone.

4-1 USE REGULATIONS

In Agricultural District A-1, structures to be erected or land to be used shall be for the following uses, each main structure shall meet the minimum lot area, setback, frontage and yard requirements of this ordinance. Structures to be erected or land to be used shall be for the following uses: (Revised 6/12/07)

4-1-1 Uses Permitted by Right

Same as Conservation C-1 plus:

- .1 General agriculture, as defined.
- .2 High intensity agriculture, as defined (See also Section 4-2-1).
- .3 Fireworks, temporary only (See section 16-14.) (Revised 1/11/05)
- .4 Farm winery with wholesale and/or retail sales. (Revised 1/11/05)
- .5 Residential Accessory Structure—768 square feet or less (Revised 8/18/05)
- .6 Accessory Apartment—see Article 22 (Revised 5/12/09)

4-1-2 Uses Permitted by Special Use Permit

Same as Conservation C-1 plus:

- .1 Temporary or permanent dwellings for farm workers, where the land's primary use meets the definition of general or high intensity agriculture.
- .2 Commercial kennels, as defined in Article 22 and subject to the provisions of Section 4-11 and where the kennel is at least 300 feet from the closest adjoining property line. (Revised 5/12/09)
- .3 Veterinary clinics and veterinary hospitals.
- .4 Volunteer fire and rescue facilities.
- .5 Commercial warehouses for bulk agricultural products.
- .6 Private airports and heliports.
- .7 Dinner theaters and outdoor performance spaces where the seating capacity does not exceed 500 persons.
- .8 Indoor shooting ranges.
- .9 Country clubs, community centers, swimming, tennis, golf, fishing, and gun clubs and similar uses.
- .10 Carnivals, fairs and circuses -- temporary only. (Revised 1/11/05)
- .11 Commercial cemeteries and memorial parks.
- .12 Child care centers.
- .13 Hospitals, clinics, nursing homes, and rehabilitation centers.
- .14 Adult day-care centers.
- .15 Meeting places for clubs, fraternal and civic organizations.
- .16 Home businesses, as defined.
- .17 Extraction and processing of natural resources for commercial use.
- .18 Garden centers.
- .19 Observation Tower—In addition to the criteria listed in 17-2-3.3, the Planning Commission shall consider the following in its review of Special Use Permit requests for Observation Towers; lighting,

- security & access, distance from the nearest hard surface road or state maintained road, size of the parcel on which the tower is to be built and construction materials and design of the tower. (9/25/01)
- .20 Outdoor Recreational Facilities. (adopted 1/8/02)
- .21 Mulch production facility. (Revised 1/11/05)
- .22 Group home or home for developmentally disabled persons (per Code of Virginia.) (Revised 1/11/05)
- .23 Residential Accessory Structure—greater than 768 square feet (Revised 8/18/05)

4-2 AREA REGULATIONS

- 4-2-1** The minimum lot area for permitted uses shall be two (2) acres (87,120 square feet) with the following exceptions:
 - .1 The minimum lot size for high intensity agriculture as defined in this Ordinance shall be fifty (50) acres.
 - .2 Mobile or manufactured homes Permit must conform to the provisions of Section 16-5 of this Ordinance.
 - .3 For uses specified in Section 3.1-2.7, if and only if such uses are not equipped for human habitation or offices, there shall be no minimum lot size, provided only that regulations concerning setback, yard, frontage, and height of the buildings are met.

4-3 SETBACK REGULATIONS

- 4-3-1** Structures except signs and buildings that house high intensity agricultural operations shall be located fifty (50) feet or more from any street right-of-way which is fifty (50) feet or greater in width, or seventy-five (75) feet or more from the center line of any street right-of-way less than fifty (50) feet in width. This shall be known as the setback line.
- 4-3-2** Buildings that house high intensity agricultural operations and manure storage structures shall be located a minimum of 600 feet from a residence (not including owner's residence): 1,000 feet from a town boundary; 200 feet from a property line; 200 feet from a primary highway or roadway; 150 feet from a secondary highway or right-of-way; 600 feet from recreational ponds or lakes; and 1,000 feet from a river, channel, or water impoundment. (Amended 8/25/98)
- 4-3-3** No accessory building shall be located within the setback line. Public telephone booths may be located within the required setback, but no closer to any street than the existing right-of-way line or right-of-way reservation line, provide that:
 - a. Such booths shall be equipped for emergency service to the public without prior payment;
 - b. The location of every booth shall be determined by the Zoning Administrator to ensure that the same will not adversely affect the safety of the adjacent highway;
 - c. Every such booth shall be subject to relocation, at the expense of the owner, whenever such relocation shall be determined by the Zoning Administrator to be reasonably necessary to protect the public health, safety and welfare or whenever the same shall be necessary to accommodate the widening of the adjacent highway.

4-4 FRONTAGE REGULATIONS

- 4-4-1** The minimum required frontage for permitted uses shall be two hundred ten (210) feet.
- 4-4-2** For uses specified in Section 3-1-2.4 provided that such uses are not equipped for human habitation or offices, there shall be no minimum required frontage, provided only that the regulations concerning setback, yard and height of building are met.
- 4-4-3** The minimum required frontage for permitted uses in a cul-de-sac shall be one hundred (100) feet at the setback line. (Revised 1/11/05)
- 4-4-4** Reserved. (Revised 1/11/05)

4-5 YARD REGULATIONS

- 4-5-1** Side - The minimum side yard for each main structure shall be thirty (30) feet.
- 4-5-2** Rear - Each main structure shall have a rear yard of fifty (50) feet or more.
- 4-5-3** Accessory structures shall be located ten (10) or more feet from side and rear lot lines.
- 4-5-4** Reserved (Revised 6/12/07)

4-6 HEIGHT REGULATIONS

- Buildings may be erected up to forty (40) feet in height except that;
- 4-6-1** A public or semi-public building such as a school, church, or library may be erected to a height of sixty (60) feet from grade.

4-6-2 Church spires, belfries, cupolas, water towers, silos, chimneys, flues, flagpoles, television antennae, observation towers, and radio aerials are exempt. Parapet walls may be up to four (4) feet above the height of the building on which the walls rest.

4-6-3 No accessory building which is within fifty (50) feet of any property line shall be more than one (1) story high; all accessory structures shall be less than the main building in height, except as herein provided.

4-7 SPECIAL PROVISIONS FOR CORNER LOTS

Of the two sides of a corner lot, the front shall be deemed to be the shorter of the two sides fronting on streets. The corner side yard, shall be forty (40) feet from edge of right of way. (Revised 10/28/08)

4-8 SIGN REGULATIONS

Signs shall conform to Article 14 of this ordinance.

4-9 OFF-STREET PARKING

Off-street parking shall be provided as required in Article 16 of this ordinance.

4-10 In consideration of whether or not to grant a Special Use Permit for a quarrying operation, the Board of Supervisors shall impose such restrictions as are reasonably necessary to abate sound, air, and water pollution and interference with adjacent property owners' water supply. Such restrictions shall in no event be less restrictive than the following:

- .1 All State and Federal laws and regulations, as the same may from time to time be amended, regulating quarrying and related activities, shall be considered restrictions on the Special Use Permit thus granted by Greene County, Virginia. The quarry operator will be responsible, at his own expense, to provide the County Administrator of Greene County or other agent directed to enforce the restrictions in the Special Use Permit with copies (as from time to time amended) of all such laws and regulations, within thirty (30) days of the time that such changes come to the operator's attention.
- .2 Time limits shall be established for beginning operations, and for completion of significant phases of screening, including but not limited to construction of berms and establishment of vegetative cover thereon.
- .3 Officials of Greene County, Virginia shall have access to all reports made by the quarry operator to any State or Federal Agency, and to the raw data from which such reports are compiled, and will have the right of on site inspection at all reasonable hours of the day or night including examination of test wells and seismographs.
- .4 The designated Agent of the Board of Supervisors will have the power to suspend temporarily the Special Use Permit thus granted only when he has probable cause to believe that a serious or repeated violation has occurred, and upon further granting of a due process hearing before the Board of Supervisors within three (3) business days following such temporary suspension of the Special Use Permit. If the Board of Supervisors does not convene within three (3) days to allow such due process hearing, the suspension will automatically end. At such hearing, the Board of Supervisors may (1) restore the Special Use Permit either conditionally or unconditionally, or (2) extend the suspension of the Special Use Permit either conditionally or unconditionally, or (3) set a hearing date for a due process hearing upon the permanent revocation of such Special Use Permit in which case the suspension of the Special Use Permit may be extended either conditionally or unconditionally. The operator may continue sales operations during periods of suspension of the Special Use Permit. For the purpose of this subsection, "repeated" violations shall mean violations which have occurred in the past, and of which the agent of the Board of Supervisors has given written warning to the operator; "serious" violations shall be those which have a significant probability of endangering human life or health. To aid the agent of the Board of Supervisors in determining whether or not a violation exists, the operator is required to furnish the agent of the Board of Supervisors any citations, determinations, or adverse findings by any State or Federal agency finding that the operator is in violation of any of the laws or regulations made a part of this ordinance by paragraph one above. Such copies must be forwarded to the agent within three (3) business days of the receipt thereof by the operator.
- .5 Prior to the commencement of initial blasting operations, the quarry operator shall complete a pre-blast survey of all structures within a half mile of the actual blasting site. Such report is to be signed

- by both property owner and quarry operator, and the originals shall be filed by the quarry operator with the County Administrator. In the event that a property owner refuses access to his structures for the pre-blast survey, then the operator shall inform the County Administrator of such fact, and the County Administrator shall send a certified mail letter to such property owner, at the expense of the quarry operator, noting the report of such refusal, and allowing the property owner thirty (30) days to allow such inspection. If the property owner does not respond to such letter within thirty (30) days, he will be presumed to have waived the benefit of this provision, and the County Administrator shall retain in his files proof that such letter was mailed to and received by the property owner.
- .6 The quarry operator shall be responsible that all gravel trucks leaving the quarry are loaded in such a way as to comply with the provisions of Section 10-211 of the Code of Virginia, except that for purposes of this ordinance, water applied by the quarry operator to the load of such trucks shall not be considered to be part of the load.
 - .7 The quarry operator will make every reasonable effort not to blast during periods of high wind, meaning winds of twenty (20) miles per hour or over at its greatest gusts at the blast site, measured at a convenient point to be established by the Zoning Administrator, during periods of high humidity (28 millibars vapor pressure of absolute humidity), or other than between the hours of 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. on weekdays, except in the case of unavoidable emergency.
 - .8 The quarry operator will not do any blasting of a strength greater than one thousand (1,000) pounds per delay.
 - .9 In screening the quarry site the quarry operator shall make a good faith effort to consult with each and every adjoining property owner determined at the time of designing and installing berms, concerning the type of trees or grass or other organic screening used. Records of such consultations and attempted consultations shall be filed by the quarry operator with the County Administrator who shall retain such records.
 - .10 The quarry operator shall maintain liability insurance covering the quarry and operations hereof in an amount of at least \$200,000.00, and shall promptly inform the County administrator of such coverage and any changes therein. Failure to maintain such insurance shall be "a serious violation" within the meaning of this ordinance.
 - .11 Stagnant pools of water shall be avoided, and must be drained within forty-eight (48) hours.
 - .12 Stationary processing equipment shall not be operated any closer than 400 feet to any adjoining property line.
 - .13 Reasonable restrictions shall be imposed to minimize noise, dust, or vibrations which would be injurious or annoying to persons in the neighborhood, and especially restricting the noise during the hours of 9:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m.
 - .14 Should the quarry operation cease for a period of eighteen (18) consecutive months, then the Special Use Permit will automatically be void.
 - .15 The Board of Supervisors shall not grant a Special Use Permit unless the site plan provided shows:
 - (1) a minimum set back of 100 feet from any on site building to the right-of-way of any public road and to the boundary of any adjoining properties,
 - (2) a minimum setback of 400 feet from any on site building to any existing dwelling not on the applicant's property,
 - (3) adequate measures to prevent intrusion upon the site by unauthorized persons,
 - (4) adequate screening measures,
 - (5) that internal roads be surfaced with dust free material for a minimum distance of 200 feet from any public road.
 - .16 The quarry operator shall abide by the site plan, and any significant departure from the site plan by the quarry operator may be deemed a serious violation if it carries with it a significant risk of danger to human life, safety, or health.

4-11 COMMERCIAL KENNELS

- In consideration of whether or not to grant a Special Use Permit for a commercial kennel, the Board of Supervisors shall impose such restrictions as are reasonable and necessary to abate sound pollution and ensure animals are properly treated. Such restrictions shall in no event be less restrictive than the following:
- .1 Provisions must be made to ensure that the noise level generated by the commercial kennel operation does not exceed 60 decibels at the property line of the property on which the kennel is located.
 - .2 All animal confinement structures shall be designed to provide for the separation, exercise and sanitation of the animals.

- .3 The method provided for the disposal of animal waste shall be approved by the County Health Department.
- .4 The commercial kennel shall be inspected, with or without prior notice, twice a year by appropriate officials to ensure that the provisions of the Special Use Permit are met. A serious or repeated violation of the provisions of the Special Use Permit can result in the suspension of the permit by the Board of Supervisors. In such cases, the Board of Supervisors will conduct a due process hearing, the suspension will automatically end.

At such hearing, the Board of Supervisors may:

- (1) restore the Special Use Permit either conditionally or unconditionally or
- (2) extend the suspension of the Special Use Permit either conditionally or unconditionally, or
- (3) set a hearing date for a due process hearing upon the permanent revocation of such Special Use Permit in which case the suspension of the Special Use Permit may be extended either conditionally or unconditionally.

4-12 DIVISION RIGHTS

Division rights apply to every parcel of land in existence on May 8, 2001. However, 10 acres of a tract in existence on this date are exempt from these provisions and can be divided as per the area and frontage regulations as set forth in Sections 4-2 and 4-4 respectively. (Adopted 6/27/95)

There shall be allowed one additional division right for every five full acres in the non-exempt portion of the parent tract. Parcels may not be subdivided in an A-1 zone unless there are division rights assigned to that parcel.

The number of division rights in the parent tract shall be as follows:

- A) Parent tracts that have less than 4 acres have no division rights.
- B) Parent tracts equal to or between 4 and 9.999 acres have one division right for each 2 full acres in size.
- C) Parent tracts equal to or greater than 10 acres have 5 division rights plus one additional division right for each 5 full acres in excess of 10 acres.

Division rights may be exercised at any time and are not affected by a transfer of ownership of the parent tract, or any divisible portion thereof. The frequency of division and the size of the parcels created through the exercise of division rights under this section are left to the discretion of the landowner; however, the minimum lot size established for this zone shall remain in effect, both for the newly created parcel(s) and for the residual parcel which remains after all allowable division rights have been exercised. Nothing in this section shall be construed to prevent the transfer of division rights along with the transfer of all or any portion of the parent tract, except that no division shall increase the number of parcels which may be created hereunder. Upon the division of the parent tract, the rights of further division are established by the recorded plat and clearly indicated thereon in conformance with Section 4-2-2.2A of the Subdivision Ordinance. (Revised 5/8/01)

The creation of utility lots shall not require the exercise of division rights. (Revised 8/11/09)

Nothing in this section shall be constructed to replace, supersede, or amend the Greene County Subdivision Ordinance or to affect the application of its provisions in certain kinds of residential land development, as set forth in the Subdivision Ordinance itself. (Adopted 12/10/96)

Article 5

Residential District, R-1

Statement of Intent

This District is composed of certain quiet, low-moderate density residential areas, plus certain open areas where similar residential development appears likely to occur. The location of this District shall be limited to those growth clusters as designed in the Greene County Comprehensive Plan. The regulations contained herein are designed to stabilize and protect the desired characteristics of the District.

5-1 USE REGULATIONS

In Residential District R-1, structures to be erected or land to be used shall be for the following uses within each main structure meeting the minimum lot area, setback and frontage requirements of this Ordinance:

5-1-1 Uses Permitted by Right

- .1 Low intensity agriculture as defined in Article 22 of this ordinance, excluding livestock and fowl.
- .2 Single family dwellings built individually or in conventional or clustered subdivisions.
- .3 Home occupations as defined.
- .4 Public Utilities: poles, lines, transformers, pipes, meters and related or similar facilities; water and sewage distribution lines, telephone booths; public water and sewer transmission lines, treatment facilities, and pumping stations; electrical power transmission lines and substations; oil and gas transmission lines and pumping stations; microwave and radio-wave transmission and relay towers and substations; unmanned telephone exchange centers. (Revised 1/11/05)
- .5 Accessory uses or structures as defined.
- .6 Public facilities. (Revised 1/11/05)
- .7 Residential Accessory Structure—768 square feet or less (Revised 8/18/05)
- .8 Accessory Apartment—see Article 22 (Revised 5/12/09)

5-1-2 Uses Permitted by Special Use Permit

- .1 Cemeteries and churches.
- .2 Keeping of livestock, poultry, and fowl on at least 2 acres of rangeable land.
- .3 Home professional offices
- .4 Mobile or manufactured homes in conformance with Section 16-5 of this Ordinance. (Revised 1/11/05)
- .5 Temporary construction yards.
- .6 Reserved. (Revised 1/11/05)
- .7 Private schools.
- .8 Firehouses and rescue squads.
- .9 Swim, golf, tennis, or similar athletic facilities.
- .10 Clubs, civic, fraternal, or patriotic organizations.
- .11 Any care center not subject to state license.
- .12 Telecommunication antennas and towers, subject to the conditions in Article 21. (Revised 1/11/05)
- .13 Group home or home for developmentally disabled persons (per Code of Virginia.) (Revised 1/11/05)
- .14 Residential Accessory Structure—greater than 768 square feet (Revised 8/18/05)

5-2 AREA REGULATIONS

- 5-2-1** The minimum lot area for permitted uses not utilizing central/ public water or central/public sewerage systems shall be 87,120 square feet except for clustered single family dwelling subdivision which shall require 43,560 square feet.
- 5-2-2** The minimum lot area for permitted uses utilizing either central/public water or central/public sewerage systems shall be 60,000 square feet except for clustered single family dwelling subdivision which shall require 30,000 square feet.
- 5-2-3** For permitted uses utilizing both central/public water and central/public sewerage systems, the minimum lot area shall be 20,000 square feet except for clustered single family dwelling subdivision which shall require 10,000 square feet.

- 5-2-4** In case of soil conditions or other physical factors which may impair the health and safety of the neighborhood, the Planning Commission, upon recommendation of the Health Department, may increase the area requirements for lots served by individual wells or septic systems.
- 5-2-5** For uses specified in Section 5-1-1.4 provided that such uses are not equipped for human habitation or offices, there shall be no minimum lot size, provided only that the regulations concerning setback, yard and height of buildings are met.
- 5-2-6** Any building site on a lot created after the effective date of this regulation in this district shall have adequate area for location of two (2) septic drain field areas as approved by the Virginia Department of Health when such lot is not served by a central sewage facility. Nothing contained herein shall be constructed to require re-submission of any building site plan approved by the Virginia Department of Health prior to the adoption of this regulation.

5-3 SETBACK REGULATIONS

- 5-3-1** Structures except signs shall be thirty-five (35) feet or more from any street right-of-way which is fifty (50) feet or greater in width, or sixty (60) feet or more from the center line of any street right-of-way less than fifty (50) feet in width. This shall be known as the setback line. In clustered single family dwelling subdivisions, the setback line shall be twenty-five (25) feet or more from any street right-of-way which is fifty (50) feet or greater in width, or forty (40) feet or more from the center line of any street right-of-way less than fifty (50) feet in width. (Revised 11/27/07)
- 5-3-2** No accessory building shall be located within the setback line. Public telephone booths may be located within the required setback, but no closer to any street than the existing right-of-way reservation line, provided that:
 - .1 Such booths shall be equipped for emergency service to the public without prior payment;
 - .2 The location of every booth shall be determined by the Zoning Administrator to ensure that the same will not adversely affect the safety of the adjacent highway; and
 - .3 Every such booth shall be subject to relocation, at the expense of the owner, whenever such relocation shall be determined by the Zoning Administrator to be reasonably necessary to protect the public health, safety and welfare or whenever the same shall be necessary to accommodate the widening of the adjacent highway.

5-4 FRONTAGE REGULATIONS

- 5-4-1** The minimum frontage for permitted uses not utilizing central/ public water or central/public sewerage systems shall be one hundred fifty (150) feet.
- 5-4-2** The minimum frontage for permitted uses utilizing either central/public water or central/public sewerage systems shall be one hundred (100) feet.
- 5-4-3** For permitted uses utilizing both central/public water and central/public sewerage systems, the minimum frontage shall be eighty (80) feet.
- 5-4-4** Subject to Article 22, the lot line abutting the turnaround area of a cul-de-sac shall be a minimum of seventy (70) feet. (Revised 5/12/09)

5-5 YARD REGULATIONS

- 5-5-1** Side - The minimum side yard for each main structure shall be fifteen (15) feet except for clustered single family dwelling subdivisions which shall require a minimum side yard for each main structure of ten (10) feet. (Revised 11/27/07)
- 5-5-2** Rear - Each main structure shall have a rear yard of thirty-five (35) feet or more, except for clustered single family dwelling subdivisions which shall require a minimum rear yard for each main structure of twenty-five (25) feet. (Revised 11/27/07)
- 5-5-3** Accessory structures shall be located ten (10) or more feet from the side and rear lot lines. (Revised 1/11/05)

5-6 HEIGHT REGULATIONS

- Buildings except signs may be erected up to thirty-five (35) feet in height, except that;
- 5-6-1** A public or semi-public building such as a school, church, library, or general hospital may be erected to a height of sixty (60) feet from grade provided that required front, side, and rear yards shall be increased one (1) foot for each foot in height over thirty-five (35) feet.
- 5-6-2** Church spires, belfries, cupolas, monuments, water towers, chimneys, flues, flagpoles, television antennae and radio aerials are exempt. Parapet walls may be up to four (4) feet above the height of the building on which the walls rest.

- 5-6-3** No accessory building which is within fifteen (15) feet of any property lot line shall be more than one (1) story high; accessory structures shall be less than the main building in height; except as herein provided.

5-7 SPECIAL PROVISIONS FOR CORNER LOTS

Of the two sides of a corner lot, the front shall be deemed to be the shorter of the two sides fronting on streets. The corner side yard shall be thirty (30) feet from edge of right of way, except for a corner lot in a clustered single family dwelling subdivision which shall require a corner side yard(s) to be twenty-five (25) feet or more from the edge of right of way. (Revised 11/27/07)

5-8 SIGN REGULATIONS

Signs shall conform to Article 14 of this ordinance.

5-9 OFF-STREET PARKING

Off-street parking shall be provided as required in Article 16 of this ordinance.

5-10 OPEN SPACE REQUIREMENTS

- 5-10-1** The site for a single family detached dwelling clustered subdivision shall provide for a maximum of twenty-five percent (25%) of its gross site area as common open space. The open space area shall not include any residential parking areas or road coverage areas. The Planning Commission may reduce the percentage of common open space during the preliminary plat review process if the developer makes provisions for the construction of recreational facilities as part of the development.
- 5-10-2** Clustered subdivisions with provisions for common open space shall be approved subject to the submission of a legal instrument(s) setting forth a plan or manner of permanent care and maintenance of such areas. No such instrument(s) shall be acceptable until approval by the county attorney as to legal form and effect, and by the administrator as to the suitability for the proposed use of the open area(s).

Article 6

Residential District, R-2

Statement of Intent

This District is established to provide for the orderly development of residential communities. This District shall be located within growth clusters, as designated in the Greene County Comprehensive Plan, where central water and central sewage disposal is available or will be provided, where commercial and public facilities are easily accessible or will be available within a definitive period of time, and where there is direct access to a major transportation route or traffic collector. Regulations are designed to accommodate residential land uses at a density of four (4) to sixteen (16) dwelling units per acre. Dwelling unit types include single family detached units, single family attached and garden apartment units. Requirements for pedestrian and vehicular circulation, for parking and storage of vehicles, for open space, and for the recreation of its residents are included in the provisions for the District.

6-1 USE REGULATIONS

In Residential District R-2, structures to be erected or land to be used shall be for the following uses within each main structure meeting the minimum lot area, setback, frontage and yard requirements of this ordinance:

6-1-1 Uses Permitted by Right

- .1 All uses permitted by right in R-1 excluding low intensity agriculture.
- .2 Two family dwelling units.
- .3 Accessory uses or structures as defined.
- .4 Swim, golf, tennis or similar athletic facilities.
- .5 Residential Accessory Structure—768 square feet or less (Revised 8/18/05)

6-1-2 Uses Permitted by Special Permit

- .1 Cemeteries and churches.
- .2 Patio houses.
- .3 Townhouses.
- .4 Multiple family dwellings.
- .5 Condominium housing, in conformance with Section 55-79.41 of the Code of Virginia.
- .6 Boarding and rooming houses.
- .7 Clubs and lodges.
- .8 Home professional offices.
- .9 Educational institutions, public and private.
- .10 Hospitals and clinics.
- .11 Mobile home parks, in conformance with Section 16-4 of this Ordinance.
- .12 Mobile homes, in conformance with Section 16-5 of this Ordinance.
- .13 Nursing or convalescent homes.
- .14 Any day care center.
- .15 Agriculture as defined.
- .16 Clubs, civic, fraternal, or patriotic organizations.
- .17 Firehouses and rescue squads.
- .18 Temporary construction yards.
- .19 Public offices and other public buildings and public facilities owned or operated by agencies of the national, state or local government, if immediately adjacent to a business district.
- .20 Telecommunication antennas and towers, subject to the conditions in Article 21. (Revised 1/11/05)
- .21 Group home or home for developmentally disabled persons (per Code of Virginia.) (Revised 1/11/05)
- .22 Residential Accessory Structure—greater than 768 square feet (Revised 8/18/05)

6-2 AREA REGULATIONS

- 6-2-1** The minimum lot area for permitted uses not utilizing central/public water or central/public sewerage systems shall be 62,000 square feet except for clustered single family dwellings which shall require 38,435 square feet.
- 6-2-2** The minimum lot area for permitted uses utilizing either central/public water or central/public sewerage systems shall be 62,000 square feet except for clustered single family dwellings which shall require 38,435 square feet.
- 6-2-3** For permitted uses utilizing both central/public water and central/public sewerage systems, the minimum lot area shall be 14,300 square feet except for clustered single family dwellings which shall require 8,830 square feet.
- 6-2-4** For all other permitted uses, a minimum lot size is not required but minimum frontage, yard, density and all other requirements must be met.
- 6-2-5** The maximum density for single family attached dwelling units shall be six (6) dwelling units per acre.
- 6-2-6** The maximum density for multiple family buildings shall be sixteen (16) units per acre.
- 6-2-7** In case of soil conditions or other physical factors which may impair the health and safety of the neighborhood, the Planning Commission, upon recommendation of the Health Department, may increase the area requirements for lots served by wells and septic systems.

6-3 SETBACK REGULATIONS

- 6-3-1** Structures, except signs, shall be twenty-five (25) feet or more from any street right-of-way which is fifty (50) feet or greater in width, or forty (40) feet or more from the center line of any street right-of-way less than fifty (50) feet in width. This shall be known as the setback line.
- 6-3-2** The Planning Commission shall determine the proper building setback line to be shown on the final subdivision plat where proper travel way and public access easements are shown.
- 6-3-3** No accessory building shall be located within the setback line. Public telephone booths may be located within the required setback, but no closer to any street than the existing right-of-way line or right-of-way reservation line, provided that:
- .1 Such booths shall be equipped for emergency service to the public without prior payment;
 - .2 The location of every booth shall be determined by the Zoning Administrator to ensure that the same will not adversely affect the safety of the adjacent highway;
 - .3 Every such booth shall be subject to relocation at the expense of the owner, whenever such relocation shall be determined by the Zoning Administrator to be reasonably necessary to protect the public health, safety and welfare or whenever the same shall be necessary to accommodate the widening of the adjacent highway.

6-4 FRONTAGE REGULATIONS

- 6-4-1** For lots containing or intending to contain a single family detached permitted use, the minimum lot width shall be eighty (80) feet.
- 6-4-2** For lots containing or intending to contain a patio house, the minimum lot width shall be fifty (50) feet.
- 6-4-3** For lots containing or intending to contain a duplex or town-house permitted use, the minimum lot width shall be twenty (20) feet for interior lots and forty (40) feet for end lots.
- 6-4-4** Patio and town house units shall have no more than three (3) units in an unbroken facade line; an offset must be no less than two and one-half (2 1/2) feet.
- 6-4-5** For permitted uses on all other lots, the minimum lot width shall be eighty (80) feet, and for any additional permitted uses there shall be at least ten (10) feet of additional lot width.

6-5 YARD REGULATIONS

6-5-1 Side

- .1 The minimum rear yard for each single family detached dwelling unit shall be thirty-five (35) feet, except for clustered single family dwelling subdivisions which shall require a minimum rear yard for each main structure of twenty-five (25) feet. (Revised 11/27/07)
- .2 The minimum side yard for each group of patio or Townhouses or of each multiple family structure shall be twenty (20) feet.
- .3 The minimum enclosed side yard of a patio house shall be twenty (20) feet.

Rear

- .1 The minimum rear yard for each single family detached dwelling unit shall be thirty-five (35) feet.
- .2 The minimum rear yard for each town house shall be thirty-five (35) feet. Both sides of the rear yard shall be screened with a privacy wall or fence extending from the dwelling unit for a distance of ten

- (10) feet.
- 6-5-3** The minimum distance between main buildings and building groups shall be forty (40) feet.
- 6-5-4** The minimum side and rear yards adjoining or adjacent to the Residential R-1 District for any structure shall be thirty (30) feet, except for clustered single family dwelling subdivisions which shall require a minimum side yard of ten (10) feet and a minimum rear yard of twenty-five (25) feet. (Revised 11/27/07)
- 6-5-5** Accessory structures and parking areas shall be located ten (10) or more feet from the side and rear property lines adjoining or adjacent to the R-1, A-1 or C-1 Districts.
- 6-6 OPEN SPACE REQUIREMENTS**
- 6-6-1** The site for single family detached dwelling clustered subdivision shall provide twenty-five percent (25%) of its gross site area as common open space or to a lesser amount as stated in Section 5-10-1 of this Ordinance. This area shall not include any residential parking areas or road coverage areas.
- 6-6-2** All single family attached developments and multiple family developments shall set aside four percent (4%) of suitable land on the site to be developed for active recreational use by its residents. This area may be part of the site's required open space but shall be physically suitable to accommodate activities for all age groups within the development, and appropriately located for use of all its residents.
- 6-6-3 SUBDIVISIONS**
- Clustered subdivisions with provisions for common open space shall be approved subject to the submission of legal instrument(s) setting forth a plan or manner of permanent care and maintenance of such areas. No such instrument(s) shall be acceptable until approval by the county attorney as to legal form and effect, and by the administrator as to suitability for the proposed use of the open area(s).
- 6-7 HEIGHT REGULATIONS**
- Buildings may be erected up to forty (40) feet in height except that:
- 6-7-1** A public or semi-public building such as a school or church may be erected to a height of sixty (60) feet from grade provided that required front, side, and rear yards shall be increased one (1) foot for each foot in height over forty (40) feet.
- 6-7-2** Church spires, belfries, cupolas, water towers, chimneys, flues, flagpoles, television antennae, and radio aerials are exempt. Parapet walls may be up to four (4) feet above the height of the building on which the wall rest.
- 6-7-3** No accessory building which is within twenty (20) feet of any lot shall be more than one (1) story high; accessory structures shall be less than the main building in height, except as herein provided.
- 6-8 SPECIAL PROVISIONS FOR CORNER LOTS**
- Of the two sides of a corner lot, the front shall be deemed to be the shorter of the two sides fronting on streets.
- 6-8-1** The corner side yard(s) shall be twenty (25) feet or more from the right of way for both main and accessory buildings. (Revised 11/27/07)
- 6-9 SPECIAL PROVISIONS REGARDING ACCESS TO RESIDENTIAL LOTS**
- 6-9-1** Each residential lot shall have frontage on a dedicated public street, or a fifty (50) feet public access easement over common area to such a street, as determined by the Planning Commission.
- 6-9-2** In cases where lots do not have frontage on dedicated public streets, the fifty (50) feet public access easement shall be improved with a twenty-four (24) feet minimum width of travel way; said road to have concrete curbs or an equivalent, approved by the Planning Commission, on both sides and a four (4) feet concrete sidewalk or an equivalent approved on at least one side or both sides as determined by the Planning Commission.
- 6-10 SPECIAL PROVISIONS FOR CLUSTER ALTERNATIVES, DUPLEXES, PATIO HOUSES, AND TOWN HOUSES FOR INDIVIDUAL SALE**
- 6-10-1** The provisions of the subdivision ordinance shall also apply to all single family cluster alternatives, duplexes, patio houses, and Town houses developed for individual sale.
- 6-11 GENERAL REGULATIONS**

- 6-11-1** All permitted uses in an R-2 district shall be served by central water and sewage facilities, unless private systems are approved by the Planning Commission upon recommendation of the Health Department.
- 6-11-2.1** Any building site on a lot created after the effective date of this regulation in this district shall have adequate area for the location of two (2) septic drainfield areas as approved by the Virginia Department of Health when such lot is not served by a central sewage facility. Nothing contained herein shall be construed to require resubmission of any building site plan approved by the Virginia Department of Health prior to the adoption of this regulation.
- 6-11-3** Screening, including an evergreen hedge, a uniformly painted fence, a masonry wall or a combination thereof of permitted uses, may be required by the Administrator.
- 6-11-4** All residential developments in an R-2 District shall design and construct adequate recreation facilities and improvements for the use of its residents. The definition of adequate shall be based on the number of residents expected in the completed development and a regionally accepted published standard.
- 6-11-5** All roads and streets, whether dedicated to the public or not, for any permitted use in an R-2 District shall be built or improved to the specifications of the Virginia Department of Transportation including both construction and design specifications.
- 6-12 **SIGN REGULATIONS****
Signs shall conform to Article 14 of this ordinance.
- 6-13 **OFF-STREET PARKING****
Off-street parking shall be provided as required in Article 16 of this ordinance.

K. Excerpts from the 2009 Buy Fresh Buy Local Guide

*Created by the Piedmont Environmental Council and also available online:
<http://www.pecva.org>*



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Water & First Streets,
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(434) 970-3371
www.charlottesvillcitymarket.com

Crozet Farmers Market

Opens May 2
Saturdays 8-12 noon
Corner of Jarmans Gap Road
& Crozet Avenue
Crozet
Contact: Kathleen Jump
(434) 823-7878, 982-3521

Earlysville Farmers Market

April 23-October
Thursday 4-7pm
600 Earlysville Forest Drive
Earlysville

Farmers in the Park

June 10-September 30
Wednesdays 3-7pm
Meade Park on Meade Avenue
Charlottesville
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(434) 970-3371

Forest Lakes Farmers Market

April 28-Sept. 15
Tuesdays, 4-7pm
1650 Ashwood Blvd.
(at the South Recreational
Facility in Forest Lakes)
Charlottesville

Fluvanna Farmers Market

April 7-October 27
Tuesdays 2-6pm
Pleasant Grove
Palmyra
Contact: John Thompson
(434) 591-1950

Greene County Farmers Market

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Third Sat. of September
Saturdays 8-11am
Greene County Technical
Education Center, Route 33

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Route 151
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(540) 255-9866

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The Methodology of the Fluvanna County Food Policy Audit
Conducted by Will Bolton, Carla Jones, and Ben Pinover

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Overview of project and project goals

Food policy encompasses and affects many aspects of individual and community well being. Whether it is food production, consumption, or availability, a community's food system plays a vital role in its economy, public health, and natural environment.

On both a large and small scale, the impact of food production and transportation pose one of today's largest threats to our natural environment. Additionally, the role food plays in public health is undeniable; with increased rates of obesity, Type II diabetes, and other health concerns, access to healthy food has never been as important as it is today. As is the case with any public policy issue, the impact on the economy also plays a central role in food systems. Agriculture and food production continues to be major aspect of America's economy, especially in many agricultural-based communities.

In order to address these issues within our own region, our group used an audit to determine what Fluvanna County policies mention food. The audit conducted of Fluvanna County's food system encompassed each of these aspects; the five specific categories we researched are: public health, economic development, environmental effects, social equity, and land conservation/access to land for food production. These issues are especially important to Fluvanna residents as Fluvanna County has a strong connection and economic dependence on its agricultural community. We are encouraged by Fluvanna County's vision to become "the most livable and sustainable community in the United States."¹

¹ "Comprehensive Plan." *County of Fluvanna Home Page*. Web. 11 Feb. 2010. <<http://www.co.fluvanna.va.us/>>.

Fluvanna County is rural county that consists of family farms and residential communities. The largest residential community is Lake Monticello. The average distance traveled to work is around 28 miles, which means that most of these commutes are to either Richmond or Charlottesville depending on what part of the county the commuter resides.² According to the 2000 Census, there are approximately 25,195 residents that live in Fluvanna County.³ Approximately 5.8% of Fluvanna residents are below the poverty line compared to the 10.2.% of Virginia residents Of those 25,195, 5% of residents are eligible for SNAP or the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program formally known as food stamps compared to the 8.2% that are eligible at the state level.⁴ Twelve percent of the high school students qualify for free lunch compared to the 37% state average.⁵ The majority of Fluvanna County land has not been developed and is designated for preservation. Of the agricultural products, hay and wheat are the most abundant. Although this is a rural community, Fluvanna only ranks 78th out of 95 Virginia counties for agricultural production.⁶ Although Fluvanna is not a big food producer today, the amount of land available offers incredible opportunity.

Methods

The three members of our team collaborated on the audit by individually specializing in each of the five areas of the study. Ben Pinover researched the

² "Census Bureau Home Page." *Census Bureau Home Page*. N.p., n.d. Web. 20 Apr. 2010. <<http://www.census.gov>>.

³ "Census Bureau Home Page." *Census Bureau Home Page*. N.p., n.d. Web. 20 Apr. 2010. <<http://www.census.gov>>.

⁴ "Census Bureau Home Page." *Census Bureau Home Page*. N.p., n.d. Web. 20 Apr. 2010. <<http://www.census.gov>>.

⁵ "Census Bureau Home Page." *Census Bureau Home Page*. N.p., n.d. Web. 20 Apr. 2010. <<http://www.census.gov>>.

⁶ Community Meeting 3. Interview by Benjamin Pinover. Personal interview. 8 Apr. 2010.

environmental benefits and land conservation sections; Will Bolton focused on economic development and social equity while Carla Jones researched the public health and social equity sections.

The first phase of this study was a policy scan of Fluvanna County's Comprehensive Plan, Economic Development Plan, Zoning Ordinances, Public Schools Policy Manual and Wellness Plan, Independent Ordinances, and the Code of Virginia. In addition, we also looked at some of the community efforts in Fluvanna County, such as the Jefferson Area Board of Aging (JABA), Meals on Wheels, and faith-based organizations. Non-profits and private organizations such as these sometimes operate with food specific social goals in mind, forming a potentially powerful linkage in the food policy chain. The goal of this phase of the study was to establish a baseline for our engagement with community stakeholders, which was the second phase of the study.

Policies from multiple sources allow us to gain a better understanding of the character of food policy in Fluvanna County. For instance, the Pleasant Grove Community Garden, which is mentioned in the Comprehensive Plan, is actively used by the public. Its plans to expand are in the minutes of the Board of Supervisors' meetings. Perhaps the hardest obstacle in changing our current food system is disparate and generalized solutions to the complex problems we face; our goal in examining multiple policy sources was to engage those areas of the food system where the community was most active. The data gathered by this analysis pinpoints areas that are working, to hopefully answer which solutions merit funding and further study, if and when food policy becomes coordinated at the county or state level.

Although we were able to effectively specialize, combining the areas of our focus became the largest challenge. The issue of food crosses so many disciplines that without seeing the full picture, the full effect of the policies at work is difficult to see. The strength of this approach was contingent upon our ability to coordinate our findings effectively. We recognized that the hectic pace and competing interests of student life would make this our main area of friction when it came time to meet with stakeholders and coordinate our final products. Our approach to streamline this process was to establish several times throughout the week in which we scheduled our interviews.

As we have specialized, so have found many of the professionals connected with food systems. Due to the comprehensive nature of the study, the most common response from stakeholders was that they couldn't speak to the entire survey. We assumed a less formal stance, engaging the stakeholders within their areas of expertise, and received much more community support. Possessing specialized knowledge, we engaged stakeholders within our areas of study. We interviewed nine community members, several within the government combined with some from private stakeholders.

1. John Thompson - Fluvanna County Cooperative Extension - Ben Pinover
2. Elizabeth Fortune - Planning Commission Member - Will Bolton and Carla Jones
3. Jane Gatewood - JABA Case Manager - Will Bolton and Carla Jones
4. Darren Coffey - Chief Planner, Fluvanna County - Ben Pinover
5. Dwight Godwin - Head of Fluvanna Parks and Recreation - Ben Pinover
6. Vicki Karabinus - Chief Economic Planner, Fluvanna County - Ben Pinover
7. Mozelle Booker - Will Bolton

8. Bertha Armstrong - MACAA - Carla Jones
9. Joan Farren - Virginia Master Gardener, Pleasant Grove Community Garden -
Ben Pinover and Carla Jones
10. The Fluvanna County Planning Commission - Entire team

In most instances we contacted these stakeholders via e-mail, but we ended up making contact through several phone calls as well. The detailed report from these interviews is provided in the appendix entitled “Notes from Community Partners.”

Excerpts are provided in the corresponding section by category of the audit. In many cases, the interviews began with questions from the audit appropriate to the specialty of the person, however, the most interesting and illustrative examples emerged when a conversation on the issue began to occur.

The accuracy and detail of these stakeholders' knowledge was the most enlightening aspect of conducting this study. The quality of their information was often the product and result of their passion for creating a healthy and sustainable future for Fluvanna.

Though it was helpful base our questions on the structure of the audit, at times responses were that programs existed, but more complex issues created various sorts of resistances or limitations. The stakeholders we talked to were able to identify these areas, as well as, where existing programs can be expanded upon.

In most cases, the audit questions served as a catalyst to ground our interviews and structure our collection and reporting of data, though responses such as "maybe", "programs are in the works", and "yes (we have it) but no (it is not used)" answers. It was difficult to avoid ambiguity when reporting these findings within the audit.

*Findings**Public Health*

In Fluvanna County's documents, health is mentioned many times, but there is little mentioned about food. In most cases, health was written about in a very generic way that is not directly to food. The Comprehensive Plan mentions wanting to "promote health, safety and welfare."⁷ The Code of Virginia also briefly mentions health, but in a similar manner as the Comprehensive Plan. It appears that obesity is a major concern of residents and the locality mentions a desire to reduce obesity.

The schools seem to be proactive about this and have mentioned obesity as a concern. In the school district strategic plan, there is a wellness policy that talks about health of students.⁸ For example, on page 315 of the Fluvanna County Public Schools Policy Manual, it says "Practice sound habits of personal health and physical fitness."⁹ On page 506, it speaks on the issue of obesity by reading, "Nutrition guidelines have been selected by the division for all foods available on every school campus during the school day. The objectives of the guidelines are to promote student health and reduce childhood obesity."¹⁰ In addition, the school system is promoting food based lesson plans and developing media campaigns to promote healthy eating.¹¹

⁷ "Comprehensive Plan." *County of Fluvanna Home Page*. Web. 11 Feb. 2010. <<http://www.co.fluvanna.va.us/>>.

⁸ "Fluvanna County Public School Policies." Fluvanna County Schools. <http://www.fluco.org/policies05.htm> (accessed April 10, 2010).

⁹ "Fluvanna County Public School Policies." Fluvanna County Schools. <http://www.fluco.org/policies05.htm> (accessed April 10, 2010).

¹⁰ "Fluvanna County Public School Policies." Fluvanna County Schools. <http://www.fluco.org/policies05.htm> (accessed April 10, 2010).

¹¹ "Fluvanna County Public School Policies." Fluvanna County Schools. <http://www.fluco.org/policies05.htm> (accessed April 10, 2010).

Many of Fluvanna County's strengths related to food and public health involve non-governmental organizations. The Pleasant Grove Community Gardens, Farmers' Market, and Layz S Ranch are just a couple of organizations that are working to provide healthy food for Fluvanna County residents.

The Pleasant Grove Community Gardens is this collection of garden plots located in Pleasant Grove. It was started a few years ago by Fluvanna County Parks and Recreation with just forty plots and has now expanded to close to one hundred plots.¹² The Pleasant Grove Community Gardens allow Fluvanna residents to grow their own fresh produce. Although it is not required, many of the plots are gardened organically.

The Farmers' Market also provides fresh and local produce to residents. Approximately 45% of the products sold at the Farmers' Market are food products.¹³ Many of these products include fresh produce, meat, and baked goods.

The Layz S Ranch is a cooperative farm, garden, and greenhouse operation.¹⁴ They offer Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) services, which means that people will buy shares up front and then get weekly deliveries to the Mountaintop Montessori School for pickup or participants can pick up the produce directly from the farm.¹⁵

Public health presents many challenges for Fluvanna County. One challenge is the lack of public transportation. There are a few grocery stores located in Fluvanna County, but access to them is limited. The only public transit available is the Jaunt bus.¹⁶ In order

¹² Community Meeting 7. Interview by Carla Jones and Benjamin Pinover. Personal interview. 25 Apr. 2010.

¹³ Community Meeting 3. Interview by Benjamin Pinover. Personal interview. 8 Apr. 2010.

¹⁴ "Layz S Ranch." *Layz S Ranch*. N.p., n.d. Web. 26 Apr. 2010. <<http://www.layzsranh.com>>.

¹⁵ "Layz S Ranch." *Layz S Ranch*. N.p., n.d. Web. 26 Apr. 2010. <<http://www.layzsranh.com>>.

¹⁶ Community Meeting 2. Interview by Carla Jones and Will Bolton. Personal interview. 7 Apr. 2010.

to ride Jaunt, you must make a reservation in advance. The fees are waived for those with disabilities.¹⁷

There are incredible opportunities for improving public health in Fluvanna County. Obesity is a major concern of many Fluvanna residents¹⁸; although there are many initiatives already in place, there is always room for expansion. Moreover, the Farm to School program may not be up and running yet, but is well on its way.¹⁹

Economic development

Fluvanna County has an Economic Development Plan that outlines the goals of their economic growth. While food is not mentioned specifically, there is an emphasis on the preservation of the agricultural land and on the promotion of local businesses.

The Farmers' Market probably offers the most in economic development in relation to food. It has been growing every year, as well as the food production in Fluvanna County. In the past year, vendor participation has grown by 60%; there are now 39 vendors.²⁰ Approximately 40% of the vendors are from Fluvanna and 45% of the vendors sell produce, meat, or other food products.²¹ The market includes a series of value added produces, such as canned goods.

Despite the increased number of vendors at the Farmer's Market, there has been little increase in customer base. This could be due to its limited hours, as it is only open

¹⁷ Community Meeting 2. Interview by Carla Jones and Will Bolton. Personal interview. 7 Apr. 2010.

¹⁸ Community Meeting 8. Interview by Will Bolton. Personal interview. 8 Apr. 2010.

¹⁹ Community Meeting 3. Interview by Benjamin Pinover. Personal interview. 8 Apr. 2010.

²⁰ Community Meeting 3. Interview by Benjamin Pinover. Personal interview. 8 Apr. 2010.

²¹ Community Meeting 3. Interview by Benjamin Pinover. Personal interview. 8 Apr. 2010.

from 4:00 to 6:00 PM on Tuesdays. With increased hours, combined with more marketing, the Farmers' Market could expand in Fluvanna.

Another economic development challenge is finding a way to diversify farmers' income so that farming is profitable and people want to continue farming or enter into the farming profession. Farmers who are limited by zoning and other economic barriers are more likely to stop farming and sell their land to be developed.

One of the many opportunities with economic development is public outreach--it is difficult to change purchasing habits without education. Purchasing habits will also be more likely to change when it becomes economically profitable to buy locally produced food.

With the Farmer's Market and focus on local business growth, there is a solid base for economic opportunity with regards to Fluvanna County's food system. Through education, increased profitability for local food production, and a focus on the local food industries, Fluvanna County's food system could work successfully with the economic development plan.

Environmental Effects

There is a strong tradition of small family farms in Virginia, which has created the political climate in which farmland conservation has been viewed favorably throughout the state. The Comprehensive Plan establishes programs aimed at controlling non-point

source pollution from agricultural and livestock industries. Moreover, Fluvanna County must abide by the state and federal guidelines set by Clean Water Act²².

The Comprehensive Plan contains a green infrastructure plan and storm water management planning is currently in the works. Fluvanna County is at the foot of the Rivanna River watershed, as such its water quality issues are not entirely of its own making. At the federal level, the Clean Water Act is the foundational policy, though at a regional scale, the Chesapeake Bay Reauthorization Act may have more direct impacts on Virginia farmers. The quality of the water in the bay has been steadily decreasing which has led to wide spread conjecture that the reauthorization act will be more restrictive than its previous iteration, especially around non-point source pollution in terms of nutrient content²³.

This may directly impact farmers by increasing set-backs on streams to an extent that some properties will be reduced in economic value substantially. In Fluvanna, a voluntary program that includes a cost sharing incentive is making significant inroads into fencing livestock out of streams and rivers. It appears the program has been successful in fencing livestock out of streams and rivers while many others farmers have chosen to adopt responsible animal management practices without the cost sharing incentive program. Regulation may be needed to capture the rest of the market²⁴.

²² Community Meeting 5a. Interview by Benjamin Pinover. Personal interview. 14 Apr. 2010.

²³ Community Meeting 3. Interview by Benjamin Pinover. Personal interview. 8 Apr. 2010.

²⁴ "Comprehensive Plan." *County of Fluvanna Home Page*. P. 20., n.d. Web. 11 Feb. 2010.
<<http://www.co.fluvanna.va.us/>>.

Composting is taught in workshops by both the Fluvanna Cooperative Extension Office as well as with the Virginia Master Gardeners at the Pleasant Grove Community Garden. The compost at the community garden was improperly maintained, causing growers to create their own piles. Though composting efforts at the community garden are separate from one another, larger composting projects will be possible once the level of knowledge about composting technique rises.²⁵

Lake Monticello had a neighborhood-scale composting program that failed.²⁶ Although it was difficult to discern the cause of the program's collapse, whether it was mismanaged or underutilized for instance, the fact that there was enough common will to create the program speaks to the awareness of this community to food related issues.

Bio-solids, composted human wastes, are regulated at the state level, and as such Fluvanna has adopted the policy that it is the individual landowner's choice. The county does maintain information on these programs for health and safety reasons. The extension office does get nuisance complaints from the smell, and there are some issues with, for instance, the wastes from chemotherapy patients²⁷, but the potential savings from adapting this waste for reuse are environmental, fiscal, and agricultural.

Social Equity

Social equity is an area that Fluvanna County is definitely strong in. The county provides a lot of opportunities for those in need through government and non-

²⁵ Community Meeting 7. Interview by Carla Jones and Benjamin Pinover. Personal interview. 25 Apr. 2010.

²⁶ Community Meeting 3. Interview by Benjamin Pinover. Personal interview. 8 Apr. 2010.

²⁷ Community Meeting 3. Interview by Benjamin Pinover. Personal interview. 8 Apr. 2010.

governmental organizations. The biggest actor in the government organizations were the school systems. Some of the non-governmental organizations involved include the Jefferson Area Board of Aging, Monticello Area Community Action Agency, and Meals on Wheels.

The Fluvanna County Public School system has worked towards social equity in regards to food. The Fluvanna County Public Schools have free and reduced lunch programs for those in need. The schools also participate in the Backpack Program where students are able to take small snacks home to supplement their diet.²⁸ In addition, many non-governmental organizations work together to ensure that all vulnerable populations are taken care of.

The Jefferson Area Board of Aging (JABA) has a mission to serve the aging population. They provide many services including assisted living, independent living, nursing homes, and services for those who live at home, community centers, senior centers, home care, and many other services. Their services include providing healthy food to this very vulnerable population and they do this in several ways.

JABA's first food service is their Ensure program. Ensure is a drink product that helps the aging population supplement their meals with essential vitamins and nutrients that they need. With the Ensure program, elderly populations can obtain up to three Ensure cans per day if they have a prescription from their doctor.²⁹

²⁸ Community Meeting 8 . Interview by Will Bolton. Personal interview. 8 Apr. 2010.

²⁹ Community Meeting 2. Interview by Carla Jones and Will Bolton. Personal interview. 7 Apr. 2010.

JABA's second food service is their hot meals program.³⁰ In the community center, JABA serves two hot meals a week. The meals include fresh and local fruits and vegetables. The meals are prepared in Charlottesville and then taken to the community center.

JABA also includes delivers frozen meals to its residents.³¹ Volunteers deliver the meals once every two weeks and there are enough meals to last the recipients two weeks. The meals come from a distributor in Florida and are tailored to meet one third of the nutritional needs of an older adult. There is an income guideline that people must meet in order to qualify.

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) has a Brown Bag Program that is distributed through JABA.³² It is a commodity distribution program where bags are filled with non-perishable goods for those who meet a certain income requirement. Some of these non-perishable goods include canned fruit and vegetables. Those in need come to the community center and pick up the bags.

Another organization that works on providing food to vulnerable populations is Meals on Wheels. The organization Meals on Wheels provides hot delivered meals to seniors in Fluvanna County who are unable to shop and cook for themselves.³³ They work closely with JABA to make sure that the area is covered. While there is an age requirement, the costs are based on donations.

³⁰ Community Meeting 2. Interview by Carla Jones and Will Bolton. Personal interview. 7 Apr. 2010.

³¹ Community Meeting 2. Interview by Carla Jones and Will Bolton. Personal interview. 7 Apr. 2010.

³² Community Meeting 2. Interview by Carla Jones and Will Bolton. Personal interview. 7 Apr. 2010.

³³ Community Meeting 2. Interview by Carla Jones and Will Bolton. Personal interview. 7 Apr. 2010.

The Monticello Area Community Action Agency (MACAA) provides assistance to those in poverty. In Fluvanna, they serve the hungry population through the emergency food bank.³⁴ All of the food in the pantry is provided by the Fluvanna Christian Society, who collects all of the food and monetary donations. MACAA has an intake system to ensure that families qualify and are only allowed to have one visit per month.³⁵ The emergency food pantry is not affiliated with the USDA because of the massive amount of paperwork involved. Last year, MACAA served 1,076 families.³⁶ Unfortunately, there is no central directory of all emergency food providers, but they all work together. Most of their referrals come from social services, but they do receive referrals from the Blue Ridge Area Food Bank and other nonprofits occasionally.³⁷ MACAA attempts to offer as much healthy food as possible, but sometimes find it challenging because they rely on donations.³⁸ Each bag is meant to last a family for one week. The bags can be filled with anything from meats, cakes, bread, sugar, juice, tuna, peanut butter, et cetera. No two bags are exactly alike because they have to use what they have. Families are only supposed to use this service once per month, but are sometimes allowed to receive more, if there are special circumstances.

Although it seems like social equity in Fluvanna County is well covered, there are some challenges. One of the challenges with social equity comes with ones its strengths: the Pleasant Grove Community Gardens. Currently, the majority of the plots are occupied by Lake Monticello residents. There are no regulatory or cost barriers for vulnerable

³⁴ Community Meeting 6. Interview by Carla Jones. Personal interview. 22 Apr. 2010.

³⁵ Community Meeting 6. Interview by Carla Jones. Personal interview. 22 Apr. 2010.

³⁶ Community Meeting 6. Interview by Carla Jones. Personal interview. 22 Apr. 2010.

³⁷ Community Meeting 6. Interview by Carla Jones. Personal interview. 22 Apr. 2010.

³⁸ Community Meeting 6. Interview by Carla Jones. Personal interview. 22 Apr. 2010.

populations as the garden will allow low-income residents to rent a plot for free.³⁹ They also offer training to those who don't have gardening skills. Although these opportunities exist, in the past few years that the garden has been in operation, only two plots have been occupied by low income residents.⁴⁰ These residents faced many barriers. Two of the biggest barriers for these gardeners were time and distance.⁴¹ Many of the current gardeners drive up to twenty minutes to tend their plots. In addition, gardening can be quite time consumptive. When some low-income residents are working multiple jobs and have families to care for, gardening becomes less of a priority.

In addition to the barriers faced with the Pleasant Grove community gardens, the Farmers' Market also has its challenges for low-income residents. First of all, local food is typically more expensive than produce that you can buy at the grocery store. Price can be the determining factor for many low-income residents. Moreover, the Farmers' Market's hours are inconvenient for many working families.

Both of these challenges offer opportunities for the vulnerable populations of Fluvanna County. Breaking down the barriers of time and distance may not be easy, but could help eliminate some of these issues. In addition, there is no way for low income residents to use their government benefits at the Farmers' Market. Leaders behind the Farmer's Market are working to get EBT machines at the market.

³⁹ Community Meeting 7. Interview by Carla Jones and Benjamin Pinover. Personal interview. 25 Apr. 2010.

⁴⁰ Community Meeting 7. Interview by Carla Jones and Benjamin Pinover. Personal interview. 25 Apr. 2010.

⁴¹ Community Meeting 7. Interview by Carla Jones and Benjamin Pinover. Personal interview. 25 Apr. 2010.

Land Conservation

There is long standing tradition of small family farms in Virginia. Fluvanna County contains a richness of history in this tradition, which has created the political climate in which farmland conservation has been strongly supported. Though it has often been supported, its purpose is typically for growth management.⁴²

Growth management, in terms of Fluvanna County, has aimed primarily at controlling the municipal, environmental and social costs associated with sprawling development. Though these policies are not directly targeted at aiding local food initiatives or small scale farming efforts per se, they accomplish many goals useful to supporting local food. The central policies aimed at controlling growth pressures in Fluvanna are "down-zoning" and "cluster development"⁴³. Fluvanna County uses an A-1 zoning designation as a down-zoning growth management tool that limits the potential development rights, not unlike an easement. The pervasive use of this zoning classification has allowed Fluvanna to protect the majority of their natural wealth in terms of farmland. Though the intention of the policy was to ensure that the rural character and natural beauty of Fluvanna was maintained, this policy has also preserved much of its arable land for future family farmers.

Cluster development requires that in areas where development is allowed, (on large tracts of previously farmland or wilderness) that those development rights that are permitted must be sited, such that a lion share of the land is left untouched. Cluster development allows the county to provide maximum service per capita per dollar. From

⁴² Community Meeting 5a. Interview by Benjamin Pinover. Personal interview. 14 Apr. 2010.

⁴³ Community Meeting 5a. Interview by Benjamin Pinover. Personal interview. 14 Apr. 2010.

one perspective, it also takes the aforementioned down-zoning policy to a much smaller scale, but it can also provide an opportunity for food system development. On tracts that were previously agricultural, residents can be provided with food from the remaining land, though nuisance complaints may be the result.

Organic farming practices, low-impact design strategies, cluster residential development and other design features have been successfully tested by such projects as Bundoran Farm in Albemarle County:

“Preservation Development uses limited residential development to preserve the character and use of rural landscapes in perpetuity. Preservation Development has been described as a “three legged stool.” Each leg of the stool represents a different activity and constituency which bear an equal amount of weight:

1. Farming – agricultural work and land management activities.
2. Environmental – guided by the work of Audubon International.
3. Development – home ownership and residency on a working farm.”⁴⁴

The relatively high cost of these developments is another challenge to transforming cluster development practices into a more food accessible landscape.

Land Use Taxation provides more targeted support for the small farmer than the above mentioned growth management strategies⁴⁵. Land use taxation is a form of tax relief for farmers in which the tax rate that they pay reflects the value of their property relative to their agricultural use instead of its potential value as a development site. The county program protects farmers from being priced off of their own land by the increase in property value and tax rate that create the domino-effect of sprawl.

⁴⁴ “Preservation Development in Albemarle County, VA | Sustainable Farming and Development at Bundoran Farm.” *Bundoran Farm: Charlottesville, VA Land For Sale | Albemarle County Farms & Land For Sale*. N.p., n.d. Web. 22 Mar. 2010. <<http://www.bundoranfarm.com/vision/preservation.html>>.

⁴⁵ Community Meeting 3. Interview by Benjamin Pinover. Personal interview. 8 Apr. 2010.

The Pleasant Grove Community Gardens, as well as, the Farmers' Market for Fluvanna County are located within the 900-acre Pleasant Grove facility which is a County owned and maintained facility⁴⁶. County support for these events has allowed the collection of data about its trends. The practice of providing both spaces to grow and sell local food has allowed county managers to gather data, control quality as well as plan for its growth within their policy documents⁴⁷. The community aspect, the opportunity for local food producers to socialize and trade information, has created the kind of culture of food that is at the heart of changing cultural food patterns.

Fluvanna County's support for the community garden and Farmers' Market is growing in terms of both economic activity and participation. The number of plots in the community garden was recently expanded from 60 to 100 and the number of vendors at the farmers market has grown from 25 to 39 at its peak.⁴⁸ Both of these trends suggest that food issues are growing in both awareness and participation. The growth in vendors at the Farmers' Market has not been met with a corresponding increase in customer base, which has presented a challenge.

Transferable Development Rights (or TDR) program takes the form of extensive use of agricultural/forestal easements by the county as well as conservation easements for water quality and open space by the Thomas Jefferson Planning District at a more regional scale⁴⁹.

⁴⁶ Community Meeting 4. Interview by Benjamin Pinover. Personal interview. 14 Apr. 2010.

⁴⁷ Community Meeting 3. Interview by Benjamin Pinover. Personal interview. 8 Apr. 2010.

⁴⁸ Community Meeting 3. Interview by Benjamin Pinover. Personal interview. 8 Apr. 2010.

⁴⁹ Community Meeting 5a. Interview by Benjamin Pinover. Personal interview. 14 Apr. 2010.

Analysis of Our Findings

The meetings with community members have been enlightening; after doing policy research we were unable to find a great deal concerning the food system in Fluvanna County. The meetings brought several issues and initiatives to our attention that would have otherwise been difficult to assess. The community garden and Farmers' Market are two prime examples: the Extension office has observed a 60% growth in these two areas, a trend that would have been impossible to deduce from policy documents alone.

Though the policy structure was essential to understand, the interviews allowed us to see where the proverbial rubber meets the road. From our initial findings the primary policy issue that seems to be affecting Fluvanna County's food system is the A-1 zoning (a down-zoning described in the Land Conservation section above). Though this practice was originally intended to preserve farmland, those preservation efforts have construed the income available to farmers too narrowly. Currently A-1 zoning does not allow for farmers to supplement their income with any other commercial uses on their property.

The example mentioned was a mud bog, a politically contentious event, with the potential to create revenue. Allowing such uses by right, instead of special use permit (SUP), will create a secondary source of income for agricultural landholders. Delineating the uses of SUPs to uses involving environmental effects, allows those with potential to make land more valuable without developing it. It is crucial to create an A-2 zone that would allow for some commercial uses, supplementing farmer's incomes and, thus, ultimately preserve farmland.

We did not find much information about the social equity portion of our audit online, but discovered that there seems to be an effective system in place in Fluvanna to provide access to food for the elderly, disabled, and impoverished. We had hoped to find out more about the school systems, but childhood obesity seems to be at the forefront of the nutrition concerns.

Fluvanna has many policies and initiatives that are addressing issues related to the county's food system. There are a community gardens and a growing movement around a local farmers' market. What follows is an outline of the major findings from our analysis:

Public Health:

- There is a general interest in reducing obesity.
- The Fluvanna County Public School system seems to be the most proactive with its Wellness Policy.

Economic Development:

- Farmers market has grown over the past year and with increased marketing has the potential to continue growing.
- The Fluvanna County Economic Development Plan focuses on local business growth; as applied to the food system, this could help the local food economy.

Environmental Effects:

- Voluntary Fence-out program has proven effective.
- Chesapeake Bay Reauthorization Act may strengthen regulations.

Social Equity:

- Social equity is a strong point in Fluvanna County. The coordination of organizations, such as JABA, USDA, and Meals-on-Wheels, provides residents with access to food.
- The community garden at Pleasant Grove offers free plots to residents who cannot afford them.
- There is a “Backpack Program” run by the school system which sends backpacks of food home to children in need.

Land Conservation:

- A-1 zoning may restrict farmers’ ability to diversify incomes.
- Farmers Market, Community Garden, Land Use Taxation and many others are all programs deserving of expansion.
- Opportunities exist to recast growth management practices to be more food sensitive.

As is clear from our analysis, Fluvanna County presents a unique combination of opportunities and challenges to food systems. The areas identified above show that the Fluvanna community has potential, if carefully planned, to expand its local food production and culture with tremendous financial, social and public health benefits.

Summary of Community Feedback

The majority of our audit findings came from conversations with community members. The notes from these meetings can be found in the Appendix. From our meetings, there were a few general comments. First of all, we learned of a cultural divide within the community. The cultural divide takes place between the farmers and suburbanites. Many of our community partners commented on how this was a major barrier in moving forward with food initiatives. Moreover, a few of our community partners mentioned obesity as being a major problem. Furthermore, our community partners mentioned the importance of rural preservation and growth management. Our conversations were really focused on these areas. From this concentration, our community partners listed many priorities and recommendations.

Community Priorities and Resources

Our meetings with community partners have produced several recommendations for Fluvanna County. We hope that as we continue meeting with community partners that they will give us their feedback on what they would like to see change in their community. At this point, there were three main categories of recommendations. These categories include land use, economic development, and expanding on current initiatives.

The first community priority was in regards to land use. As we mentioned earlier, the current A1 zoning does not allow for farmers to use their land for many other commercial practices.⁵⁰ For farmers to be able to use their land for many commercial

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Community Meeting 1. Interview by Carla Jones Will Bolton. Personal interview. 2 Apr. 2010.

uses, they would need to go through the lengthy process of applying for a Special Use Permit.⁵¹ This restriction on the use of land has led to a lot of farmers selling their land for the development of subdivisions. One of our community partners felt that the only way to truly conserve this farmland is to allow the farmers to supplement their income.⁵² Currently, most farmers need to supplement their income and land is their most valuable asset. To help prevent the loss of farmland, a change from an A1 district to an A2 district could help. Louisa County has a great example of A2 zoning. They define A2 zoning to "allow for the compatible mixture of agricultural uses and limited residential development in rural areas and protect and retain the rural open character of the countryside."⁵³ If a farmer in Fluvanna County wanted to use his land for a small education facility, he would need to go through the Special Use Permit process.⁵⁴ This process could take months. Under Louisa County's A2 zoning regulations, the farmer would not need to go through the process because that use is already approved. By using A2 zoning, it allows the farmers to have more use of their land, which could keep them farming.

The second community priority deals with economic development. Fluvanna County residents have an interest in expanding their economic base and one way of doing this is through expanding their food production. Expanding local initiatives, such as the Farmers' Market is a great way to increase the economic base. Increasing the amount of value-added products and promoting buying local can be a great way to keep money in

⁵¹ Community Meeting 1. Interview by Carla Jones Will Bolton. Personal interview. 2 Apr. 2010.

⁵² Community Meeting 1. Interview by Carla Jones Will Bolton. Personal interview. 2 Apr. 2010.

⁵³ "County of Louisa, VA: Zoning Definitions." *County of Louisa, VA*. N.p., n.d. Web. 21 Apr. 2010. <<http://www.louisacounty.com/LCcommdev/Planning05.htm>>.

⁵⁴ "Zoning Ordinance." *County of Fluvanna Home Page*. N.p., n.d. Web. 11 Feb. 2010. <<http://www.co.fluvanna.va.us/>>.

the local economy. An interesting example for economic development for a rural community comes from Ontario, Canada. In Ontario, there is a Rural Economic Development (RED) Program. A rural economic development program is "a financial support program to help rural communities thrive and grow. It supports projects- including food processing projects- that remove barriers to community development and economic growth."⁵⁵ One of the major priorities for the RED program is to support the food processing sector. The program really works to develop skills through internship and training initiatives. This program provides up to 50% reimbursement of costs like marketing and promotional costs and internship funding for youth and displaced workers.⁵⁶ Small businesses can receive funds once they submit an application. RED is a cost-share program. An example project would be if Fluvanna County wanted to keep farmers farming and attract new farmers, the RED program would provide better training for workers, access to specialists, an internship program for youth, and better marketing of jobs.⁵⁷ A program similar to Ontario's Rural Economic Development program would be just one way of achieving Fluvanna County's goal of economic development.⁵⁸

Fluvanna County has many initiatives related to food. The third and final community priority was to expand on these current initiatives. With the successful

⁵⁵ "Rural Economic Development (RED) Program." Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs / Minist re de l'Agriculture, de l'Alimentation et des Affaires rurales de l'Ontario. N.p., n.d. Web. 24 Apr. 2010. <<http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/rural/red/index.html>>.

⁵⁶ "Rural Economic Development (RED) Program." Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs / Minist re de l'Agriculture, de l'Alimentation et des Affaires rurales de l'Ontario. N.p., n.d. Web. 24 Apr. 2010. <<http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/rural/red/index.html>>.

⁵⁷ "Rural Economic Development (RED) Program." Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs / Minist re de l'Agriculture, de l'Alimentation et des Affaires rurales de l'Ontario. N.p., n.d. Web. 24 Apr. 2010. <<http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/rural/red/index.html>>.

⁵⁸ "Rural Economic Development (RED) Program." *Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs / Minist re de l'Agriculture, de l'Alimentation et des Affaires rurales de l'Ontario*. N.p., n.d. Web. 24 Apr. 2010. <<http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/rural/red/index.html>>.

initiatives, such as the Pleasant Grove Community Gardens and the local Farmer's Market, the community has shown a strong desire to continue building on these. In order to expand these initiatives, local policy could be enacted. One example of local food policy is in Seattle, Washington. On April 28, 2008, Seattle enacted a policy "establishing goals, creating a policy framework, and identifying planning, analysis, and actions for the purpose of strengthening Seattle's food system sustainability and security."⁵⁹ Seattle has created the Seattle-King County Acting Food Policy Council (AFPC) to constantly look for improvements to their food system. They developed many goals including:

" e. Increase access for all of Seattle's residents to healthy and local foods through:

* Disseminating of food preparation and preservation knowledge through educational and community kitchen programs,

* Supporting new opportunities for distribution of locally and regionally produced food....

* Addressing the needs of vulnerable populations, such as children, people living with disabilities and seniors to accessing adequate, healthy food, and

* Increasing the amount of fresh fruits, vegetables, dairy and meat in the food support system, including food banks and meal programs."⁶⁰

⁵⁹ "Seattle City Council Resolution Index." *Seattle City Clerk's Online Information Services*. N.p., n.d. Web. 22 Apr. 2010. <<http://clerk.seattle.gov/~scripts/nph-brs.exe?s1=&s3=31019&s2=&s4=&Sect4=AND&l=20&Sect2=THESON&Sect3=PLURON&Sect5=RESNY&Sect6=HITOFF&d=RESF&p=1&u=%2F~public%2Fresny.htm&r=1&f=G>>.

⁶⁰ "Seattle City Council Resolution Index." *Seattle City Clerk's Online Information Services*. N.p., n.d. Web. 22 Apr. 2010. <<http://clerk.seattle.gov/~scripts/nph-brs.exe?s1=&s3=31019&s2=&s4=&Sect4=AND&l=20&Sect2=THESON&Sect3=PLURON&Sect5=RESNY&Sect6=HITOFF&d=RESF&p=1&u=%2F~public%2Fresny.htm&r=1&f=G>>.

Many of Seattle's goals align with those that we heard from our community partners. Developing local policy that sets up a Food Policy Council and supports the local initiatives is one way of expanding local initiatives.

These are just a few examples of initiatives that are happening all over the world. Fluvanna County has many clear goals that are achievable and many initiatives that are already making strides towards those goals.

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Appendices

Appendix A—Community Partners

- **Bertha Armstrong**, Monticello Area Community Action Agency
- **Darren Coffey**, Forestal District Advisory Committee
- **Dwight Godwin**, Parks and Recreations Director
- **Elizabeth Fortune**, Planning Commission
- **Jane Gatewood**, JABA Case Manager
- **Joan Farren**, Chair of Steering Committee for Pleasant Grove Community Garden
- **John Thompson**, JABA Case Manager and Director of Farmers Market
- **Mozell Booker**, Fluvanna County Board of Supervisors
- **Vicki Karabinus**, Economic Development Coordinator

Appendix B—Comments from Community

Community Meeting 1

- Main issue--movement to create an A-2 zoning district
 - this would allow farmers to have businesses on their property to supplement their low farming incomes
- Property taxes in Fluvanna are rising and the cost of commuting so there does not seem to be any increase in food taxes in the near future
- Approximately 75% of of Fluvanna is open space zoned as A-1
- According to the 2000 Comprehensive Plan you had to cluster subdivisions-->subdivisions are in the middle of no where away from everything
- The water table is messed up
- Lazy S Ranch on 53
 - Cooperative farm where you can go and pick up fresh foods
- There are 4 grocery stores in Fluvanna but no real transportation options or walkability
- There is a class struggle from those who just weekend in the country to those who farm and work the land.
- All schools have vending machines
- Social Equity:
 - The Fluvanna Christian Society does a food basket during the holidays
- Churches
 - Food pantry
 - Fluvanna Review
- Grocery stores
 - in Fork Union, Palmyra, Zion Crossroads, and Lake Monticello
 - You need a car to access them
- Land Conservation
 - Private Rights v. Rural conservation battle
 - A1 zoning is currently restricting farmers' use of their land, which is cause them to sell and subdivide.
 - A2 would help alleviate this
 - It would help farmers augment their income
 - Examples are Mud bog
 - Right now cabins nor music festivals are allowed
- Instances of Informal Work
 - Richard Harry
 - Owns pig farm
 - Each pig is owned by one person and he butchers it for that individual person
 - Lazy S Ranch
 - Located on Route 53
 - It is a coop and the ordinance allows because it is grown at their house

Community Meeting 2

Five programs for vulnerable populations:

1. Ensure Program
 1. JABA delivers Ensure provided by the health department
 2. Users must have a prescription from a doctor
 3. They can get 1-3 cans per day based on the prescription.
 4. They are delivered by JABA volunteers once a month.
2. Frozen Meals
 1. JABA gets these frozen meals from a distributor in Florida
 2. They are tailored to meet 1/3 of the nutritional needs of and older adult
 3. There is an income guideline for people who cannot prepare meals that are healthy
 4. It includes milk, fruit cups (See separate menu sheet)
3. JABA Hot Meals
 1. Twice a week JABA provides hot meals to its users
 2. It has fresh, local fruits and veggies
 3. Judy Berger is a great person to talk to about this
 4. Prepared in Charlottesville
4. Meals on Wheels (589-1685)
 1. Delivers daily hot meals
 2. It has been operational for 2 years
 3. They are not affiliated with JABA, but do work in conjunction.
 4. You do not have to meet an age requirement for Meals on Wheels
5. USDA Brown Bag Program
 1. It is a commodity distribution program provided by the USDA
 2. They are bags of non-perishable goods
 3. You must fill out an income form to fill out.
 4. They bags contain canned fruit and vegetables
 5. People can pick up the bags from JABA
 6. You do not have to meet an age requirement for Meals on Wheels

Other Relevant Issues:

1. Jaunt
 1. She said that pretty much the only alternative mode of transportation is Jaunt.
 2. It is very busy
 3. You must make reservations in advance
2. Community Gardens at Pleasant Grove
 1. Talk to John Thompson about this
3. Fluvanna Christian Society is overseen by MACAA
 1. Provides emergency food bank services
 2. Contact Bertha Armstrong
4. Hazardous Waste Day
 1. People bring their hazardous wastes to one spot to avoid polluting streams and land.

Community Meeting 3

-Growth management - A-1 designation is the vast majority of the county, some 70%, which is essentially a down-zoning, or a reduction of potential development rights. Within the revenue lost through growth management vs. infrastructure cost analysis, the break-even point is not obvious. Fluvanna County has adopted a growth management stance primarily as a protection from rising infrastructural and service provision costs.

-Ag / Forestal Districts –are designed to reduce development pressures, not help farmers per se. This has several indirect consequences for the farmers, such as maintaining the overall rural character of the area, as well as lessening the individual tax burden on the citizens. A low density also reduces nuisance-like complaints related to fertilizers and livestock management. Truly an economic / land use development plan more than a food policy issue, though it ultimately depends on who is taking advantage of this PDR program. It can theoretically be a powerful tool in food policy advocacy.

-Land Use Taxation – The most direct support for farmers. Decreases the tax burden on farmers, as well as tying the income of a farm (its *use* value) to the tax burden, adjusting tax rate to reflect the low income of farms. Land use taxation fosters an agricultural community, for example: if land use taxation was eliminated, there are farmers who would be bankrupted.

-Bio-solids Program – Bio-solids are the product of sewage treatment plants that is reconstituted as fertilizer, regulated at the state level to control public health concerns. Nutrient management planning is required.

-Nutrient Management Planning – Is a service to land owners, provided by state and private groups, that is required for bio-solids application, large scale fertilizer application (via the Chesapeake Bay Reauthorization Act), and any industrial livestock operation.

-Composting – Small-scale workshops have been run through VA Master Gardeners, although there is no policy, workshops are run through VT Cooperative Extension annually. Lake Monticello had a centralized composting system but it failed.

-Local Food – There is no policy, however encouragement for local food is provided at the policy level through the community garden and farmers market supports. The potential impact is still low, though, due to local food production's low volume and high cost.

-Farm to school – Promoted by the Cooperative Extension office, not yet adopted though.

-Agricultural Production – Fluvanna county is not a big agricultural producer (In the VA agricultural statistics, they are 78th). They are ranked 46th for wheat and 50th for hay. The main Agricultural products are hay, cattle and horse industry. The horse business is an investment-based industry that was hit by the recession, its presence is indicative of an influx of wealth into the Ag. Sector in Fluvanna County. There are many various sized home gardens, “one CSA, one orchard and allot of interest, a lot of people asking questions about food” – JT.

-Farmers Market – The market has grown up to 60%: in 2008 had average of 25 vendors, in 2009 there was an average of 30 and a max of 39 vendors. There has been no corresponding increase in customer base, which indicates that vendors are spreading the dollar further and that it is a ‘buyers market’ so to speak. This trend may be a function of the economy showing a return to farmers market and cottage industry as new ways of making money. Creative forms of access to the farmers market from less wealthy consumers may aid in the continuation of this pattern of growth.

-Community Garden / Pleasant Grove – A 900 acre, co. park called pleasant grove is the site for both the community garden and the farmers market. This park is a very active recreational site for multi-generational activities ranging from a playground to walking/bike trails to the community garden. The allocation of land for these activities and events is controlled at the county level, and is a very optimistic sign of food consciousness in both Fluvanna Co. citizens and government.

-Non-point source – controlled mostly at federal and state guidelines established in the clean water act and Chesapeake Bay reauthorization act. The impact of the new regulations *may* have more stringent buffer zones (increase 35-50' buffers) for the voluntary cost-share fencing program. TJSWC – private, Soil and Water - state piece. The farm bureau has been pushing for accurate monitoring of local conditions, in order to eliminate the uncertainties associated with the delays in system response from pollution source to final destination.

-Livestock Fencing – Voluntary program, fence out restrictions may be prohibitive if a property has three streams. The program has been effective, due to the cost share, alternatively individuals fence out streams under their individual economic power. Capturing the remainder of the audience may require mandatory regulations.

-Household income – Fluvanna County contains an economic division between the rural county and Lake Monticello, a fairly affluent community. The farmers market is within 3mi of their doorsteps and anecdotal evidence points to the retirees and at home moms with disposable income as the primary share of the farmers' market consumer base. The large portion of the community not able or willing to participate due to economic, geographic and social distances is the group most on John Thompson's mind as he plans the farmer's market's expansion.

-Trends – Fluvanna County has a slow trend toward increasing production and associated cottage industries. The holistic approach to sustainable living expressed at the policy level will filter through as the new comprehensive plan's implementation of green infrastructure and sustainable community design continues. Darren Coffey, Fluvanna co. chief planner intends to amend the recent comp plan to include food security, economic development around food systems, and the continuation of the cultural push toward a healthier and more sustainable lifestyle.

-Creative Financing Models – Farm link VA, multi-generational support for transition of retiring, low interest loans through farm service agency (state) for beginning farmers, grants for minority and female farmers (state / federal). See Land Use Taxation. There is the possibility of a county grant to research farmers market and educate farmers on production techniques.

-Food Producers Map – A map to show where food commodities are will increase access and support economic development planning. John Thompson is actively engaged in creating this map.

-Economic Development Goals – Interest in the farmers market expansion, though no formal policy exists as of yet.

Community Meeting 4

-Education - Avoiding policy resistance requires that policies be aimed at overcoming the psychological barreirs to better health through food culture. When the impetus exists

at the cultural level, the creativity devoted toward circumventing a policy aimed at health will be changed into public demand for food programs aimed at health. Education here has a multi-generational connotation, attempting to reaching out to adults and seniors as well as youths.

-Economic Barriers –The tangible barriers are economic, changing food habits and farming methods can undercut farmers' and consumers' bottom line.

-Farmers Market – The Department of Parks and Recreation maintain the Pleasant Grove facility. The farmers market supports the local economy and creates an opportunity for socializing between community food partners.

-Community Garden – No only provides the space to grow but also education in nutrition, soil amenities, when to, how to, and where to grow food. The more education is available, the better choices people can make nutritionally.

-Tapping into local resources - Creating a resource guide is way to increase access to the existing food resources. Taking advantage of information available in hopes of being the best stewards of the resources in Fluvanna.

Community Meeting 5

- The county of Fluvanna has recently ratified a new comp plan that is aware of sustainability issues, though not specifically food. The first revision of the plan hopes to include the farmers market and community garden within both food security and

- Specific responses:
- 1.c.3 – Pleasant grove farmers market is operated on county land
- 1.c.4 – Pleasant grove also hosts the community garden
- 1.c.7 – Ag. Uses are allowed by right in R-1 cluster developments.
- 2.c.2 – Locality provides institutional support for the farmers market.
- 5.a.7 – Co. Code defines transfer of development rights.

Community Meeting 6

-MACAA runs the Emergency Food Pantry. All of the food is provided by the Fluvanna Christian Society. The Fluvanna Christian Society collects all of the food and monetary donations.

-MACAA has an intake system and families are allowed to have one visit to the Emergency Food Pantry per month. This Emergency Food Pantry is not affiliated with the USDA because of the amount of paperwork involved. Last year, they serve 1,076 families. There is no central directory of all emergency food providers, but they all do coordinate and work together. Most of their referrals come from social services, but they have seen referrals from the Blue Ridge Area Food Bank and other nonprofits. MACAA has a series of refrigerators and freezers to store all perishable goods. They try to offer as much healthy food as possible. While Fluvanna does not have a policy that states that its citizens have a "right to food security", MACAA makes this their goal.

-Bags:

-Filled with non-perishables and meats, cakes, breads, sugar, juice, tuna, peanut butter, flour, et cetera.

- Meant to last a family for one week and the amount of food varies per number of people in the family.
- The bags are not uniform and consists of anything that they have.
- MACAA will allow a family to receive more than one bag per month if there are special circumstances.

Community Meeting 7

- Community garden:
 - Nearly entirely lake Monticello people
 - 60 plots in original, expanded by 40 (a couple will be used for picnic tables)
 - Six or so people have taken double plots
 - VA master gardeners are on the steering committee
 - Social justice:
 - Education- master gardeners offer training either on the community gardens or organized through the
 - Economic barriers – time, distance
 - In the past, they had a couple of low income gardeners. Between working multiple jobs, gardening seemed to be too much.
 - If you have a garden at your house, 20 minutes of work is not hard, but if you have to travel 20 minutes, then it becomes a larger time commitment.
- Me – perhaps a program aimed at creating community gardens at locations that are convenient to a certain number of low-income families, so that the transfer of knowledge into these communities can begin to occur.
- Support – no charge for members below a certain income threshold
- Environmental benefits:
- All of the plots are not required to be organic
- Land conservation:
- Land acquisition was streamlined through parks and recreation and extension offices
 - Small scale composting is encouraged though larger scale composting requires more knowledge to be feasible
- Focus on creating a gardening community – through education and through social communication both knowledge about community food systems is disseminated and social awareness of food production issues is created.

Community Meeting 8

- Schools:
 - Food prepared elsewhere
 - Free and reduced lunch program
 - Backpack program—send food home to eligible students for weekends, contains nutritional canned goods, etc
 - Obesity problem—need to work with family, PE counselor, and nurse
- Health fairs run by New Fork Baptist Church and Way of Cross Baptist Church
- Food Bank:

- MACCA runs
- Families can come in and get perishable foods
- Emphasis on home-grown foods
 - Home Source has a community garden
 - Pleasant Grove community garden—provides food for MACCA

Appendix C—Visuals

IMAGE 1—FLUVANNA COUNTY GROWTH DISTRICTS

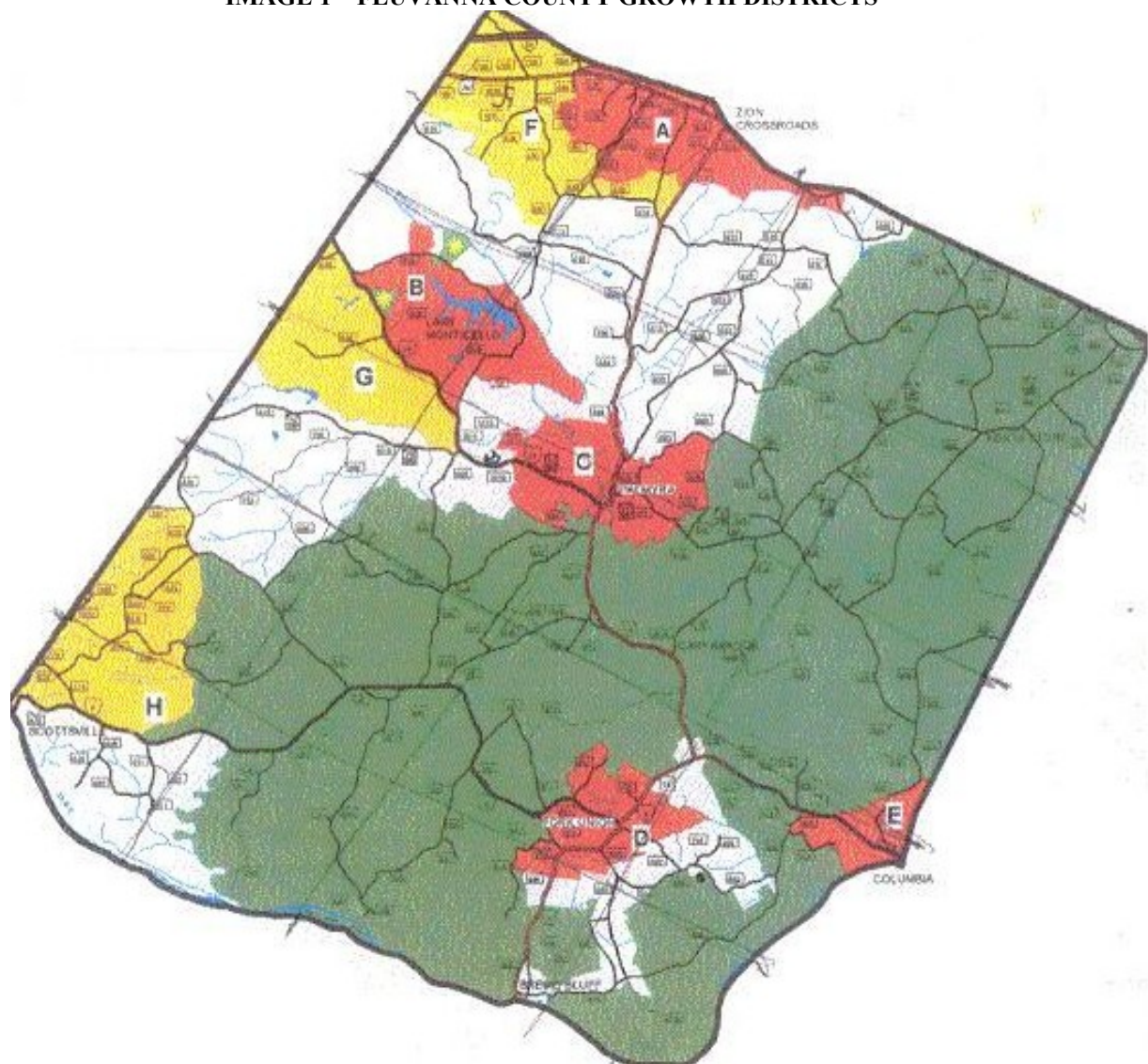


IMAGE 2—CENSUS DATA

2007 CENSUS DATA:						
No.	Acres		--Cash Receipts (\$1,000)--			Rank
Farms	In Farms	Harvested Cropland	Crops	Livestock	Total	
327	48,883	13,249	2,655	2,940	5,595	78

IMAGE 3—FLUVANNA COUNTY 2029 FUTURE LAND USE MAP

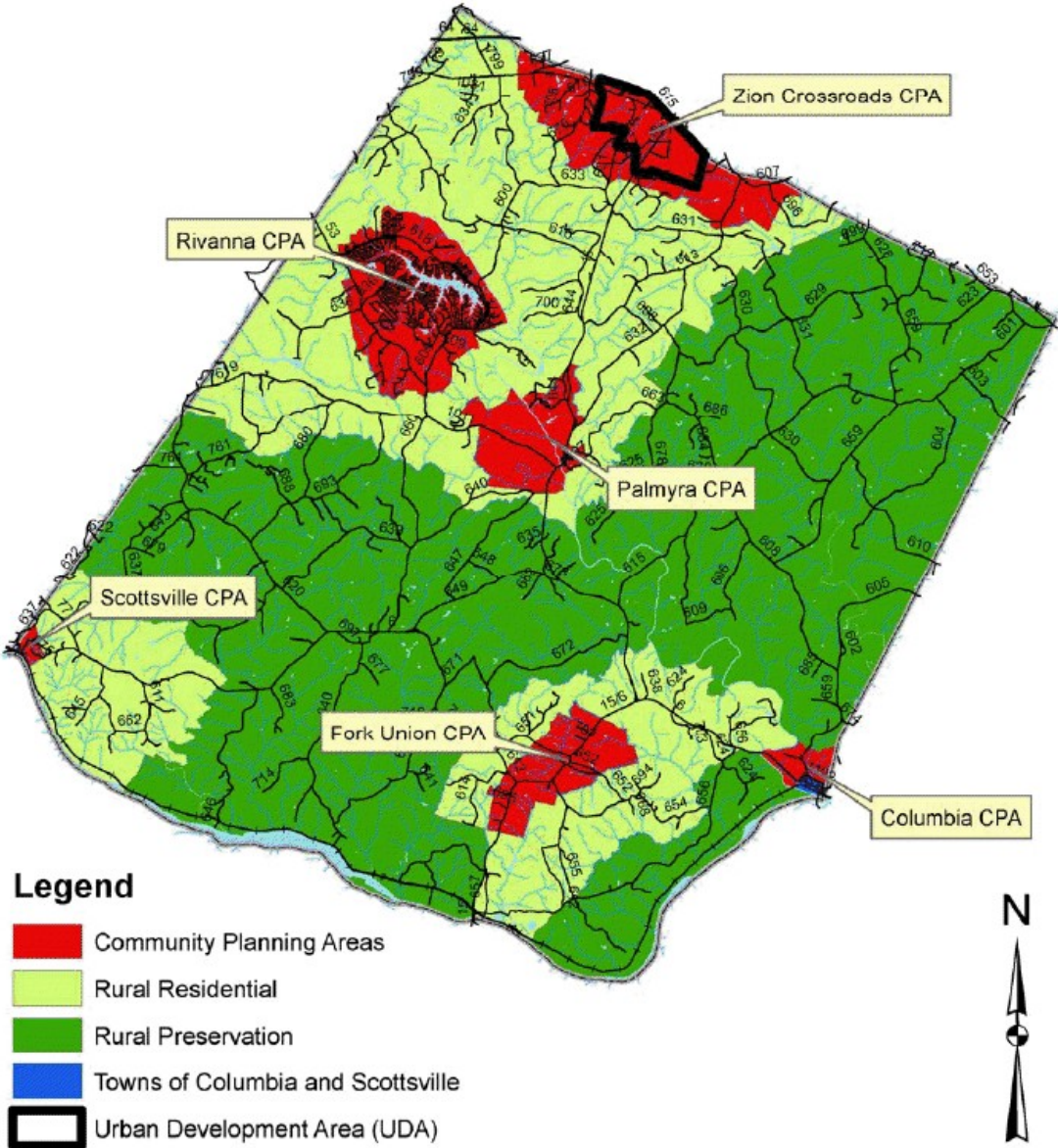


Figure LU-23, 2029 Future Land Use Map

IMAGE 4-10—PHOTOGRAPHS FROM FLUVANNA COUNTY





Appendix D—Supplemental Audit Notes

1. PUBLIC HEALTH**1a: Reduce and Prevent Community Obesity and Chronic Illness**

Q1: Mention of goal for improving public health:

a. Comprehensive Plan, Introduction, pg. 7 "best promote the health, safety, morals, order, convenience, prosperity and general welfare of the inhabitants..."

b. Regional or State Guidelines, § 15.2-4201. Purpose of chapter, "To improve public health, safety, convenience and welfare, and to provide for the social, economic and physical development of communities and metropolitan areas of the Commonwealth on a sound and orderly basis, within a governmental framework and economic environment which will foster constructive growth and efficient administration.

c. School Programs/Wellness Policy, pg. 505 of Fluvanna County Public Schools Policy Manual.

d. School District Strategic Plan, pg. 315 of Fluvanna County Public Schools Policy Manual, "Practice sound habits of personal health and physical fitness."

Q2: Goal to reduce obesity:

a. Plans/Strategies/Programs, Childhood Obesity Taskforce, <http://www.childhoodobesitytaskforce.org/>, "Since 1999, the Thomas Jefferson Health District has spearheaded the Childhood Obesity Task Force (COTF) serving Charlottesville, Albemarle, Fluvanna, Greene, Louisa, and Nelson counties, Virginia, to address the prevention and treatment of overweight among children."

b. School Programs, Wellness Policy, pg. 506, "Nutrition guidelines have been selected by the division for all foods available on every school campus during the school day. The objectives of the guidelines are to promote student health and reduce childhood obesity."

c. School District Strategic Plan, pg. 506, "Nutrition guidelines have been selected by the division for all foods available on every school campus during the school day. The objectives of the guidelines are to promote student health and reduce childhood obesity."

Q3: Overall wellness plan

a. School Programs/Wellness Policy, pg 506 "The Director of Special Services will be responsible for overseeing the implementation of this policy

and will develop procedures for evaluating the wellness policy, including indicators that will be used to measure its success.”

b. School District Strategic Plan, pg 506 "The Director of Special Services will be responsible for overseeing the implementation of this policy and will develop procedures for evaluating the wellness policy, including indicators that will be used to measure its success.”

Q4: Farm to School programs:

- a. Not mentioned anywhere*
- b. In an interview with John Thompson on 04/02/10, he mentioned that the program is not up in running, but is in the planning stages.*

Q5. School purchasing local:

- a. Not mentioned anywhere.*

Q6. Reduce available junk food:

- a. Not mentioned anywhere.*

Q7. Educate cafeteria workers:

- a. Not mentioned anywhere.*

Q8. Food based lesson plans:

- a. School programs/Wellness Policy, Fluvanna County School Policy Manual, pg. 505, “Nutrition is integrated into the health education or core curricula (e.g., math, science, language arts).”*

b. School District Strategic Plan, Fluvanna County School Policy Manual, pg. 505, “Nutrition is integrated into the health education or core curricula (e.g., math, science, language arts).”

Q9. School gardens:

- a. Not mentioned anywhere.*

Q10. Joint use agreement:

- a. Not mentioned anywhere.*

Q11. Chain restaurants/calories on menus:

- a. Not mentioned anywhere.*

Q12. Tax on/discourage low nutritional value items:

- a. Not mentioned anywhere.*

Q13. Discourage SNAP for sugary foods and beverages:

- a. Not mentioned anywhere.*

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

Q14. Increase awareness of healthy lifestyle:

a. *Plans/Strategies/ and Programs, Childhood Obesity Taskforce, <http://www.childhoodobesitytaskforce.org/>, "Our mission is to create a supportive community that fosters healthy weight and overall fitness for children and their families."*

b. *School Programs/Wellness Policy, Fluvanna County School Policy Manual, pg. 505, "School-based marketing of foods and beverages, such as through advertisements in school publications, school buildings, athletic fields, and/or other areas accessible to students, and activities such as incentive programs, has been considered."*

c. *School District Strategic Plan, Fluvanna County School Policy Manual, pg 506, "Outreach strategies to encourage families to reinforce and support healthy eating and physical activity are in place."*

Q15. Definition for local food:

a. *Not mentioned anywhere.*

Q16. Support production and distribution of local food:

a. *Not mentioned anywhere.*

Q17. Guide to local food support:

a. *Not mentioned anywhere. In an interview with John Thompson, he mentioned that the Virginia Cooperative Extension is working on a map.*

Q18. Purchasing preference for local:

a. *Not mentioned anywhere.*

Q19. Media campaign to support healthy eating:

a. *School Programs/Wellness Policy, Fluvanna County Policy Manual, pg.505, "School-based marketing of foods and beverages, such as through advertisements in school publications, school buildings, athletic fields, and/or other areas accessible to students, and activities such as incentive programs, has been considered."*

b. *School District Strategic Plan, Fluvanna County School Policy Manual, pg. 506, "School-based marketing of foods and beverages, such as through advertisements in school publications, school buildings, athletic fields, and/or other areas accessible to students, and activities such as incentive programs, has been considered."*

Q20. Support Food Policy Council:

a. Not mentioned anywhere.

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

Q21. Code allowance for open space or community gardens:

c. Not mentioned anywhere

Q22. Promote accessibility to community gardens for all neighborhoods:

a. Not mentioned anywhere.

Q23. Land protections for farmers' markets:

- a. Zoning Ordinances, Interview with Darren Coffey on 04/07/10. County provided land for the Pleasant Grove Community Gardens*
- b. Plans/Strategies/Programs, Interview with Darren Coffey on 04/07/10. The Pleasant Grove Community Garden.*

Q24. Pocket parks to community gardens:

- a. Comprehensive Plan, Interview with Darren Coffey on 04/07/10*
- b. Zoning Ordinances, Interview with Darren Coffey on 04/07/10, Cluster development requires that 75% of farmland developed must be left in open space.*
- c. Plans/Strategies/Programs, Interview with Darren Coffey on 04/07/10*

Q25. Allow abandoned lots for gardens or farms:

a. Not mentioned anywhere.

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

a. Not mentioned anywhere.

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

a. Comprehensive Plan, Interview with Darren Coffey on 04/07/10, Agricultural uses are allow in R-1 zoning

Q28. Funding for food projects:

a. Not mentioned anywhere.

Q29. Minimal on-site processing:

a. Not mentioned anywhere.

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

Q30. Offer multi-modal transportation:

a. Not mentioned anywhere.

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

a. Not mentioned anywhere.

Q32. Transport food to low income and migrant neighborhoods:

a. Not mentioned anywhere.

Q33. Safe biking and walking paths to food sources:

a. Not mentioned anywhere.

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

a. Not mentioned anywhere.

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

a. Comprehensive Plan, pg. 86, "Coordinate short- and long-term transportation recommendations with the forthcoming Northwest Fluvanna by improving bus service, increasing participation in RideShare, and developing visible and accessible park-and-ride locations. Implement a coordinated plan to improve safety on Route 15 that includes roundabouts or other safety and capacity improvements, a median island, and curb and gutter enhancements for access management."

Q36. Is transportation available during days and nights?

a. Not mentioned anywhere.

Q37. Bike path or sidewalk plan:

a. Comprehensive Plan, pg. 86, "Enhance the pedestrian network by improving access and coordinating pedestrian improvements with streetscape enhancements and traffic-calming measures."

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

Q38. Reduce pesticide use, appropriate enforcement:

a. Not mentioned anywhere.

Q39. Protect farm workers from exposure:

a. Not mentioned anywhere.

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

a. Not mentioned anywhere.

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

a. Not mentioned anywhere.

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

a. Not mentioned anywhere.

Q43. Offer incentives to transition to sustainable or organic:

a. Not mentioned anywhere.

2. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

2a. Support local food production

Q44. Working farmland tax incentives:

a. Comprehensive Plan, pg. 149 "The Code of Virginia allows any locality that has adopted a comprehensive land-use plan to enact an ordinance providing for special assessments of agricultural, horticultural, forestal, and open-space real estate. Agricultural and horticultural uses, and open-space real estate, must consist of a minimum of five acres. Forestal land must be a minimum of twenty acres. These assessments are intended to encourage the preservation and proper use of land in order to allow for the production of agricultural, horticultural, and forestal products. These assessments also help alleviate pressures that result in the conversion of these lands to more intensive uses by keeping the assessed tax rate low. Fluvanna County has had this land-use assessment policy since 1978. The ordinance allows for land-use value assessments in all categories—agricultural, horticultural, forestal, and open-space real estate

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

a. Not mentioned anywhere.

Q46. Economic development support for food production:

a. Comprehensive Plan, pg. 154 "Promote local and regional markets for value-added agricultural and forestry enterprises and products."

b. Comprehensive Plan, pg. 254 "This section (sections 22-4-94 through 22-4-9.4) encourages economic development, preserves farm land, and promotes the orderly and responsible growth of the livestock, dairy and poultry industries. In the Agricultural (A-1) district, all agricultural production uses, including the uses defined herein as intensive livestock, dairy and poultry facilities, shall be permitted by right."

Q47. Purchase of local food when available:

a. Not mentioned anywhere.

Q48. Support system for seasonal labor for farms:

a. Not mentioned anywhere.

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

a. Not mentioned anywhere.

Q50. Incentives for retailers to purchase local food:

a. Not mentioned anywhere.

2b. Support development of local processing infrastructure

Q51. Programs to support or incubate food related businesses:

a. Comprehensive Plan, pg. 254 "Sec. 22-4-9. Intensive livestock, dairy and poultry facilities; statement of intent. This section (sections 22-4-94 through 22-4-9.4) encourages economic development, preserves farm land, and promotes the orderly and responsible growth of the livestock, dairy and poultry industries. In the Agricultural (A-1) district, all agricultural production uses, including the uses defined herein as intensive livestock, dairy and poultry facilities, shall be permitted by right."

Q52. USDA kitchen or other processing facility available:

a. Not mentioned anywhere.

2c. Support development of local distribution infrastructure

Q53. Allow for farmers markets or tailgate markets:

- a. Comprehensive Plan, Interview with John Thompson on 04/02/10*
- b. Zoning Ordinances, Interview with John Thompson on 04/02/10*
- c. Plans/Strategies/Programs, Interview with John Thompson on 04/02/10*

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

- a. Comprehensive Plan, Interview with John Thompson on 04/02/10*
- b. Zoning Ordinances, Interview with John Thompson on 04/02/10*
- c. Plans/Strategies/Programs, Interview with John Thompson on 04/02/10*

Q55. Economic support for regional distribution center:

a. Not mentioned anywhere.

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

Q56. Incentives for businesses using locally produced food:

a. Not mentioned anywhere.

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

a. Not mentioned anywhere.

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

a. Not mentioned anywhere.

2e. Support increased Security of Food Supply

Q59. Emergency preparedness plan for disruptions in food supply:

a. Comprehensive Plan, pg. 219 "Goal 8: To provide for the safety and well-being of our citizens. Implementation Strategies...Maintain the emergency shelter at Carysbrook and provide necessary facilities (showers, generator, food supply)."

3. ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS

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

Q60. Goal to reduce footprint:

- a. *Other,*
www.buylocalvirginia.org/ass/library/12/Cville_BFBLGuide_09.pdf Sec. 22-4-9.4 Nutrient management plan. After the effective date of this section, no intensive livestock, dairy or poultry facility for which the Commonwealth of Virginia requires a nutrient management plan shall commence operation until such plan has been approved by the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation, or by the Virginia Cooperative Extension Service, or by person certified or employed by the Commonwealth as a nutrient management planner.
www.co.fluvanna.va.us/code/ZONING.pdf

3b. Reduce nonpoint source stream pollution from agriculture

Q61. Reduce nonpoint source pollution from agriculture:

- a. *Comprehensive Plan, Section 1, page 20: "Promote the fencing of livestock away from streams... Recognize and reward landowners who protect streams."*
- b. *Regional or State Guidelines, Virginia Code: Sec. 22-4-9.4 Nutrient management plan., Sec. 22-4-9.2 Setbacks (4) Each intensive livestock... 1,000 feet from... a stream or river;*
- c. *Other, Federal: Clean Water Act (Sections 319 Non Point Source and 106 Ground Water Protection)*

Q62. Riparian buffers used to reduce nonpoint source pollution:

- a. *Comprehensive Plan, Ch. 4, p. 14, "The districts are also designed to conserve and protect agricultural and forestal lands as valued natural and ecological resources that provide essential open space for clean watershed protection, for wildlife habitat, and for aesthetic purposes."*
- b. *Regional or State Programs, Pesticide Disposal Program, Ch. 4, p. 3, "... As of October, 1997 more than 240 tons of unwanted pesticides have been collected from 1455 agricultural producers, pesticide dealers and commercial pest control firms located in 83% of Virginia's counties and independent cities and disposed of safely... Funding to support this program has been pooled from Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA) and Clean Water Act (Sections 319 Non Point Source and 106 Ground Water*

Protection) grants and the Office of Pesticide Services program fees.”
<http://www.deq.virginia.gov/wqa/305b1998.html>

Q63. Fence livestock from stream banks:

- a. *Comprehensive Plan, Section 1, page 20: "Promote the fencing of livestock away from streams... Recognize and reward landowners who protect streams."*
- b. *Regional or State Guidelines, Virginia Code: Sec. 22-4-9.4 Nutrient management plan., Sec. 22-4-9.2 Setbacks (4) Each intensive livestock... 1,000 feet from... a stream or river;*
- c. *Other, Federal: Clean Water Act (Sections 319 Non Point Source and 106 Ground Water Protection)*

Q64. Program to manage excess animal manure:

- a. *Comprehensive Plan, Section 1, page 20: "Promote the fencing of livestock away from streams... Recognize and reward landowners who protect streams."*
- b. *Regional or State Guidelines, Virginia Code: Sec. 22-4-9.4 Nutrient management plan., Sec. 22-4-9.2 Setbacks (4) Each intensive livestock... 1,000 feet from... a stream or river;*
- c. *Other, Federal: Clean Water Act (Sections 319 Non Point Source and 106 Ground Water Protection)*

c. Reduce Food Waste

Q65. Encourage foraging from unused locations:

- a. *Not mentioned anywhere*

Q66. Local map for food foraging:

- a. *Not mentioned anywhere*

Q67. Opportunity for gleaning from farms and restaurants:

- a. *Not mentioned anywhere*

Q68. Demonstration programs for composting:

- a. *Comprehensive Plan, p. 120, "Goal 5: To maintain a comprehensive, long-range solid waste management program. 2. Establish a yard waste composting program on a regional basis in partnership with other public or private entities... 4. Examine the feasibility of establishing recycling and refuse collection sites throughout the county."*
- b. *Plans/Strategies/Programs, Interview with John Thompson on 04/02/10*

- c. *Regional or State Programs, WSF Priorities and Progress, "... Improve nutrient feed management efficiency to reduce P and N in manure without compromising animal health or productivity.... Improve demand and markets for manure-based products... Conduct studies to understand demand for manure, develop markets for manure, and for influencing that demand through policy and research."*
- d. *Other, Interview with John Thompson on 04/02/10*

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

- a. *Not mentioned everywhere*

3. 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 Programs/Wellness Policy, Fluvanna School Policy Manual, pg. 506, "Nutritional standards for the school breakfast and school lunch programs that meet or exceed state and federal standards are in place."*
- b. *School District Strategic Plan, Fluvanna School Policy Manual, pg. 506, "Nutrition guidelines have been selected by the division for all foods available on every school campus during the school day."*
- c. *Other, Jefferson Area Board of Aging, Interview with Jane Gatewood on 03/31/10*

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

- a. *Other, JAUNT, www.ridejaunt.org, Interviews with Jane Gatewood on 03/31/10 and John Thompson on 04/07/10*

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

- a. *Not mentioned anywhere.*

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

- a. *Not mentioned anywhere*

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

- a. *Not mentioned anywhere.*

Q75. Farmers' markets geographically accessible:

- a. *Not mentioned anywhere.*

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 anywhere.

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

a. Not mentioned anywhere.

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

a. Not mentioned anywhere.

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

a. Not mentioned anywhere.

Q80. Offer predevelopment assistance to developers for grocery stores:

a. Not mentioned anywhere.

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

Q81. EBT machines at farmers' markets:

a. Not mentioned anywhere.

b. Other, In an interview with John Thompson on 04/07/10, he mentioned that they are currently working on getting EBT machines at the farmers' market.

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 anywhere.

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

a. Other, In an interview with John Thompson on 04/07/10, he mentioned that the local stores accept WIC.

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

a. Not mentioned anywhere.

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

a. Not mentioned anywhere.

Q86. Mobile farm stands or carts:

a. Not mentioned anywhere.

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

a. Not mentioned anywhere.

4d. Support an effective emergency food infrastructure

Q88. Right to food security:

a. Not mentioned anywhere.

Q89. Central directory of emergency food providers:

a. Not mentioned anywhere.

Q90. System for referring people in need of food:

a. Not mentioned anywhere.

Q91. Support coordination and cooperation between agencies:

a. Not mentioned anywhere.

Q92. Opportunity for storage of fresh foods for providers:

a. Comprehensive Plan, pg. 219 "Goal 8: To provide for the safety and well-being of our citizens. Implementation Strategies...Maintain the emergency shelter at Carysbrook and provide necessary facilities (showers, generator, food supply)."

e. Support equitable working conditions for farm labor

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

a. Not mentioned anywhere.

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

a. Not mentioned anywhere.

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

a. Not mentioned anywhere.

Q96. Adequate protection from pesticides:

a. Not mentioned anywhere.

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

a. Not mentioned anywhere.

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

a. Not mentioned anywhere.

Q99. Map of farm worker camps:

a. Not mentioned anywhere.

Q100. Housing opportunities for migrant workers:

a. *Not mentioned anywhere.*

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

Q101. Community involved in organization of food opportunities:

a. *Not mentioned anywhere.*

Q102. Culturally appropriate fresh foods:

a. *Not mentioned anywhere.*

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

a. *Not mentioned anywhere.*

Q104. Incorporate migrant workers in markets and community events:

a. *Not mentioned anywhere.*

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

a. *Not mentioned anywhere.*

5. LAND CONSERVATION / ACCESS TO LAND FOR FOOD PRODUCTION

Q106. Land conservation for food production:

a. *Comprehensive Plan, Ch 4. p. 13, Land Use Taxation: Qualifications: Sustainable Forest Management, Sustainable Stream Practices, BMPs ... Examples are if the owner harvests timber with no provision to reforest, or if a landowner is causing pollution by not following accepted best management practices, or if the property is being developed.. The open-space class of lands, such as scenic rivers and Virginia byways, makes properties automatically eligible for the special land-use tax program... (Virginia Outdoors Plan, 2007, ch. 3). 21*

b. *Zoning Ordinance, p. 11, Article 4. Agricultural, General, District A-1 Sec. 22-4-1. Statement of intent. This district covers areas of the county consisting of woodland, farmland, open space, mountains and areas of low density residential development. The primary objectives of this district are to conserve water and other natural resources, reduce soil erosion, protect watersheds and reduce hazards from floods; to preserve the rural character of the county; to promote existing and future farming and forestry operations; and to promote the retention of undisturbed open space.*
www.co.fluvanna.va.us/code/ZONING.pdf

c. *Comprehensive Plan, Ch. 4, p. 13, Land Use Taxation: Qualifications: Sustainable Forest Management, Sustainable Stream Practices, BMPs ... Examples are if the owner harvests timber with no provision to reforest, or if a*

landowner is causing pollution by not following accepted best management practices, or if the property is being developed.. The open-space class of lands, such as scenic rivers and Virginia byways, makes properties automatically eligible for the special land-use tax program... (Virginia Outdoors Plan, 2007, ch. 3). 21

Q107. Conservation easements for food production:

a. *Comprehensive Plan, Ch. 4, p. 14, These districts were established to conserve, to protect, and to encourage the development and improvement of the Commonwealth's agricultural and forestal lands for the production of food and other agricultural and forestal products.*

b. *Regional or State Programs, Virginia Code:(Article 4. Sec. 22-4-1. Statement of intent.), Agricultural, General, District A-1 Agricultural, General, District A-1*

Q108. Allow public space or land for food production:

b. *Comprehensive Plan; Zoning Sec. 22-7-12*

c. *Zoning Ordinance, p. 41, "Bicycling, walking, fitness, and equestrian trails, open play area (minimum ½ area), sitting area, picnic table units, tot lot equipment, community gardens that may be located within the required open space"*
www.co.fluvanna.va.us/code/ZONING.pdf

d. *Other, Virginia Cooperative Extension, Interview with John Thompson on 04/02/10, Fluvanna Board of County Supervisors: Expand the Community garden into Phase 2 and Phase 3*

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

a. *Regional or State Programs, Virginia Farm Link, "to provide assistance in the transition of farm businesses and properties from retiring farmers to active farmers."*
<http://www.vdacs.virginia.gov/preservation/farmlink.shtml>

Q110. Map of prime agricultural lands:

a. *Comprehensive Plan;*

b. *Zoning, Sec. 22-17-8A .7. Basis of Districts, "The various floodplain districts shall include special flood hazard areas. The basis for the delineation of these districts shall be the Flood Insurance Study (FIS) and the Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRM) for Fluvanna County prepared by the Federal Emergency Management Agency, Federal Insurance Administration, dated as of May 16, 2008, as amended. (Ord. 5-7-08) "*

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*,
<http://www.vdacs.virginia.gov/preservation/farmlink.shtml>

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

- a. *Comprehensive Plan*, p. 21, “Evaluate the implementation of a transfer of development rights (TDR) or purchase of development rights (PDR) program, or both, to effectively (and voluntarily) reduce development rights in the rural residential and rural preservation areas, and increase density in the community planning areas.”
- b. *Zoning Ordinances*, pp. 68, Sec. 22-14-8. *Density...Transfer/Purchase of Development Rights: (Reserved for future Transfer of Development Rights/Purchase of Development Rights density bonuses) (Ord. 8-5-09)*

Q113. Green infrastructure plan that incorporates consideration for food production:

- a. *Not mentioned anywhere*

Appendix E—Audit

18	Does the locality have a clear policy of encouraging (or giving preference to) event caterers or vendors that will use locally sourced food?	no	n/a	no	no	no	no	no	no	no		
19	Does the locality develop media campaigns, utilizing multiple media channels (print, radio, internet, television, social networking, and other promotional materials) to promote healthy eating?	no	n/a	no	no	no	yes	yes	no		School Programs/Wellness Policy, Fluvanna County Policy Manual, pg. 505; School District Strategic Plan, Fluvanna County School Policy Manual, pg. 406	
20	Does the locality support or participate in a Food Policy Council?	no	n/a	no	no	no	no	no	no	no		
c. Flexible Policies and Zoning for creative and adaptive uses												
21	Does the code allow for and support protection of open space?	no, no	no, no	no	no	no, no	no, no	no, no	no, no	no		
22	Does the locality promote or enable easy accessibility to community gardens, for all neighborhoods and income levels?	no	n/a	no	no	no	no, no	no, no	no, no	no		
23	Are there land protections for farmers' markets?	no	yes	yes	no	no	n/a	n/a	no		Darren Coffee - Pleasant Grove, county land provided to the farmers market	
24	Does the locality promote or enable easy, local access to community gardens by allowing small pocket parks throughout the locality to be used for, or transformed into, community gardens?	yes	yes	yes	no	no	n/a	n/a	no		Darren Coffee - Cluster Development requires that 75% of farmland developed must be left in open space.	
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	n/a	n/a	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, no	no, no, no	no, no, no	n/a, n/a, n/a	n/a, n/a, n/a	no, no, no			
27	Does the zoning code have language that supports residential "farm" animals: chickens, goats, roosters? (look for re-defined domestic animals)	yes	no	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a		Darren Coffee - Ag uses allowed in R-1 zoning	
28	Are there funding streams available for food related projects, such as Community Development Building Grants?	no	no	no	no	no	n/a	n/a	no			
29	Are there regulations allowing flexibility for food producers to engage in minimal on-site processing?	no	no	no	no	no	n/a	n/a	no			
d. Promote multi-modal transportation options to food sources												
30	Does the locality offer multi-modal transportation in the community?	no	n/a	no	no	no	n/a	n/a	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	n/a, n/a	no	no	no	n/a	n/a	no			
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	n/a, n/a	no	no	no	n/a	n/a	no			
33	Do safe biking and walking paths exist between neighborhoods and food stores and markets?	no	n/a	no	no	no	n/a	n/a	no			
34	Does the locality have a bus service that connects neighborhoods directly with food stores and markets? Requires no more than one bus change?	no, no	n/a	no	no	no	n/a	n/a	no			
35	Does the locality have a low-cost taxi or ride-sharing service that connects neighborhoods directly with food stores and markets?	yes	n/a	no	no	no	n/a	n/a	no		Comprehensive Plan, pg. 86	
36	Are these transportation services available at multiple times of day and evenings?	no	n/a	no	no	no	n/a	n/a	no			
37	Does the locality have a bike path or sidewalk plan?	yes	n/a	no	no	no	n/a	n/a	no		Comprehensive Plan, pg. 86	

4. 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?	no	n/a	no	no	no	n/a	n/a	no
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	n/a	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	n/a	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	n/a	no	no	no	n/a	n/a	no
42	Does a policy or program exist to encourage transition to sustainable or organic agricultural methods, to provide increased carbon sequestration?	no	n/a	no	no	no	n/a	n/a	no
43	Is there a policy or program that offers incentives to farmers to switch to more sustainable growing methods?	no	n/a	no	no	no	n/a	n/a	no
2. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT									
a. Support local food production									
44	Does the locality offer working farmland tax incentives, such as agricultural forestal districts?	yes	yes	no	no	yes	n/a	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	n/a	no	no	no	no	no	no
46	Does the locality have economic development goals to support regional food production?	yes	n/a	yes	no	no	n/a	n/a	no
47	Is there a local government policy recommendation for purchase of local food when available?	no	n/a	no	no	no	no	no	no
48	Is there a support system to supply existing farmers with steady and seasonal farm labor?	no	n/a	no	no	no	n/a	n/a	no
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	no	no
50	Are there economic development programs or incentives or other tools for retailers to favor purchasing local food?	no	n/a	no	no	no	n/a	n/a	no
b. Support development of local processing infrastructure									
51	Are the financial or other programs to support or promote food-related businesses?	yes	n/a	no	no	no	n/a	n/a	no
52	Is there a USDA-inspected community cannery, kitchen, or other processing facility open to local farmers, food entrepreneurs, and the public?	no	n/a	no	no	no	n/a	n/a	no
c. Support development of local distribution infrastructure									
53	Does the locality have a policy to allow local farmers' markets or farmers' markets?	yes	yes	yes	no	no	n/a	n/a	no
54	Does the locality provide institutional support for local farmers' markets or farmers' markets?	yes	yes	yes	no	no	n/a	n/a	no
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	n/a	n/a	no

John Thompson - Cooperative Extension

30	Does the locality have a system for directing / referring people in need of food to the places that can help?	yes	n/a	no	no	no	no	no	yes	John Thompson - Focused on seniors, see q70. MACAA has a strong referral system from social services
31	Does the locality support coordination and cooperation among emergency food providers?	no	n/a	no	no	no	n/a	n/a	yes	MACAA works with all of the organizations around
32	Does the locality support a method, procedure or storage facility for donations of fresh foods to emergency food providers?	yes	n/a	no	no	no	n/a	n/a	yes	MACAA has a storage facility with refrigerators and freezers
e. Support equitable working conditions for farm labor										
33	Does the locality support a living wage policy for all those who work, including migrant farm labor?	no	n/a	no	no	no	n/a	n/a	no	
34	Does the locality support access to fresh, healthful food by the farm laborers who are helping to produce the food?	no	n/a	no	no	no	n/a	n/a	no	
35	Does the locality provide or ensure that training for farm workers is provided in a comfortable training environment, and that the training is a requisite 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	n/a	n/a	no	
36	Does the locality provide or ensure that adequate protection against pesticides is provided to farm workers?	no	n/a	no	no	no	n/a	n/a	no	
37	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	n/a	n/a	no	
38	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	n/a	n/a	no	
39	Does the locality have a map of where farm worker camps are, to facilitate understanding and planning for their needs?	no	n/a	no	no	no	n/a	n/a	no	
100	Are housing options available for migrant workers?	no	yes	no	no	no	n/a	n/a	no	Darren Coffey - Mobile homes are permitted by SUP(T) for seasonal worker
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	yes	no	no	no	no	yes	John Thompson - Farmers market, private vendors
102	Are culturally appropriate, fresh food options available for immigrant and ethnic populations in stores?	no	n/a	no	no	no	no	no	no	
103	Is there support for diverse, local, traditional - and fresh - food practices?	no	n/a	no	no	no	no	no	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	n/a	no	no	no	no	no	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 population?	yes	n/a	no	no	no	no	no	no	John Thompson - VT Cooperative Extension.
6. LAND CONSERVATION / ACCESS TO LAND FOR FOOD PRODUCTION										

Fluvanna County Food Policy Audit										
Will Bolton, willbolton@gmail.com										
Celia Jones, celaj@fluvanna.edu										
Ben Pinover, bp2@fluvanna.edu										
1. PUBLIC HEALTH										
a. Reduce and Prevent Community Obesity and Chronic Illness		Comprehensive Plan	Zoning Ordinances	Plans/Strategies/Programs	Independent Ordinances	Regional or State Guidelines	School Program/Wellness Policy	School District Strategic Plan	Other	Locality References
1	Does the locality express a concern or a goal for improving public health?	yes	n/a	yes	no	yes	yes	yes	no	Comprehensive Plan, Introduction, pg. 7; Regional or State Guidelines, § 15.2.4.201; Purpose or chapter; School Programs/Wellness Policy, pg. 505 of Fluvanna County Public Schools Policy Manual; School District Strategic Plan, pg. 315 of Fluvanna County Public Schools Policy Manual
2	Does the locality mention a goal to reduce obesity and/or chronic illness?	no	n/a	yes	no	no	yes	yes	no	Plans/Strategies/Programs, Childhood Obesity Taskforce, http://www.childhoodobesitytaskforce.org ; School Programs, Wellness Policy, pg. 506; School District Strategic Plan, pg. 506
3	Does the locality have an overall wellness plan?	no	n/a	no	no	no	no	yes	no	School Programs/Wellness Policy, pg. 506; School District Strategic Plan, pg. 506
4	Does the locality clearly allow, support, or advocate for Farm to School (or similar) programs - for educational purposes, or for provision of food for school cafeterias?	no	n/a	no	no	no	no	no	no	
5	Does the locality have other provisions for school purchasing of local or organic foods?	no	n/a	no	no	no	no	no	no	
6	Does the locality clearly have a policy to reduce availability of junk food in schools and public buildings (e.g., vending machines and purchasing options)?	no	n/a	no	no	no	no	no	no	
7	Do the schools have a policy or program to educate cafeteria workers on preparation of fresh, local food and/or nutrient-rich food?	no	n/a	no	no	no	no	no	no	
8	Is the locality clearly encouraging or supporting the inclusion of food-based lesson plans in schools?	no	n/a	no	no	yes	yes	yes	no	School programs/Wellness Policy, Fluvanna County School Policy Manual, pg. 505; School District Strategic Plan, Fluvanna County School Policy Manual, pg. 506
9	Does the locality clearly encourage and/or directly support establishment of school garden programs at all levels of K-12?	no	n/a	no	no	no	no	no	no	
10	Is the locality currently employing or considering a "joint use" agreement to open the use of school land for food production (school gardens, community gardens, community urban farms)?	no	n/a	no	no	no	no	no	no	
11	Does the locality encourage that chain restaurants provide consumers with calorie information on in-store menus and menu boards?	no	n/a	no	no	no	no	no	no	
12	Does the locality have a clear tax or other strategy to discourage consumption of foods and beverages with minimal nutritional value, such as sugar-sweetened beverages?	no	n/a	no	no	no	no	no	no	
13	Does the locality have educational/promotional programs to discourage the use of Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) for sodas, high-sugar and low-nutrient foods?	no	n/a	no	no	no	no	no	no	
b. Engage public by increasing awareness of healthy and local food options		Comprehensive Plan example								
14	Does the locality have a goal for increasing awareness of healthy food or lifestyle choices?	no	n/a	yes	no	no	yes	yes	no	Plans/Strategies/Programs, Childhood Obesity Taskforce, http://www.childhoodobesitytaskforce.org ; School Programs/Wellness Policy, Fluvanna County School Policy Manual, pg. 505; School District Strategic Plan, Fluvanna County School Policy Manual, pg. 506
15	Has the locality adopted a clear policy defining "local" food?	no	n/a	no	no	no	no	no	no	
16	Does the locality have a clear goal that supports the production and distribution of local food?	no	n/a	no	no	no	no	no	no	
17	Does the locality publish or support a public guide to local food?	no	n/a	no	no	n/a	n/a	no	no	John Thompson - A map of local food producers is in the works from the Cooperative Extension office

106	Does the locality have a policy to support land conservation for food production?	yes	yes	n/a	no	yes	no	n/a	no	a. Comp Plan, ch. 4, §14.1 Land Use Taxation. These districts were established to conserve, to protect, and to encourage the development and management of agricultural land. b. Code of Article 4, Sec. 22-4-1, Statement of intent, Agricultural General District A-1 Agricultural General District A-1	
107	Does the locality encourage or support land conservation agreements for food production?	yes	yes	n/a	no	yes	no	n/a	no	a. Comp Plan, ch. 4, §14.1 Land Use Taxation. These districts were established to conserve, to protect, and to encourage the development and management of agricultural land. b. Code of Article 4, Sec. 22-4-1, Statement of intent, Agricultural General District A-1 Agricultural General District A-1	
108	Does the locality clearly allow the use of public space or land for nonprofit community food gardens?	yes	yes	n/a	no	no	no	n/a	yes	a. Virginia Cooperative Extension b. Sec. 22-7-12, Recreation FLUVANNA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS: Expand the Community garden into Phase 2 and Phase 3	see above
109	Are there creative leasing or financing models to reduce start-up farming debt?	no	no	no	no	yes	no	n/a	no	Viatic Farm Link program	http://www.vdacs.virginia.gov/presentation/farmlink.shtml
110	Does the locality have a map of its prime agricultural lands for conservation?	yes	yes	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	b. Sec. 22-17-5A.7, Basis of Districts	see above
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	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a		see above
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	yes	yes	no	no	no	n/a		*see Q106 Comp plan, sec. 2, §21 Evaluate the implementation of a transfer of development rights (TDR) or	Darren Coffee - County Code
113	Does the locality have a green infrastructure plan that incorporates consideration for food production into the plan?	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	yes		

Nelson County Food System Audit

Final Report

University of Virginia

PLAC 5850

May 7, 2010



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Appendix F – School Procurement Policy Example

Appendix G – Rural and Ag Economic Development Specialist Description

Appendix H – School Nutrition Policy/Program Examples

The student project team would like to thank the numerous Nelson County community members who generously gave their time and knowledge to this food system audit. We could not have completed the project without their involvement and support.

I. PROJECT OVERVIEW

Our team conducted an audit of the food systems of Nelson County, Virginia, in an effort to acquire an understanding of all aspects of the county's existing food system. A pre-designed audit (available in Appendix A) was used to assess five areas of the food system: public health, economic development, environment, social equity, and land conservation/access to land for food production. Strengths, opportunities, and challenges were identified for each category after reviewing relevant policy documents and interviewing community stakeholders. Community priorities were also identified for the county through stakeholder interviews. The priorities were compiled into five common themes – support more local purchasing, increase variety of crops and land in production, education about food and obesity prevention, support community gardens, and improve food access. Policy examples specific to each priority are included in this report to encourage implementation appropriate for the County. We intend the completed audit and compiled report to initiate and stimulate a continuing conversation surrounding Nelson County's food system.

II. CHARACTERIZATION OF COUNTY

Nelson County was formed in 1807 and has a rich agricultural history.¹ The area grew as an agricultural center producing apples, chestnut trees, and tobacco. Almost the geographic center of Virginia, Nelson County is 471 square miles (302,000 acres). Its varied topography extends from the Blue Ridge Mountains to the flood plains of the James River. Elevations range from 500 feet to 4,000 feet.²

¹ <http://nelsoncounty.com/community/ataglance/>

² Ibid.

As a hub of agribusiness activity, Nelson County has 462 farms (456 farms in 2002, increase of 1%), 73,149 acres of land in farms (84,691 acres in 2002, decrease of 14%), 158 acres is average size of farm (186 acres in 2002, decrease of 15%).³ Nearly 24% of the county is designated farmland. Among Virginia Counties, Nelson ranked fourth within the category of fruits/tree nuts and berries – Nelson’s primary crops are apples and grapes.⁴ In 2007, Nelson businesses sold over \$12 million of agricultural products and 4% of the workforce is in agriculture.⁵

The following demographic statistics provide a picture of Nelson County population compared to the state of Virginia:

	Nelson County	Virginia
Total Population ⁶	14,445	7,882,590
Individuals Under Poverty Level ⁷	13.2%	10.2%
Under age 18 in poverty ⁸	18.1%	13.6%
Number of Students ⁹	1969	n/a
Number of Students Receiving Free and/or Reduced Lunch (2009-2010) ¹⁰	47.8%	37.2%

³ 2007 Census of Agriculture

⁴ Ibid.

⁵ Ibid.

⁶ 2000 Census Estimates

⁷ 2008 US Census Estimates

⁸ Ibid.

⁹ Nelson County Public Schools - <http://www.nelson.k12.va.us/>

¹⁰ <http://www.doe.virginia.gov>

III. PROJECT METHOD:

Documents:

Our team reviewed relevant Nelson County policy documents that address public health, economic development, environmental regulations, social equity, and land conservation. All documents were assessed to determine how the county is fostering a sustainable food system. Documents and relevant county specific websites were divided among team members as follows:

Land use/planning documents:

- Nelson County Comprehensive plan (Sara Teaster)
- Current Zoning Ordinance (Dana Smith)
- Current Subdivision Ordinance (Keith Crawford)

Economic Development documents and web pages (Keith Crawford):

- Agri-business webpage (<http://nelsoncounty.com/business/agri-business/>)
- Economic Development Authority Strategic Plan (2003-04)
(<http://nelsoncounty.com/business/economic-development-authority-strategic-plan/>)
- Economic Development Authority Annual Report (most recent online 2007)
(<http://nelsoncounty.com/business/economic-development-authority-2007-annual-report/>)
- Rockfish Valley Foundation (<http://www.rockfishvalley.org/blog/>)
- Rural Nelson (<http://www.ruralnelson.org/>)
- Nelson County Farmers Market (<http://www.nelsonfarmersmarket.com/>)
- Local Food Hub (<http://www.localfoodhub.org/>)

Public Schools, Health and Wellness Documents (Dana Smith):

- Nelson County Pantry website (<http://nelsoncountypantry.wordpress.com/>)

- Nelson County Public Schools Nutrition Program
(http://www.nelson.k12.va.us/Food%20Services/WEB_PAGES/HOME_PAGE.htm)
- Nelson County Public Schools Comprehensive Division Improvement Plan 2005-2011
- Nelson County Public Schools Student Wellness Statement
- Nelson County Public Schools Goals and Objectives 2009-10
- Nelson County Public Schools School Board Policy Manual
(<http://www.nelson.k12.va.us/District/Policy/policy.htm>)
- Nelson County Cooperative Extension (<http://offices.ext.vt.edu/nelson/>)
- Nelson County Parks and Recreation (<http://nelsoncounty.com/parksandrec/>)
- Nelson County Health Department
(<http://www.vdh.state.va.us/LHD/ThomasJefferson/Nelson/>)

Strengths, challenges, and opportunities for each category of the audit were identified after reviewing these documents and a full analysis is available in the “Findings” section of this report.

Community Engagement:

After reviewing relevant documents for food policy language, our team engaged the Nelson County community in the policy assessment process. It was extremely important to engage community members in the process to ensure an accurate portrayal of existing policies and implementation and to identify the shared food system goals for the community. We arranged meetings with government representatives and community members to review our findings, ensure we identified all relevant documents, gather feedback, and identify community priorities (see Appendix D for notes from community meetings). The following community members were contacted to interview as they represented a comprehensive cross section of

Nelson County food system interests within both government and non-government sectors:

- Fred Boger, Nelson County Planning Director
- Connie Brennan, Board of Supervisors
- Roger Collins, Nelson County Public School Superintendent
- Maureen Kelly, Nelson County Economic Development and Tourism
- Frances Mitchell, Jefferson Area Board for Aging, Nelson County Case Manager
- Beth Morris, Nelson County Public Schools Food Occupations Director
- Jim Saunders, Saunders Brothers Orchard, Director of Human Resources
- Gary and Jeanne Scott, Twin Springs Farm, owners

For all community members contacted, a draft audit was provided in advance of meeting for review. During our meetings, we asked if there were any questions about our methodology or findings. We also inquired about any existing policies or programs that were not already identified in the audit. Community members were also asked to identify their four to six priorities for food system policies they would like Nelson County to adopt. This brainstorming helped engage community members to actively think about future policies that will promote a sustainable food system for their county. Five priorities were repeatedly identified in interviews and recognized as the shared community priorities for Nelson County food system policy:

Priority 1- Support More Local Purchasing

Priority 2- Increase Variety of Crops and Land in Production

Priority 3- Educate Nelson County about food issues.

Priority 4 - Support Community Gardens

Priority 5 - Improve Access to Food

Priorities and associated policy options implemented in other localities are identified in

the “Community Priorities” section of this report to encourage implementation appropriate for the county.

All community members involved in the engagement process received a final copy of the final audit including policy examples for identified priorities. Community members also received a thank you note for their participation and follow up email encouraging them to contact us with any further thoughts or recommendations. All community engagement participants were also invited to attend the final presentation of findings on Tuesday, May 4, 2010. County officials are encouraged to share the findings of the audit with all county officials and make the information available to the public. We hope the audit will help the county recognize policy areas currently being addressed, areas of opportunity, and future policy priorities as identified by the Nelson County Community.

IV. ANALYSIS OF FINDINGS

The following analysis of findings is divided by audit categories – public health, economic development, environmental benefits, social equity, and land conservation. Strengths, challenges, and opportunities have been identified for each category based upon review of relevant documents and community feedback. Many of the opportunities identified also overlap with community priorities and are noted as such. For the complete audit findings and supplemental notes, please see Appendix A and B.

Public Health

The first aspect of the food system examined was public health. In looking at Nelson County’s public health systems, we looked closely at Nelson County’s public schools to see how the county supports local food sourcing and healthy food options in their schools. This involved understanding school policies and funding resources that contribute to decision making abilities.

The county's health as a whole was examined in similar ways to see how much local food is available for the general public and how taxing influences the availability of healthy food options throughout the county. Healthy foods not only mean access to produce and locally sourced foods, but also pesticide free foods.

Strengths:

1. **Nelson County Public School Wellness Policy** – The Child Nutrition and WIC Reauthorization Act of 2004 mandated all school districts with federally funded school meals develop and implement a wellness policy.¹¹ Nelson County Public Schools developed a comprehensive wellness policy, approved by the Student Health Advisory Board, that includes nutrition guidelines, vending machine regulations, and physical education standards.
2. **Buy Fresh / Buy Local and Farmer's Markets** – The Buy Fresh / Buy Local campaign sponsored by the Piedmont Environmental Council and the Nelson County Farmer's Markets provide opportunities for consumers to find local producers selling fresh, healthy food. The campaign provides contact information for producers in the county while the farmer's market provides a direct opportunity for connection.

Challenges:

1. **Food Traditions** – Some family food traditions within Nelson include a heavy reliance on high fat, high cholesterol cooking methods that lead to significant health issues including obesity, diabetes and high cholesterol levels. These health problems can lead to stroke or heart attack. These food traditions impact family members of all ages

¹¹ <http://www.schoolwellnesspolicies.org/>

from school children to the aging. The introduction of new foods and cooking techniques that support personal health is difficult due to these unhealthy eating habits.

2. Limited Funding for School Purchasing – School lunches are at the confluence of educational, welfare, and agricultural policies. Federal school lunch procurement policies and limited funding through the National School Lunch Program administered by the USDA Food and Nutrition Service at the federal level limit the amount of fresh fruits and vegetables that can be purchased from local producers that may require a higher price to ensure economic viability.

3. Minimal Nutrition Education in School Curriculum – During community interviews, both the Nelson County Superintendent and the Food Occupations Director mentioned limited nutrition education. While students receive minimal nutrition education in some health courses, Virginia Standards of Learning do not require nutrition education at all grade levels. Limited time during lunch periods also makes it difficult to provide samples of healthy new food that encourage better nutrition.

Opportunities:

1. Educational Programs – There is an opportunity to increase nutrition, food, and health education throughout Nelson County. Programs could be initiated in the public schools that provide family education workshops on such topics as healthy cooking and gardening. There is also opportunity for the County to develop a comprehensive health improvement strategy that incorporates wellness education. See “Educate Nelson County About Food and Obesity Prevention” community priority for more information.

- 2. Reduce Community Exposure to Pesticides** – There are currently no local regulations or guidelines to limit pesticide application on county owned or agricultural properties. There is an opportunity for the county to model ecological and health safety by implementing a policy to use limited or no pesticides in public areas and to carefully manage application. Nelson County could also work with farmers to seek alternatives to pesticide use and ensure farm employees receive appropriate protection and training when pesticides are applied.

Economic Development

The economic development category analyzed how local governments and businesses support local agribusinesses. The areas focused on were tax structures, distribution networks, processing infrastructure, local business, and how the county has or has not supported these endeavors. Agricultural businesses in Nelson County need to be economically viable to continue producing local food.

Strengths:

- 1. Agricultural Land Use Tax** – Nelson County has an agricultural land use taxation policy that assesses agricultural properties greater than 20 acres with a real property value of \$0.55 for every \$100 of assessed value. This tax program reduces expenses for farm owners and encourages owners to keep their land in agricultural production instead of selling for development.
- 2. Local Food Hub** – The Local Food Hub is a regional distribution center started in summer 2009. Nelson County Industrial Development Authority provided \$10,000 in funding and represented the only county to provide funding. The Local Food Hub purchases produce from more than half a dozen farms in Nelson County and strives to

“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.”¹²

Challenges:

- 1. Local Purchasing Funding & Policy** – While there is a desire to support local businesses, there is no formal policy or funding set aside for the purchase of locally grown or prepared foods at the county level.
- 2. Limited Communication Infrastructure** – Nelson farmers are currently limited by the county’s limited communications infrastructure that does not include a broadband network. This makes it difficult for Nelson businesses to communicate with larger neighboring markets including Charlottesville and Lynchburg to process sales orders through effective web based systems. Fortunately, Nelson County was awarded a \$1,826,646 grant on March 25, 2010 from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, or stimulus bill, to expand broadband internet service in rural areas of the County.¹³

Opportunities:

- 1. Local Purchasing** – Increased purchasing of locally grown food could greatly increase support for local growers and work toward making farming in Nelson County an economically viable profession. Please see “Support More Local Purchasing” priority for more details.
- 2. Increased Production and Niche Markets** – There is opportunity for Nelson County growers to increase food production by growing more intensively on the land and

¹² <http://www.localcollectual.com/content/view/1383/213/>

¹³ <http://nelsoncounty.com/government/2010/03/31/nelson-county-awarded-broadband-funding/>

searching for niche markets. With increased local purchasing and other economic supports, there will also be opportunity for new farmers to enter the field. Also see “Increase Variety of Crops and Land in Production” community priority.

3. **Reevaluate Land Use Taxation Structure** – Although the current taxation system benefits farms over 20 acres, the presence of very productive produce farms under 20 acres operating in the county was brought to our attention during community interviews. These smaller farms contributing greatly to the local food system do not benefit from the current taxation structure and may be limited in their scope and growth opportunities due to the higher tax rate. There is an opportunity to reevaluate the tax structure to benefit productive farms, regardless of acreage.

Environmental Benefits

In the environmental benefits audit category, we examined what county policies exist to protect environmental quality in relation to agricultural production. This includes addressing nonpoint source pollution from agricultural production, reducing food waste, and reducing pesticide and herbicides in ground and surface water.

Strengths:

1. **Riparian buffers** - Nelson County Comprehensive Plan outlines the need for riparian buffers to protect local streams, lakes and estuaries. Naturally vegetated stream buffers provide a filtration system for stormwater runoff and are especially important in agricultural areas where excess manure and herbicides may be entering the waterways

Challenges:

1. **Environmental regulations are cost prohibitive for small farmers** – Some environmental regulations that improve water, air and soil quality are difficult and sometimes cost prohibitive for small farmers to implement. Pending statewide stormwater regulation restrictions targeted to improve the Chesapeake Bay may increase farming expenditures. In addition, USDA regulations targeted at larger operations make it challenging for many small producers who are unable to meet infrastructure requirements.

Opportunities:

1. **Reduce Food Waste** – Nelson County does not have any policy to regulate or manage food waste on a large scale. There is great opportunity to convert food waste and yard scraps into compost to be returned to farms and community gardens. Reducing food waste and/or composting was not mentioned by any community members, but could be a compliment to the food system.
2. **Reduce Pesticide Use** – There are no existing county level regulations or incentives to use fewer pesticides in Nelson County. Please see “reduce community exposure to pesticides” under “public health” for more details about this opportunity.

Social Equity

Social equity addresses the county’s ability to provide for lower income residents’ needs. This category involved examining transportation structures to and from food sources, availability of fresh food in low-income neighborhoods, and how the county provides for and distributes emergency food sources. Migrant work forces, and farm laborers pay and treatment were also an area of focus.

Strengths:

1. **Community Connections** – There are several nonprofit and social programs already in existence in Nelson County. The food pantry, JAUNT buses, and JABA senior center provide excellent examples of community members assisting vulnerable populations such as older adults and low-income families.
2. **Nelly May Bucks Program** – Nelly May Bucks is a program organized through the Nellysford Farmer's Market for senior citizens. The program distributes \$2000 worth of vouchers to senior centers for use at the farmer's market to increase access to healthy, local foods for this vulnerable population. The program is funded through market vendor fees.

Challenges:

1. **Transportation distances / decentralized population** – Access to food within Nelson is difficult due to its decentralized population and travel distances to many rural sections of the county. These distances make the cost of food distribution higher and make it more difficult for food retailers to achieve financial viability. Transportation is further challenged by Nelson's mountainous terrain.

Opportunities:

1. **Link Food Distribution and Medical Assistance Programs** – Medical assistance programs through JABA and the senior center already link food assistance with medical care for seniors in the county. This program of food delivery could be expanded to assist other populations as well.
2. **Encourage Local Grocers to Carry Healthy Food** – As mentioned above, travel distances make access to food difficult for some Nelson County residents. To

alleviate some of the challenges of distances, small grocery stores and convenience stores already located near residences could stock more healthy food and few prepared, packaged foods. The county could implement an incentive program such as slightly reducing taxes to encourage stores to carry more healthful foods.

Land Conservation / Access to Land for Food Production

The last area of focus assessed how the county plans for long term land conservation programs, long term food production, and how the county will manage growth based on food needs in the future.

Strengths:

1. **Land Area** – Nelson County has over 300,000 acres of land, with approximately 25% already in farmland. With slow population and development growth, the county has been able to conserve many open spaces and agricultural lands.
2. **Farming By-Right** – Nelson County Zoning ordinance allows farming by-right in most zones and contains few land use regulations thus permitting agricultural use in most areas. Some areas are regulated and may require special use permits for specific agriculturally related businesses.

Challenges:

1. **Geology Limits Land Suitable for Food Production** – The geology of Nelson County, which stretches from the peaks of the Blue Ridge Mountains to the flood plain of the James River, limits the land area suitable to food production. Many wooded mountain sides are steeply sloped or susceptible to flooding. As such, their

utility for food production is limited or cost prohibitive. (See Appendix E for critical slopes map)

2. **Government Restrictions on Land Use Unpopular** – While farming is a valued way of life and land use within the county, restrictions on land use are unpopular among county residents. As a result, restricting permissible land uses further to attempt to conserve land for agricultural use does not appear to be a viable policy approach.

Opportunities:

1. **Community Gardens** – Nelson County does not currently have any community gardens, but interest exists in the community. There are several publicly owned locations (such as school properties) that could be used for community gardens. Please see community priority “support community gardens” for information about how other localities have inventoried land and started community gardens.

V. COMMUNITY PRIORITIES

Five recurring community priorities arose during community interviews. Policy examples from other localities that support each priority are identified below. These policy examples are intended to initiate policy development and implementation in Nelson County to address the community identified priorities. Nelson County stakeholders will need to develop policies specific to the needs and desires of the county, but these examples can provide a starting point for conversation.

Priority 1 – Support More Local Purchasing

Several localities have identified purchasing local food as a way to increase economic

support for agriculture while also increasing healthy, whole food consumption by community residents. Procurement policies stating either a preference for local food or identifying percentage requirements for local purchasing can be developed for the entire county or for specific county entities such as the public school district. Examples of both are provided below with complete policy language in Appendix F.

County Level

Woodbury County, Illinois, has a local food purchase policy intended to “increase regional per capita income, provide incentives for job creation, attract economic investment, and promote the health and safety of its citizens and communities.”¹⁴ As of June 1, 2006, Woodbury County has given preference to locally produced organic food when a County department serves food in its usual course of business. The Woodbury County Jail, Work Release Center, and Juvenile Detention are the primary constituencies serving food on a regular basis. If local organic food is unavailable, preference is given to local non-organic food products over non-local foods. Woodbury County had an existing cooperative of growers before becoming the first county in the nation to mandate local purchase of organic food products. Although a rural economic development tool, the policy does enumerate policy provisions to protect the county from significant price increases from purchasing locally.¹⁵

Other localities have identified target percentages for purchase of locally grown and produced food to be served in programs. For example, in 2008 Toronto created a phased plan to achieve a goal of purchasing 50% of their food from local sources.¹⁶ Albany County, New

¹⁴ Woodbury County Policy for Rural Economic Revitalization - “Local Food Purchase Policy”

¹⁵ Woodbury County Press Release, Jan. 10, 2006

¹⁶ <http://network.nationalpost.com/np/blogs/toronto/archive/2008/10/31/toronto-s-target-50-local-food.aspx>

York, established a local food purchasing policy in 2008 with a resolution to allocate 10% of food budgets for locally produced foods (see Appendix F for resolution language).¹⁷

School Purchasing

The 2008 Farm Bill, which includes National School Lunch Program policies, allows schools to use geographic preference for the procurement of unprocessed food. Previously, schools were unable to state a preference in food bids.¹⁸ Since the change in federal policy in 2008, many schools have begun purchasing more locally grown food to supplement their lunch programs. In Virginia, a National Farm to School Week has also been designated to encourage schools to purchase food from local producers. Ann Cooper and Beth Collins, for the Lunchbox – a resource guide for school lunches, created a sample purchasing policy in 2007 for large scale “scratch cooking” that includes preference for locally grown food – the policy has been adopted by many school districts to meet their unique needs and circumstances.¹⁹ (see Appendix G for language)

Priority 2 – Increase Variety of Crops and Land in Production

A local purchasing policy will naturally increase the demand for local food, which will increase the need for a larger amount of land in production. Currently approximately twenty five percent of Nelson County is used for agricultural purposes, but much of the land is not farmed to its full potential for food production. Increasing the land in production and the variety of crops grown in the county were identified as a community priority both from current producers and government officials interested in economic development. Other localities interested in

¹⁷ <http://www.albanycounty.com/departments/legislature/resolutions/2008/20081208/08-496.pdf>

¹⁸ www.farmtoschool.org

¹⁹ http://www.thelunchbox.org/pdf/SAMPLE_PURCHASING_GUIDELINES2.pdf

increasing food production have focused on providing technical and research support through county positions. For example, Chatham County, North Carolina, county government has committed funding to support a sustainable agriculture agent through the North Carolina Cooperative Extension since 1994.²⁰ Through the position the “Growing Small Farms” program was created to provide support to local farmers. The agent “works with farmers to promote increased awareness, understanding, and practice of sustainable agriculture through monthly educational workshops, a website, on-farm visits, and other consultation.”²¹

Franklin County, New York, has also committed funding to establish a Rural and Agriculture Economic Development Specialist position.²² The specialist works with “farmers and rural entrepreneurs in Franklin & surrounding counties in the area of marketing, business development, regulations, alternative agriculture, diversification and small farm operations.”²³ (See Appendix H for a full description of the position). These established positions show county commitment and support to small farmers and increased agricultural production. Other opportunities exist to work with current agencies already active in the community such as the Virginia Cooperative Extension Master Gardeners and Future Farmers of America to identify new crops and growing methods and encourage more young farmers to enter the field.

Priority 3 – Educate Nelson County About Food and Obesity Prevention

As the national obesity epidemic continues to rise, it is increasingly important to make access to education about nutrition and healthy eating choices available to all citizens. The

²⁰ <http://www.ces.ncsu.edu/chatham/ag/SustAg/index.html>

²¹ Ibid.

²² <http://www.nnyagdev.org/PDF/NNYAgSpecFranklin04.pdf>

²³ Ibid.

Center for Disease Control (CDC) has issued recent figures that 17% of all children ages 2- 19 are obese.²⁴ (The CDC defines obese as having a body mass index of above the 95th percentile.) The CDC recommends that nutrition lessons be included in classrooms from pre-school to secondary school, but the School Health Policies and Programs study found that during a school year on average elementary schools spend only five teaching hours per year on such education. Middle schools on average only spend four hours and high schools are also only spending five hours on nutrition education.²⁵

Starting healthy eating habits early is a crucial step in having lifelong nutritional health. Recent media attention of the First Lady's campaign against childhood obesity has helped to bring light to the issues associated with childhood obesity. The CDC study shows lifelong connections between overweight children, and obesity rates as they become adults. The study also remarks that if a child is overweight by the age of eight, the obesity they face as adults will be more severe.²⁶ Initiatives across the country are trying to tackle the issues of educating children about healthy eating. One organization, The Food Trust, has started such a program in Philadelphia.²⁷

The goal of the program was to study changes in both overweight (85th -94.9th percentile) and obese children (95th percentile and above) over a two-year period. The study selected 1349 students from ten schools in the District of Philadelphia where 50% or higher percentage of the school population received free or reduced lunches. Areas of program initiatives included school

²⁴ <http://www.cdc.gov/obesity/childhood/index.html>

²⁵ <http://www.healthpolicyguide.org/doc.asp?id=6450>

²⁶ <http://www.cdc.gov/obesity/childhood/index.html>

²⁷ http://www.thefoodtrust.org/catalog/download.php?product_id=164

self-assessment, nutrition education, nutrition policy, social marketing, and parent outreach. The results were a 50% reduction in the number of overweight children, 7.5% reduction in the intervention schools, and 14.9% in the control schools after two years.

The Child and Adolescent Trial for Cardiovascular Health (CATCH) was a three-year program aimed at improving overall health and nutrition.²⁸ The program spanned 5,100 third and fourth graders in California, Louisiana, Minnesota, and Texas. The two teaching programs were the *Adventures of Hearty Heart and Friends* for five weeks, followed by the *Go for Health* curriculum, for eight to twelve weeks. The goals of the programs were to reduce sodium and fat intake and combined in class education as well as training for food service workers. After three years of the program fruit and vegetable consumption was increased by more than a half a serving a day and also resulted in an increased variety of fruit and vegetable choices. Daily calories from fat decreased by 3% and the fat calories served in school lunches decreased 7%. A three-year follow up study showed that results stayed the same.

Priority 4 – Support Community Gardens

Nelson County has expressed interest in creating community gardens for the purpose of food production, education, and increasing consumption of whole produce. Many localities across the country have identified similar priorities for community gardens. Although Portland, Oregon, is a much larger metropolitan area than Nelson County, their community garden program offers a model for inventorying potential garden sites and making community gardens a priority for the locality.

On November 24, 2004, the Portland, Oregon City Council passed the Portland Urban Agricultural Inventory Resolution that charged the city with creating an inventory of city owned

²⁸ <http://www.preventioninstitute.org/component/jlibrary/article/id-202/127.html>

land that may be suitable for community gardens and other agricultural uses.²⁹ This resolution built upon Portland's successful Community Gardens Program that had been in operation since 1975. In 2004, this program operated 28 community gardens throughout the city, which were developed and operated by volunteers and the Portland Park & Recreation staff. These community gardens annually donated 10,000 pounds of fresh vegetables to neighborhood emergency food pantries of the Oregon Food Bank.³⁰ Through land use policy, the City of Portland sought to:

“influence access to healthy food and strengthen communities. Creating community gardens in high density neighborhoods can provide a valuable resource to underserved communities who often have limited access to fresh produce and private open space. When residents have access to fresh fruits and vegetables, they are more likely to make healthy food choices. Gardening is an excellent form of physical activity for people of all ages. Nutritious diets that are rich in fruits and vegetables are associated with a reduced risk of numerous chronic diseases such as type II diabetes, heart disease, and certain cancers.”³¹

Priority 5 - Improve Access to Food

An increasing number of creative solutions are emerging to maintain small town grocery stores, which provide many benefits in addition to improved access to food. Local grocery stores retain payroll and tax revenue from food purchases within the local community and improve resident quality of life through reduced transportation demands and increased social interaction.

²⁹

http://www.preventioninstitute.org/sa/policies/policy_detail.php?s_Search=&issue=&env=&keyword=78&s_State=&jurisdiction=&year=&policyID=321

³⁰ http://eatbettermovemore.org/sa/policies/policy_detail.php?s_Search=urban+ag&policyID=321 (City of Portland, Oregon - Resolution No. 36272)

³¹

http://www.preventioninstitute.org/sa/policies/policy_detail.php?s_Search=&issue=&env=&keyword=78&s_State=&jurisdiction=&year=&policyID=321 (Strategic Alliance ENACT Local Policy Database, 4/8/10)

The Center for Rural Affairs highlights the following models that rural communities are using to keep grocery stores open in their towns.³²

Local Ownership:

Stapleton, a town of just over 300 residents in Logan County, Nebraska, surveyed its residents and found 95 percent of respondents wanted a grocery store in town. With the help of two local investors, a local resident stepped up to open a store. Local business people who understand the importance of their store to the community already own many rural grocery stores. Communities that face losing a store to a regional chain or are interested in opening a new small grocery store should look inward for resources and expertise from the community to operate the store.

Cooperative Ownership:

Residents of Walsh, Colorado, a town of 723 residents, used to drive over 30 minutes to the nearest grocery store. To solve the issue, over 300 residents pooled money to reopen a store. A cooperative ownership agreement was established and a \$160,000 interest-free loan helped the store open. Resident's money spent on groceries now stays in Walsh and the store can be responsive to the needs of the community.

Youth Affiliated:

Arthur, Nebraska, lost their local grocery store about ten years ago and residents drove 40 miles to the nearest store. An extracurricular entrepreneurial business development program assisted local high school students with market research, support, and a rental building. Within one year, eight students in the club opened the Wolf Den grocery in the town and gave the 144 town residents a new location to purchase groceries.

³² <http://www.cfra.org/newsletter/2009/10/sustaining-small-town-grocery-stores>

VI. CONCLUSION

Nelson County has a strong food and agricultural heritage that is highly valued among its residents. While the majority of its work force commutes to other jurisdictions for employment, agriculture has remained a central economic development strategy for the county. This focus has helped retain farmland in active production. Nelson's approval of agriculturally-related enterprises as a by-right land use promises to attract additional food-related investment to the county. As Nelson moves forward, there is a strong desire among farm owners to create positive change without additional restrictions on property rights. Policies and programs that provide incentives will be most effective in improving the health and prosperity of the Nelson County community and food system.

RESOURCES:

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"Portland Urban Agricultural Inventory Resolution." (2004). *Strategic Alliance: ENACT Local Policy Database*. Retrieved April 9, 2010 from http://eatbettermovemore.org/sa/policies/policy_detail.php?s_Search=urban+ag&policyID=321.

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APPENDIX A

Nelson County Food System Audit		NOTE: References to "LOCAL FOOD" includes local wineries, breweries, and cideries.									Last updated: 4/28/10
Team Members and Contact Information: Keith Crawford – kac3p@virginia.edu, 434-924-4795 Dana Smith - dms3vk@virginia.edu, 501-454-8030 Sara Teaster – sbt9s@virginia.edu, 434-284-1035											
1. PUBLIC HEALTH											
a. Reduce and Prevent Community Obesity and Chronic Illness		Comprehensive Plan	Zoning Ordinances	Plans/Strategies/Programs	Stand Alone Ordinances	Regional or State Guidelines	School Programming/Wellness Policy	School District Strategic Plan	Other	Citation of Language used	
1	Does the locality express a concern or a goal for improving public health?	no	no	no	no	no	yes	no	no	Nelson County Public School Wellness Policy, Policy Statement	
2	Does the locality mention a goal to reduce obesity and/or chronic illness?	no	no	no	no	no	yes	no	no	Nelson County Public School Wellness Policy, Section D	
3	Does the locality have an overall wellness plan?	yes	n/a	no	no	no	yes	no	no	Nelson County Public School Wellness Policy/ Nelson County Comprehensive Plan pg.9	
4	Does the locality clearly allow, support, or advocate for Farm to School (or similar) programs - for educational purposes, or for provision of food for school cafeteria?	n/a	n/a	no	no	no	no	no	no		
5	Does the locality have other provisions for school purchasing of local or organic foods?	n/a	n/a	no	no	no	no	no	no		
6	Does the locality clearly have a policy to reduce availability of junk food in schools and public buildings (e.g., vending machines and purchasing options)?	n/a	n/a	no	no	no	yes	no	no	Nelson County Public School Wellness Policy, Section 2-A.4-6	
7	Do the schools have a policy or program to educate cafeteria workers on preparation of fresh, local food and/or nutrient-rich food?	n/a	n/a	no	no	no	no	no	no		
8	Is the locality clearly encouraging or supporting the inclusion of food-based lesson plans in schools?	n/a	n/a	no	no	no	yes	no	no	Nelson County Public School Wellness Policy, Section 2-A.7	
9	Does the locality clearly encourage and/or directly support establishment of school garden programs at all levels of K-12?	n/a	no	no	no	no	no	no	no		
10	Is the locality currently employing or considering a "joint use" agreement to open the use of school land for food production (school gardens, community gardens, community urban farm)?	n/a	no	no	no	no	no	no	no		
11	Does the locality encourage that chain restaurants provide consumers with calorie information on in-store menus and menu boards?	n/a	n/a	no	no	no	n/a	no	no		
12	Does the locality have a clear tax or other strategy to discourage consumption of foods and beverages with minimal nutritional value, such as sugar sweetened beverages?	no	n/a	no	no	no	n/a	no	no		
13	Does the locality have educational/ promotional programs to discourage the use of Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) for sodas, high sugar and low nutrient foods?	n/a	n/a	no	no	no	n/a	no	no		
14	Does the locality have a goal for increasing awareness of healthy food or lifestyle choices?	no	n/a	no	no	no	yes	no	yes	Nelson County Public School Wellness Policy, Section 2-D.a; Community Obesity Task Force - http://www.childhoodobesitytaskforce.org/	
15	Has the locality adopted a clear policy defining "local" food?	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	no		
16	Does the locality have a clear goal that supports the production and distribution of local food?	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	Nelson County Comprehensive Plan,	
17	Does the locality publish or support a public guide to local food?	n/a	n/a	no	no	no	no	no	yes	PEC Buy Fresh, Buy Local - http://www.buylocalvirginia.org/ ; Locally Grown Nelson - http://www.nelson.locallygrown.net/growers	
18	Does the locality have a clear policy of encouraging (or giving preference to) event caterers or vendors that will use locally sourced food?	n/a	n/a	no	no	no	no	no	no		

	Does the locality develop media campaigns, utilizing multiple media channels (print, radio, internet, television, social networking, and other promotional materials) to promote healthy eating?										Last updated: 4/28/10
19		n/a	n/a	no	no	no	no	no	no		
20	Does the locality support or participate in a Food Policy Council?	n/a	n/a	no	no	no	no	no	no		
c. Flexible Policies and Zoning for creative and adaptive uses											
21	Does the code allow for and support protection of open space? for community gardens?	yes/no	yes/no	no	no	no	n/a	no	no		Nelson County Zoning Ordinance, Art. 3. Conservation District C-1, § 3-1 – 3-8 & Art. 4. Agricultural District A-1, § 4-1 – 4-11-3/ Nelson County Comprehensive Plan pg.38
22	Does the locality promote or enable easy accessibility to community gardens, for all neighborhoods and income levels?	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	no		
23	Are there land protections for farmers' markets?	yes	no	no	no	no	n/a	no	no		Nelson County Comprehensive Plan, pg. 32
24	Does the locality promote or enable easy, local access to community gardens by allowing small pocket parks throughout the locality to be used for, or transformed into community gardens?	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	no		
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	n/a	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	n/a	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	n/a	no	no		
28	Are there funding streams available for food related projects, such as Community Development Building Grants?	n/a	n/a	no	no	no	n/a	no	yes		CDBG Public Hearing Announcement: http://nelsoncounty.com/government/2010/02/08/public-hearing-for-cdbg-proposal-february-25-2010/
29	Are there regulations allowing flexibility for food producers to engage in minimal on-site processing?	n/a	yes	no	no	no	n/a	no	no		Nelson County Zoning Ordinance: Art. 4. Agricultural District A-1, § 4-1 – 4-11-3; Art. 9. Industrial District M-2, § 9-1 – 9-5
d. Promote multi-modal transportation options to food sources											
30	Does the locality offer multi-modal transportation in the community?	yes	n/a	no	no	no	n/a	no	no		Nelson County Public School Bus / Nelson County Comprehensive Plan pg. 45-47
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?	yes	n/a	no	no	no	n/a	no	no		Nelson County Comprehensive Plan- limited bus service mentioned.
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	n/a	no	no	no	n/a	no	no		
33	Do safe biking and walking paths exist between neighborhoods and food stores and markets?	no	n/a	no	no	no	n/a	no	no		
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	n/a	no	no	no	n/a	no	yes		JAUNT Bus Service for elderly population
35	Does the locality have a low-cost taxi or ride-sharing service that connects neighborhoods directly with food stores and markets?	no	n/a	no	no	no	n/a	no	no		
36	Are these transportation services available at multiple times of day and evening?	no	n/a	no	no	no	n/a	no	no		
37	Does the locality have a bike path or sidewalk plan?	yes	no	no	no	no	no	no	no		Nelson County Comp Plan- Chapter 5
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?	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	no		

Last updated: 4/28/10									
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	n/a	no	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	n/a	no	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	no	no
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	no	no
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	no	no
2. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT									
a. Support local food production									
44	Does the locality offer working farmland tax incentives, such as agriculture/forestry districts?	yes	no	no	no	no	n/a	no	no
	Nelson County Comprehensive Plan- Ag/ Forest districts are explained, but not direct taxing structure. Tax rate for land pg.18, appendix								
45	Is there a local government policy or preference for local agencies to purchase low-spray, sustainably grown, or organic food?	no	n/a	no	no	no	no	no	no
46	Does the locality have economic development goals to support regional food production?	yes	n/a	yes	no	no	n/a	no	yes
	Local Food Hub - http://www.localfoodhub.org/ ; Supporters Page: http://www.localfoodhub.org/content/view/full/1374/202/ ; http://nelsoncounty.com/business/economic-development-authority-strategic-plan/								
47	Is there a local government policy recommendation for purchase of local food when available?	no	n/a	no	no	no	no	no	no
48	Is there a support system to supply existing farmers with steady and seasonal farm labor?	no	n/a	no	no	no	no	no	no
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	n/a	no	no
50	Are there economic development programs or incentives or other tools for retailers to favor purchasing local food?	no	n/a	no	no	no	n/a	no	yes
	Local Food Hub - http://www.localfoodhub.org/								
b. Support development of local processing infrastructure									
51	Are the financial or other programs to support or incubate food-related businesses?	no	n/a	no	no	no	n/a	no	no
52	Is there a USDA-inspected community cannery, kitchen, or other processing facility open to local farmers, food entrepreneurs, and the public?	no	n/a	no	no	no	no	no	yes
	Community Center Kitchen in Lovington								
c. Support development of local distribution infrastructure									
53	Does the locality have a policy to allow local farmers' markets or tailgate markets or farmstands?	no	yes	no	no	no	no	no	yes
	Nelson County Zoning Ordinance, Art. 4. Agricultural District A-1, 4-1-5b (retail store, neighborhood); Nelson County Zoning Ordinance, Art. 8B. Service Enterprise District SE 1, 8B1-2a (convenience store), 8B-1-5a (wayside stand), 8B-1-8a (farm winery permanent remote retail establishment); Nelson County Farmers Market - http://www.nelsonfarmersmarket.com/								
54	Does the locality provide institutional support for local farmers' markets or tailgate markets?	n/a	no	no	no	no	no	no	yes
	Nelson County Farmers Market - http://www.nelsonfarmersmarket.com/index.shtml								
55	Is there economic development support for businesses that provide regional distribution of regional food, such as a Food Hub?	no*	n/a	no	no	no	no	no	yes
	Local Food Hub - http://www.localfoodhub.org/								
d. Support development of new businesses using locally sourced products & heritage foods									

		Last updated: 4/28/10							
56	Does the locality provide tax incentives, leasing agreements, or other incentives to support development of businesses using locally produced food?	no	n/a	no	no	no	n/a	no	no
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	n/a	no	no
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	n/a	no	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	no	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?	no	no	no	no	no	n/a	no	no
62	Does the locality provide support for the establishment of riparian buffers along farmland streambanks, to reduce nonpoint source pollution?	yes	no	no	no	no	n/a	no	Nelson County Comprehensive Plan- pg6 appendix
63	Does the locality have a policy or goal to fence out all livestock from streamways?	no	no	no	no	no	n/a	no	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	n/a	no	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	no
67	Is there a policy, program or opportunity for gleaning from local farms and restaurants?	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	no
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
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	yes
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	n/a	no	no	no	n/a	no	no
72	Are these transportation services available at multiple times of day and evening, in rural as well as urban areas?	no	n/a	no	no	no	n/a	no	no
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	n/a	no	yes
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	n/a	no	no

75	Are farmer's markets geographically accessible by low income neighborhoods, in rural as well as urban areas?	no	n/a	no	no	no	n/a	no	no	Last updated: 4/28/10
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	n/a	no	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	n/a	no	no	
78	Are tax credits available to developers for opening a grocery store in certain areas?	no	no	no	no	no	n/a	no	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	n/a	no	no	
80	Does the locality offer any predevelopment assistance to developers to expedite the review process?	no	no	no	no	no	n/a	no	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	n/a	no	no	
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	n/a	no	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	n/a	no	yes	Nelly May Bucks Program for senior citizens at Nellysford farmers market
84	Do farmer's markets enable \$2 or \$3 healthy food credit for every EBT dollar?	no	n/a	no	no	no	n/a	no	no	
85	Are markets and stores accessible at multiple times and days to accommodate varying work schedules?	n/a	n/a	no	no	no	n/a	no	no	
86	Does the locality support, or are there programs for mobile farms stands and mobile food carts?	no	no	no	no	no	n/a	no	no	
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	no	
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	no	no	
90	Does the locality have a system for directing / referring people in need of food to the places that can help?	n/a	n/a	no	no	no	no	no	no	
91	Does the locality support coordination and cooperation among emergency food providers?	no	n/a	no	no	no	no	no	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	no	no	
94	Does the locality support access to fresh, healthful food by the farm laborers who are helping to produce the food?	no	n/a	no	no	no	n/a	no	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	n/a	no	no	
96	Does the locality provide or ensure that adequate protection against pesticides is provided to farm workers?	no	n/a	no	no	no	n/a	no	no	

											Last updated: 4/28/10
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	n/a	no	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	n/a	no	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	no	no	n/a	no	no		
100	Are housing options available for migrant workers?	no	no	no	no	no	n/a	no	no		
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	no	no		
102	Are culturally appropriate, fresh food options available for immigrant and ethnic populations in stores?	no	n/a	no	no	no	n/a	no	no		
103	Is there support for diverse, local, traditional - and fresh - food practices?	no	n/a	no	no	no	no	no	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	n/a	no	no	no	n/a	no	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	no	no	no	n/a	no	no	Nelson County Zoning Ordinance, Art. 3. Conservation District C-1, § 3-1 – 3-8 & Art. 4. Agricultural District A-1, § 4-1 – 4-11-3	
107	Does the locality encourage or support land conservation easements for food production?	no	yes	no	no	no	n/a	no	no	Nelson County Zoning Ordinance, Art. 21. Cluster Housing Development, § 21-6/ Nelson County Comp Plan Appendix pg 6	
108	Does the locality clearly allow the use of public space or land for nonprofit community food gardens?	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	no		
109	Are there creative leasing or financing models to reduce start-up farming debt?	no	n/a	no	no	no	n/a	no	no		
110	Does the locality have a map of its prime agricultural lands for conservation?	yes	no	no	no	no	n/a	no	no	Nelson County Comp Plan- maps of land use	
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?	no	no	no	no	no	n/a	no	no		
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?	no	no	no	no	no	n/a	no	no		
113	Does the locality have a green infrastructure plan that incorporates consideration for food production into the plan?	no	no	no	no	no	n/a	no	no		

Nelson County Supplemental Audit Notes:

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1. PUBLIC HEALTH**1a: Reduce and Prevent Community Obesity and Chronic Illness**

Q1: Mention of goal for improving public health:

- a. Nelson County Public School Wellness Policy, Policy Statement: “The Nelson County School Board recognizes the link between student health and learning and desires to provide a comprehensive program promoting healthy eating and physical activity in division students.”

Q2: Goal to reduce obesity:

- a. Nelson County Public School Wellness Policy, Section D: “Nutrition guidelines have been selected by the division for all foods available on every school campus during the school day. The objectives of the guidelines are to promote student health and reduce childhood obesity.”

Q3: Overall wellness plan:

- a. Nelson County Public School Wellness Policy
- b. Nelson County Comprehensive Plan, pg.9 “Goal: Encourage access to a full range of quality health care facilities and programs for all county residents. Principal: Develop a specific Community Health Improvement Strategy.”

Q4: Farm to School programs:

Not mentioned

Q5: School purchasing local:

Not mentioned

Q6: Reduce available junk food:

- a. Nelson County Public School Wellness Policy, Section 2-A.4-6:
 - 4) All snack vending machines shall provide only single serving snacks that meet at least two, with at least 50% of the items meeting three of the following:
 - (a) 300 or fewer calories

- (b) 6 grams of fat or less
 - (c) 1 or more grams of fiber
 - (d) At least 10% of RDA of calcium, iron, vitamin A or vitamin C
- 5) All individual beverage vending machines in public areas and accessible to students, with the exception of those vending only water, shall include all of the following:
- (a) Water
 - (b) 100% fruit juice
 - (c) Non-carbonated drinks with less than 150 calories per container
 - (d) No more than 1/3rd of the choices will be carbonated drinks
- 6) Beverage vending machines may also include:
- (a) Non-fat, 1% low-fat, plain or flavored milk or yogurt in 16 ounces or less servings
 - (b) Other non-carbonated drinks
- 6) Beverage vending machines may also include:
- (a) Non-fat, 1% low-fat, plain or flavored milk or yogurt in 16 ounces or less servings
 - (b) Other non-carbonated drinks

Q7. Educate cafeteria workers:

Not mentioned

Q8. Food based lesson plans:

a. Nelson County Public School Wellness Policy, Section 2-A.7: "The School Nutrition Program shall support classroom activities for all elementary students that include hands-on applications of good nutrition practices to promote health and reduce obesity."

Q9. School gardens:

Not mentioned

Q10. Joint use agreement:

Not mentioned

Q11. Chain restaurants/calories on menus:

Not mentioned

Q12. Tax on/discourage low nutritional value items:

Not mentioned

Q13. Discourage SNAP for sugary foods and beverages:

Not mentioned

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

Q14. Increase awareness of healthy lifestyle:

- a. Nelson County Public School Wellness Policy, Section 2-D.a: “Nelson County School District shall collaborate with community health liaisons and resources to promote health and wellness for students, families, staff and community.”
- b. Community Obesity Task Force - <http://www.childhoodobesitytaskforce.org/> - organized by the Thomas Jefferson Health District has a mission to “create a supportive community that fosters healthy weight and overall fitness for children and their families.” “Since 1999, the Thomas Jefferson Health District has spearheaded the Childhood Obesity Task Force (COTF) serving Charlottesville, Albemarle, Fluvanna, Greene, Louisa, and Nelson counties, Virginia, to address the prevention and treatment of overweight among children.”

Q15. Definition for local food:

Not mentioned

Q16. Support production and distribution of local food:

Not mentioned

Q17. Guide to local food support:

- a. PEC Buy Fresh, Buy Local - <http://www.buylocalvirginia.org>
- b. Locally Grown Nelson - <http://www.nelson.locallygrown.net/growers>

Q18. Purchasing preference for local:

Not mentioned

Q19. Media campaign to support healthy eating:

Not mentioned

Q20. Support Food Policy Council:

Not mentioned

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

Q21. Code allowance for open space or community gardens:

- a. Nelson County Zoning Ordinance, Art. 3. Conservation District C-1, § 3-1 – 3-8: “This district is established for the specific purpose of facilitating existing and future farming operations, conserving water and other natural resources, reducing soil erosion, protecting watersheds, reducing hazards from flood and fire and preserving wildlife areas of the County.”
- b. Nelson County Zoning Ordinance, Art. 4. Agricultural District A-1, § 4-1 – 4-11-3: “This district is designed to accommodate farming, forestry, and limited residential use. While it is recognized that certain desirable rural areas may logically be expected to

develop residentially, it is the intent, however, to discourage the random scattering of residential, commercial, or industrial uses in this district.”

- c. Nelson County Comprehensive Plan, pg. 38 “While rural character is fundamentally difficult to define, it is important to describe the rural features which are important to be protected- The farms, orchards, and forest land; The mountain and scenic vistas, The river and stream corridors, The barns, outbuildings, and farmhouses, The historic properties and sites, The scenic roadways passing through rural areas.”

Q22. Promote accessibility to community gardens for all neighborhoods:

Not mentioned

Q23. Land protections for farmers’ markets:

- a. Nelson County Comprehensive Plan, pg. 32. Mixed Use Neighborhood Model. “For public use a library, space for farmer’s market, and space for recreation are appropriate.”

Q24. Pocket parks to community gardens:

Not mentioned

Q25. Allow abandoned lots for gardens or farms:

Not mentioned

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

Not mentioned

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

Not mentioned

Q28. Funding for food projects:

- a. Nelson County is currently applying for CDBG for Blue Ridge Medical Center Expansion, it is unclear if this includes health or food related projects.
- b. Nelson County Government Website (<http://nelsoncounty.com/government/2010/02/08/public-hearing-for-cdbg-proposal-february-25-2010/>): The County of Nelson will hold a public hearing on March 9, 2010 at 7:00 p.m. at the County Courthouse in Lovingston, Virginia to solicit public input on the proposed Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) proposal to be submitted to the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development for the Blue Ridge Medical Center Expansion Project. Residents of the project area are encouraged to attend. The Blue Ridge Medical Center Expansion Project will include the following activities:
 - 1. The overall scope of the project is a major expansion of the Blue Ridge Medical Center and its program(s) services.
 - 2. CDBG funding will be used for the renovation of the existing Blue Ridge

Medical Center to accommodate provision of dental services and to house BRMC's outreach program services.

Q29. Minimal on-site processing:

- a. Nelson County Zoning Ordinance Art. 9. Industrial District M-2, § 9-1 – 9-5: Agricultural districts permit “agriculture” defined as “*Agricultural*: The tilling of the soil, the raising of crops, horticulture, and forestry, including the keeping of animals and fowl, and including any agricultural industry or business, such as fruit packing plants, dairies, or similar use associated with an active farming operation, unless otherwise specifically provided for in this ordinance.” This definition suggests minimal processing for associated food products. Agricultural districts allow “farm wineries” by right and “dairy plants” by special permit. Abattoirs and other meat processing not permitted in agricultural districts.
- b. Nelson County Zoning Ordinance Art. 9. Industrial District M-2, § 9-1 – 9-5: “Abattoir” allowed with special use permit in industrial districts (otherwise not listed); manufacture, compounding, processing, packaging or treatment of bakery goods, dairy products, and food products permitted by right in industrial districts; food or meat packing or processing plant require conditional use permit.

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

Q30. Offer multi-modal transportation:

- a. Nelson County Comprehensive Plan- has plans for improvement of bicycle paths and pedestrian lanes. (pgs. 45-47)

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

Not mentioned

Q32. Transport food to low income and migrant neighborhoods:

Not mentioned

Q33. Safe biking and walking paths to food sources:

- a. Nelson County Comprehensive Plan pg. 46 “ A crossing of route 29 in Lovington’s downtown and developments on the west side of 29 is necessary for safety and is desired especially with a large grocery store across the street.”

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

- a. Nelson County Comprehensive Plan- limited bus service available
- b. JAUNT service available weekly for senior citizens

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

Not mentioned

Q36. Is transportation available during days and nights?

Not mentioned

Q37. Bike path or sidewalk plan:

- a. Nelson County Comprehensive Plan- Chapter 5

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

Q38. Reduce pesticide use, appropriate enforcement:

Not mentioned

Q39. Protect farm workers from exposure:

Not mentioned

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

Not mentioned

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

Not mentioned

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

Not mentioned

Q43. Offer incentives to transition to sustainable or organic:

Not mentioned

1. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

2a. Support local food production

Q44. Working farmland tax incentives:

- a. Nelson County Comp Plan has Ag/ Forrestral Districts. Tax structure for these lands unknown. Tax Structure for land value, "real Property value is \$0.55 for every \$100 of assessed value." Pg. 17 appendix

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

Not mentioned

Q46. Economic development support for food production:

- a. Local Food Hub Web Site - <http://www.localfoodhub.org/>.
"Nelson County Industrial Development Authority" listed on "Supporters" Page - <http://www.locallectual.com/content/view/1374/202/> under "Visionary: \$10,000 +"
- b. Nelson County Economic Development Authority, 2003-04: Strategic Plan – <http://nelsoncounty.com/business/economic-development-authority-strategic-plan/>:

“Goals of Nelson County EDA (Clarified via Priorities, Objectives, and Strategies within Each Goal)

Goal 1. Business and Industry Development

- Priorities for this goal:

1. Business retention and expansion”

Since food production businesses are currently located within Nelson County, its policy is to provide economic development support for food production business retention and expansion.

Q47. Purchase of local food when available:

Not mentioned

Q48. Support system for seasonal labor for farms:

Not mentioned

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

Not mentioned

Q50. Incentives for retailers to purchase local food:

a. Local Food Hub - <http://www.localfoodhub.org/>:

“The Local Food Hub is a non-profit service organization located in the Piedmont of Central Virginia. 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.”

2b. Support development of local processing infrastructure

Q51. Programs to support or incubate food related businesses:

Not mentioned

Q52. USDA kitchen or other processing facility available:

a. Lovington Community Center has a community kitchen - we were unable to find information regarding the use of the kitchen or if it is USDA inspected.

2c. Support development of local distribution infrastructure

Q53. Allow for farmers markets, tailgate markets, or farmstands:

- a. Nelson County Zoning Ordinance, Art. 4. Agricultural District A-1, 4-1-5b: retail store, neighborhood permitted by conditional use.
- b. Nelson County Zoning Ordinance, Art. 8B. Service Enterprise District SE-1, 8B1-2a (convenience store), 8B-1-5a (wayside stand), 8B-1-8a (farm winery permanent remote retail establishment) – permitted with special use permit
- c. Nelson County Zoning Ordinance definition: *Wayside stand, roadside stand, wayside market*: Any structure or land used for the sale of agriculture or horticultural produce; livestock, or merchandise produced by the owner or his family on their farm
- d. Nelson County Farmers Market - <http://www.nelsonfarmersmarket.com/index.shtml>

There are Farmer's Markets operated by the Nelson Farmer's Market Co-operative in Nellysford (Saturdays) and Lovington (Wednesdays). "Founded in 1997, the Nelson Farmers' Market is considered one of the premier producers-only markets (*everything sold is grown, prepared or crafted by its members*), in the region. Set in the heart of the Rockfish Valley, the market operates on a grassy field under long white tents. Local farmers bring their seasonal produce, berries, peaches, apples, cut flowers, free range eggs, grass-fed beef, pork, lamb and poultry. You can also find cheese, mushrooms, honey and fresh-cut herbs. Plants for sale include trees, shrubs, heritage tomatoes, perennials, herbs, bedding plants, chrysanthemums and orchids. Bakers bring a wide variety of loaf breads, fruit pies, cakes, and meat-filled pastries. Crafters offer original jewelry, pottery, baskets, fabric crafts, furniture, photography and art."

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

- a. Nelson County Farmers Market - <http://www.nelsonfarmersmarket.com/index.shtml>

There are Farmer's Markets operated by the Nelson Farmer's Market Co-operative in Nellysford (Saturdays) and Lovington (Wednesdays).

Q55. Economic support for regional distribution center:

- a. Local Food Hub - <http://www.localfoodhub.org/>: "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."

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

Q56. Incentives for businesses using locally produced food:

Not mentioned

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

Not mentioned

Q58. Program that supports stores that provide fresh, local options for low income:
Not mentioned

2e. Support increased Security of Food Supply

Q59. Emergency preparedness plan for disruptions in food supply:
Not mentioned

3. ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS

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

Q60. Goal to reduce foodprint:
Not mentioned

3b. Reduce nonpoint source stream pollution from agriculture

Q61. Reduce nonpoint source pollution from agriculture:
Not mentioned

Q62. Riparian buffers used to reduce nonpoint source pollution:
a. Nelson County Comprehensive Plan, Appendix pg. 6 “protection of local streams, lakes and estuaries. Reduction of stormwater pollutant loads.” Pg.9 appendix “Naturally Vegetated Stream buffers provide the best filtration system for stormwater runoff.”

Q63. Fence livestock from stream banks:
Not mentioned

Q64. Program to manage excess animal manure:
Not mentioned

c. Reduce Food Waste

Q65. Encourage foraging from unused locations:
Not mentioned

Q66. Local map for food foraging:
Not mentioned

Q67. Opportunity for gleaning from farms and restaurants:
Not mentioned

Q68. Demonstration programs for composting:
Not mentioned

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

Not mentioned

2. 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. Nelson County Public School Wellness Policy, Section 2-A, no. 2: "School Nutrition policies and guidelines for qualification for reimbursable meals shall not be more restrictive than federal and state regulations require."
- b. Nelson County Pantry - <http://nelsoncountypantry.wordpress.com/>

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

Not mentioned

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

Not mentioned

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

- a. Lovington Safety Study, compiled June 30, 2005 by the Thomas Jefferson Planning District Commission with two main goals:
 1. Maintain and enhance the historic, small town pedestrian-oriented character of Lovington and;
 2. Provide a safe and efficient connection between the two sides of Route 29 to alleviate the safety problems for drivers, pedestrians, and bicyclists.
- b. Nellysford Community Plan, compile December 2006 by the Thomas Jefferson Planning District Commission includes transportation analysis including pedestrian access to shopping centers and Nellysford farmers market.

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

Not mentioned

Q75. Farmers' markets geographically accessible:

Not mentioned

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

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

Not mentioned

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

Not mentioned

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

Not mentioned

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

Not mentioned

Q80: Offer predevelopment assistance to developers for grocery stores:

Not mentioned

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

Q81. EBT machines at farmers' markets:

Not mentioned

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

Not mentioned

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

- a. Nelly May Bucks Program organized through Nellysford Farmer's Market for senior citizens: \$2000 worth of vouchers distributed to senior centers for use at farmer's market; program funded through market vendor fees

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

Not mentioned

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

Not mentioned

Q86. Mobile farm stands or carts:

Not mentioned

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

Not mentioned

4d. Support an effective emergency food infrastructure

Q88. Right to food security:

Not mentioned

Q89. Central directory of emergency food providers:

Not mentioned

Q90. System for referring people in need of food:

Not mentioned

Q91. Support coordination and cooperation between agencies:

Not mentioned

Q92. Opportunity for storage of fresh foods for providers:

Not mentioned

e. Support equitable working conditions for farm labor

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

Not mentioned

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

Not mentioned

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

Not mentioned

Q96. Adequate protection from pesticides:

Not mentioned

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

Not mentioned

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

Not mentioned

Q99. Map of farm worker camps:

Not mentioned

Q100. Housing opportunities for migrant workers:

Not mentioned

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

Q101. Community involved in organization of food opportunities:

Not mentioned

Q102. Culturally appropriate fresh foods:

Not mentioned

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

Not mentioned

Q104. Incorporate migrant workers in markets and community events:

Not mentioned

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

Not mentioned

5. LAND CONSERVATION / ACCESS TO LAND FOR FOOD PRODUCTION

Q106. Land conservation for food production:

- a. Nelson County Zoning Ordinance, Art. 3. Conservation District C-1, § 3-1 – 3-8: “This district is established for the specific purpose of facilitating existing and future farming operations, conserving water and other natural resources, reducing soil erosion, protecting watersheds, reducing hazards from flood and fire and preserving wildlife areas of the County.”
- b. Nelson County Zoning Ordinance, Art. 4. Agricultural District A-1, § 4-1 – 4-11-3: “This district is designed to accommodate farming, forestry, and limited residential use. While it is recognized that certain desirable rural areas may logically be expected to develop residentially, it is the intent, however, to discourage the random scattering of residential, commercial, or industrial uses in this district.”
- c. Nelson County Comp plan appendix pg. 5 “form and Ag/ Forrestral District for the purpose of conserving land.”
- d. Nelson County Code, Article V. Agricultural and Forestal Districts Sec. 9-150. Purpose and intent.
 - (a) The policy of the county is to conserve, protect, and to encourage the development and improvement of its agricultural and forestal lands for the production of food and other agricultural or forestal products. It is also the policy of the county to conserve and protect agricultural and forestal lands as valued natural resources which provide essential open spaces for improvement of air quality, watershed protection, wildlife habitat, and aesthetic benefits for residents and visitors.
 - (b) It is the purpose and intent of this chapter to provide a means, in accordance with the comprehensive plan, by which agricultural and forestal lands may be protected and enhanced as a viable segment of state and local economics, and as important economic and environmental resources.

Q107. Conservation easements for food production:

- a. Nelson County Zoning Ordinance, Art. 21. Cluster Housing Development, § 21-1 – 21-7:
“A. The reserved area shall be preserved for agriculture, forestry, recreation or open space, by any of the means stated in this section. The Planning Director shall issue no zoning permit and the subdivision agent shall approve no plat that would violate the terms or the intent of this article.”

Q108. Allow public space or land for food production:

Not mentioned

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

Not mentioned

Q110. Map of prime agricultural lands:

- a. Nelson County Comp Plan- Land Use Maps

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

Not mentioned

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

- a. Nelson county Comprehensive Plan- Limited development in Ag/ forest districts. In use with code of Virginia, § 58.1-3230

Q113. Green infrastructure plan that incorporates consideration for food production:

Not mentioned

NELSON COUNTY INTERVIEW NOTES

Interviewees:

Beth Morris - Food Service Director
 Frances Mitchell - JABA Case Manager
 Fred Boger - Nelson Planning Director
 Connie Brennan - Board of Supervisors
 Jim Saunders - Saunders Bros. Orchard
 Maureen Kelly - Nelson County Economic Development
 Roger Collins- Nelson County Public Schools Division Superintendant
 Gary Scott - Twin Springs Farm

1. Public Health

- School Wellness Policy
 - school wellness policy mandated by latest reauthorization of lunch act
 - Student Health Advisory Board (SHAB) approved wellness policy used a model from Alexandria school system
- Superintendent and school board understand the need for wellness and health, but not a top priority for funding due to other stresses such as accreditation. On Governor scorecard, nutritionally Nelson county schools make the grade.
 - especially support wellness programs that do not require additional money or take time from educational instructional time
- School food program highly regulated at national and state level
- Food purchasing policy (no preference policy)
 - Nelson working with Local Food Hub to increase local purchasing, food hub only offers one delivery day per week.
 - have worked with Saunder's Brothers for fruit in the past - distribution became a challenge at prices comparable to other distributors
 - current distributor - Cavalier Daily (does source some items locally, but not a consistent preference)
 - need to address distribution and cost of purchasing locally (working with Food Hub)
 - supportive of local purchasing if convenient, competitive prices, and consistent availability
 - starting to see changes based on relationships and building contacts
- Food Nutrition
 - need to consider acceptability with students for food served
 - self sustaining program - based on participation so need to make desirable meals
 - have made a difference where possible - whole grains, reduced sodium - example - make own pizza with whole grain pizza

dough, daily 16 item salad bar in high school. Iceberg lettuce has been replaced with darker lettuces.

- production records are sales record - determines what is eaten/served/purchase
- standardized USDA recipes
- Rockfish PTO applied for a Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Grant (still to be determined if received) - target a different grade each month and include nutrition education
- menus sent home with nutrition information included - helps provide education for parents as well as students (use John Bennett from Maryland templates) will eat at school.
- non-competition caluse about serving sodas and junk food in vending machines; cannot be pruchased during school hours. Diet soft drink only are avilable after 330pm, no vending machines in elementary schools. This can be difficult becuse of sponsorships, example of Dole juice allowed to be served becuse it is 100% juice, but Ocean Spray is only 25% juice and cannot be served.
- Cooking/food service staff
 - removed all raw products due to safety/hazard program - no raw meat in the kitchen
 - labor costs include training staff
 - managers and assistant managers complete serve-safe training program (focus on food safety)
 - health department requires someone with Serve Safe certification be on site at all times
 - on-site training - kitchen managers do most daily training
- Food based lesson plans
 - horticulture department at high school has grown some edible crops in the past, but food cannot be served in cafeteria.
 - mismatch in growing season and school year presents challenges for incorporating any food grown on campus to lunch
 - dining services will compost kitchen scraps for special class projects when requested
 - "here to support educational environment"
 - using local food is great PR for Nelson County schools, because it is a farming community and many students may know farers where food comes from.
- Challenges:
 - limited time during lunch period to provide samples of new foods (have done some in the past - to encourage student to try something new and gauge interest)
 - currently deficit in budget - no money for anything that doesn't already fit in program
 - \$2.92 federal subsidized rate for lunch - 49% students on free and

reduced lunch in Nelson Count
lost money due to snow days - no money collected from lunch on those days
Difficulty of overcoming students eating patterns; what they are exposed to at home is generally what they

- Nelson County Schools - students involved in landscape improvements - grew trees for landscaping during construction of addition to high school
- Wellness Policy - mentioned in comprehensive plan, but no solid policy working on trail system - VA Blue Ridge Railroad Trail - to encourage exercise and activity
- Removed Bad Drinks from Schools
- Trying to remove junk food from schools hindered by vendors providing grants to school programs
- Obesity task force in Charlottesville (Ann Mallok)
- Getting meals to seniors is a priority addressed by home delivered meal program.t
- Meals are generally frozen, non local food, but foods that meet individual nutritional needs. Cost of meal based on annual income, an income of less than \$19 thousand per year qualifies someone. Average annual income of Nelson Senior population using JABA resources is around \$13 thousand per year.
- County provides budget to JABA to get meals out to people, also depend on volunteers.
- The Nelson County Food Bank also works with JABA to help those in need of food. Fresh food and extra produce often included in these food bags. The Nelson Food Bank feeds about 600 people annually with their Monday and Tuesday lunch program.

2. Economic Development

- Nelson Public Schools have increased push to buy local over the past four years
 - working with Local Food Hub on distribution challenges
 - more than 1/2 Local Food Hub growers are from Nelson County
 - great public relations for school nutrition program to support local farmers
 - "no downside from buying locally"
 - when food is purchased locally through the Local Food Hub - information including bio. of farmer is sent home with school menus - provides support for farmers and shares nutritional information
- JABA community center kitchen purchases some food locally for senior meals - Judy Berger would know more

- Community Center Kitchen run by Nelson County Community Development Foundation in cooperation with JABA
- Nelson has unwritten policy to encourage agricultural accessory uses, which are allowed by right within zoning ordinance (Saunders Bros. market buildings constructed as by right within ag. district), but buildings still need building permits and inspections
- Markets allowed by special use permits for safety reason (traffic access)
- Small ag. - only growing commercial sector within the county
- State - Right to Farm Act - localities can not put up barriers to agricultural uses
- State adopted Nelson view for liberal interpretation for vineyards and breweries uses on agricultural lands
 - vineyards and breweries considered "agricultural enterprise" as long as growing some product on site - allows more lenient zoning
- State Law - can not regulate events on agricultural land?
- City Council has dinner at locally owned restaurants to support local economy, but no policy for local purchasing
- Support of growing and processing food in Nelson for food security
- Document activity - organic farms, CSAs
- Nellysford Bucks - farmer's market
- Regulations can be detrimental to expansion of farm/agricultural operations - for example, moving a farm market building requires zoning permits, building permits, work with Virginia Department of Transportation, and erosion and sediment control permits through the Soil and Water Conservation District - all these regulations and associated fees can be cost prohibitive for small producers or startup agricultural businesses
- Nelson County Economic Development Office is especially helpful for marketing tips and advice
 - Agritourism promotion in county is excellent - brochures, maps, websites - all very beneficial to agribusiness
 - Increasing tourism more important than economic development business planning with individuals
- Increasing road signage would be helpful - tedious process with VDOT, zoning, and county regulations - Signage is very important for marketing
- 4H and FFA programs very active in the county
 - can help encourage future labor force and agricultural business owners
 - emphasis on livestock, forestry, and horticulture (not food crops)
- Maureen Kelly's job is to provide \$7 million a year in tourism revenue, by retaining only, not luring new businesses. This money comes from tax revenues from lodging, dining, and sales taxes. Tax payers pay her salary, it's her job to keep them happy.
- It is important to keep more farmers in business. Nelson now has 10

- wineries, 3 breweries and 1 cidery and distillery on the way.
- Nelson started "the spirit of red white and brew" to promote local breweries combining forces with albermarle county.
- Spread to Brew Ridge Trail Festival, (august 21st of this year) and the string summit of bluegrass music called The Festie happening this fall in october at Devils Backbone.
- working on combining virginia artisians into a Virginia Craft Brewers Guild. The Artisian Trail will be like the crooked road music trail and rount the mount having crafts, artisians, music, and food destinations.
- Now Nelson has three farmers markets
- Buy fresh buy local helps show that for every \$1 spent in community, county recycles 6 times.
- Idea that "Money does grow on trees" approcah to agri-tourism.
- Broadband infrastructure so important to helping farmers access marketing, information, and customers.
- People communte out, 65% drive at least 32 miles to wrok, becuse Nelson residents don't want those jobs in the county. They want to commute and come home to rural lands.

3. Environmental Benefits

- Advocate for food composting in schools associated with school gardens
- Biosolids controversial - regulated at state level
- Inorganic pesticides no regulated - impact of Chesapeake Bay Act?
- Pesticide application regulated at state and national level - DEQ & EPA
- No livestock/fencing regulations at local level
- Need to establish balance between regulations and associated financial obligations with implementation
- Need financial supports for meeting environmental regulations - opportunity for county to support healthy environment

4. Social Equity

- No summer feeding program through schools due to transportation costs
- no supplemental programs (i.e. backpack program) through schools for low income students
- Senior Citizen access to food
 - lunch available at Lovington community center on Mondays and Tuesday for seniors
 - JABA - Home Delivered Meals Program
 - volunteers deliver frozen meals from community centers (most participants are homebound) - 10 meals delivered at a time with bread, milk, and healthy snacks
 - no fee for meals if income is under \$19,000 - average income for JABA seniors is \$13,000

- County provides some money to senior centers for food and transportation
- JAUNT buses - transportation for seniors to senior centers - provides transportation throughout the county
- Hunger needs are being met - no malnourishment of seniors, but "everyone could eat better" - need more fruits and vegetables
- VDOT responsible for crosswalk across 29N - would increase walking access to Food Lion
 - majority of residents use personal vehicles for transportation - JAUNT and neighbors help each other
 - slowly changing with increase in younger population - need to increase pedestrian amenities and make more walkable
 - E911 Coordinator - Ray Ricardo - identified homebound and isolated individuals
 - Volunteer coalition through JABA for health system access; potential to link to food access, nothing in place access Meals on Wheels
 - Transportation within the county is a challenge
 - Saunders Brothers hires guest workers from Mexico through program
 - H2A guest worker program - regulated by US Department of Labor
 - workers hired from May through November, then return to home country
 - wage rates set by federal H2A program - currently just over \$8/hour
 - Nelson County does not have any programs specifically for H2A or farm workers
 - Saunders Bros. provides housing and weekly transportation to the bank and grocery store
 - Some workers purchase personal vehicles for use around town
 - Can get transportation to the doctor (Blue Ridge Medical Center) through coordination with the county (often inefficient and easier for business to provide transportation)
 - Needs are currently being met by private business employers
 - Nelly Maye Bucks at Nellysford Farmers Market
 - \$2,000 of vouchers distributed to senior centers in Nelson
 - money came from contributions from vendors
 - Farmers market board of directors organized
 - will be in place in 2010 as well - \$2000 will be divided by 3 senior centers
 - Nelson county is #1 for ESL teachers in state to help educate migrant worker populations.

5. Land Conservation / Access to Land for Food Production

- 80% county is zoned agricultural
- County does have prime agricultural lands map, but is not used for land use decision making

- Purchase of development rights allowed, but not used
- Cluster development included in zoning ordinance - could encourage gardens and food production in subdivisions by conserving open space - currently no examples in the county
- Property tax rate is currently 55 cents
- Garden project at Tye River Elementary School (April), \$100 provided by Farm Bureau Women's Group, Lion's Club will provide labor to support
- Advocate for school gardens and food composting
- Potential to link in Master Gardners and Garden Club members
- Land use taxation program is most beneficial agriculture policy in Nelson - without the reduced agricultural tax rate, the business would not be feasible at a residential or business rate - supports many agricultural operations in the county

Priorities:

- Nutrition Education (in schools)
 - help educate on benefits of nutrition education in schools
 - would like to collaborate nutrition classes with food service
 - no formal class component that address nutrition for students (double check this!) - nutrition class elective offered at high school
 - school food program currently spends time defending and correcting misunderstanding rather than educating about nutrition
 - County is part of Martha Jefferson Health System - opportunities there?
- Child Obesity in Nelson
 - tie into nutrition education
- Support Community with local purchasing when possible
- Plant unused land in communities for growing vegetables
 - Charlottesville example - historically used idle land next to railroad tracks for growing vegetables
 - encourage community gardens - empowerment for seniors and provide healthy/fresh produce
- Ensure access to grocery stores in very rural areas - county needs some growth and development
 - example - Wingina residents drive 30 miles to and from closest grocery store
 - need more grocery stores in residential areas
- Encourage Agricultural Operations
 - Try to do this without changing codes. Rural areas tend to not support changes to property rights.
- Conservation Easements (Restrictions not supported by large property owners)
- Transportation Alternatives for food access

- Community Gardens (Massey Saunders exploring launch of commercial operation)
- School Children growing food
- Schools purchasing local food (potential to impact families)
- More opportunities for organic agriculture - marketing to growers of opportunities to grow food within Nelson
- All restaurants to use locally grown food, tourism benefit
- Address cost prohibitive environmental regulations
 - want to be environmentally "friendly" but regulations can be daunting - for example - \$15,000 in erosion and sediment control studies for moving farm market
 - financial support from county to make environment a priority?
- Increase signage for agricultural businesses
 - road signage is a very important marketing tool
 - currently many regulations and parties involved - VDOT, zoning department, county supervisors
- Encourage purchasing of local produce
 - keep production in the county
 - connect growers with purchasers - grocery stores, restaurants, resale
 - expand Nelson Grown program
- Advance Nelson County Infrastructure
 - Middle mile open access project for broadband
 - Will help farmers and artisans communicate and market products.
- More Acres into Production
 - A new barley strain may be a viable option for Nelson County
 - Increased varieties of agricultural products may increase growing season
 - Understanding "who's doing it right" to help understand how Nelson county can increase production.
- Finding Niche Speciality Crops that can be grown here
 - Understanding of the economics and return on investment will be key here.
 - Speciality crops can increase agri-tourism and help market the entire Nelson county brand.
- Help people understand the value associated with food choices
 - It is a lifestyle choice that 20 somethings seem to understand the value of.
- Create economically equitable farms that benefit both growers and workers need a model that pays labor well and is economically viable for farmers
- Promote agritourism related to food - county currently focuses on wineries and orchards

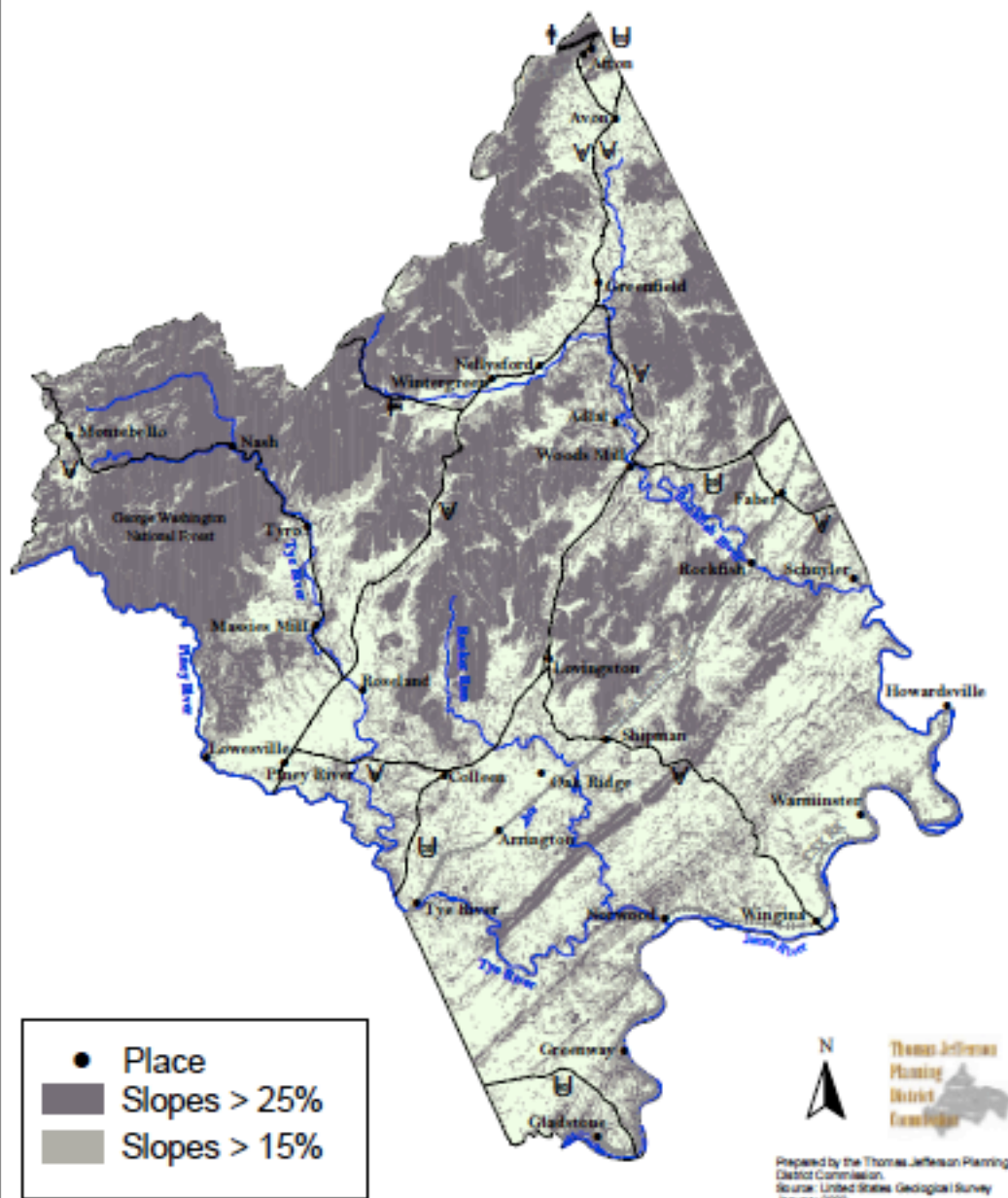
- Reevaluate land use tax application to farms - determine if farm is actually producing food or just running a few cows/cutting hay
is land being used efficiently?
reevaluate land use tax how it relates to real farms and production in the county - smaller productive farms do not currently benefit from land use tax - example - Bertonis (Appalachia Star) have 5 acre produce farm - do not receive land use tax break
- Better educate consumers and raise awareness about local food - increasing public school purchasing of local food for consumption by students would be a good start
- Provide more opportunities for aspiring young farmers to use land without acquiring - make financially feasible
- Extension agents help support sustainably grown "cash crops" in the county - determine what fruits and vegetables grow well and are profitable for farmers
- Responsibility- Want students to be able to make good food choices with the most information available.
Hope to teach self awareness and self monitoring so students can establish life long ways of helping themselves
- Priority 2- Accountability- some level of freshness to food offerings.
- Goal is always first to provide nutritious meals on budget, but look to future to see what is possible.
Sushi example.
- Variety in food offerings
Variety shows world to students, international foods can be stimulating and add to learning process.

Suggested Contacts

Pete Perdue (perdue@bpl.coop) - Nelly Maye Bucks Program
Nelson County Food Bank - Dick Nees (neesnest@aol.com)
Cooperative Extension - Youth Programming - Antwan Rose
(arose@vt.edu)
Tom Brugere (Board of Supervisors)

Nelson County Comprehensive Plan

Steep Slopes



Resolution

Woodbury County Policy for Rural Economic Revitalization “Local Food Purchase Policy”

Preamble

It is the policy of Woodbury County to promote the economic vitality, and public health and safety, of its rural communities. The “Local Food Purchase Policy” is intended to increase regional per capita income, provide incentives for job creation, attract economic investment, and promote the health and safety of its citizens and communities.

Summary

Woodbury County shall purchase, by or through its food service contractor, locally produced organic food when a department of Woodbury County serves food in the usual course of business. The Woodbury County Jail, Work Release Center, and Juvenile Detention facilities are presently serving food in their usual course of business. The contractor may cover for unavailable local organic supply through its current procurement practices with preference to be given local non-organic food products. An arbitration board shall be established to assure fair value to Woodbury County. A single-point-of-contact broker, located in Woodbury County, shall interact with food service contractor, for availability, price, quality, presentation and delivery terms of all locally produced organic food. The current food service contract shall be modified to carry out the intent of this policy. Purchases under this policy shall begin June 1, 2006.

Local Food Purchase Policy

SECTION 1.0 GENERAL POLICY TERMS DEFINED

Section 1.1 Locally Produced Food

‘Locally produced food’ is food that is grown and processed within a 100-mile radius of the Woodbury County courthouse, Sioux City, Iowa. The source of a grown food item, or of processing services, may be from beyond that 100-mile radius when sufficient supply, or service, is not available within that radius.

Section 1.2 Organic Food

‘Organic food’ is defined to include food that has been certified organic by an accredited certifying agency and compliant with the USDA’s National Organic Program standards and guidelines. Food that is being produced by farmers who are converting from conventional to organic production practices, and who are seeking organic certification, is also approved for purchase (i.e., transitional).

Section 1.3 Food Service Contractor

‘Food service contractor’ is defined to include Woodbury County’s existing food service contractor, CBM Food Services, and any assigns or successors.

Section 1.4 Single-Point-of-Contact Broker

‘Single-Point-of-Contact Broker’ is defined to be an incorporated farmer-run cooperative with its main business office located within Woodbury County, Iowa that primarily handles locally produced organic (or transitional) food products as defined hereunder. The only presently known broker to be formed is Woodbury Farm Foods Cooperative, with a business address of 1211 5th Street, Sioux City, Iowa.

SECTION 2.0 GENERAL POLICY PROVISIONS

Section 2.1 County Purchase of Locally Produced Food

Woodbury County shall purchase, by or through its food service contractor (hereinafter referred to as “Contractor”), locally produced organic food when a department of Woodbury County serves food in the usual course of business. The Woodbury County Jail, Work Release Center, and Juvenile Detention facilities are presently the only departments serving food in their usual course of business.

Section 2.2 Organic Food Supply and Non-Organic Cover

Subject to the price and quality provisions contained within this policy, it is mandatory that Contractor purchase available supply of locally produced organic (and transitional) food from the single-point-of-contact broker (hereinafter referred to as “Broker”) in accordance with Contractor’s historical food needs. Contractor may revise recipes to include more local food if deemed more healthful or cost-effective. If the available local organic (or transitional) food supply does not meet Contractor needs, Contractor may look to cover shortfalls through its regular purchasing procurement policies; however, it is desired that Contractor look to local non-organic producers for cover, when practicable.

Section 2.3 Purchase Procedures

Contractor shall work with Broker to establish a timely notification procedure with respect to Contractor periodic demands and Broker delivery guarantees. If Broker is unable to guarantee delivery of a specified item of Contractor demand, there should be sufficient time provided by the procedure for Contractor to exercise cover. Contractor demand shall specify quantity, quality, presentation, and delivery terms.

Section 2.4 Price Terms

Contractor and Broker shall negotiate prices that are fair to all parties concerned for each item traded, and with accountability to Woodbury County Board of Supervisors, as stated herein. It is preferred, but not mandatory, that the overall annual food cost to Woodbury County will not increase by reason of this policy. The price to be paid Broker for a particular food item, if cost is higher for locally produced organic food, shall be established by the following guidelines:

Section 2.4.1 Guidelines for Establishing Item Cost

- (a) The price for a particular food item shall reflect the fixed and variable costs of production, anticipating a reasonable profit to the local farmer, and include reasonable commission to Broker.
- (b) The price for a particular food item under this policy can be compared with the price a farmer (who supplies Broker) charged for the same item to other buyers over the previous 12-month period. Broker must justify any increase in price to the Contractor.
- (c) Contractor shall consider the cost of a particular item in view of the overall contract cost (i.e., another organic item may cost less, so the overall contract cost to the County is the same).
- (d) Fair market value for the food item may be established through comparable sales in comparable markets (i.e., local supermarket price, or the price charged for an item by other Midwest food brokers, wholesalers, and retailers).

- (e) Special attention shall be given if there is material increase in price over what Contractor would otherwise pay for a similar item.

Section 2.4.2 Guidelines for Woodbury County Policy Review

- (a) Woodbury County, through the Organics Board, shall review the costs of this policy in terms of food costs every 3 months to determine if costs to the County under this policy exceed existing contract price. A report to the Woodbury County Board of Supervisors will be provided on a quarterly basis.
- (b) If the overall food service contract cost increases as a result of this policy, the higher cost can never exceed the expected benefits of the policy to Woodbury County. In determining the value of the policy to Woodbury County, it is accepted as general principle that dollars expended locally will circulate within the regional economy.
- (c) Woodbury County will consider the impact of this policy on the reduction of health care costs related to inmates, behavioral changes of inmates, and other factors that may potentially reduce costs to Woodbury County.
- (d) If the policy results in job creation by Broker, expanded markets for local organic products, or results in increased organic food production within the county, Woodbury County will compare the increase in costs under this policy with comparable costs associated with other forms of economic development tools to determine reasonableness of the increased costs.
- (e) Allowances will be made for the learning curves of local producers and suppliers to meet county demand.
- (f) It may be acceptable for the county to endure higher costs in the short term if there is clear evidence that in so doing, economics of size are being built that will reduce costs in the long term.

Section 2.5 Arbitration Board, Non-Binding Arbitration

An Arbitration Board shall be established by Woodbury County to hear any disputes between Contractor, Contract-Broker, or Woodbury County in the operation of this policy. Dispute resolution shall be by “non-binding arbitration”. Woodbury County directly, or by and through Contractor, reserves the right to reject a proposed purchase of locally produced organic food.

SECTION 3.0 SPECIFIC OBLIGATIONS OF PARTICIPANTS

Section 3.1 Special Obligations of Contractor

Section 3.1.1 Food Service Contract

Contractor has existing obligations to Woodbury County pursuant to the Food Service Contract. Except as to modifications mandated by this Local Food Purchase Policy, Contractor obligations shall remain in full force and effect under its existing Food Service Contract with Woodbury County. Woodbury County and Contractor shall review the existing food service contract and make such modifications as are necessary to implement this policy.

Section 3.1.2 Policy Initiation and Planning

The initial purchase of locally grown organic food shall begin on June 1, 2006. Contractor and Broker, from the time of the adoption of the policy to June 1, 2006, shall develop a reliable and efficient process that will facilitate the purposes of

this policy. Woodbury County, Contractor, and Broker shall also work during this time to develop reporting schedules from which to judge the success of this policy, as further specified in Section 4.2 below.

Section 3.1.3 Recipes and Food Quality

It is encouraged that Contractor review recipes, and to increase the locally grown organic food content, when such modification would be more healthful and would reduce or not substantially increase the total contract costs.

Section 3.1.4 Reporting to Woodbury County of Food Costs

Contractor is required under this policy to report to the Woodbury County Rural Economic Development Department, on a quarterly basis, with its first report on September 1, 2006, any increase or decrease in price it has paid for locally produced organic food as compared with the cost of similar items that it would have had to purchase if Contractor followed its standard procurement practices.

Section 3.1.5 Contractor Notice or Rejection of Increased Price

Contractor may request of Broker a justification of price if materially higher than it would otherwise pay for the food item. Contractor reserves the right to reject the sale if price is materially higher, without justification, than it presently pays for similar items taking into account the factors set forth in Section 2.4.1.

Section 3.1.6 Local Non-Organic Food Purchase As Cover

Contractor is required under this policy to purchase locally grown organic (and transitional) food to the extent that supply is available. Contractor is encouraged to consider the purchase of locally grown non-organic food when the locally grown organic supply cannot fully meet Contractor demand for a particular food item.

Section 3.2 Special Obligations of Broker

Section 3.2.1 Broker Organization

Broker must be a cooperative, preferably an Iowa Code 501A organization, that maintains standard liability insurance and designates a single contact to Contractor through whom all communications shall be made. The Broker must consist of a Board of Directors with at least 50% of the Board of Directors being farmer-suppliers to the cooperative.

Section 3.2.2 Periodic Publications of Demand and Supply

Broker shall publish in a conspicuous place, at its main place of business, the Contractor listing of all food items purchased by Contractor over the previous 12-month period. Broker shall also publish in a conspicuous place, at its main place of business, and by email to farmer members (if farmer has such email service), a copy of Contractor periodic demand for food items; said notice shall be given within 18 hours of Broker receipt.

Section 3.2.3 Certification and Transitional Farm Products

Broker shall deliver only certified organic products, or products from farms that are transitioning to certified organic, in accordance with the USDA's National Organic Program standards and guidelines. Transitional farm products are those produced by farmers who currently employ organic practices in accordance with USDA standards, but cannot qualify for organic certification until a transitional period is completed. Broker shall verify farmer certification and verify transitional farm organic practices.

Section 3.3 Special Obligations of Woodbury County

Section 3.3.1 Maintain Listings of Organic and Non-Organic Farmers

Woodbury County Rural Economic Development shall compile contact information and production data for all farmers who supply food items to Broker. Woodbury

County will also maintain a listing of non-organic farmers, located within the 100-mile local food radius, who want to make their crops available for purchase by Contractor as cover for unavailable organic supply.

Section 3.3.2 Additional Markets for Local Food Production

Woodbury County Rural Economic Development shall investigate markets, beyond that which is established by this policy, for local food producers and shall publish opportunities that become available and known to Woodbury County. One goal of this policy is to provide an example to local school districts, and other institutional consumers of food products, to consider establishing local food purchase policies that will promote health and improve the local farm economy.

SECTION 4.0 REPORTING PROVISIONS AND POLICY DURATION

Section 4.1 Monitoring Impacts of Policy and Reporting Schedule

Woodbury County shall monitor, on a quarterly basis, the impacts of this Local Food Purchase Policy to determine overall benefits and costs to Woodbury County taxpayers. Reporting from Contractor and Broker, as provided in Section 4.2 below, shall provide most of the information needed to accurately monitor the success of this policy.

Section 4.2 Producer and Product Purchase Reporting

In exchange for County efforts to promote local food sales, Contractor and Broker shall provide a joint report to Woodbury County Rural Economic Development Department, on a quarterly basis, that supplies the following information:

- (a) What are the costs of food purchased by Woodbury County that were sourced by local and non-local, organic and non-organic sources;
- (b) How much value-added food products did the Broker produce and how much of this used products from local producers;
- (c) What percentage of Broker's business is devoted to filling the Woodbury County food service contract;
- (d) Amount of production costs of producer-members that are spent locally;
- (e) Dividends returned to producer members;
- (f) Labor statistics to determine increase in jobs and wage information;
- (g) Farm and producer information that will disclose acreage devoted to organic production practices, type of product sold, value of organic sales per producer, and other information as requested by Woodbury County needed to determine success of this policy.

Section 4.3 Policy Duration

The Local Food Purchase Policy shall be in force until amended or revoked by Woodbury County. Woodbury County reserves the right to amend, or revoke, this policy for any reason.

RESOLUTION NO. 496

ESTABLISHING A LOCAL FOOD PURCHASING POLICY FOR ALBANY COUNTY

Introduced: 12/8/08

By Messrs. Nichols, Bullock, Domalewicz, Gordon, Joyce and Steck:

WHEREAS, It is the policy of Albany County to promote the economic vitality and public health and safety of its communities, and

WHEREAS, The “Local Food Purchasing Policy” is intended to increase regional per capita income, provide incentives for job creation, attract economic investment, fight global climate change and promote the health and safety of its citizens and communities, and

WHEREAS, “Locally produced food” shall mean food that is grown and processed within a 100-mile radius of the Albany County Courthouse located on Eagle Street in the City of Albany, NY, and

WHEREAS, A study in Iowa found that a regional diet consumed 17 times less oil and gas than a typical diet based on food shipped across the country and according to a study by the New Economics Foundation in London, a dollar spent locally generates twice as much income for the local economy, and

WHEREAS, Locally produced food makes farming more economically viable keeping farmers in business and saving valuable farmland from development, and

WHEREAS, While produce that is purchased in the supermarket or a big-box store has been in transit or cold-stored for days or weeks, produce purchased locally has often been picked within 24 hours providing fresh produce that not only improves the taste of food, but also the nutritional value of food which declines over time, and

WHEREAS, When a farmer is producing food that will not travel a long distance a shorter shelf life allows the farmer to try small crops of various fruits and vegetables making farmers more profitable and providing consumers with more choices, now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, Albany County shall establish a “Local Food Purchasing Policy” that shall include a budget allocation equaling at least 10% of the annual costs of the county’s food purchases, including but not limited to, such food purchased for Albany County’s Residential Healthcare Facilities and the Albany County Correctional Facility, derived from locally produced food, and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the Local Food Purchasing Policy shall be expanded and be updated annually by the County Legislature with guidance from a special sub-committee or task force established and appointed by the Majority Leader and Minority Leader of the Albany County Legislature, and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the Clerk of the County Legislature is directed to forward certified copies of this resolution to the appropriate County Officials.

Referred to Law Committee. 12/8/08

SAMPLE PURCHASING GUIDELINES –
“SPECS” LARGE SCALE SCRATCH COOKING ENVIRONMENT – JUNE 2007

Introduction

The approach to procurement in the sustainable and healthy large scale scratch cooking environment outlined in this guide applies principles of whole foods cooking with sourcing specifications aligned with the philosophy that future generations will benefit from the Sustainable Best Practices adopted and utilized from this point forward.

Directors, Chefs and Purchasers create healthy “delicious revolutions” not just by cooking but by designing their large scale systems around the purchase of whole sustainably produced products, to the best of their ability.

The flexibility and control that the scratch cooking system allows a district enables the community from the local government to board levels down to the parents, students and staff to participate in the growth of a secure locally based system which will be both economically beneficial for the community as well as promoting healthy lifestyles for all participants now and in future generations.

This guide assumes that all pre-prepared and processed items purchased for use in menus will meet the USDA Nutrition Policies and that these guidelines as Sustainable Best Practices are meant to complement the USDA Policy, with regard to menu development for large scale scratch cooking environments.

The guide below breaks down menus into purchasing components, however a few basic guidelines reflect all decision making:

- **Locally Grown and/or Owned and Produced**
- **Best Quality**
- **Best Practice**
- **Best Price**
- **Reusable and/or recyclable packaging and shipping materials**
- **Ability to Service Client**

Whole Fruits and Vegetables

Always: Combination of Best Quality, Best Practice, Best Price, Ability to Service Client

Fruits and Vegetables Fresh and In Season

Growing Practice Local:

- Organic
- Chemical Free - non-certified
- IPM

Exceptions: In Season but not Local – (Organic preferred if budget allows – IPM otherwise)

- Citrus – (Florida for East and Midwest regions; CA for Western States)
- Bananas – (Dominican Republic and Ecuador being the primary Fair Trade and Organic producers)
- Pantry staples such as onions, celery, carrots in 4 season climates without storage options
- Kids’ Favorites: Broccoli, Cauliflower, Salad Greens, Cooking Greens – as needed, dependent on districts ability to process or store other menu vegetable options

SAMPLE PURCHASING GUIDELINES –
“SPECS” LARGE SCALE SCRATCH COOKING ENVIRONMENT – JUNE 2007

Whole Fruits and Vegetables - Continued

Other considerations:

- Flavor – all other attributes being equal – best flavor will be purchased first
- For Vendors/Distributors: Prioritize working with local growers as a regular part of their business
- For Farmer Direct Purchasing: Ability to meet quantity needs or partner with other farmers to meet quantity demands of client; Ability to deliver
- Pack size: Preferred vendors work in industry standard vegetable pack size – for example; red leaf lettuce 24 heads/case, however bulk purchasing by pound will be acceptable by agreed arrangement

Animal Proteins – Chicken, Dairy Products, Beef, Pork, Fish

Always: Combination of Best Quality, Best Practice, Best Price, Ability to Service Client

Growing Practice

- Humane Production – from farm to slaughter
- Organic
- Natural – Hormone, Chemical Free, Additive Free
- Natural – Grass raised and finished
- Sustainable – CAFO and Cage Free, Adequate Stocks Regionally

Location

- Local
- Regional
- Small to Mid sized producers

Other considerations:

- Flavor – all other attributes being equal – best flavor will be purchased first
- Transport and Delivery: Ability to deliver in quantities needed by client; Appropriate shipping and/or transport methods for example the ability to maintain product frozen and/or under 40 degrees F
- USDA Commodities: The unknown origin and practice of Commodity Unprocessed Proteins is unavoidable at present. With knowledge that some of this product might not meet the District's purchasing guidelines, under the current budget constraints utilizing Commodity food dollars toward unprocessed proteins is necessary at the present time.

Foods Produced Outside of District Kitchens

Always: Combination of Best Quality, Best Practice, Best Price, Ability to Service Client

Bakery Products and Snack Items:

- Flavor – all other attributes being equal – best flavor will be purchased first
- Locally Owned and Operated Business
- Locally Produced
- Locally sourced ingredients as much as possible
- Organic ingredients preferred
- Whole Grain
- No Trans Fats/Hydrogenated and Partially Hydrogenated Oils
- No High Fructose Corn Syrup
- No Additives, coloring or chemical preservatives
- Fruit, Vegetables and Animal Protein ingredients reflective of this purchasing guideline

SAMPLE PURCHASING GUIDELINES –
“SPECS” LARGE SCALE SCRATCH COOKING ENVIRONMENT – JUNE 2007

Foods Produced Outside of District Kitchens - Continued

Entrees or Entrée Ingredients (for example, Tofu)

- Flavor – all other attributes being equal – best flavor will be purchased first
- Locally Owned and Operated Business
- Locally Produced
- Locally sourced ingredients as much as possible
- Organic ingredients preferred
- Whole Grain
- Fruit, Vegetables and Animal Protein ingredients reflective of this purchasing guideline
- No Trans Fats/Hydrogenated and Partially Hydrogenated Oils
- No High Fructose Corn Syrup
- No Additives, coloring or chemical preservatives

Beverages:

- No High Fructose Corn Syrup
- No Additives, coloring or chemical preservatives including sugar or sugar substitutes
- If fruit derived, organic preferred – 100% juice only
- Low Environmental impact packaging preferred

Other considerations:

- Flavor – all other attributes being equal – best flavor will be purchased first
- Production Facility must meet Federal and State specifications for Health and Safety
- Transport and Delivery: Ability to deliver in quantities needed by client; Appropriate shipping and/or transport methods for example the ability to maintain product frozen and/or under 40 degrees F
- USDA Commodities: The unknown origin and practice of Commodity Minimally Processed ingredients such as Rice, or Canned Products such as Fruit or Tomato Products is unavoidable at present. With knowledge that some of this product might not meet the District's purchasing guidelines, under the current budget constraints utilizing Commodity food dollars toward some Minimally Processed ingredients and/or Canned Ingredients is necessary at the present time.



Northern NY Agricultural Development Program 2004 Project Report

A Rural & Ag Economic Development Specialist for Franklin County

Project Leader(s):

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Collaborator(s):

Carl Tillinghast, Director, Cornell Cooperative Extension Franklin County; Harry Fefee, Chairman, Franklin County Ag & Farmland Protection Board

Background:

The position of Rural & Ag Economic Development Specialist was created out of the Franklin County Agriculture & Farmland Protection Plan (published March 2001). Funding support for this position came through the Northern New York Agriculture Development Program and Cornell Cooperative Extension of Franklin County. Cornell Cooperative Extension (CCE) of Franklin County hired Bernadette Logozar in the summer of 2002 to fill the position of Rural & Ag Economic Development Specialist and to work in the area of ag and rural economic development.

Methods:

- During her time with CCE Franklin County, Ms. Logozar has worked with farmers and rural entrepreneurs in Franklin & surrounding counties in the area of marketing, business development, regulations, alternative agriculture, diversification and small farm operations.
- Ms. Logozar has been proactive in establishing and strengthening relationships with other agencies and organizations in Franklin & surrounding counties that would assist farmers. This list includes: Franklin County IDA, Franklin County Tourism, local Chambers of Commerce, Adirondack North Country Association (ANCA), Adirondack Farmers' Market Cooperative (AFMC).

- Ms. Logoza served as the Regional Coordinator for the tri-county Marketing Initiative Adirondack Harvest; collaborated with ANCA to publish the “Pasture Raised Meat Directory”; has secured grant funding to offer small livestock producers a focused marketing series and create the “Livestock Producers’ Marketing Toolkit”; has helped to establish the North Country chapter of the Women’s Business Owners’ Network (WBON); offers a number of innovative programming on marketing, e-commerce, business planning, pricing, rules & regulations for farmers’ markets, community economic development.
- Ms. Logoza is a part of the Small Farms Task Force, the Small Farms Quarterly Editorial Team, a member of the Ag Economic & Community Development Program Work Team, a member of the Community Economic Renewal Program Work Team, a Director on the Board of Directors of the local Chamber of Commerce, a member of the NNY International Ag Expo Board of Directors and co-chapter coordinator for the Women’s Business Owners’ Network.

Results:

- Through the Adirondack Harvest Marketing Initiative 115 farms in the tri-county region and 10 farmers’ markets are listed on the *Adirondack Harvest* website (www.adirondackharvest.com) & Pasture Raised Meat Directory, the awareness of the agriculture and the variety of products, which are grown, raised and marketed locally has increased. The direct result has been greater visitors to local farms and more money in these direct market farmers’ pockets.
- As well, because Ms. Logoza’s work straddles rural & ag economic development she acts as a liaison between the non-farm small businesses (i.e. store owners) and on-farm businesses (farmers) and an information resource for critical areas of interest to the community (i.e. wind power, small business development). Future projects involve bringing local farmers and other small businesses closer together.

Conclusions/Outcomes/Impacts:

- Have encouraged more direct market farmers to become involved in Adirondack Harvest, to date 35 Franklin County farms are participating members. The number of farmers markets in the county has increased, enabling consumers more outlets to buy local.
- Through the increased involvement of direct market farmers in Franklin County in Adirondack Harvest, in 2005 Franklin County Tourism has included agriculture in their full color brochure for tourists to visit.

Outreach

Agricultural Economic Development CCE of Franklin County has made some major steps forward to ensure the profitability and sustainability of our small farms and rural agribusinesses. This past year CCE...

- Offered an ***E-Commerce Course*** for small rural business owners. Topics included: ***E-commerce basics, market research, and building your own website.***
- Continued to work with ***Livestock Producers*** to explore and fine-tune their ***marketing options*** through the development of the ***Marketing Toolkit***. Worked closely with ANCA to encourage ***agricultural diversification*** through the formation and facilitation the ***Pastured Poultry Group***. Are currently to secure funding sources through ***Heifer International*** for much needed infrastructure for local farmers.
- Worked with ***existing agencies*** such as Industrial Development Agency of Franklin County, Chambers of Commerce, Franklin County Tourism and others ***to increase the number of successful rural based businesses*** in Franklin County.

Community Economic Development

In 2004, CCE expanded programming to include ***Community Economic Development*** (CED). The purpose of community and economic decision-making is to improve the capacity of citizens, community leaders and policy makers to understand and respond to external and internal forces for change. ***Education & outreach programming*** included:

- ***NNY Community Economic Development Conference*** was hosted by CCE in partnership with ***Center for the Advancement of Sustainable Tourism (CAST)***, ***Fuller Communications & NY Main Street Alliance*** connected local government, community economic development leaders and agencies to local, regional and state resources. This regional conference brought participants from Franklin, St. Lawrence, Clinton, Essex, Hamilton, & Warren Counties.
- ***Community& Economic Renewal “Roadshow” Seminar***—linking local community development leaders to research and resources around the state.

Community Economic Development Summer Series—connected local government and the community to resources and information. Topics: ***Socioeconomic Trends and Well-being of NYS Citizens*** and ***Community Sustainability: Holistic Approaches to Community Development.***

Acknowledgments:

This project was funded by a grant from the Northern New York Agricultural Development Program and by funds from Cornell Cooperative Extension of Franklin County.

Northern New York Agricultural Development Program:

The Northern New York Agricultural Development Program provided funding for this agriculture-based economic development project. The Northern New York Agricultural Development Program is a farmer-driven research and education program specific to New York state's six northernmost counties: Jefferson, Lewis, St. Lawrence, Franklin, Clinton and Essex.

Thirty-three farmers serve on the Program board led by Co-Chairs Jon Greenwood of Canton (315-386-3231) and Joe Giroux of Plattsburgh (518) 563-7523. For more information, contact Jon, Joe or R. David Smith at 607-255-7286 or visit www.nnyagdev.org # # #

Nutrition Education in Schools

This paper is part of a series of nutrition policy profiles prepared by Prevention Institute for the Center for Health Improvement (CHI).

Background

The goal of nutrition education is to motivate participants to eat a healthy diet. Children are a very important audience for nutrition education because a healthy diet is essential for their normal growth and development, and because children are establishing food patterns that carry into adulthood. Good nutrition promotes not only better physical health and reduced susceptibility to disease, but has also been demonstrated to contribute to cognitive development and academic success.¹ Left to their own devices, children will not automatically select healthy foods. Their innate preference for sweet foods makes them particularly vulnerable to the highly sugared cereals, soda, and candy that are marketed to them virtually from birth.² In order to develop lifelong healthy eating patterns, children need to be introduced to a variety of nutritious foods in a positive manner.

Schools are potentially excellent settings for nutrition education. Virtually all children attend school every weekday and consume at least one or two meals daily on school grounds. The school environment can strongly influence children's eating behaviors, whether through the examples provided by teachers and other adults, the food served in the cafeteria and classroom, or through exposure to peer habits. Effective nutrition education helps shape these environmental factors and assists students in developing the skills needed to select healthy diets.

Policy

Include comprehensive nutrition education as a mandatory subject in the school curriculum.

Given that eating habits have a profound impact on health in childhood and adulthood, schools provide a logical venue for ensuring that nutrition education reaches all school-age children. There are many examples of nutrition education programs that have been successfully introduced in schools. The two programs presented here have been well evaluated and have demonstrated to have a positive impact on children's eating.

The Child and Adolescent Trial for Cardiovascular Health (CATCH) program introduced a three-year nutrition education and physical activity program in 56 elementary schools in California, Louisiana, Minnesota, and Texas.³ Teachers trained in the CATCH curriculum taught 5,100 ethnically diverse third graders the *Adventures of Hearty Heart and Friends* for five weeks. This was followed by the *Go for Health* curriculum, which was taught to fourth graders for twelve weeks and fifth graders for eight weeks, and was aimed at reducing fat and sodium consumption. The curricula "targeted specific psychosocial factors" and involved skill building related to eating behaviors and physical activity patterns.⁴ Classroom nutrition education was supported by Eat Smart training for school food service aimed at reducing fat and sodium content of school meals.

The St. Paul Public School District in Minnesota utilized the 5-a-Day Power Plus curriculum to promote at least five servings of fruits and vegetables a day among multi-ethnic fourth and fifth graders.⁵ The program was developed and tested in the school district by the State Health Department in collaboration with the University of Minnesota as part of a four-year research study funded by the National Cancer Institute (grant #R01 CA59805). The 16-lesson curriculum at each grade level is behaviorally oriented, with students setting goals for fruit and vegetable consumption throughout the 8-week program period. Students work in teams on fun group activities to build skills for eating fruits and vegetables and receive peer recognition for their team and individual achievements. The curriculum includes weekly classroom snack preparation and tasting activities to increase exposure to fruits and vegetables and build preparation skills. Students are also given activity and information packets to bring home to parents. The classroom curriculum is supported by a food service component that increases the choice, availability, and appeal of fruits and vegetables served in school lunches. The Minneapolis School District is currently offering the curriculum in 80 fourth grade classrooms according to Gretchen Taylor, MPH, RD (personal communication, February 2001). Teachers register to receive training in the 5-a-Day Power Plus curriculum, and the district provides funding for the curriculum materials and food (via food service) for classroom education.

Effectiveness

Both the CATCH and 5-a-Day Power Plus programs improved children's eating habits.^{6,7} After three years of nutrition education, CATCH students decreased their reported daily intake of fat calories from 33 percent to 30 percent. This difference was maintained in a three-year follow-up study. The proportion of calories from fat in school lunches also decreased significantly from 39 percent to 32 percent. Among students participating in the 5-a-Day Power Plus program, fruit and vegetable consumption increased by more than a half serving per day, on average. In addition, the amount and variety of fruits and vegetables in the school cafeteria increased.

These results demonstrate that nutrition education plays an important role in an overall strategy for improving children's eating habits. To be effective, classroom education needs to occur in conjunction with a school breakfast and lunch program that exemplifies the lessons being taught. A well-designed curriculum should focus on developing skills in food selection and preparation rather than just imparting information about the relationship between diet and health. Information must be suited to the developmental stage of the children and provide numerous, graduated educational lessons. Currently, most students receive nutrition education based on the particular interest of their teachers. The National Association of State Boards of Education has developed a model policy for integrating nutrition education into school health curricula and a coalition in California has produced a position paper on providing school-based nutrition education through the Health School Environment Policy and Community Action Summit.^{8,9}

Contacts

To obtain CATCH materials, contact:

FLAGHOUSE

601 Flaghouse Drive
Hasbrouck Heights, NJ 07604
Tel: (800) 793-7900

For more information about the 5-a-Day Power Plus program, contact:

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A Policy-Based School Intervention to Prevent Overweight and Obesity

Gary D. Foster, Sandy Sherman, Kelley E. Borradaile, Karen M. Grundy, Stephanie S. Vander Veur, Joan Nachmani, Allison Karpyn, Shiriki Kumanyika and Justine Shults

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A Policy-Based School Intervention to Prevent Overweight and Obesity

Gary D. Foster, PhD^a, Sandy Sherman, EdD^b, Kelley E. Borradaile, PhD^a, Karen M. Grundy, MA, MSED^c, Stephanie S. Vander Veur, MPH^a, Joan Nachmani, MS, CNS, SFNS^d, Allison Karpyn, PhD^b, Shiriki Kumanyika, PhD, MPH^e, Justine Shults, PhD^e

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What's Known on This Subject

The increasing prevalence and consequences of childhood obesity have prompted calls for broad public health solutions that reach beyond clinic settings. Schools are ideal settings for population-based interventions. Despite their intuitive appeal, the results for school-based interventions are mixed.

What This Study Adds

This study has several distinctive features: (1) it is a school-based intervention that is community originated, (2) the population is composed of fourth- to sixth-graders from a low socioeconomic status, and (3) the program is effective and particularly so for blacks.

ABSTRACT

BACKGROUND. The prevalence and seriousness of childhood obesity has prompted calls for broad public health solutions that reach beyond clinic settings. Schools are ideal settings for population-based interventions to address obesity.

OBJECTIVE. The purpose of this work was to examine the effects of a multicomponent, School Nutrition Policy Initiative on the prevention of overweight (85.0th to 94.9th percentile) and obesity (>95.0th percentile) among children in grades 4 through 6 over a 2-year period.

METHODS. Participants were 1349 students in grades 4 through 6 from 10 schools in a US city in the Mid-Atlantic region with $\geq 50\%$ of students eligible for free or reduced-price meals. Schools were matched on school size and type of food service and randomly assigned to intervention or control. Students were assessed at baseline and again after 2 years. The School Nutrition Policy Initiative included the following components: school self-assessment, nutrition education, nutrition policy, social marketing, and parent outreach.

RESULTS. The incidences of overweight and obesity after 2 years were primary outcomes. The prevalence and remission of overweight and obesity, BMI z score, total energy and fat intake, fruit and vegetable consumption, body dissatisfaction, and hours of activity and inactivity were secondary outcomes. The intervention resulted in a 50% reduction in the incidence of overweight. Significantly fewer children in the intervention schools (7.5%) than in the control schools (14.9%) became overweight after 2 years. The prevalence of overweight was lower in the intervention schools. No differences were observed in the incidence or prevalence of obesity or in the remission of overweight or obesity at 2 years.

CONCLUSION. A multicomponent school-based intervention can be effective in preventing the development of overweight among children in grades 4 through 6 in urban public schools with a high proportion of children eligible for free and reduced-priced school meals.

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Key Words

children and adolescents, community pediatrics, obesity, population-based studies, school-based program

Abbreviations

SNPI—School Nutrition Policy Initiative
CDC—Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
GEE—generalized estimating equation
MI—multiple imputation
OR—odds ratio
CI—confidence interval

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THE INCREASING PREVALENCE and serious consequences of childhood obesity have prompted calls for broad public health solutions that reach beyond clinic settings.¹ Schools are ideal settings for population-based interventions to address obesity.^{2,3} Children spend approximately half of their waking hours in school. Schools provide 1 to 2 meals daily and are a natural setting for education about healthy food choices. Despite their intuitive appeal, the results for school-based interventions have been mixed. Although some school-based programs have had favorable effects on BMI,⁴⁻⁶ many have not.⁷⁻⁹ The reason for this is unknown but may include an insufficient dose, barriers to effective implementation, the inability to effectively target children at highest risk, and that the behaviors targeted by interventions may not relate directly to body weight. Nearly all of the interventions tested have been developed and/or implemented by university-based teams. Few studies have examined the effects of school-based programs that have originated in the community. Also, as Doak et al¹⁰ note, few studies have examined the possible adverse effects

of obesity prevention programs, such as worsening body image or decreases in BMI z scores among those who are normal weight or underweight.

The purpose of this study was to examine the effects of a multicomponent School Nutrition Policy Initiative (SNPI) on the prevention of overweight and obesity among children in grades 4 through 6 over a 2-year period. Given the disproportionately high rates of obesity among children in lower socioeconomic status groups,¹¹ the study was implemented in schools that had $\geq 50\%$ of children eligible for federally subsidized, free, or reduced-price meals.

METHODS

Study Design

The study was conducted in 10 schools in the School District of Philadelphia. Schools were the unit of randomization and intervention. Ten schools were selected from among 27 Kindergarten through eighth grade schools with $\geq 50\%$ of students eligible for free or reduced-price meals. To obtain pairs of 2 schools per cluster, the 27 schools were first organized into 5 clusters of 4 to 7 schools each, based on school size and type of food service (eg, full service [2 clusters] or heat and serve [3 clusters]). Schools within each cluster were approached to participate in a predetermined, random order. When 2 schools in each cluster agreed to participate, the schools were randomly assigned as intervention or control schools. A total of 12 schools were approached; 2 declined and 10 were enrolled. Within schools, written parental consent and child assent were required for individual children to participate. The study was approved by the University of Pennsylvania Institutional Review Board.

Intervention

The SNPI was developed and delivered by The Food Trust, a community-based organization, and was funded by the US Department of Agriculture Food Stamp Nutrition Education Program. A task force was developed, which devoted a year to discerning how best to adapt the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Guidelines to Promote Lifelong Healthy Eating and Physical Activity¹² to meet the needs of the Philadelphia school district. Committees were established to make recommendations on the CDC guidelines and to work with the Food Services Division, which operates food services in all Philadelphia public schools, to remove all sodas, sweetened drinks, and snacks that did not meet the standards set by the committee (see below in nutrition policy) from the vending machines and the cafeteria line. All of the schools were under the direction of the district's Food Service Division, which agreed to make the necessary changes in the intervention schools, while making no changes to the control schools.

The SNPI included the following components: (1) school self-assessment; (2) nutrition education; (3) nutrition policy; (4) social marketing; and (5) parent outreach. Each component is described briefly below. A

more detailed description of the intervention is available at www.thefoodtrust.org.

Self-Assessment

Schools assessed their environments by using the CDC School Health Index.¹³ Each school formed a Nutrition Advisory Group to guide the assessment. Teams included administrators, teachers, nurses, coaches, and parents. After completing ratings on healthy eating and physical activity, schools developed an action plan for change. Schools proposed various strategies, such as limiting the use of food as reward, punishment, or for fundraising; promoting active recess; and serving breakfast in classrooms to increase the number of students eating a healthy breakfast.

Staff Training

All of the school staff in the intervention schools were offered ~ 10 hours per year of training in nutrition education. At these trainings, staff received curricula and supporting materials such as *Planet Health*⁴ and *Know Your Body*,¹⁴ as well as nutrition and physical activity theme packets designed to integrate classroom lessons, cafeteria promotions, and parent outreach. Staff attended trainings both across and in intervention schools, giving them a chance to work together as a team and to share ideas with their counterparts in other intervention schools.

Nutrition Education

The goal was to provide 50 hours of food and nutrition education per student per school year, which was based on the National Center for Education Statistics guidelines.¹⁵ The educational component was designed to be integrative and interdisciplinary. Its purpose was to show how food choices and physical activity are tied to personal behavior, individual health, and the environment. Nutrition was integrated into various classroom subjects. For example, students used food labels to practice fractions and nutrition topics for writing assignments.

Nutrition Policy

In each of the intervention schools, all of the foods sold and served were changed to meet the following nutritional standards, which were based on the Dietary Guidelines for Americans and converted from the percentage of calories to grams per serving,¹⁶ which is in alignment with information shown on nutrition labels: all of the beverages were limited to 100% juice (recommended 6-oz serving size), water (no portion limits), and low-fat milk (recommended 8-oz serving size). Snack standards allowed ≤ 7 g of total fat, 2 g of saturated fat, 360 mg of sodium, and 15 g of sugar per serving. Before these changes, soda, chips, and other drinks and snacks had been sold in vending machines and a la carte in the cafeteria of schools with full-service kitchens. Schools without full-service kitchens did not sell a la carte food items or have vending machines. Schools were matched

by type of food service to control for differences in the sales of vending and a la carte items.

Social Marketing

The SNPI used several social marketing techniques. To increase meal participation and consumption of healthy snack and beverage items, students who purchased healthy snacks and beverages or who brought in snack items that met the nutritional standards from home or local stores received raffle tickets. Raffle winners received prizes for healthy eating, such as bicycles, indoor basketball hoops, jump ropes, and calculators. The message "Want Strength? . . . Eat Healthy Foods," paired with an easily recognizable character, reinforced healthy messages through incentives and frequent exposure. Both the slogan and the character were developed through focus groups with students who were not in the study schools but were of similar age, ethnicity, and socioeconomic status.

Family Outreach

Nutrition educators reached family members through home and school association meetings, report card nights, parent education meetings, and weekly nutrition workshops. They encouraged parents and students, on the way to and from school, to purchase healthy snacks. Students participated in the 2-1-5 challenge to be less sedentary (≤ 2 hours per day of television and video games), to be more physically active (≥ 1 hour per day), and to eat more fruits and vegetables (≥ 5 per day). Intervention schools reduced the amount of unhealthy foods sold at parent fundraisers and discouraged parents from sending sweets to teachers at holiday time. One school chose to have a weekly breakfast club with female athletes from a local university.

Outcomes

Measurements were collected at baseline in the spring semester and again at year 2 in the spring semester. Interim weight data were collected in the spring semester of year 1. Return visits were scheduled within 1 month to reach absent students. Race/ethnicity data were self-reported by each child and were collected to assess potential interaction effects with the intervention, as well as to examine the disproportionate prevalence of overweight and obesity.

Weight and Height

Heights and weights were measured annually on a digital scale and wall-mounted stadiometer by a trained research team with a standardized protocol. The team was not blinded to treatment condition, because social marketing materials were in the intervention schools. BMI z scores and percentiles based on age and gender were calculated for each student using CDC growth charts.¹⁷ Each participant was classified into 1 of 4 weight categories as described by the Institute of Medicine¹: underweight (BMI for age less than the fifth percentile; $n = 23$; 2.2%); normal weight (BMI for age from the

fifth to 84.9th percentile; $n = 619$; 57.9%); overweight (BMI for age from the 85th to 94.9th percentile; $n = 182$; 17.1%); and obese (BMI for age >95 th percentile; $n = 245$; 22.9%).

Dietary Intake, Physical Activity, and Sedentary Behavior

Dietary intake, specifically total energy consumed (kilojoules), fat consumption (grams), and the number of fruit and vegetable servings, was measured with the Youth/Adolescent Questionnaire, a self-administered 152-item food frequency questionnaire, which has been used to measure dietary intake in previous studies.^{18,19} Physical activity and sedentary behavior, specifically television viewing, were measured by the Youth/Adolescent Activity Questionnaire, a self-administered 24-item questionnaire also used in past research. Total inactivity was calculated by combining all of the 8 sedentary behaviors that were assessed in the questionnaire. Finally, body image was assessed using the body dissatisfaction subscale of the Eating Disorder Inventory-2 (EDI-2).²⁰

Statistical Analysis

Incidence of overweight and obesity after 2 years (percentage of subjects who were initially not overweight or obese but who became overweight or obese) was analyzed as a primary outcome, because the goal of the intervention was the prevention of overweight and obesity. Prevalence (percentage of subjects who were overweight or obese) and remission (percentage of subjects who were overweight or obese at baseline but were not overweight or obese at follow-up) were analyzed as secondary outcomes. Analyses of overweight and obesity were conducted separately. Analyses were also conducted after collapsing the overweight and obese categories (≥ 85 th percentile). Additional secondary analyses included BMI z score, total energy and fat intake, fruit and vegetable consumption, body dissatisfaction, and hours of activity and inactivity, including weekday television viewing after 2 years.

The generalized estimating equations (GEE) method was used to account for the intraclass correlation of responses within a school (ie, students within a school are more similar than students between schools). In addition to individual-level covariates measured at baseline, an indicator variable for each randomization pair was included in these models as fixed effects to account for school matching.^{21,22} To assess the primary outcome of incidence and the secondary outcomes of prevalence and remission, GEE was used to model a binary outcome. These models included race/ethnicity, gender, age, and an indicator of the randomization pair as covariates. The models predicting prevalence also controlled for prevalence at baseline.

For the remaining secondary outcomes, GEE was also used to model a Poisson distribution for count variables (eg, hours of inactivity and television watching). We note that, because GEE and random coefficients analyses

TABLE 1 Baseline Characteristics of Participants

Variable	Control (n = 600)	Intervention (n = 749)	P
Female, n (%)	313 (52.17)	412 (55.01)	.30
Age, mean \pm SD, y	11.20 \pm 1.0	11.13 \pm 1.0	.20
Race/ethnicity, n (%)			<.001
Black	281 (46.83)	332 (44.33)	
Asian	166 (27.67)	128 (17.09)	
Hispanic	35 (5.83)	168 (22.43)	
Other	33 (5.50)	41 (5.47)	
White	85 (14.17)	80 (10.68)	
Weight status, n (%)			.08
Underweight	18 (3.00)	10 (1.34)	
Normal weight	352 (58.67)	420 (56.07)	
Overweight	99 (16.50)	129 (17.22)	
Obese	131 (21.83)	190 (25.37)	
BMI, mean \pm SD, kg/m ²	20.71 \pm 5.0	20.98 \pm 5.1	.33
BMI z score, mean \pm SD	0.65 \pm 1.1	0.71 \pm 1.1	.35
Fruit and vegetable, mean \pm SD, kJ/d (kJ/d)	5.64 \pm 4.2	5.32 \pm 3.9	.16
Total energy, mean \pm SD, kJ/d (kJ/d)	13979.41 \pm 8170.68	14029.85 \pm 8112.72	.91
Total Fat, mean \pm SD, g/d	118.46 \pm 72.2	119.18 \pm 71.0	.86
Activity, mean \pm SD, h/wk	26.18 \pm 19.3	25.85 \pm 19.8	.77
Inactivity, mean \pm SD, h/wk	108.77 \pm 44.5	113.91 \pm 50.1	.14
Television, mean \pm SD, h per weekday	2.80 \pm 1.5	2.87 \pm 1.6	.49
Television, mean \pm SD, h per weekend	3.34 \pm 1.57	3.31 \pm 1.6	.75
Body dissatisfaction, mean \pm SD, raw score	9.19 \pm 7.8	9.04 \pm 7.6	.74

N = 1349.

were demonstrated to yield comparable results,²³ GEE was used to model continuous outcomes (eg, BMI z score). These models included race/ethnicity, gender, age, randomization pair, weight status at baseline, and baseline measures of the dependent variable. We note also that, because the unit of randomization and intervention was the school, we also implemented the approach suggested by Donner and Klar²⁴ to compare proportions (eg, of subjects who become obese). This approach uses a paired *t* test to compare the mean of the binary (for proportions) or continuous variables. This approach can work well even for a sample size of 5 pairs.²⁴

To account for attrition at the student level, we imputed missing data at year 2 using the multiple imputation (MI) procedure with the Markov chain Monte Carlo algorithm.²⁵ Although the more conventional intent-to-treat analyses fill in a single value for each missing value, the MI procedure uses information obtained from an individual (eg, demographics, baseline values, intervention condition, etc) to replace each missing value with a set of plausible values that incorporate uncertainty about the right value to impute. Plausible values are then integrated into a single data set using the MIANALYZE procedure in SAS (SAS Institute, Inc, Cary, NC). The MI procedure is superior to the more conventional intent-to-treat analyses, because it produces estimates that are consistent, asymptotically efficient, and asymptotically normal.²⁶ Convergence was assessed via time series and autocorrelation plots. In addition, to assess the consistency of our findings, data were analyzed using the more

conventional baseline carried forward and last observation carried forward methods.

RESULTS

Student and Teacher Participation

The consent rate across the 10 schools was 69.5% \pm 15.4%, with no significant difference between control (67.7% \pm 18.5%) and intervention (71.4% \pm 13.5%) schools. There was no attrition at the school level. Among the 1349 students assessed at baseline, 921 (68.3%) (510 intervention and 411 control) were reassessed at year 1 and 844 (62.6%; 479 intervention and 365 control) were reassessed at year 2. Attrition rates did not differ between intervention and control schools at 1 (31.9% vs 31.5%) or 2 years (36.0% vs 39.2%). The reasons for attrition at 2 years were transfer (95.4%), repeated absences (3.6%), and refusals (1.0%). The analyses that accounted for attrition (MI, baseline carried forward, and last observation carried forward) did not differ from the analyses using complete data. Thus, the results obtained from participants whose data we had at the relevant assessment points (ie, baseline and year 2) are reported here. In addition, the results obtained from the paired *t* tests and GEE analyses were similar, so the GEE results are reported here.

With respect to implementation of the intervention, teachers and support staff participated in an average of 10.4 \pm 2.9 and 8.4 \pm 2.2 hours of training, respectively, during the first and second years of the intervention. Teachers and support staff, respectively, provided an

TABLE 2 Prevalence, Incidence and Remission of Overweight and Obesity at 2 Years

Measure	Sample, <i>n</i>	Baseline, <i>n</i> (%) ^a	Follow-up, <i>n</i> (%) ^a	Unadjusted Change	Adjusted Odds (95% CI) ^b	<i>P</i>
Overweight						
Prevalence						
Control	365	58 (15.89)	73 (20.00)	4.11	1.00	
Intervention	479	78 (16.28)	70 (14.61)	−1.67	0.65 (0.54–0.79)	<.001
Incidence						
Control	208	—	31 (14.90)	14.90	1.00	
Intervention	268	—	20 (7.46)	7.46	0.67 (0.47–0.96)	.03
Remission						
Control	144	—	11 (7.64)	−7.64	1.00	
Intervention	206	—	22 (10.68)	−10.68	1.34 (0.71–2.54)	.37
Obese						
Prevalence						
Control	365	86 (23.56)	91 (24.93)	1.37	1.00	
Intervention	479	128 (26.72)	134 (27.97)	1.25	1.09 (0.85–1.40)	.48
Incidence						
Control	266	—	17 (6.39)	6.39	1.00	
Intervention	346	—	20 (5.78)	5.78	1.00 (0.66–1.52)	.99
Remission						
Control	86	—	12 (13.95)	−13.95	1.00	
Intervention	128	—	14 (10.94)	−10.94	0.84 (0.48–1.46)	.54

N = 844 (individuals with data at baseline and year 2). Models predicting prevalence also controlled for baseline prevalence. Sample sizes for prevalence included all 844 of the participant, whereas sample sizes for incidence and remission were dependent on initial weight status (eg, incidence of overweight was based only on individuals who were normal weight at baseline, whereas remission of obesity was considered using only those individuals who were obese at baseline). — indicates no data available.

^a Data are unadjusted percentages.

^b Odds were adjusted for race/ethnicity, gender, age, and an indicator of the randomization pair.

average of 48.0 ± 27.1 and 44.0 ± 18.3 hours of nutrition education during each year of the intervention.

Student Characteristics at Baseline

Baseline characteristics of the students are shown in Table 1. Among the 1388 students who provided parental consent and child assent, 1349 were assessed at baseline. The sample consisted of 53.7% females. Participants had (mean \pm SD) an age of 11.2 ± 1.0 years, BMI of 20.9 ± 5.1 kg/m², and BMI *z* score of 0.7 ± 1.0 . More than 40% (40.7%) were overweight or obese (≥ 85 th percentile), and nearly a quarter (23.8%) were obese (≥ 95 th percentile). Black children composed nearly half of the sample. There were no significant differences between control and intervention groups on any variable at baseline except for race/ethnicity (see Table 1). There were more Hispanic/Latino students in the intervention group (22.4%) than there were in the control group (5.8%; $P < .001$). To account for these differences at baseline, race/ethnicity was controlled for in subsequent analyses.

Primary Outcome

Incidence of Overweight and Obesity

Significantly fewer children in the intervention schools (7.5%) than in the control schools (14.9%) became overweight after 2 years (unadjusted means). After controlling for gender, race/ethnicity, and age, the predicted odds of incidence of overweight were $\sim 33\%$ lower for the intervention group (odds ratio [OR]: 0.67; 95% confidence interval [CI]: 0.47–0.96; $P < .05$). By contrast,

there were no differences between intervention and controls schools in the incidence of obesity (see Table 2). At 2 years, there were no interaction effects between the intervention and race/ethnicity, gender, or age on obesity incidence. After collapsing the overweight and obese weight categories (≥ 85 th percentile), the predicted odds of incidence of overweight or obesity were $\sim 15\%$ lower for the intervention group (OR: 0.85; 95% CI: 0.74 to 0.99; $P < .05$).

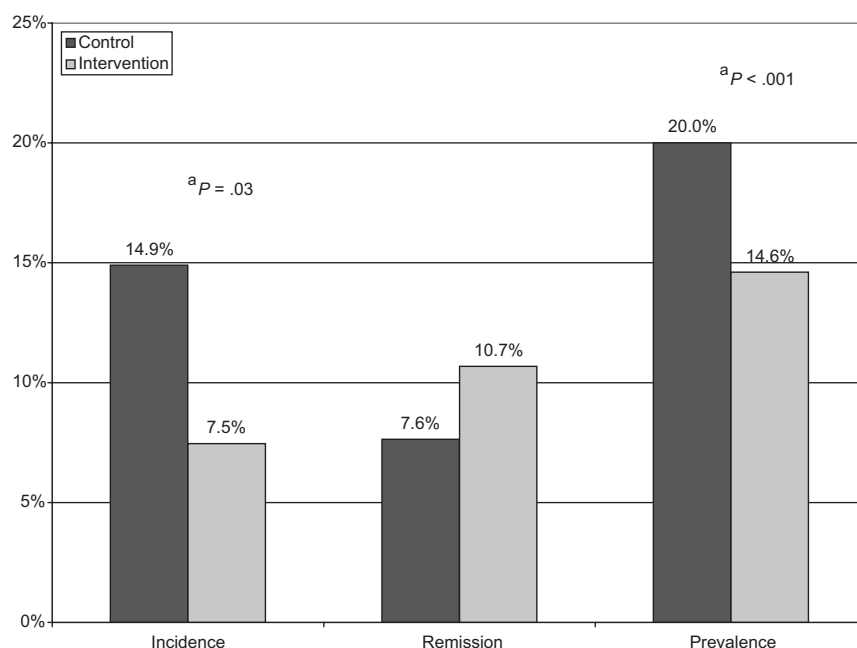
Secondary Outcomes

Prevalence of Overweight and Obesity

After 2 years, the unadjusted prevalence of overweight had decreased by 10.3% in intervention schools and had increased by 25.9% in control schools. After controlling for gender, race/ethnicity, age, and baseline prevalence, the predicted odds of overweight prevalence were 35% lower for the intervention group (OR: 0.65; 95% CI: 0.54 to 0.79; $P < .0001$). In addition to the main effect of the intervention, the intervention's effect on the prevalence of overweight was particularly effective for black students (OR: 0.59; 95% CI: 0.38 to 0.92; $P < .05$). Thus, after controlling for gender, age, and baseline prevalence, treated black students in the intervention schools were 41% less likely to be overweight than those in the control schools after 2 years. By contrast, there were no interaction effects between the intervention and gender or age on the prevalence of overweight. After 2 years, there were no differences between intervention and control schools in the prevalence of obesity (see Table 2 and Fig 1). After collapsing the overweight and obese

FIGURE 1

Unadjusted incidence, remission, and prevalence of overweight (85.0th–94.9th percentiles) at 2 years. ^a Statistically significant differences between the intervention and control schools after controlling for race/ethnicity, gender, age, and baseline prevalence for the prevalence outcome.



weight categories (≥ 85 th percentile), there was no statistically significant difference between the intervention and control schools in the prevalence of overweight or obesity ($P = .07$).

Remission of Overweight and Obesity

After 2 years, there were no differences between intervention (10.7%) and control (7.6%) schools ($P = .40$) with respect to the remission of overweight. Similarly, there were no differences between intervention (10.9%) and control (14.0%) schools ($P = .50$) in the remission rates of obesity (see Table 2). After collapsing the overweight and obese weight categories (≥ 85 th percentile), the predicted odds of remission of overweight or obesity were $\sim 32\%$ higher for the intervention group (OR: 1.32; 95% CI: 1.09 to 1.60; $P < .01$).

Independent of any intervention effect, there was a main effect of age for the prevalence (OR: 0.73; 95% CI: 0.56 to 0.94; $P < .05$), the incidence (OR: 0.73; 95% CI: 0.54 to 0.99; $P < .05$), and the remission (OR: 1.46; 95% CI: 1.07 to 1.99; $P < .05$) of obesity over 2 years. Thus, older children were less likely to be obese or become obese and more likely to remit after 2 years. There were no main effects for the prevalence, incidence, and remission of overweight. There were no differences between groups with respect to changes in BMI ($P = .71$) or BMI z score ($P = .80$).

Dietary Intake and Physical Activity

Students in both intervention and control schools showed similar decreases in self-reported consumption of energy, fat, and fruits and vegetable over 2 years (Table 3). Decreases in self-reported amounts of physical activity were reported by students at intervention and control schools, also with no differences between the 2 groups.

Sedentary Behavior

After 2 years, the unadjusted hours of total inactivity increased by $\sim 3\%$ in the control group and decreased by $\sim 9\%$ in the intervention group. After controlling for gender, race/ethnicity, age, and baseline inactivity, inactivity was 4% lower in the intervention group than in the control group (OR: 0.96; 95% CI: 0.94 to 0.99; $P < .01$) after 2 years. There were no interaction effects between the intervention and race/ethnicity, gender, or age on the level of inactivity.

Similarly, after 2 years, unadjusted weekday television watching increased by $\sim 7.5\%$ in the control group and decreased by $\sim 1\%$ in the intervention group. After controlling for gender, race/ethnicity, age, and baseline television viewing, weekday television watching was 5% lower in the intervention group than in the control group (OR: 0.95; 95% CI: 0.93 to 0.97; $P < .0001$) after 2 years. There were no interaction effects between the intervention and race/ethnicity, gender, or age on television watching.

Potential Adverse Effects

The intervention showed no evidence of an adverse impact with respect to a worsening body image or changes in the incidence, remission, and prevalence of underweight. Both groups showed comparable, minimal changes on the EDI-2 body dissatisfaction subscale (see Table 3). Similarly, at year 2, the same numbers of children were underweight (0.63%, 2.20%) and moved from normal weight to underweight (1.50%, 2.90%) between the intervention and control groups, respectively. Moreover, the same number of children moved from underweight to normal weight (40.00%, 38.50%) for the intervention and control schools, respectively.

TABLE 3 Secondary Outcomes at 2 Years

Measure	Sample, <i>n</i>	Baseline ^a	Follow-up ^a	Unadjusted Change	Adjusted Difference (95% CI) ^b	<i>P</i>
BMI						
Control	364	20.76	22.86	2.10	−0.04 (−0.27–0.19)	.71
Intervention	479	21.07	23.06	1.99		
BMI <i>z</i> score						
Control	364	0.66	0.76	0.10	−0.01 (−0.08–0.06)	.80
Intervention	479	0.73	0.80	0.07		
Total energy, kJ/d						
Control	331	12900.59	10154.13	−2764.46	−104.27 (−234.28–25.73)	.12
Intervention	437	13764.37	10019.10	−3745.26		
Total fat, g/d						
Control	332	109.63	83.88	−25.75	−3.78 (−8.59–1.02)	.12
Intervention	437	116.68	82.63	−34.05		
Fruits and vegetables, <i>n</i> per day						
Control	333	5.33	4.28	−1.05	−0.04 (−0.37–0.30)	.82
Intervention	441	5.26	4.17	−1.09		
Total activity, h/wk						
Control	335	25.17	20.62	−4.55	0.30 (−0.40–1.00)	.40
Intervention	416	25.03	21.28	−3.75		
Body dissatisfaction (raw)						
Control	323	8.98	9.53	0.55	−0.14 (−0.73–0.45)	.64
Intervention	421	8.87	9.20	0.33		
Count variables ^c						
Total inactivity, h/wk						
Control	210	105.45	108.93	3.48	1.00	
Intervention	269	115.21	104.42	−10.79	0.96 (0.94–0.99)	.005
Total television, hours per weekday						
Control	315	2.81	3.02	0.21	1.00	
Intervention	390	2.92	2.89	−0.03	0.95 (0.93–0.98)	<.001
Total television, hours per weekend						
Control	300	3.41	3.32	−0.09	1.00	
Intervention	372	3.28	3.26	−0.02	0.97 (0.89–1.05)	.39

N = 844.^a Data are unadjusted means.^b Differences between the intervention and control groups were adjusted for race/ethnicity, gender, age, randomization pair, weight status at baseline, and baseline measures of the dependent variable.^c Count variables were modeled as Poisson distributions with adjusted change interpreted as ORs.

DISCUSSION

These data demonstrate that implementation of the multicomponent SNPI was associated with a substantial (~50%) and statistically significant decrease in the incidence of overweight. Compared with the 15% of children who became overweight in control schools, only 7.5% became overweight in intervention schools. Although a 50.0% reduction in incidence is impressive, the 7.5% increase over 2 years suggests that stronger or additional interventions are needed. These may include environments that are within schools (eg, physical education classes or more aggressive nutrition policies) or more proximal to schools (eg, local corner stores or after-school feeding programs). The intervention also had positive effects on the overall prevalence of overweight. Among intervention schools, prevalence decreased by 10.3% compared with a 25.9% increase in control schools. The intervention was even more effective for reducing the prevalence of overweight among black students. Treated black students were 41% less likely than nontreated black children to be overweight after 2 years compared with 35% less likely in the entire group. This is important to note given the increased

prevalence of overweight among black children.¹¹ The intervention effect on overweight may have been mediated by changes in sedentary behavior. Other effective school-based interventions have found similar results,^{4,5} suggesting that decreasing sedentary behavior may be a fruitful target. The self-reported nature of our activity data, however, makes this conclusion less certain.

In contrast to the effect on overweight, the intervention had no effect at the upper end of the BMI distribution, that is, on the incidence, prevalence, or remission of obesity. Progression to or remission from ≥95th percentile may be more likely to result from targeted and/or clinic-based programs than from untargeted approaches, such as the SNPI. The lack of an effect on BMI *z* score was not surprising. A reduction in BMI *z* score is not desired among those in the normal or underweight categories who composed ~60% of the sample at baseline. BMI *z* score is probably a more appropriate metric to use in clinic-based studies of those who are already overweight or obese.

There is some concern that school-wide obesity prevention programs may heighten body image concerns among youth and/or create more underweight children.

Neither of these concerns was supported by our data. There were no differences between intervention and control groups in body image dissatisfaction or in the incidence, prevalence, or remission of underweight. Although the purpose of the intervention was the primary prevention of overweight and obesity, the emphasis was on eating well and moving more rather than weight control. This emphasis may have mitigated any potential adverse effects.

The use of self-reported measures of diet and physical activity makes any conclusions about mediators of the intervention effect tenuous. For example, it is unlikely that differences in energy intake had no role in mediating the intervention effects, but there were no group differences in self-reported energy intake. Children reported decreases of 2520 to 3780 kJ per day (600–900 kcal per day) raising questions about the validity of the self-reported intake data. Future studies would be improved by using accelerometry or doubly labeled water to more effectively look at mechanisms. Future studies would also be improved by a large number of schools and measures in addition to BMI (eg, waist circumference, glucose, and insulin).^{27,28}

Despite the randomized nature of the study, our sample of 10 schools limited our ability to create identically equivalent groups. Although the groups only differed with respect to race/ethnicity, which was included in all of the statistical models, it is possible that the intervention and control schools differed on unmeasured characteristics that were related to our outcome. To ensure more complete randomization, future studies should consider either increasing the number of schools or matching schools on additional variables (eg, race/ethnicity).

CONCLUSIONS

In conclusion, our data suggest that a multicomponent school-based intervention can be effective in curbing the development of overweight among children in grades 4 through 6. It is of note that the intervention was implemented in urban public schools with a high proportion of children eligible for free and reduced-priced school meals. A troubling observation within these data are that, in the absence of any intervention (ie, control schools), 15% of the children who were not overweight in grades 4 to 6 became overweight over the next 2 years. Among those who were not obese, 6% became obese within 2 years. This secular trend has significant public health implications. According to the 2000 census, there are 20 528 072 children aged 10 to 14 years, which is the age range of this study. According to our incidence findings, ~ 3 million ($0.149 \times 20\,528\,072 = 3\,058\,683$) children will become overweight, and ~ 1.3 million ($0.0639 \times 20\,528\,072 = 1\,311\,744$) will become obese over 2 years. Given that there was still a 7% incidence of new cases of overweight even in the intervention schools, there is much room for improvement in the effect, dose, and range of interventions. Future directions might include a focus on other aspects of the school environment (eg, physical education classes) or on environments beyond the school (eg, corner stores

and homes). Finally, given the already high prevalence of children above the 85th percentile in grades 4 through 6 (41.7%), prevention programs should begin earlier than fourth grade.

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Albemarle County Food Audit

Community Food Systems

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May 7, 2010

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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>

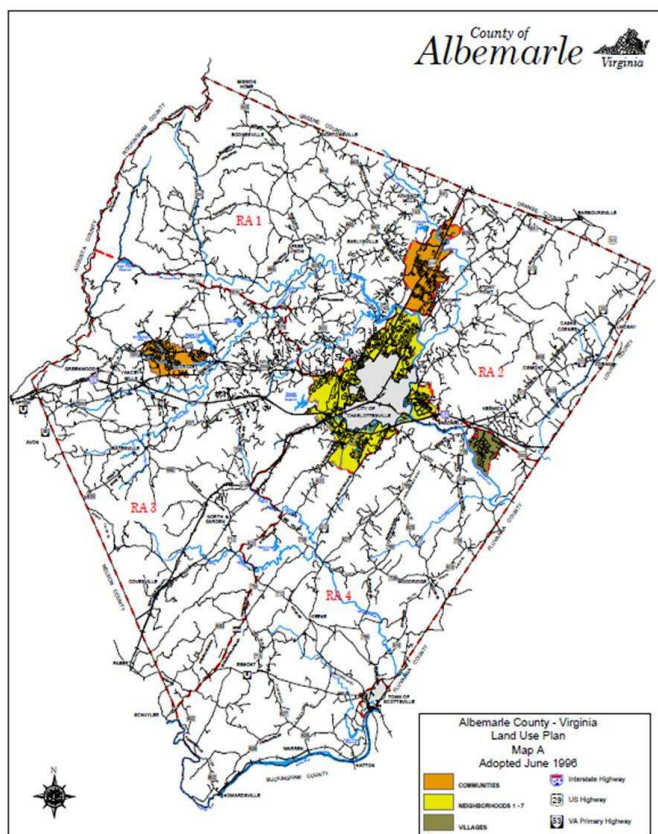
¹³ "DRAFT Strategic Plan 2009-2012." (2008). Boulder County Food and Agriculture Policy Council. Retrieved from www.bouldercounty.org/openspace/advisory/adv2009_pdfs/FAPC_Strategic_Plan.pdf

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

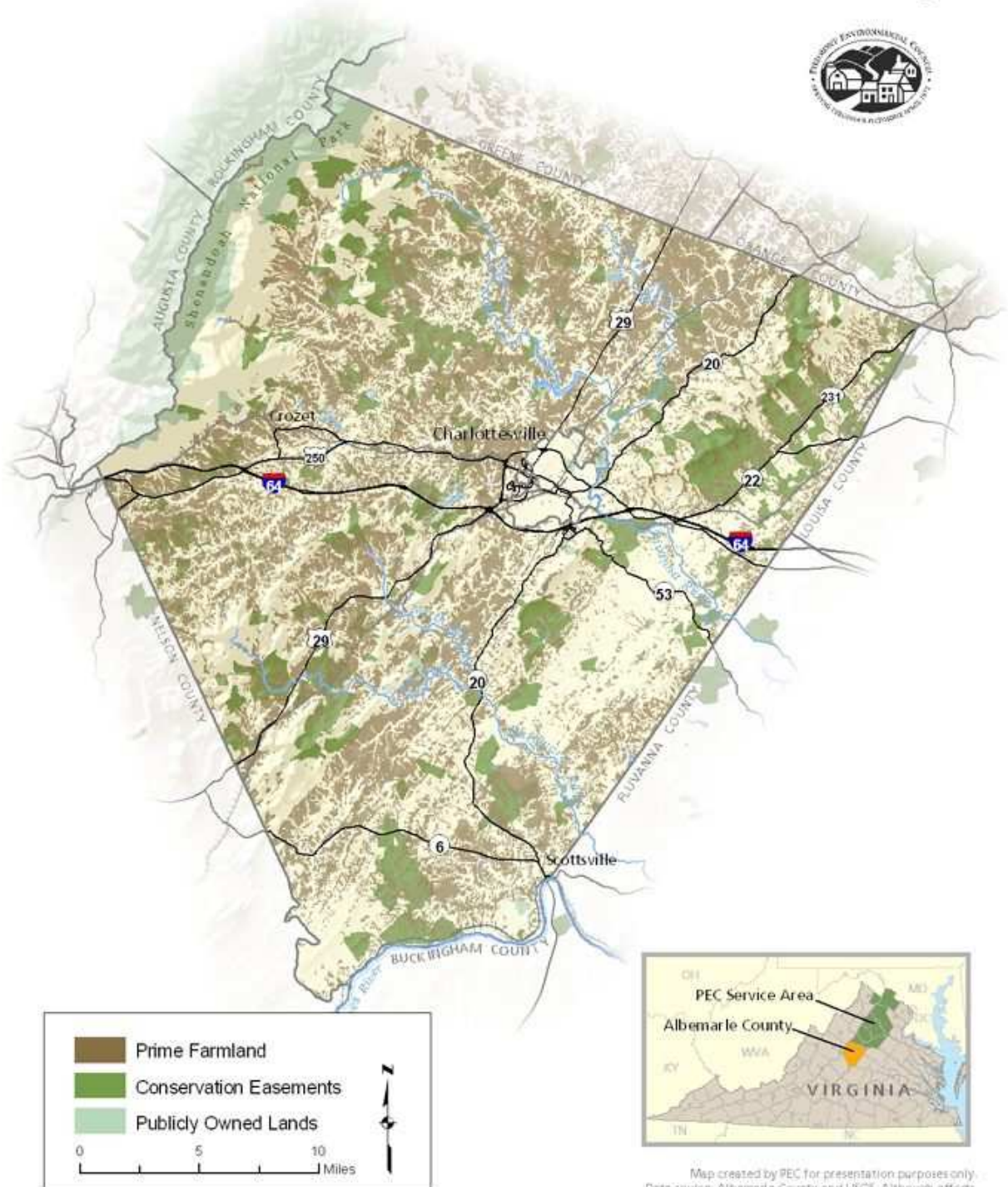
¹⁶ “Learning Gardens Laboratory.” (2010). Portland State University’s Graduate School in Educational Leadership and Policy. Retrieved from www.pdx.edu/elp/learning-gardens-laboratory

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

-
- 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

- 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/forestal 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/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

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PLAC 5850 Community Food System Policies
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May 7, 2010

Charlottesville Community Food System

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Overview of Project

Community food systems are essential to any thriving community because they affect the public health of residents, aid in economic development and growth, have immense environmental benefits; and if implemented in policy, community food systems can work toward bringing about social equity. The goal of this project is to identify various community food systems in Charlottesville, evaluate them, and eventually create a policy audit that will illustrate both the areas of success and areas in need of improvement in working toward a more sustainable community.

Through our audit, we examined five main points of interest in relationship to community food systems. First, we looked at public health and how a community food system can reduce and prevent obesity and chronic illnesses such as diabetes. We then explored the benefits of

sustainable food solutions in relationship to economics, primarily how an efficient food system can help support small, local farms. Our third main topic of discussion was the environmental benefits of providing fresh food in communities, and our fourth topic conveys the importance of a regional community food system's potential impact on social equity. Finally, we established a connection between a regional food system and land conservation, and protection of farm land.

Charlottesville, Virginia is located in the southwestern portion of Virginia, 70 miles west of Richmond, Virginia. Founded in 1762, Charlottesville has a population of approximately 41,487 individuals and has an area of 10.3 square miles (US Census Bureau). The racial demographics are as follows: 72.7 percent of Charlottesville residents are White; 20.6 percent are Black; 4.4 percent are Asian; and 3.5 percent are Hispanic or Latino origin, according to the U.S. Census Bureau.

Regarding household income, the median household income is 31,007 dollars in Charlottesville compared to 46,667 dollars in the state of Virginia. The percentage of persons below poverty is striking. Roughly one-fourth – 23.6 percent – of Charlottesville's population is below the Federal Poverty Level, according to the Census Bureau. In Virginia only ten percent of the population is below the Federal Poverty Level. In terms of age demographics, 17.0 percent of Charlottesville's population is under the age of eighteen; approximately 3,900 of which are enrolled in the Charlottesville Public School system (US Census Bureau, Charlottesville City Schools). These Charlottesville statistics are relevant to the following examination of the local food system as it pertains to Charlottesville families, policy, and schools.

Concerning Charlottesville City Schools, six elementary schools, an upper elementary, a middle school, and a high school exist. These schools provide an important setting for opportunities to promote healthy activity relating to food. In fact, three elementary schools

including Clark, Jackson-Via, and Johnson currently receive federal grant funding under the USDA Fresh Fruits and Vegetables and Snack Program (FFVP), and Greenbrier Elementary received FFVP funding in 2008 (Charlottesville City Schools). Charlottesville City Schools have a School Wellness Plan and School Strategic Plan that reflect concerns for public health initiatives concerning the local food system.

In the Charlottesville community, a plethora of local groups relating to food generate activity to promote a sustainable, healthy local food system. The grassroots organizations with food initiatives include but are not limited to the following groups: the Community Obesity Task Force (COTF), Local Food Hub, Quality Community Council (QCC) Farms, the Charlottesville Market, the Jefferson Area Board of Aging (JABA), Monticello Area Community Action Agency (MACAA), the Haven, and many more. Thus, the City of Charlottesville provides an environment ripe for the community to come together around the local food system.

Charlottesville Food Policy Audit Methodology

Research Method

Numerous policy documents and critical resources were examined in order to determine what direct and indirect actions Charlottesville is taking to create a sustainable food system for the community. The documents researched ranged from the local comprehensive plan, zoning ordinances, school district documents, and other programming. Each policy was assessed as part of our Charlottesville Food Policy Audit to provide an asset-based framework upon which community members might improve. By means of the Food Policy Audit process, we highlighted existing sustainable food system goals in Charlottesville and identify gaps for future endeavors.

The purpose of the City of Charlottesville 2007 Comprehensive Plan is to provide guidelines and goals for future citywide and neighborhood development. This most recent draft is an updated version of the 2001 Comprehensive Plan which outlined development objectives for the next twenty-five years in Charlottesville. The 2007 Comprehensive Plan focuses on outlining citizen and government-based concerns regarding housing, transportation, economic infrastructure, natural resources, historic features, and local cultural character and implementing local policy objectives and tools to maintain effective administrative relationships and compliance with state guidelines. The recommendations of the Comprehensive Plan provide long-and short-term guidance for developmental strategies for the next twenty years in Charlottesville. CoCo studied the Comprehensive Plan to find language included in the Food Policy Audit.

Following the adoption of the 2001 Comprehensive Plan, a revised zoning ordinance reflecting the objectives of the 2001 Comprehensive Plan was adopted. The zoning ordinance is continuously amended through an approval process in order to provide for innovative future development. Independent city ordinances provide for issue specific guidelines to protect the interests of the local government and citizens. Moreover, Virginia State and the Thomas Jefferson Planning District Commission policy documents promote sustainable solutions and provide guidance for state and regional planning issues such as fostering a healthy community food system. Lauren read the zoning ordinances and other independent ordinances, extracting relevant information to complete the Food Policy Audit.

Additionally, other local documents such as School District Strategic Plans and School Programming and Wellness Policies provided additional city level policy language and implementation tools for the Food Policy Audit. Janie examined the local school programs and

policy documents to find relevant information for the Food Policy Audit. Moreover, all team members focused on finding and researching other plans/strategies/programs as they are pertinent to a certain topic or subject matter such as City programs included on their website, initiatives by local schools, and local community group programs reflecting areas covered in the Food Policy Audit.

Community Engagement Method

Policy should be developed with input from the people it is meant to serve and should advance and sustain the human and natural resources of Charlottesville. The purpose of community engagement with the City of Charlottesville was to obtain community feedback for our team's food systems policy audit and gain community ideas for what policies or changes our audit suggests. Food and food production affect individuals and communities in drastic ways; the production and consumption of food affects our health, individually and collectively, the quality of our environment, and the strength of our local and regional economies. Having a safe and secure food production and distribution system is an essential kind of local infrastructure; thus, the community's input shall be crucial to the proper functioning of an effective food system.

Community food security can be defined as all community residents attaining a culturally acceptable, nutritionally dense diet through a sustainable food system that maximizes community self-organization and social equity. In order to design recommendations for community food security in Charlottesville, it was of utmost importance to take a community-based approach so to take advantage of and be sensitive toward networks of people within the community that are helping to ensure that everyone has access to nutritional diets and that resources are safeguarded for present and future generations.

We chose to not simply create our own proposals because top-down methods often stir and complicate existing problems. Knowing the needs and concerns of community members and institutions in Charlottesville in regard to their food systems provided us insight into issues of importance within the community, areas that require improvement, and how best to address insufficiencies in a sustainable and culturally sensitive manner. We envisioned community engagement as an operation of collaboration between our team and residents of Charlottesville and now, hope to provide opportunities not just to approach the food system but also a multitude of other issues that confront the community. We attempted to engage public participants by seeking guidance from participants in deciding how to provide participants with the information necessary to participate in meaningful ways, how to foster the involvement of those that may be potentially affected by or interested in a decision, and ultimately, how to invite and account for all involved community members at the public presentation of the final policy audit.

The City of Charlottesville group met with the following community members:

1. Mayor Dave Norris
2. Judy Berger, Community Nutrition Manager, JABA
3. Barbara Yager, Nutrition Program Coordination/Co-Chair at Thomas Jefferson Health District/COTF
4. Diane Behrens, Charlottesville School Administration/COTF
5. Karen Shepard, MACAA, Executive Director
6. Marnie Allen, MACAA, Hope House Director
7. Anita Shelton, Head Start Nutritionist
8. Karen Waters, QCC, Executive Director
9. Susan Pleiss, QCC Farms! Programming & Outreach Coordinator

The community members were asked the following questions:

1. Do you have any questions about our findings or method?
2. Were there any surprises of learning from our research?
3. Are there other policies, programs, or activities that should be reflected in the audit, as a way of reflecting what is happening in Charlottesville? Where else should we look?
Who else should we contact?
4. If you could choose, or had to choose, what would be your top four or five priorities for policies that you would like Charlottesville to pursue?

Research Concerns and Limitations

Throughout the project there were many concerns and limitations that required critical thinking and collaborative team work within our group to accomplish the goal of creating a comprehensive food policy audit for Charlottesville. After deciding who we were going to interview, the challenge became creating a schedule for our team as well as incorporating the community members' schedules. Because of scheduling issues, we were unable to interview and speak with every stakeholder that we found important to our process. Through the meetings we were able to have with community members, however, we were given suggestions of additional people to contact - many of whom we may not have thought to contact earlier. For instance, during our meeting with MACAA, we were joined by a Head Start nutritionist who was not aware of our meeting, but happened to be in the building and available to speak with us at that time. Being flexible and open minded was most important in conducting community partner interviews.

Another limitation to the project was the advanced and complex electronic format of the audit, specifically the excel spreadsheet. Many of the community partners and stakeholders we

were able to meet with work for non-profit organizations in the area. In that vein, most of the partner nonprofit organizations we met with did not have state of the art technology and computers due to their resources being invested in other projects or office supplies. That being said, a few of our community members were unable to open or download the audit on their computer, or read it until we brought them a hard copy the day of a meeting. Although they were still able to read the audit quickly before our meeting, as students with constant access to state of the art technology, we did not think about the technological barriers that our community partners might face in their offices or headquarters.

The Audit Summary

Public Health

During the audit process, including research and community engagement, several strengths, challenges, and opportunities were revealed in regards to public health. In terms of strengths, many grassroots efforts related to public health are led by the following organizations: COTF, the Local Food Hub, the Alliance for Community Choice in Transportation (ACCT), QCC Farms!, JABA, MACAA, and many more. COTF exemplifies interdisciplinary community action around health. According to Barbara Yager, the Nutrition Program Coordination Co-Chair at the Thomas Jefferson Health District and representative of COTF, the organization is a large, umbrella task force whose mission is to plan and target funding for health related initiatives in the area. Therefore, the overarching organization is extremely influential in regards to community activity relating to public health.

Other community strengths relating to public health and food include the School Strategic Plan and School Wellness Policy, which both express concern for promoting healthy eating and physical activity in schools. An explicit objective of the School Strategic Plan is to advance

student health and wellbeing through research-based health, physical education and nutrition, school safety and prevention programs and activities. Moreover, the Strategic Plan states, “The United States faces a crisis of obesity among its youth. Our schools must be part of the solution, not part of the problem. We must not only teach students how to stay health and fit, but also help them achieve this goal” (35).

The School Wellness Policy includes a set of objectives and recommendations concerning creating a healthy school environment for Charlottesville students. One example of how the School Wellness Policy incorporates food includes the following statement: “All foods and beverages made available on campus before, during, and after the school day will be consistent with the current Dietary Guidelines for Americans,” which provides evidence-based nutrition guidelines. Thus, the school programming and policy documents provide evidence for community activity to promote healthy school environments.

Furthermore, the Charlottesville City School District includes eight of nine schools that have been recognized in the Governor’s Score Card circle of winners, which requires an integrated school team approach. The Governor’s Score Card evaluates each school’s contribution and successes to creating healthy school environments, including initiatives towards creating sustainable local and organic food systems within the schools. Thus, schools offer opportunities for increasing healthy food initiatives.

Numerous community gardens that promote healthy eating exist in Charlottesville. One example of community garden efforts includes QCC Farms!. QCC Farms! is a citizen-driven initiative that directly involved community members such as low-income families to participate in the operation of the community gardens. The goals of QCC Farms! include the following: to improve the physical health of vulnerable populations in the area; enhance the environmental

health of the community; strengthen the mental health and social capital of the community; and advance the economic health of the community through education, job opportunities, and lower pricing for healthy, fresh foods.

Although a variety of strengths exist concerning public health and food in Charlottesville, a number of challenges to sustaining a healthy local food system are present in the community. First and foremost, despite the vast number of local organizations that work to promote public health in Charlottesville, there is limited coordination among the grassroots groups. Several community members emphasized the absence of strong unity among the efforts and reality of separate endeavors to achieve similar goals. Additionally, the most recent 2007 Comprehensive Plan does not provide a detailed discussion of public health. The important planning document includes transportation objectives relating to the advancement of multimodal options for community members. Nonetheless, the Comprehensive Plan's goal to make Charlottesville the "healthiest city" in the United States is not satisfied with included planning recommendations (203).

Moreover, incomplete education programs surrounding the preparation and growing of healthy, fresh food exist in the community. There are no programs to educate cafeteria workers to prepare nutritious foods and no sustainable health education programs for public school students compared to standards of learning required courses. Also, the Charlottesville-Albemarle County Technical Education Center (CATEC) does not provide farming training for students. Finally, the price and accessibility of healthy food options also presents a challenge for Charlottesville community members.

In spite of several challenges in the community, the significant amount and diversity of strengths provide opportunities for progress in terms of public health and the local food system.

The community members offered examples of several opportunities for improvement. For example, the school environment is an important setting for activity. Increasing physical activity and nutrition education requirements for all students is crucial to create healthier students. Moreover, a Nutrition Advisory Board run by students could be a unique way to generate student-led discussion, recommendations, and action surrounding healthy eating in schools.

In regards to policy, revising the Comprehensive Plan to include a food section offers an opportunity to derive policy from extensive grassroots efforts. In fact, communication surrounding the inclusion of food in the next Comprehensive Plan ought to prompt community fusion around advancing the local food system. Finally, the Charlottesville Farmers' Market will introduce EBT/SNAP machines in the near future, and the Farm to School Program in Charlottesville is in its infancy. Therefore, the challenges associated with the accessibility of fresh, nutritious foods for vulnerable populations such as children, the elderly, and low-income individuals will be lifted to some degree.

Thus, according to policy and programming research and numerous conversations with community members, Charlottesville's public health activism involves the efforts of numerous community-based organizations that understand the importance of food to improve the health of the population. Establishing policy language that supports these efforts and increasing food education opportunities are critical for the sustainability of the local food system.

Economic Development

After completing our research and talking with various community members, it was clear that while there are many strengths in economic development in regards to promoting local and sustainable food systems, there are also many challenges and future opportunities for growth towards sustainable food for Charlottesville. A huge strength that Charlottesville has developed

over time is the positive reception and allegiance to the Farmers' Market. Additionally, the vacancies present on Main Street between the University of Virginia and the Downtown Mall could be zoned or could provide incentives for Green industry to move into the area.

Charlottesville is also home to many restaurants that, with incentives, could begin to afford supporting local farms and farmers. Moreover, economic development strengths exist within the school system. In particular, the School Programs and Wellness Policy states that the superintendent is authorized to develop and implement an efficient, nutritious, and locally grown effective food services system for students and employees of the school division.

One great challenge in regards to economic development in conjunction with food is the current economic conditions in the United States, and in the world. Just this year, there was a law proposed that did not pass in the General Assembly of Virginia that would have allowed for provisions for schools to purchase local food. At the time, legislators were concerned that it was a bad time to take on an expensive measure during such a low economic climate with more prolific statewide concerns. Another great challenge is the price of healthy food in Charlottesville. Although the Local Food Hub, which distributes food bought from local farmers and delivers the products to local organizations and restaurants, is growing, a potential challenge is the lack of institutional support by the City of Charlottesville for the program. The Local Food Hub is, however, financially backed by Nelson County.

Some of the biggest opportunities for economic development in regards to local food are incentives, primarily tax incentives. In order to generate local food economic development, it is imperative that there are incentives for retailers to buy local produce, and incentives for businesses to use locally produced food. One community member suggested a huge opportunity for economic development in Charlottesville will be the planned renovations for the Jefferson

School. The renovations include a community kitchen and incubator for students, community members and farmers. This location, in the heart of Charlottesville, will hopefully prove to be accessible and profitable in the search for local food sustainability in Charlottesville. As mentioned before, finding a permanent location for the Farmers' Market also came up as an economic development initiative because a permanent location for such activity might attract other green infrastructure into the area.

Environmental Benefits

Throughout our research and meetings with community partners, it was apparent that there were multifaceted strengths, challenges and opportunities present in Charlottesville in regards to food policy and environmental benefits. For strengths, Charlottesville has many initiatives toward turning the city into a more environmentally friendly place. In particular, the City of Charlottesville has a statement regarding Food Miles, which is the distance between where food is grown to the plate of consumption, in its Green City Strategy. Through this statement, the City Council announces its support of local food and farmers' markets in the area. The zoning ordinance also stresses environmental consciousness and calls for measures to be taken within the city limits to reduce the environmental footprint in order to protect the health, safety, and welfare of the citizens of the city, especially in regards to water within the city.

Charlottesville City Schools' commitment to enhance the environment in the area is another of the locality's strengths. Specifically, the Charlottesville School Programs and Wellness Policy's "Going Green Initiatives" includes many programs to reduce the environmental stresses of school cafeterias, such as reducing the number of disposable trays used in the cafeteria by leasing two new dish washing machines from Ecolab. Ecolab's compact and

solid ware-washing method minimizes storage, waste, and the impact of cafeteria supplies to our environment.

Although there are numerous strengths in Charlottesville relating to making the city a more environmentally friendly place, there are various challenges that make working towards a sustainable food system difficult. One in particular, which is common across the board, is the lack of coordination among the numerous non-profits working around land conservation in Charlottesville. There are many organizations in place that are involved with historic preservation, and land conservation, however they have yet to unite together to promote environmental benefits in regards to food systems. Another barrier is the lack of related language in the zoning ordinance. Within the zoning ordinance, there is no language that supports non-point source pollution from agriculture. While there is mention of buffers along stream banks to reduce pollution in the Comprehensive Plan, this language does not reference farmland buffers.

The opportunities present in Charlottesville moving forward towards environmental benefits are quite remarkable. One opportunity in particular is composting. Charlottesville is home to many restaurants and households that could benefit from composting waste, which would also help in greening the city. Although the Charlottesville Comprehensive Plan does not mention composting, the Charlottesville City Council's Green City statement includes a guide to composting and step-by-step instructions on how to compost from home. There is also an opportunity in Charlottesville to create a map of land that can be foraged for food.

In conversations with a community leader, he also stressed the importance of finding a permanent location for the Farmers' Market. This could eventually benefit the environment because depending on the location, there may be an opportunity for a community garden in the vicinity or foraging on or around the property. With a permanent location, the City of

Charlottesville may also be able to cut down on the use or need for cars to access the Farmers' Market through transportation planning. A final opportunity is the program being established by JABA that would create a larger gleaning project. Currently, JABA gleans after the Farmers' Market, and could expand this process at other places in Charlottesville. Thus, there is a potential to build upon what currently exists and improve environmentally friendly activities and efforts in Charlottesville.

Social Equity

In regard to social equity in Charlottesville's community food system, there are strengths, opportunities, and challenges. These notable points that relate to social equity in the Charlottesville locality are worth of exploring in greater detail. Some highlights include the following: transportation for access to markets that sell healthful foods, support for grocers providing fresh and local foods in underserved locations, a strong emergency food infrastructure, and support for equitable working conditions for food related labor, and the promotion of community involvement and ownership in its local food system.

In terms of increasing transportation options for underserved communities to access markets that sell fresh and healthy foods, Charlottesville has made progress in research but has opportunities to improve its means of transportation in practice. The Comprehensive Plan cited a transportation study that was conducted called the Charlottesville Transit Improvement Study and Transit Development Plan (106). The study investigated income levels of riders, patterns, and routes. However, in all documents investigated, there was no mention of transportation – bus service, taxi, or ride share – available during the day and evening in rural as well as urban areas. Furthermore, safe biking and walking paths to food sources were not mentioned. In fact, the documented language surrounding transportation is not destination-based.

To support the position of grocers providing healthy, local foods in diverse and underserved locations, Charlottesville – in its City databases – does not recognize the need for low income, immigrant and migrant populations to have access to fresh, healthful foods. In this vein, there are no tax credits for opening food stores in particular locations, and no regulatory incentives nor predevelopment assistance to developers for grocery stores.

For increasing the availability of fresh and healthful foods for underserved communities, an EBT machine for food stamps is coming to the Farmers' Market mid-late April. Previously, there was a currency project, "Farmers' Market Bucks," providing money to low-income families for use at the Farmers' Market. Farmers were reimbursed for these "bucks." With the introduction of the EBT machine, however, the Wholesome Wave Foundation will offer a dollar-to-dollar match through the first year of the machine's operation. In addition, the Zoning Ordinance stipulates that Charlottesville protects farm stands and carts in its zoning regulations. Thus, the availability of fresh and healthful foods for underserved communities is a source of strength and opportunity for Charlottesville.

In order to support an effective emergency food infrastructure, there is practically no mention of a right to food security. In its eighth point, however, the Wellness Policy for Charlottesville City Schools asserts, "The Division will promote and adhere to food safety and food security for all students." The Thomas Jefferson Area United Way offers a "Quick Guide to Family Resources" that includes a Food Resources section listing emergency food providers in the locality. In addition, one community partner referenced a "Central Plan for Emergency Food Providers." A recurring theme from our findings, however, proved that there was no support for coordination and cooperation between agencies.

The only mention of supporting equitable working conditions for farm labor may be found in the Zoning Ordinance's specification for a living wage. In the Zoning Ordinance there is a living wage portion that requires,

Every city contract for the provision of non-professional services, awarded after a process of competitive sealed bidding, shall require that the contractor pay each employee assigned to perform services under the contract, while such employee is performing such services on property owned or controlled by the city, a wage no less than the lowest hourly wage paid by the city to its own employees.

Nevertheless, there is no provision of access to fresh, healthful food for those who produce it, training for farm labor that is comfortable and culturally accessible, adequate protection from pesticides for laborers, no available ombudsman for farm workers and, finally, no mention of housing opportunities for migrant workers.

Charlottesville has taken strides to promote community involvement and ownership in its local food system. To involve the community in the organization of food opportunities, community gardens such as the Haven and QCC Farms! offer opportunities for community members, particularly for low-wealth community members, to participate in the organization of the local food system. In effect, QCC Farms! is a citizen-driven initiative that directly involves community members in its operation. Point 3.1.1 of the School Strategic Plan proposes goals to "Engage community members in public conversations to build consensus and a common sense of purpose regarding what the community values and what the community expects from the schools" (45); however, these values do not include clear food or food related topics. Moreover, there is no evidence in official Charlottesville documents or in our community conversations of

culturally appropriate fresh foods, support for diverse, local, traditional – and fresh – food practices.

In conclusion, Charlottesville has many points of light regarding its social equity, as well as many opportunities for improvement. QCC Farms! is one example of many efforts in Charlottesville to make healthy foods more easily and readily available. “QCC Farms! is an Urban Agricultural Project designed to engage low-wealth city residents in raising organically grown produce in underutilized green spaces, while providing nutritional and environmental education” (QCC website). Hopefully, the introduction of EBT machines to the Farmers’ Market and the Wholesome Wave Foundation’s dollar-to-dollar match the first year of the machine’s operation will increase low-income residents’ access to nutritionally dense foods. A challenge that Charlottesville must overcome, though, are the silos of nonprofit organizations that operate in isolation to fill the gaps of food policy in Charlottesville. If organizations could collaborate, together, then they could achieve tremendous progress to exponentially increase healthy, fresh, and local food availability, accessibility, production and distribution.

Land Conservation and Access to Land for Food Production

In regards to our findings for land conservation and access to land for food production, the strengths of Charlottesville are very promising. Already in the city, we have seen the creation of various community gardens, including a community garden planned for the Haven, which is a local day facility for Charlottesville's homeless population. There are also many accessible parks managed by Parks and Recreation that also provide community gardens and places for foraging.

Like all issues of public policy, there are challenges to entry in the area of land conservation and access to land in the city for food production. One in particular is the limited coordination among the numerous non-profits working around land conservation in

Charlottesville. Without effective communication and collaboration, it is very hard to introduce sustainable food system language into land conservation dialogue. Another barrier lies in the language in the Charlottesville Comprehensive Plan, which does not designate land for food production in particular, but does generally use the term "garden" as acceptable uses of land.

The opportunities for land conservation and access to land for food production in Charlottesville are endless. The opportunities that our community members highlighted, however, were specific and feasible for the near future. Because of a focus on density in Charlottesville to prevent sprawl, an opportunity lies in planning for green infrastructure that incorporates consideration for food production. Another opportunity in the realm of access to land for food production is the creation of a map of all prime agricultural land available in the City.

Analysis of Findings

The audit will serve as a useful tool for community members to understand the gaps and opportunities for change. Evaluating the existence and non-existence of food policy will be essential to deriving new policies and addressing present problems. The most surprising features of the community food policy project included the following: the large role that school district plans play in food policy; the imbalance between grassroots projects and policy language; and the lack of food language in Charlottesville's comprehensive plan.

During the food audit research, most references to food were found in school policies. Therefore, the role of the education system in terms of promoting a healthy food system is significant. Additionally, the Charlottesville community contains a plethora of food related organizations that promote a dynamic food system. However, these grassroots efforts do not reflect policy language. Despite the growing trend towards creating policy instruments to

strengthen food systems, Charlottesville's three-year-old comprehensive plan does not include a food section. Hopefully, this audit will support future conversations around food policy planning and the adoption of a food section in the next comprehensive plan.

In Charlottesville a common thread in our community dialogue was the need for a cohesive assembly supporting progressive food system programming and policy. Moreover, most of our community stakeholders emphasized the importance of education for students and older residents concerning nutrition, sustainable food options, and healthy lifestyles. Thus, it was surprising that even though a significant amount of food-related activity exists, without unified communication and an educated public, widespread progress is restricted.

Community engagement was crucial for the project's success. Without talking to a variety of community leaders and organizers, we would have been unaware of many community-level achievements. Many of the individuals with whom we met stressed the importance of bottom-up change. To change the game for Charlottesville residents, transparent communication must occur among all stakeholders. It was an unexpected result that there are few local leaders that undermine the importance of food. It is astonishing that influential community members and their respective organizations agree that food will provide a unique way to promote community-wide communication and synergistic change.

Summary of community feedback on the audit and specific suggestions for policies

Many of the community members and stakeholders we spoke to were very concerned with Charlottesville's local food system and had various policy suggestions in regards to education. One individual felt very strongly about institutionalizing community gardens for both consumption and education at all of the Charlottesville public schools. She conducted an audit of her own to find out which schools already had a garden and nutritional education elements in

their curriculum. She also commented that policy increasing the amount of years of physical education classes should be looked at critically, because Charlottesville High School only provides physical education classes through 10th grade. Another community partner also suggested increasing physical education in schools through policy, stating, "Kids who have recess and PE do better in schools, and it's harmful to take that away." She would like to see policy ensuring physical activity and nutrition are part of all school curriculums.

Moreover, one community member commented on food policy in Charlottesville to include educational opportunities for adults to learn how to buy and prepare fresh foods. She comments, "People buy foods that they know. If they have not been exposed to fresh fruits and vegetables, they do not have them in their home." A community leader agrees with this concern, and would like to see more education policy that includes education on how to prepare and grow healthier foods and overall live healthier. One community partner also commented that education, including adults, is key to changing food policy in Charlottesville, stating, "Farmers do not have enough laborers and policy might possibly support this issue. There are not programs at the technical or vocational schools of PVCC or CATEC to train students to farm."

Another collaborator also suggested including more education surrounding healthy food options and the food pyramid in our current education system to allow both children and adults to "taste health, fresh options and learn how to cook [healthy food]." A community contact also agrees that education on both food and how we dispose of our food are crucial to include in food and education policy. She states, "The children [in Head Start] are introduced to composting, but there is no larger education system about waste in place." A community leader agrees that food education is the first step in creating concrete policy for healthy food for our communities. He believes that our schools are the key to increasing the healthy food our children, teachers and

staff are eating, "one source of constant frustration," He comments, "has been that Charlottesville Schools do not do more to bring fresh food into the city schools because funding is a continued struggle."

During our survey of the community, we also received many policy suggestions regarding collaboration of food efforts in Charlottesville. One of the ways to begin working toward collaboration within food non-profit organizations and local, state, and national officials is to establish a food policy comprehensive plan for schools as well as adding food-specific language to the Comprehensive Plan in Charlottesville. One community partner states, "If we're talking about food, our Comprehensive Plan does not designate land for agriculture [in Charlottesville]," which is a goal she believes stakeholders in Charlottesville should be working towards. The Comprehensive Plan for Charlottesville, she discusses, does not mention the farmers' market at all, which would be a step in the right direction to enacting change in Charlottesville's food policy.

An additional collaborator also shares grievances that there are so many individual efforts to increase accessibility of healthy foods, so many silos of organizations, but no comprehensive efforts. One way in which he suggests combating these issues is through the creation of a Food Policy Council through the Thomas Jefferson Planning District Commission. Melissa Wiley of the Piedmont Environmental Council drafted this proposal and established the "Buy Fresh, Buy Local" campaign. The idea was to have a regional Food Policy Council to promote local and healthy foods in the Charlottesville area. This collaborator believes that the most effective way to make change, and alter policy, is to bring more cohesiveness to the local, sustainable, health foods movement, since policy must come from a vocal, united group, "they will speak louder with one voice," he comments.

Despite such positive feedback from community members, there were still challenges and concerns that our community members expressed, and policy suggestions that could help improve these areas. As far as education, one community contact felt strongly about creating a program where adults eat with older children, to serve as role models for healthy eating. She also felt a dire need for a nutrition advisory council to help improve food conditions and education about good because, accordingly to her, "education is the biggest hurdle." A final thought on the concerns and challenges of food policy in the realm of education is the lack of emphasis on food and nutrition in our school systems. She comments, "courses that are not English, Math, Science, and social studies take priority [through the SOL tests] even if kids are unhealthy."

Another challenge that was addressed was the cost of food in Charlottesville. Many of our community stakeholders suggested that policy aiding in the cost of food could help Charlottesville progress towards a more sustainable food system. Another individual asks, "You have a lot of farms with fruits and vegetables, you have cattle, and pigs, why is food so expensive here compared to other places?" She also suggested policy gearing towards getting "more dollar value in food stamps because the WIC program's coupons and percentages to be used towards fresh fruits and vegetables is very low, compared to other things."

Final Community Priorities

After meeting with various community members from governmental officials to nonprofit organizers, partners expressed their priorities for improving the Charlottesville community food system. More often than not, community partners relayed same, similar, or connected suggestions. The following community priorities were those that all food leaders in Charlottesville mentioned or evidenced as dire needs within their locality.

Almost all community partners reported the need for more educational spaces within city schools in order to intervene early and ingrain healthy habits in young students. In some capacity, each food leader explicitly expressed a desire to ensure that nutrition and physical activity become integral to educational curriculum. An example policy for school curriculum is the New Jersey Comprehensive Health Education and Physical Education Curriculum Framework, which is a “living” document whose vision is, “Wellness is the Art of Living,” and can be accessed: <http://www.state.nj.us/education/frameworks/chpe/>. In addition, community members were surprised by and, as a result, recommended that the City of Charlottesville should mention the goal to reduce obesity in the Charlottesville City School Wellness Plan. Therefore, the community, as represented by stakeholders and officials in authority to affect Charlottesville policies, prioritized nutrition, and physical education as well as healthier meals.

Quite relevant to the contemporary policy realm, many interested community contributors articulated gaps in the City of Charlottesville Comprehensive Plan. These stakeholders suggested that authors of the 2010 revisions for the Comprehensive Plan should include food-specific language, such as defining community gardens – their purpose and products – promoting local, fresh, and organic food, supporting transportation that is destination-based such that the City can assess transportation to markets, publishing sources for an emergency food source, and expressing the need for food security in Charlottesville. For instance, San Francisco’s Department of Public Health adopted a sustainable food policy on July 18, 2006. The policy language requires an increase in purchasing and provision of sustainable food and can be found at the following address for further scrutiny:

<http://www.sfdph.org/dph/files/hc/HCRes/Resolutions/2006Res/HCRes112006.pdf>.

Each community collaborator portrayed or evidenced the dire need to unify efforts. In Charlottesville, there are many nonprofit organizations working as “silos,” or in isolation, rather than cooperatives. If nonprofit organizations joined forces to improve Charlottesville’s community food system, together, they would accomplish remarkable progress to bridge gaps in Charlottesville’s food policy.

Not only is nutritionally dense nourishment hard to access, food in Charlottesville is expensive. Though the introduction of an EBT machine to the Farmers’ Market will make fresh, local food more accessible to low-wealth residents, community partners revealed the need to generate more dollar value in food stamps. One exemplary policy for an accessible and affordable City Market is Community Supported Agriculture Program that connecting farmers and New Yorkers (<http://www.justfood.org/about-us>). Just Food’s Community Supported Agriculture program is an alternative to the traditional farmers’ market, allowing residents to purchase farm shares from a regional farm. The payment structure supports the needs of low-income residents by providing flexible payment options, including: Food stamps, Revolving loans, Installment plans, Sliding-scale share fees, Scholarship shares, and Work shares.”

Likewise, a community leader pronounced a desire to create a permanent and accessible home for the City Market such that the Farmers’ Market might become more popularized as a weekly event. Culturally, farming is losing recognition as an honorable occupation. The Project for Public Spaces, Incorporated and Partners for Livable Communities prepared the document, “Public Markets as a Vehicle for Social Integration and Upward Mobility,” Phase I Report: An Overview of Existing Programs and Assessment Opportunities, for The Ford Foundation in September 2003 (http://www.pps.org/pdf/Ford_Report). The Strategic Alliance ENACT, a website constructed by the Prevention Institute, Oakland, California, includes many programs,

policies, and nonprofit organizations that are dedicated to creating and sustaining public spaces, such as public markets, that build communities.

(http://63.134.213.124/sa/testenact200910/enact/neighborhood/farmers_markets.php).

The Charlottesville-Albemarle, Virginia Vocational Programs, CATEC, does not include an agricultural track. There is, however, a culinary track. The current structure of programs does not inspire new farmers and should be changed so to generate professionals to the field of agriculture. Central Carolina Community College established a Sustainable Agriculture program in 2002, partnering with the North Carolina Cooperative Extension with input from the Carolina Farm Stewardship Association to design curriculum about better growing methods. The program takes a unique approach to courses in a variety of subjects with successful farmers as main instructors (<http://www.cccc.edu/curriculum/majors/sustainableagriculture/>).

In conclusion, community stakeholders from Charlottesville prioritized nutritional and physical education in city curriculum as well as the inclusion of a goal to reduce obesity in the Wellness Plan, the inclusion of food-specific language in the Comprehensive Plan, collaboration of nonprofit efforts, the generation of more dollar value for food stamps, creation of a permanent and accessible home for the Farmers' Market, and an establishment for an agricultural track for vocational programming.

Appendix

Relevant Information, Concerns, Priorities, and Suggestions Raised By Community Representatives in Meetings:

1. Meeting One:

Relevant Information:

- The Community Obesity Task Force is a large umbrella task force whose goal is to draft a plan and target funding.

- The Community Obesity Task Force has been raising awareness since 1999, working to plan, analyze and take ACTION. There are not, however, very good evaluation tools in place; nonetheless, people are DOING *something*.

- There are 7 Environments for the prevention of obesity that have been validated nationally.

- Childcare

- Types: regulated, unregulated, licensed/unlicensed

- Childcare services have never really embraced nutrition or physical activity.

- Schools

- Alicia Cost: Nutrition Coordinator

- Things needed:

- a. Vending Machine/Contract with Beverage Company: Does it have to meet a certain number of sales? Is there advertising for it?
 - b. Water fountains: How many? Who maintains?
 - c. Promotion of healthy foods and beverages?
 - d. School garden?

- School activity:

- a. Charlottesville data: Tanya Wancheck
 - b. Only report collective data: 3rd, 5th, 7th, 9th graders: height, weight, BMI

- Community

- Susan Pleiss – QCC gardens, ACCT

- Erica – City Parks and Recreation

- Angela Tucker – Neighborhood Association (Pedestrian & Bike Plan, sidewalks around schools, to libraries, to parks, etc.)

- Workplace

- Diane Whaley – Leadership, Foundations and Policy, Curry School

- Health Care

- Joyce Green Pastors

- Afterschool

- Rory Carpenter, working with housing projects in Westhaven

- Afterschool programs are school specific

- Government

- David Toscano – Delegate to the General Assembly

Suggestions:

- Barbara suggested the “ENACT tools” that incorporate community strategies and 2-4 page documents that include enumerated strategies and policies demonstrated in various localities.

2. Meeting Two:

Relevant Information:

- Clark Elementary and Jackson Via have introduced programs
- The School Health Advisory Board is an advisory group made up of parents, students, and staff that meet to determine how to support health and physical activity.
- There is a health curriculum that serves as a guide for pacing and standards
- Virginia Department of Health: requirements of the states can be found here. The state requirements are taken directly.
- Schools with community gardens were surveyed recently. It will be sent to us, ASAP.
- The Wellness Policy helped change some things.
- “Every school, all schools except Charlottesville High School (8 of 9), received either bronze silver or gold” (Governor’s Score Card).
- Charlottesville High School has tried and failed/lost points for physical activity and nutrition because “we don’t have P.E. for all students, only through 10th grade.” At least 30% boys and girls participate in extra curriculums. The student lunch program is through the USDA. There is a breakfast program (computerized). Charlottesville High School does okay on the food part. They have low fat milk and items; they are attempting to reduce the fat content, but most foods do not meet the requirements which are that there should be no more that thirty percent fat content and thirty-five percent sugar content.”
- Clark is preparing to improve.

Concerns:

- Adults do not eat with older children. The teachers could be serving as role models for healthy eating.
- There is no nutrition advisory council.
- “Education is the biggest hurdle”
- SOLs: Courses that are not English, math, science, and social studies do NOT take priority even if kids are unhealthy.

Priorities:

- Charlottesville High School could benefit from a nutrition advisory board run by students.
- Implementation of an education component after policy change is needed including hooks, promotion campaigns that target adults and children.
- Ensure that nutrition and physical activity is part of educational curriculum.
- Health education should be taught by P.E. teachers (required)
- Change what children eat at schools in order to change habits.

3. Meeting Three:

Suggestions

- Contact JABA who does a lot of meal delivery and is very involved in the local fresh foods program
- Research Kids Café, which is a program to feed children sponsored by Second Harvest
- Look at MACAA's Angel Food Program

Concerns:

- "Food is expensive here compared to Omaha, eggs and milk are so expensive here!"
- "That's surprising because there are farms here"
- "You have a lot of farms with fruits and vegetables, you have cattle, and pigs, why is food so expensive here compared to other places"
- "More dollar value in food stamps...." "The WIC program is coupons, and percentage for fresh fruits and vegetables is very low, compared to other things"
- "There is no good shopping in low income areas"
- "People buy the foods that they know. If they have not been exposed to fresh fruit and vegetables, they do not have them in their home"
- Farmers markets are not as accessible in low-income areas

Priorities:

- The price of healthy food should be lower in Charlottesville
- There needs to be more education surrounding healthy food options and the food pyramid. This education should include exposure to foods so that they may taste healthy, fresh options and learn how to cook them.
- There needs to be more farmers' markets in/near low-income neighborhoods/housing.

4. Meeting Four:

Relevant Information:

- Health Department will be working with the families at Hope House on doing cooking demonstrations, getting kids in the kitchens with the moms, and how families can improve their bond with each other (using fresh fruits and vegetables? One of the project's goals is to "increase the parent child bond through working in the kitchen together"
- At Charlottesville Produce, you can use EBT cards

Suggestions:

- Survey for the Blue Ridge Food Bank should be a document we look at
- “There is a program to replace junk food with healthy alternatives, all organic snacks (in Vermont),” and we should compare programs here to other programs in the US
- Talk to Emily Erwin: She is doing a program at Johnson, where they cook the food, and send the parents home with the food they cook, and give snacks to parents to take home (PB&J Fund)
- Research Montessori Mountain Top private school which has a green house; gardening is part of their curriculum.
- Contact Charlottesville Albemarle Cooperative Extensive (Stage Coach Road) and Janet Brock- children’s nutrition education, comes to several head start classrooms. She can go to any school with a certain percentage of free and reduced lunch to do education.
- Contact Fay Anderson, who is with the Cooperative Extension’s Parent Education (Super Pantry). She does to several of the Head Start centers and brings groceries from the Blue Ridge Area Food Bank for families to take home with them.
- Contact Alicia Cost to get in touch with the USDA about emergency food banks. They supply the foods. There is a big push to move to frozen foods, which are more nutritious. This change reflects new federal legislation.
- Contact Region Ten because they have a lot of programs involving food such as in group homes. A lot of people are served by Region Ten.
- Contact low income community members to get their opinions for a well-rounded pictures.

Concerns:

- “There is a huge divide.” (Regarding social equity relating to healthy food in Charlottesville)
- Limited physical activity in schools: “Kids who have recess and PE do better in schools, and its harmful to take that away.”

Priorities:

- Ensure that physical activity and nutrition are part of all school curriculum

5. Meeting Five:

Relevant Information:

- “ Here at Park Street, we have our own on site kitchen, we don’t have to serve the typical lunch food; we serve a lot of fresh fruits and vegetables. We had gardens last year, and students planted seeds, radishes, and salads. There were field trips once a month to teach the children where food comes from (grocery store, etc.). This was a teacher-initiated project.”
- There are 60 children in the Head Start program on Park Street and 216 in the area.
- The children are introduced to composting, but there is no larger education system about waste in place.

Priorities:

- Education involving fresh, healthy foods ought to be incorporated into all education curricula for young students.

6. Meeting Six:

Relevant Information:

- QCC goals include efforts to “improve the physical health of low-wealth residents,” “enhance the environmental health of the community by creating a productive organic farm as well as an aesthetically-pleasing community green space,” “strengthen the psychological health of the community by providing improved inter-neighborhood relations,” and “advance the economic health of the community through education and the marketing of skills learned, products harvested, and lower food costs.”
- QCC Farms! is an Urban Agriculture Project designed to engage low-wealth city residents in raising organically grown vegetables in underutilized green spaces, while providing nutritional and environmental education.
- In addition to their flagship Sixth Street and Monticello Avenue “Garden of Goodness,” and they have also established a raised bed garden at Barrett Early Learning Center on Ridge Street.

Priorities:

- She would like to see the Comprehensive Plan address and use specific food-specific language.
- Need a food policy comprehensive plan for schools
- Need to change how “these things function in a vacuum”

7. Meeting Seven:

Suggestions:

- Q10, Q12, Q24, Q82 should all be no
- Q24 should be n/a
- Talk to JABA

Concerns:

- The mention of improving public health in the Comprehensive Plan is mere rhetoric or “hoo-hah.”
- “The goal to reduce obesity is not mentioned in the Charlottesville City Schools Wellness Plan; this is damning.” (The Community Obesity Task Force exists in Charlottesville!)
- There are schools in Charlottesville that do not even have functioning kitchens.

- “If we’re talking about food, our Comprehensive Plan does not designate land for agriculture.” Susan Pleiss disagreed that land is reserved for food in the Comprehensive Plan. “It is a bit of a fallacy to talk about open space and community garden; there is nothing in the Comprehensive Plan about food at all.”
- In regard to multi-modal transportation, most grocery stores can be reached by bus, but this fact is not embedded in the documents (Comprehensive Plan, Zoning Ordinance, etc.). Similarly, sidewalks and bicycle paths are randomized; the documents are not destination based. In addition, there are not “bus transfer” fees; bus users buy a daily pass. Some routes, particularly on 29 North, are not timely due to issues crossing 29 North.
- Everything happens in “silos”
- Charlottesville planning misses the “destination factor” that is vital to protecting access.
- “It is outstanding that the Comprehensive Plan does not mention farmers’ markets.”

Priorities:

- Culturally diversifying the Farmers’ Market
- More food language and subjects in the Comprehensive Plan
- K-Tech, Charlottesville-Albemarle, Virginia Vocational Programs, does not include an agricultural track; there is, however, a culinary track. This is not inspiring new farmers and should be changed.
- Reducing food waste
- We need comprehensive, unified change

8. Meeting Eight:

Relevant Information:

- “The timing for this audit couldn’t be more perfect because Charlottesville is going to revise the Comprehensive Plan.”
- There is a new gardening program at The Haven at First & Market, a multi-purpose community space that provides resources for the hungry, disadvantaged and homeless.
- Buford Middle School is designing a community garden.
- JABA receives a lot of their food from the Local Food Hub, where Kate Collier is working with a lot of farmers locally. JABA has initiated an effort to allow EBT machines for SNAP cards or food stamps at the Farmer’s Market.
- C-ville Foodscapes, as highlighted in the *Cville Weekly*, designs, installs, and maintains food-producing gardens in Charlottesville, Virginia.
- Kendra Hamilton, former City Councilor, is undertaking vertical gardening.
- Montessori Mountaintop School has a greenhouse space on Pantops.
- The City of Charlottesville has a community garden.

Concerns:

- One source of constant frustration has been that Charlottesville City Schools do not do more to bring fresh food into the city schools. Funding is a continued struggle. Fundraisers include selling unhealthy foods, so the problem has become cyclical.
- This problem is compounded by the fact that the more socioeconomic need a school has, the worse the food will be.
- Even though the effort for EBT machines for SNAP cards at the Farmer's Market will have demonstrated higher nutritional food, Social Security did not want for this program to succeed (in a very patronizing way).
- Like Susan Pleiss and Holly Hatcher, Mayor Norris shares grievances that there are so many individual efforts to increase accessibility of healthy foods. There are so many silos of organizations but no comprehensive effort.
-

Priorities:

- There was talk about creating a Food Policy Council through the Thomas Jefferson Planning District Commission. Melissa Wiley of the Piedmont Environmental Council drafted this proposal and established the "Buy Fresh, Buy Local" campaign. The idea was to have a regional Food Policy Council to promote local and healthy foods.
- "Bring more cohesiveness" to the local, sustainable, health foods movement, since policy must come from a vocal, united group. "They will speak louder with one voice."
- "Education is crucial. In West Virginia, someone went into a school with a basket of vegetables for which no student could identify any of the foods. It is not coincidental that Huntington, WV had the highest rate for obesity. This is a huge issue locally as well. It all comes back to nutrition." Mayor Norris would like to see more education on how to prepare and grow healthier foods and overall live healthier lives. The hard part is meeting people where they are.
- "School nutrition is huge. This is another way of educating young people. If they've never eaten fresh fruits and vegetables in school, then they cannot be held responsible." (Kristin Suokko harps on this.)
- "We need a permanent and accessible home for our city market. We need a place that is successful for the community. There is no more visible embodiment of local food movements. We need to value it enough to find a good home for it. In New York, there is a permanent pavilion for the city market." How can we make the market a scene, wherein people will stay to eat lunch, enjoy music, etc.? How can we diversify the market culturally, socially, racially?
- Even in Charlottesville, food deserts exist. Charlottesville does not have great access to groceries. Is this a marketing problem? Maybe there should be a market stand once a week in low income neighborhoods as a pilot program to see if people use it?
- We need to do more in composting. On the City website there is a guide on how to compost. Mayor Norris had proposed curbside composting, but hasn't gotten anywhere with it. There is a company that does composting for organizations and is moving to take on even larger projects.

9. Meeting Nine:

Relevant Information:

- A Farm to School program is in the beginning stages and some schools have particular policies to purchase local foods.
- JABA incorporates 20% local foods in all of their meals, serving six centers.
- This year for the Farmer's Market, JABA created a currency, creating dollars, a Farmer's Market Buck," to distribute to low-income families. Farmers are reimbursed for these "bucks." The City gave \$1,000 and JABA gave \$1,000 in order to fund this system. Nurses and Children, Youth and Family Services distribute the currency.
- There is a gleaning program to collect foods that farmers could not sell on their own. JABA delivers the food to Food Not Bombs, The Haven, and soup kitchens.
- An EBT machine is coming to the Farmer's Market, which will allow folks to swipe debit cards and use SNAP cards at the Farmer's Market. The EBT will operate dollar-to-dollar and will incentivize people to shop at the market by doubling the value.
- The Local Food Hub is a distribution center that buys food from local farmers and distributes it to local organizations and restaurants. This is a growing infrastructure that needs to continue expanding. The Local Food Hub is not supported by the City of Charlottesville, but it is financially backed by Nelson County.
- As an employer, JABA provides employees a weekly chance to have access to what JABA buys from the Local Food Hub.
- JABA applied for a grant last year to create an organization to do nothing but organize local food in order to create cohesion.
- JABA is also trying to implement a feasibility study on frozen meals, since the organization has not been content with the non-local frozen foods.
- Jefferson School was an old black high school that JABA is revamping to create a senior center, which will really function as a community center. In the kitchens, JABA is creating a culinary arts school with PVCC and K-tech to teach how to cook local, fresh ingredients. There will be space for farmers to make things to sell at the City Farmer's Market. It will truly serve as a community kitchen: there will be cooking classes and demonstrations, potlucks and teach-ins. They will be working in conjunction with The Haven doing nutrition classes and things of that nature.
-

Concerns:

- The Comprehensive Plan should mention the Farmer's Market and address where the Market should go since it is outgrowing its current home
- There was a law that did not pass in the General Assembly of Virginia that would have made provisions for schools to purchase local food. Legislators were concerned that it was a bad time to take an expensive measure due to the economic climate. "This was a decision on the state level that should have happened. A lot of the food is not prepared at the schools anymore. We don't know what's going into it, and this is something that needs to be examined."
- Transportation is a problem in terms of accessibility.

- Farmers do not have enough laborers and policy might possibly support this issue. There are not programs at the technical or vocational schools of PVCC or K-Tech to train students to farm. “If there are homeless people who are trying to save money or low-income folks that want to work but do not have transportation, we need to figure out how to get people out to farms.”
- “My dream is that someday I could walk into Food Lion and buy local food... A local government that is considering incoming grocery stores can require that they carry local produce.”

Priorities:

- JABA wanted to be a catalyst for bringing farmers and restaurant owners together as well as school and college administrators. They wanted to start centralizing the silos that currently exist in order to share ideas. One project that came out of these roundtable talks was the Local Food Hub and the EBT machines for the City Farmer’s Market. Though they deal with elderly people JABA believes that everyone eventually grows old. “If we encourage young people to eat healthier and give them access to nutritious food, they will live better.” The JABA Strategic Plan includes sustainability, intergenerational activity and healthy aging.
- Thus, continuing in the same vein as Susan Pleiss and Mayor Norris, Judy Berger believed that they must unite separate efforts. “The strides to improve local food have increased since people have collaborated.”
- There is not an avenue for good education in nutrition. “If you’re low-income you’re definitely deprived of things.” There needs to be something in place to educate parents and children on healthy eating habits. Educating low-income earners about the availability of local foods and nutritional value is crucial.
- “Accessibility and affordability is a difficult issue,” but she really harped on educating people on the differences between and importance of produce and how to prepare them.
- Something needs to be established, policy-wise, with the Health Department to compost. Zach Miller picks and composts materials. It would be more efficient to use it in JABA’s gardens. Institutions throw so much away; currently, there is no practical way to create something that works for the Health Department and for the institution to compost waste.
- “Really, policy should come from the grassroots.”

DRAFT CHARLOTTESVILLE FOOD POLICY AUDIT	NOTE: References to "LOCAL FOOD" includes local wineries, breweries, and cideries.										
<i>*Conducted by Lauren Boswel, CoCo Fraiche, and Janie Williams (lab2kc@virginia.edu, amf7n@virginia.edu, jcw6d@virginia.edu, respectively)</i>	Ranking System: We will be working with a simple 'yes', 'no' or 'n/a'. Please mark the document spaces with 'yes' if there is reference, 'no' if there is a prohibition or no mention. In addition, you will need to keep detailed descriptions of why it is yes or no. You and your teammates will need to work out the qualitative analysis for your paper, in conjunction with the community contacts.										
1. PUBLIC HEALTH											
a. Reduce and Prevent Community Obesity and Chronic Illness				Comprehensive Plan	Zoning Ordinances	Plans/Strategies/Programs	Independent Ordinances	School Programming/Policy	School District Strategic Plan	Other	Citation of Language Used
<u>1</u>	Does the locality express a concern or a goal for improving public health?	yes	yes	yes	n/a	yes	yes				Comprehensive Plan (203); School Strategic Plan 2.2 (35)
<u>2</u>	Does the locality mention a goal to reduce obesity and/or chronic illness?	no	no	yes	n/a	no	yes				School Strategic Plan 2.2 (35)
<u>3</u>	Does the locality have an overall wellness plan?	no	no		n/a	yes	yes				Charlottesville City Schools (CCS) Policy (Section JHCF)
<u>4</u>	Does the locality clearly allow, support, or advocate for Farm to School (or similar) programs - for educational purposes, or for provision of food for school cafeteria?	no	no		n/a	yes	no				CCS Policy (Section EF)
<u>5</u>	Does the locality have other provisions for school purchasing of local or organic foods?	no	no		n/a	no*	no				See Supplemental Notes
<u>6</u>	Does the locality clearly have a policy to reduce availability of junk food in schools and public buildings (e.g., vending machines and purchasing options)?	no	no		n/a	yes	yes				School Strategic Plan 2.3 (36)
<u>7</u>	Do the schools have a policy or program to educate cafeteria workers on preparation of fresh, local food and/or nutrient-rich food?	no	no		n/a	no*	no				See Supplemental Notes
<u>8</u>	Is the locality clearly encouraging or supporting the inclusion of food-based lesson plans in schools?	no	no		n/a	yes	yes				School Programming (Health and Life); School Strategic Plan 2.2 (35)
<u>9</u>	Does the locality clearly encourage and/or directly support establishment of school garden programs at all levels of K-12?	no	no		n/a	no*	no				See Supplemental Notes
<u>10</u>	Is the locality currently employing or considering a "joint use" agreement to open the use of school land for food production (school gardens, community gardens, community urban farm)?	no	no		n/a	no	no				
<u>11</u>	Does the locality encourage that chain restaurants provide consumers with calorie information on in-store menus and menu boards?	no	no		n/a	no	no				
<u>12</u>	Does the locality have a clear tax or other strategy to discourage consumption of foods and beverages with minimal nutritional value, such as sugar sweetened beverages?	no	no		n/a	no	no				

<u>13</u>	Does the locality have educational/ promotional programs to discourage the use of Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) for sodas, high sugar and low nutrient foods?	no	no		n/a	no	no		
b. Engage public by increasing awareness of healthy and local food options									
<u>14</u>	Does the locality have a goal for increasing awareness of healthy food or lifestyle choices?	yes	yes		n/a	no	yes		Comprehensive Plan (215), School Strategic Plan 2.2 (35)
<u>15</u>	Has the locality adopted a clear policy defining "local" food?	no	no	yes	n/a	no	no		City Council Food Miles Statement (See Supplemental Notes).
<u>16</u>	Does the locality have a clear goal that supports the production and distribution of local food?	no	no	no	n/a	yes	no		CCS School Policy (Section EF)
<u>17</u>	Does the locality publish or support a public guide to local food?	no	no		n/a	no	no	yes	Buy Fresh Buy Local Guide (Piedmont Environmental Council)
<u>18</u>	Does the locality have a clear policy of encouraging (or giving preference to) event caterers or vendors that will use locally sourced food?	no	no		n/a	no	no		
<u>19</u>	Does the locality develop media campaigns, utilizing multiple media channels (print, radio, internet, television, social networking, and other promotional materials) to promote healthy eating?	no	no		n/a	no	no		
<u>20</u>	Does the locality support or participate in a Food Policy Council?	no	no		n/a	no	no		
c. Flexible Policies and Zoning for creative and adaptive uses									
<u>21</u>	Does the code allow for and support protection of open space? for community gardens?	yes	no		n/a	no	no		Comprehensive Plan (Chapter 10)
<u>22</u>	Does the locality promote or enable easy accessibility to community gardens, for all neighborhoods and income levels?	no	no		n/a	no	no		
<u>23</u>	Are there land protections for farmers' markets?	no	yes		n/a	no	no		Zoning Ordinance Sec. 8-1
<u>24</u>	Does the locality promote or enable easy, local access to community gardens by allowing small pocket parks throughout the locality to be used for, or transformed into community gardens?	no	no		n/a	no	no		
<u>25</u>	Does the code allow for temporary and conditional use of abandoned lots for neighborhood gardens and/or urban farms?	no	no		n/a	no	no		
<u>26</u>	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		n/a	no	no		
<u>27</u>	Does the zoning code have language that supports residential "farm" animals; chickens, goats, roosters? (look for re-defining domestic animals)	n/a	no*		n/a	n/a	n/a		Zoning Ordinance Sec. 4-7, 4-8, 4-9
<u>28</u>	Are there funding streams available for food related projects, such as Community Development Building Grants?	no	no		n/a	yes	no		Greenbrier Elementary Wellness Policy
<u>29</u>	Are there regulations allowing flexibility for food producers to engage in minimal on-site processing?	no	no		n/a	no	no		
d. Promote multi-modal transportation options to food sources									

<u>30</u>	Does the locality offer multi-modal transportation in the community?	no	no	yes	n/a	yes	yes		Charlottesville Transit Authority (CTS), CCS Policy (Section EEA), School Strategic Plan 2.5.5 (43)
<u>31</u>	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?	yes, no	no		n/a	no	no		Comprehensive Plan (Chapter 6)
<u>32</u>	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		n/a	no	no		
<u>33</u>	Do safe biking and walking paths exist between neighborhoods and food stores and markets?	yes	no		n/a	no	no	yes	Comprehensive Plan (Chapter 6, 104), Alliance for Community Choice in Transportation (ACCT)
<u>34</u>	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		n/a	no	no		
<u>35</u>	Does the locality have a low-cost taxi or ride-sharing service that connects neighborhoods directly with food stores and markets?	no	no		n/a	no	no		
<u>36</u>	Are these transportation services available at multiple times of day and evening?	yes	no		n/a	no	no		Comprehensive Plan (Chapter 6)
<u>37</u>	Does the locality have a bike path or sidewalk plan?	yes	yes		n/a	no	no		Comprehensive Plan (Chapter 6)
e. Reduce community exposure to pesticides and chemicals in foods.									
<u>38</u>	Does the locality have a policy or program to reduce pesticide use, with appropriate enforcement?	no	no		n/a	yes	no		CCS Policy (Section EC)
<u>39</u>	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	no		n/a	no	no		
<u>40</u>	Does a program or regulation exist that ensures proper communication of sanitation and hygiene practices for farm workers to ensure food safety?	no	no		n/a	no	no		
<u>41</u>	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		n/a	no	no		
<u>42</u>	Does a policy or program exist to encourage transition to sustainable or organic agricultural methods, to provide increased carbon sequestration?	no	no		n/a	no	no		
<u>43</u>	Is there a policy or program that offers incentives to farmers to switch to more sustainable growing methods?	no	no		n/a	no	no		
2. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT									

a. Support local food production									
44	Does the locality offer working farmland tax incentives, such as agriculture/forestry districts?	no	no		n/a	no	no		
45	Is there a local government policy or preference for local agencies to purchase low-spray, sustainably grown, or organic food?	no	no		n/a	no	no		
46	Does the locality have economic development goals to support regional food production?	no	no		n/a	no	no		
47	Is there a local government policy recommendation for purchase of local food when available?	no	no		n/a	no*	no		CCS Policy (Section EF)
48	Is there a support system to supply existing farmers with steady and seasonal farm labor?	no	no		n/a	no	no		
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	no		n/a	no*	no		CCS Policy (Section IGAD)
50	Are there economic development programs or incentives or other tools for retailers to favor purchasing local food?	no	no		n/a	no	no		
b. Support development of local processing infrastructure									
51	Are the financial or other programs to support or incubate food-related businesses?	no	no	yes	n/a	no	no		See Supplemental Notes
52	Is there a USDA-inspected community cannery, kitchen, or other processing facility open to local farmers, food entrepreneurs, and the public?	no	no	yes	n/a	no	no		See Supplemental Notes
c. Support development of local distribution infrastructure					n/a				
53	Does the locality have a policy to allow local farmers' markets or tailgate markets?	no	yes		n/a	no	no		See Supplemental Notes
54	Does the locality provide institutional support for local farmers' markets or tailgate markets?	no	yes		n/a	no	no		See Supplemental Notes
55	Is there economic development support for businesses that provide regional distribution of regional food, such as a Food Hub?	no	no		n/a	no	no	yes	See Supplemental Notes
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		n/a	no	no		
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	no		n/a	no	no		
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		n/a	no	no		
e. Support increased Security of Food Supply					n/a				
59	Does the locality have an emergency preparedness plan that includes contingency plans for short-term interruption of food deliveries?	no	no		n/a	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	yes	n/a	yes	no	City Council's Green City strategy; CCS Nutrition Department's Going Green Initiatives
b. Reduce nonpoint source stream pollution from agriculture					n/a			
61	Does the locality have a policy or goal to reduce nonpoint source pollution from agricultural operations?	no	no		n/a	no	no	
62	Does the locality provide support for the establishment of riparian buffers along farmland streambanks, to reduce nonpoint source pollution?	no*	no		n/a	no	no	See Supplemental Notes.
63	Does the locality have a policy or goal to fence out all livestock from streamways?	no	no		n/a	no	no	
64	Does the locality have a policy or goal or participate in a program to manage excess animal manure?	no	no		n/a	no	no	
c. Reduce Food Waste					n/a			
65	Is there a policy or program to encourage foraging from unused home fruit and other gardens?	no	no		n/a	no	no	
66	Does the locality have a map for local food foraging?	no	no		n/a	no	no	
67	Is there a policy, program or opportunity for gleaning from local farms and restaurants?	no	no	yes	n/a	no	no	See Supplemental Notes, Jefferson Area Board for Aging (JABA)
68	Does the locality offer demonstration programs to encourage composting?	no	no	yes	n/a	no	no	City Council's Green City strategy
69	Does the locality offer a central site for composting home food and yard materials?	no	no		n/a	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		n/a	yes	no	CCS Nutrition Department's Mission Statement
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		n/a	no	no	
72	Are these transportation services available at multiple times of day and evening, in rural as well as urban areas?	no	no		n/a	no	no	
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?	yes	no		n/a	no	no	Comprehensive Plan (Chapter 6, 106)
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		n/a	no	no	

<u>75</u>	Are farmer's markets geographically accessible by low income neighborhoods, in rural as well as urban areas?	no	no		n/a	no	no		
<u>b. Support location of grocers providing healthy local, foods in diverse and underserved locations</u>									
<u>76</u>	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		n/a	no	no		
<u>77</u>	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		n/a	no*	no		CCS Policy (Section EFB)
<u>78</u>	Are tax credits available to developers for opening a grocery store in certain areas?	no	no		n/a	no	no		
<u>79</u>	Are there any regulatory incentives, such as relaxed zoning requirements, that can facilitate new stores in underserved areas?	no	no		n/a	no	no		
<u>80</u>	Does the locality offer any predevelopment assistance to developers to expedite the review process?	no	no		n/a	no	no		
<u>c. Increase availability of fresh and healthful foods for underserved communities</u>									
<u>81</u>	Does the locality support the purchase/ use of Electronic Benefits Transfer (EBT) cards to provide low-income access to farmer's markets?	no	no		n/a	no	no	yes	See Supplemental Notes
<u>82</u>	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	no		n/a	no	no	yes	See Supplemental Notes
<u>83</u>	Do farmer's markets and/or grocery stores accommodate WIC coupons, Senior Nutrition coupons, or EBT machines?	no	no		n/a	no	no	yes	See Supplemental Notes
<u>84</u>	Do farmer's markets enable \$2 or \$3 healthy food credit for every EBT dollar?	no	no		n/a	no	no	yes	See Supplemental Notes
<u>85</u>	Are markets and stores accessible at multiple times and days to accommodate varying work schedules?	no	no		n/a	no	no		
<u>86</u>	Does the locality support, or are there programs for mobile farms stands and mobile food carts?	no	yes		n/a	no	no		See Supplemental Notes
<u>87</u>	Do local faith, nonprofit organizations, and educational institutions (public and private) have policies to buy local food for events when available?	no	no		n/a	no	no		
<u>d. Support an effective emergency food infrastructure</u>									
<u>88</u>	Does the locality have a policy that its citizens have a "right to food security"? (cf: Belo Horizonte, Brazil)	no	no		n/a	no*	no		CCS Policy (Section JHCF)
<u>89</u>	Does the locality support the provision of a central directory of all emergency food providers?	no	no		n/a	no	no	yes	United Way "Quick Guide to Family Resources"
<u>90</u>	Does the locality have a system for directing / referring people in need of food to the places that can help?	no	no		n/a	no	no	yes	United Way "Quick Guide to Family Resources"
<u>91</u>	Does the locality support coordination and cooperation among emergency food providers?	no	no	6	n/a	no	no		

<u>92</u>	Does the locality support a method, structure or storage facility for donations of fresh foods to emergency food providers?	no	no		n/a	no	no		
e. Support equitable working conditions for farm labor									
<u>93</u>	Does the locality support a living wage policy for all those who work, including migrant farm labor?	no	yes		n/a	no*	no		See Supplemental Notes
<u>94</u>	Does the locality support access to fresh, healthful food by the farm laborers who are helping to produce the food?	no	no		n/a	no	no		
<u>95</u>	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	no		n/a	no	no		
<u>96</u>	Does the locality provide or ensure that adequate protection against pesticides is provided to farm workers?	no	no		n/a	no	no		
<u>97</u>	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	no		n/a	no	no		
<u>98</u>	Does the locality have a clear contact for migrant farm workers to contact, to participate in any aspect of the community?	no	no		n/a	no	no		
<u>99</u>	Does the locality have a map of where farm worker camps are, to facilitate understanding and planning for their needs?	no	no		n/a	no	no		
<u>100</u>	Are housing options available for migrant workers?	no	no		n/a	no	no		
f. Promote community involvement and ownership in local food system									
<u>101</u>	Are community members involved in the organization of markets or other food opportunities?	no	no		n/a	no*	no	yes	Quality Community Council (QCC) Farms!, The Haven
<u>102</u>	Are culturally appropriate, fresh food options available for immigrant and ethnic populations in stores?	no	no		n/a	no	no		
<u>103</u>	Is there support for diverse, local, traditional - and fresh - food practices?	no	no		n/a	no	no		
<u>104</u>	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		n/a	no	no		
<u>105</u>	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		n/a	no	no	yes	QCC Farms!, The Haven
5. LAND CONSERVATION / ACCESS TO LAND FOR FOOD PRODUCTION									

<u>106</u>	Does the locality have a policy to support land conservation for food production?	no	no		n/a	no	no		
<u>107</u>	Does the locality encourage or support land conservation easements for food production?	no	no		n/a	no	no		
<u>108</u>	Does the locality clearly allow the use of public space or land for nonprofit community food gardens?	no	no		n/a	no	no		
<u>109</u>	Are there creative leasing or financing models to reduce start-up farming debt?	no	no		n/a	no	no		
<u>110</u>	Does the locality have a map of its prime agricultural lands for conservation?	no	no		n/a	no	no		
<u>111</u>	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?	no	no		n/a	no	no		
<u>112</u>	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?	no	no		n/a	no	no		
<u>113</u>	Does the locality have a green infrastructure plan that incorporates consideration for food production into the plan?	no	no		n/a	no	no		

City of Charlottesville: Supplemental Audit Notes

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1. PUBLIC HEALTH

1a: Reduce and Prevent Community Obesity and Chronic Illness

Q1: Mention of goal for improving public health:

a. Comprehensive Plan: The plan mentions a desire to make Charlottesville the “healthiest city” in the U.S (203).

b. School Programs and Wellness Plan: Charlottesville does have an expressed concern for improving public health. The Charlottesville City School District includes eight of nine schools that have been recognized in the Governor’s Score Card circle of winners, which requires an integrated school team approach. The Governor’s Score Card evaluates each school’s contribution and successes to creating healthy school environments, including initiatives towards creating sustainable local and organic food systems within the schools.

<http://www.ccs.k12.va.us/departments/nutrition.html>

<http://www.ccs.k12.va.us/policy/SectionJ/JHCF.pdf>

c. School Strategic Plan: 2.2 Yes, an explicit objective is to promote student health and well being through research-based health, physical education and nutrition, school safety and prevention programs and activities (35).

http://www.ccs.k12.va.us/uploads/CCS_Strategic_Plan.pdf

d. Zoning Ordinance: The Charlottesville’s zoning ordinance does express a concern for public health. “*Fifth. Preservation of health; hospitals; births and deaths.* To provide for the preservation of the general health of the inhabitants of said city, make regulations to secure the same, prevent the introduction or spreading of contagious or infectious diseases, and prevent and suppress diseases generally; to provide and regulate hospitals within or without the city limits, and to enforce the removal of persons afflicted with contagious or infectious diseases to hospitals provided for them; to provide for the appointment and organization of a board of health or other board to have the powers of a board of health for said city, with the authority necessary for the prompt and efficient performance of its duties, with power to invest any or all the officials or employees of such department of health with such powers as the officers of the city have; to regulate the burial, cremation, or disposition of the dead; to compel the return of births and deaths

to be made to its health department, and the return of all burial permits to such department.”

Q2: Goal to reduce obesity:

a. School Strategic Plan: “The United States faces a crisis of obesity among its youth. Our schools must be part of the solution, not part of the problem. We must not only teach students how to stay healthy and fit, but also help them achieve this goal” (35).

Q3: Overall wellness plan:

a. School Programs and Wellness Policy: Charlottesville City School “Wellness Policy” can be found here: <http://www.ccs.k12.va.us/policy/SectionJ/JHCF.pdf>

And there are “Nutrition Services” as well:

<http://www.ccs.k12.va.us/departments/nutrition.html>

b. School Strategic Plan: The Strategic Plan includes an implemented Wellness Policy.

Q4: Farm to School programs:

a. *School Programs and Wellness Policy*: Greenbrier Elementary was awarded \$23,000 in federal grant money for Fresh Fruits and Vegetable Program (FFVP) to implement an initiative to provide fresh, locally purchased produce. In addition, Food Service Management asserts that the Superintendent is authorized to develop and implement an efficient, nutritious, and locally grown effective food services system for students and employees of the school division. <http://www.ccs.k12.va.us/policy/SectionE/EF.pdf>

Q5. School purchasing local:

a. School Programs and Wellness Policy: The “Wellness Policy” does not explicitly mention organic or local provisions; however, “food security” is included in the language of point 8.

Q6. Reduce available junk food:

a. School Programs and Wellness Policy: The Charlottesville locality does not clearly have a policy to reduce the availability of junk food in schools and public buildings. The nuance might be in point 6 of the “Wellness Policy,” which holds, “All foods and beverages made available on campus before, during and after the school day will be consistent with the current Dietary Guidelines for Americans. (The *Dietary Guidelines for Americans* provides science-based advice to promote health and to reduce risk for major chronic diseases through diet and physical activity.

<http://www.health.gov/dietaryguidelines/dga2005/document/html/executivesummary.htm>

)

In addition, the “Nutrition Services” section claims that “Many products containing trans fatty acids or trans fat have been removed or replaced.

b. School Strategic Plan: 2.23 “Avoid the use of candy and other sweets as rewards as well as punishments related to food or physical activity” (36).

Q7. Educate cafeteria workers:

a. School Programs and Wellness Policy: No policy or program to educate cafeteria workers on preparation of fresh, local food, however, at Greenbrier Elementary, parent volunteers help prepare and serve the fresh produce to students.

Q8. Food based lesson plans:

a. School Programs and Wellness Policy: The Virginia Board of Education adopted Standards of Learning for Health. The Charlottesville City Schools address the SOL for Health within the science curriculum at the elementary level, the physical education at the upper elementary level and in separate health classes at the middle and high schools.
http://www.ccs.k12.va.us/programs/health_life.html

b. School Strategic Plan: 2.2 “Maintain and/or increase minutes per week for Physical Education classes” (35).

Q9. School gardens:

a. School Programs and Wellness Policy: Charlottesville City School District does not clearly encourage the establishment of school garden programs at all levels, however, individual schools, teachers and principles have started the initiative. There are planned or functioning gardens at Greenbrier Elementary, Clark Elementary, and Jackson Via Elementary.

Q10. Joint use agreement:

Not mentioned

Q11. Chain restaurants/calories on menus:

Not mentioned

Q12. Tax on/discourage low nutritional value items:

a. School Strategic Plan: No tax, but see 2.23 “Avoid the use of candy and other sweets as rewards as well as punishments related to food or physical activity” (36).

Q13. Discourage SNAP for sugary foods and beverages:

Not mentioned.

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

Q14. Increase awareness of healthy lifestyle:

a. Comprehensive Plan: The plan mentions the goal of the Children's Health Museum at the U.Va. Health Center in educating children to make healthy choices (215).

b. School Strategic Plan: Objective 2.2 "Promote student health and wellbeing through research-based health, physical education and nutrition, and school safety and prevention programs and activities"

Q15. Definition for local food:

a. The City Council supports local food, which is defined in an online statement, titled "Food Miles." See <http://www.charlottesville.org/Index.aspx?page=2262>

Q16. Support production and distribution of local food:

a. School Programs and Wellness Policy: The goal to support local food, except in Greenbrier Elementary, can be found in the Support Services for Food Service Management, which declares that the Superintendent is authorized to develop and implement efficient, nutritious, and locally grown effective food services system for students and employees of the school division.

<http://www.ccs.k12.va.us/policy/SectionE/EF.pdf>

Q17. Guide to local food support:

a. Buy Fresh, Buy Local Guide developed by Piedmont Environmental Council.

Q18. Purchasing preference for local:

Not mentioned

Q19. Media campaign to support healthy eating:

Not mentioned.

Q20. Support Food Policy Council:

Not mentioned.

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

Q21. Code allowance for open space or community gardens:

a. Comprehensive Plan: The plan discusses the importance of multiple types of parks and open spaces.

Q22. Promote accessibility to community gardens for all neighborhoods:

Not mentioned

Q23. Land protections for farmers' markets:

a. Zoning Ordinance: Yes, Charlottesville does protect land for a farmers' market, however the location of the market is chosen by the city manager. "**Sec. 8-1.**

Established; location.

There is hereby established a city market, which shall be operated at a location designated by the city manager.

(Code 1976, § 18-1)

Q24. Pocket parks to community gardens:

Not mentioned.

Q25. Allow abandoned lots for gardens or farms:

Not mentioned.

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

Not mentioned

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

a. Zoning Ordinance: No, Charlottesville does not allow farm animals. There is language not permitting residential "farm" animals."

Sec. 4-7. Livestock at large.

No person shall permit a horse, mule, cow, bull, sheep or hog to run at large in the city. Any horse, mule, cow, bull, sheep or hog found at large shall be impounded until redeemed by its owner. If not redeemed within five (5) days, during which time the animal warden or pound personnel shall make reasonable efforts to identify and notify the owner, the animal may be sold by the animal warden, and the proceeds, after deducting the amount of the costs of impoundment, shall be held by the city treasurer for the benefit of the owner for sixty (60) days, after which they shall revert to the general fund if unclaimed. If sale is impracticable or no purchaser is found, an animal may instead be placed for adoption or humanely destroyed. Nothing in this section shall be construed to prohibit the destruction of a critically injured or ill animal for humane purposes.

(11-20-06(2))

Sec. 4-8. Fowl at large.

It shall be unlawful for any person to permit any chickens, ducks, geese, pigeons or other fowl belonging to him to go at large in the city; except, that homing pigeons may be released for return to their cote without violating this section.

(11-20-06(2))

Sec. 4-9. Keeping hogs, goats and sheep.

(a) No hogs or sheep shall be kept in the city except for immediate shipment or slaughter.

(b) No goats shall be kept within the city

Q28. Funding for food projects:

a. School Programs and Wellness Policy: Greenbrier Elementary evidences a Charlottesville City School that applied to and received a federal grant for a Fresh Fruits and Vegetables Program

Q29. Minimal on-site processing:

Not mentioned

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

Q30. Offer multi-modal transportation:

a. School Programs and Wellness Policy: Student Transportation Services:

<http://www.ccs.k12.va.us/policy/SectionE/EEA.pdf>

School Bus Scheduling and Routing:

<http://www.ccs.k12.va.us/policy/SectionE/EEAB.pdf>

b. School Strategic Plan: . 2.5.5 “Consider possible modifications (i.e. scheduling, transportation, subsidies) to reduce barriers to participation” (43).

c. Charlottesville Transit Authority (CTS) exists.

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

a. Comprehensive Plan: The plan mentions the population demographics of the RTA riders but does not mention migrant farm workers.

Q32. Transport food to low income and migrant neighborhoods:

Not mentioned.

Q33. Safe biking and walking paths to food sources:

a. Comprehensive Plan: The Charlottesville Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan, the Charlottesville Comprehensive Plan, and the TJPDC mentions bike paths to residential and non-residential areas.

b. Other: Alliance for Community Choice in Transportation (ACCT) is a “network of citizens and groups dedicated to promoting balanced transportation options, sustainable

land-use and transit-oriented communities through education and leadership in the greater Charlottesville area.” <http://www.transportationchoice.org/>

Q34. Bus service connects neighborhoods and food stores, does it require more than 1 transfer:
Not mentioned

Q35. Provide low-cost taxi or ride share to food sources?
Not mentioned

Q36. Is transportation available during days and nights?
a. Comprehensive Plan: The Comprehensive Plan mentions night routes.

Q37. Bike path or sidewalk plan:
a. Comprehensive Plan: The Comprehensive Plan includes a map of a bike path.

b. Zoning Ordinance: The Zoning Ordinance includes regulations for pedestrian walkways. Stating, “A pedestrian access and circulation system shall be provided for every development”

c. Other: City of Charlottesville Parks and Recreation has a Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan. <http://www.charlottesville.org/index.aspx?page=1309>

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

Q38. Reduce pesticide use, appropriate enforcement:
a. School Programs and Wellness Policy: Each school shall maintain documentation of any pesticide application that includes the target pest, the formulation applied, and the specific location of the application. “Buildings and Ground Management,”
<http://www.ccs.k12.va.us/policy/SectionE/EC.pdf>

Q39. Protect farm workers from exposure:
Not mentioned

Q40. Protect food safety through proper training of farm workers:
Not mentioned

Q41. Encourage transition to low spray or organic to reduce chemical exposure:
Not mentioned

Q42. Encourage transition to organic or sustainable for increased carbon sequestration:
Not mentioned

Q43. Offer incentives to transition to sustainable or organic:

Not mentioned

2. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

2a. Support local food production

Q44. Working farmland tax incentives:

Not mentioned

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

Not mentioned

Q46. Economic development support for food production:

Not mentioned

Q47. Purchase of local food when available:

a. School Programs and Wellness Policy: The Superintendent is authorized to develop and implement an efficient, nutritious, and locally grown effective food services system for the students and employees of the school division."

<http://www.ccs.k12.va.us/policy/SectionE/EF.pdf>

Q48. Support system for seasonal labor for farms:

Not mentioned

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

a. School Programs and Wellness Policy: No, however, there is an instructional "Career and Technical Education" program, by which the Charlottesville City School Board shall provide a program of career and technical education in order that students may acquire the skills, knowledge, attitudes, and habits of work necessary for life and for success in employment. <http://www.ccs.k12.va.us/policy/SectionI/IGAD.pdf>

Q50. Incentives for retailers to purchase local food:

Not mentioned

2b. Support development of local processing infrastructure

Q51. Programs to support or incubate food related businesses:

a. Comprehensive Plan: The comprehensive plan only mentions technology-based incubator programs (138).

b. April 5, 2010: The planned renovations for Jefferson School include a community kitchen/incubator for students, community members and farmers.

Q52. USDA kitchen or other processing facility available:

- a. April 5, 2010: The planned renovations for Jefferson School include a community kitchen/incubator for students, community members and farmers

2c. Support development of local distribution infrastructure

Q53. Allow for farmers markets or tailgate markets:

- a. Zoning Ordinance: Charlottesville has a Farmer's Market protected by the zoning regulations.

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

- a. Zoning Ordinance: Charlottesville has a Farmer's Market protected by the zoning regulations.

Q55. Economic support for regional distribution center:

- a. Local Food Hub exists; however, it is not supported by the City of Charlottesville:
<http://chofoodhub.blogspot.com/>

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

Q56. Incentives for businesses using locally produced food:

Not mentioned

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

Note mentioned

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

Not mentioned

2e. Support increased Security of Food Supply

Q59. Emergency preparedness plan for disruptions in food supply:

Not mentioned

3. ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS

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

Q60. Goal to reduce footprint:

- a. Comprehensive Plan: There was no mention of Foodprint or comparable idea in the Comprehensive Plan. However, City Council has a statement regarding Food Miles in its Green City strategy. The City Council supports locally food and farmers' markets in the statement. <http://www.charlottesville.org/Index.aspx?page=2262>

b. School Programs and Wellness Policy: “Going Green Initiatives”: Charlottesville City Schools is continuing to take steps to become more environmentally friendly. They have focused on decreasing the use of disposable trays by leasing two new dish machines from Ecolab. Ecolab’s compact and solid ware-washing method minimizes storage, waste and the impact to our environment. <http://www.ccs.k12.va.us/departments/nutrition.html>

c. Zoning Ordinance: There was a mention of reducing the footprint in the ordinance.

Sec. 10-3. Purposes.

The city council finds that this chapter is necessary to protect the health, safety and general welfare of the citizens of the city and the Commonwealth of Virginia and to prevent water from being rendered dangerous to the health of persons living in the city, and is supported by the findings of related studies that have been conducted. Therefore, the specific purposes of this chapter are to:

- (1) Inhibit the deterioration of public waters and waterways resulting from land disturbing activities;
- (2) Protect the safety and welfare of citizens, property owners, and businesses by minimizing the negative impacts of increased stormwater runoff from new land development and redevelopment;
- (3) Control nonpoint source pollution, erosion and sedimentation, and stream channel erosion;
- (4) Maintain the integrity of existing stream channels and networks for their biological functions, drainage, and natural recharge of groundwater;
- (5) Protect the condition of public waters for all reasonable public uses and ecological functions;
- (6) Provide for the long-term responsibility for and maintenance of stormwater management facilities and best management practices;
- (7) Facilitate the integration of stormwater management and pollution control with other city ordinances and with federal, state and local programs, policies, regulations and guidelines; and
- (8) Prohibit illicit connections and discharges to the city's municipal storm sewer system.

3b. Reduce nonpoint source stream pollution from agriculture

Q61. Reduce nonpoint source pollution from agriculture:

Not mentioned

Q62. Riparian buffers used to reduce nonpoint source pollution:

a. Comprehensive Plan: The Plan mentions buffers along stream banks to reduce pollution; however, there is no specific reference to farmland buffers.

Q63. Fence livestock from stream banks:
Not mentioned

Q64. Program to manage excess animal manure:
Not mentioned

c. Reduce Food Waste

Q65. Encourage foraging from unused locations:
Not mentioned

Q66. Local map for food foraging:
Not mentioned

Q67. Opportunity for gleaning from farms and restaurants:
a. April 5, 2010: Attempting to establish bigger gleaning project. For now, JABA gleans after the Farmer's Market.

Q68. Demonstration programs for composting:
a. Comprehensive Plan: There was no mention of composting in the Plan, however, the City Council's Green City statement includes a guide to composting and step-by-step instructions. <http://www.charlottesville.org/Index.aspx?page=2260>

Q69. Offer central site for composting from homes and yards:
Not mentioned

4. 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 Programs and Wellness Policy: The mission of the Charlottesville City School System is to provide healthy and well balanced meals to all students from preschool through grade twelve. They also serve staff, administration, parents and volunteers. In addition, Charlottesville schools invite students and staff to breakfast everyday to insure an educational boost. <http://www.ccs.k12.va.us/departments/nutrition.html>

Q71. Bus service, taxi or ride share in rural as well as urban areas:
Not mentioned

Q72. Transportation available during day and evening in rural as well as urban areas:
Not mentioned

Q73. Any studies to assess needs of low-income neighborhoods to gain access to fresh foods:
a. Comprehensive Plan: The Plan cites a transportation study that was conducted called the Charlottesville Transit Improvement Study and Transit Development Plan (106). The study investigates income levels of riders, patterns, and routes.

Q74. Safe biking and walking paths to food sources in rural and urban areas:
Not mentioned

Q75. Farmers' markets geographically accessible:
Not mentioned

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

Q76. Expedited development review for food stores in underserved locations:
Not mentioned

Q77. Does locality recognize need for low income, immigrant and migrant populations to have access to fresh, healthful foods:
Not mentioned

Q78: Tax credits for opening food stores in certain locations:
Not mentioned

Q79. Any regulatory incentives, ie relaxed zoning requirements, to facilitate food stores:
Not mentioned

Q80: Offer predevelopment assistance to developers for grocery stores:
Not mentioned

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

Q81. EBT machines at farmers' markets:
a. April 5, 2010: One community partner stated that EBT machines are coming to the Farmer's Market mid-April. Currently, there is a currency project, "Farmer's Market Bucks," providing money to low-income families for use at the Farmer's Market. Farmers are reimbursed for these "bucks." With the introduction of the EBT machines, Wholesome Wave Foundation will offer a dollar-to-dollar match, through the first year.

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. April 5, 2010: One community contact stated that EBT machines are coming to the Farmer's Market mid-April. Currently, there is a currency project, "Farmer's Market Bucks," providing money to low-income families for use at the Farmer's Market. Farmers are reimbursed for these "bucks." With the introduction of the EBT machines, Wholesome Wave Foundation will offer a dollar-to-dollar match, through the first year.

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

- a. April 5, 2010: One community partner stated that EBT machines are coming to the Farmer's Market mid-April. Currently, there is a currency project, "Farmer's Market Bucks," providing money to low-income families for use at the Farmer's Market. Farmers are reimbursed for these "bucks." With the introduction of the EBT machines, Wholesome Wave Foundation will offer a dollar-to-dollar match, through the first year.

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

- a. April 5, 2010: One community contact stated that EBT machines are coming to the Farmer's Market mid-April. Currently, there is a currency project, "Farmer's Market Bucks," providing money to low-income families for use at the Farmer's Market. Farmers are reimbursed for these "bucks." With the introduction of the EBT machines, Wholesome Wave Foundation will offer a dollar-to-dollar match, through the first year.

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

Not mentioned

Q86. Mobile farm stands or carts:

- a. Zoning Ordinance: Charlottesville protects farm stands and carts in zoning regulations.

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

Not mentioned

4d. Support an effective emergency food infrastructure

Q88. Right to food security:

- a. School Programs and Wellness Policy: . Though the Wellness Policy does not include "rights" rhetoric, it does state in point 8 that, "The Division will promote and adhere to food safety and food security for students"

<http://www.ccs.k12.va.us/policy/SectionJ/JHCF.pdf>

Q89. Central directory of emergency food providers:

- a. The United Way-Thomas Jefferson Area offers a "Quick Guide to Family Resources" that includes a Food Resources section listing emergency food providers in the area.
http://www.unitedwaytja.org/Downloads/InformationAndReferral/QuickGuide_Current.pdf
- b. March 31, 2010: One collaborator referenced a "Central Plan for Emergency Food Providers."

Q90. System for referring people in need of food:

- a. The United Way-Thomas Jefferson Area offers a “Quick Guide to Family Resources” that includes a Food Resources section listing emergency food providers in the area.
http://www.unitedwaytja.org/Downloads/InformationAndReferral/QuickGuide_Current.pdf
- b. March 31, 2010: One collaborator referenced a “Central Plan for Emergency Food Providers.”

Q91. Support coordination and cooperation between agencies:
Not mentioned

Q92. Opportunity for storage of fresh foods for providers:
Not mentioned

e. Support equitable working conditions for farm labor

Q93. Living wage policy for all who work, including farm labor:
a. Zoning Ordinance: Yes, there is a living wage portion of the Zoning Ordinance that requires “every city contract for the provision of non-professional services, awarded after a process of competitive sealed bidding, shall require that the contractor pay each employee assigned to perform services under the contract, while such employee is performing such services on property owned or controlled by the city, a wage no less than the lowest hourly wage paid by the city to its own employees (“living wage”).

b. School Programs and Wellness Policy: “The School Board shall annually establish and approve salaries for all school employees.”
<http://www.ccs.k12.va.us/policy/SectionG/GCBA.pdf>

Q94. Access to fresh, healthful food for those who produce it:
Not mentioned

Q95. Ensure training for farm labor that is comfortable, accessible in native language:
Not mentioned

Q96. Adequate protection from pesticides:
Not mentioned

Q97. Opportunities for transitional farm labor to become engaged in local community:
Not mentioned

Q98. Person available for migrant farm workers to contact regarding community events:
Not mentioned

Q99. Map of farm worker camps:
Not mentioned

Q100. Housing opportunities for migrant workers:
Not mentioned

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

Q101. Community involved in organization of food opportunities:

- a. School Strategic Plan: 3.1.1 “Engage community members in public conversations to build consensus and a common sense of purpose regarding what the community values and what the community expects from the schools” (45). These values, however, do not include clear food or food-related topics.
- b. Community gardens such as the Haven and QCC Farms! offer opportunities for community members to participate in the organization of food opportunities. QCC Farms! is a citizen-driven initiative that directly involves community members in its operation. <http://cvilleqcc.com/Farm.aspx>

Q102. Culturally appropriate fresh foods:
Not mentioned

Q103. Support for diverse, local, traditional - and fresh - food practices:
Not mentioned

Q104. Incorporate migrant workers in markets and community events:
Not mentioned

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

- a. QCC Farms! offers an opportunity for low-income community members to participate in the organization of food opportunities such as the community gardens. <http://cvilleqcc.com/Farm.aspx>
- b. The Haven offers opportunities for low-income community members to participate in a community garden and healthy food preparation.

5. LAND CONSERVATION / ACCESS TO LAND FOR FOOD PRODUCTION

Q106. Land conservation for food production:

Not mentioned

Q107. Conservation easements for food production:

Not mentioned

Q108. Allow public space or land for food production:

Not mentioned

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

Not mentioned

Q110. Map of prime agricultural lands:

Not mentioned

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

Not mentioned

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

Not mentioned

Q113. Green infrastructure plan that incorporates consideration for food production:

Not mentioned