

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

Table of Contents

i. Overview of project and project goals.....3

ii. Methods.....4

iii. Findings.....8

    a. Public Health.....8

    b. Economic Development.....10

    c. Environmental Effects.....11

    d. Social Equity.....13

    e. Land Conservation.....18

iv. Analysis of Our Findings.....21

v. Summary of Community Feedback.....24

vi. Community Priorities and Resources.....24

vii. Bibliography.....29

viii. Appendices.....31

### ***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."<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> "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.<sup>2</sup> According to the 2000 Census, there are approximately 25,195 residents that live in Fluvanna County.<sup>3</sup> 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.<sup>4</sup> Twelve percent of the high school students qualify for free lunch compared to the 37% state average.<sup>5</sup> 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 78<sup>th</sup> out of 95 Virginia counties for agricultural production.<sup>6</sup> 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

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

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

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

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

<sup>6</sup> 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."<sup>7</sup> 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.<sup>8</sup> For example, on page 315 of the Fluvanna County Public Schools Policy Manual, it says "Practice sound habits of personal health and physical fitness."<sup>9</sup> 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."<sup>10</sup> In addition, the school system is promoting food based lesson plans and developing media campaigns to promote healthy eating.<sup>11</sup>

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

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

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

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

<sup>11</sup> "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.<sup>12</sup> 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.<sup>13</sup> Many of these products include fresh produce, meat, and baked goods.

The Layz S Ranch is a cooperative farm, garden, and greenhouse operation.<sup>14</sup> 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.<sup>15</sup>

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.<sup>16</sup> In order

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

<sup>13</sup> Community Meeting 3. Interview by Benjamin Pinover. Personal interview. 8 Apr. 2010.

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

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

<sup>16</sup> 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.<sup>17</sup>

There are incredible opportunities for improving public health in Fluvanna County. Obesity is a major concern of many Fluvanna residents<sup>18</sup>; 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.<sup>19</sup>

### *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.<sup>20</sup> Approximately 40% of the vendors are from Fluvanna and 45% of the vendors sell produce, meat, or other food products.<sup>21</sup> 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

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

<sup>18</sup> Community Meeting 8. Interview by Will Bolton. Personal interview. 8 Apr. 2010.

<sup>19</sup> Community Meeting 3. Interview by Benjamin Pinover. Personal interview. 8 Apr. 2010.

<sup>20</sup> Community Meeting 3. Interview by Benjamin Pinover. Personal interview. 8 Apr. 2010.

<sup>21</sup> 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 Act<sup>22</sup>.

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 content<sup>23</sup>.

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 market<sup>24</sup>.

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<sup>22</sup> Community Meeting 5a. Interview by Benjamin Pinover. Personal interview. 14 Apr. 2010.

<sup>23</sup> Community Meeting 3. Interview by Benjamin Pinover. Personal interview. 8 Apr. 2010.

<sup>24</sup> "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.<sup>25</sup>

Lake Monticello had a neighborhood-scale composting program that failed.<sup>26</sup> 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 patients<sup>27</sup>, 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-

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

<sup>26</sup> Community Meeting 3. Interview by Benjamin Pinover. Personal interview. 8 Apr. 2010.

<sup>27</sup> 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.<sup>28</sup> 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.<sup>29</sup>

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<sup>28</sup> Community Meeting 8 . Interview by Will Bolton. Personal interview. 8 Apr. 2010.

<sup>29</sup> 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.<sup>30</sup> 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.<sup>31</sup> 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.<sup>32</sup> 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.<sup>33</sup> 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.

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

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

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

<sup>33</sup> 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.<sup>34</sup> 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.<sup>35</sup> 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.<sup>36</sup> 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.<sup>37</sup> MACAA attempts to offer as much healthy food as possible, but sometimes find it challenging because they rely on donations.<sup>38</sup> 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

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<sup>34</sup> Community Meeting 6. Interview by Carla Jones. Personal interview. 22 Apr. 2010.

<sup>35</sup> Community Meeting 6. Interview by Carla Jones. Personal interview. 22 Apr. 2010.

<sup>36</sup> Community Meeting 6. Interview by Carla Jones. Personal interview. 22 Apr. 2010.

<sup>37</sup> Community Meeting 6. Interview by Carla Jones. Personal interview. 22 Apr. 2010.

<sup>38</sup> 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.<sup>39</sup> 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.<sup>40</sup> These residents faced many barriers. Two of the biggest barriers for these gardeners were time and distance.<sup>41</sup> 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.

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

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

<sup>41</sup> 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.<sup>42</sup>

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"<sup>43</sup>. 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

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<sup>42</sup> Community Meeting 5a. Interview by Benjamin Pinover. Personal interview. 14 Apr. 2010.

<sup>43</sup> 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.”<sup>44</sup>

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 strategies<sup>45</sup>. 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.

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<sup>44</sup> “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>>.

<sup>45</sup> 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 facility<sup>46</sup>. 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 documents<sup>47</sup>. 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.<sup>48</sup> 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 scale<sup>49</sup>.

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<sup>46</sup> Community Meeting 4. Interview by Benjamin Pinover. Personal interview. 14 Apr. 2010.

<sup>47</sup> Community Meeting 3. Interview by Benjamin Pinover. Personal interview. 8 Apr. 2010.

<sup>48</sup> Community Meeting 3. Interview by Benjamin Pinover. Personal interview. 8 Apr. 2010.

<sup>49</sup> 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.<sup>50</sup> For farmers to be able to use their land for many commercial

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<sup>50</sup>

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.<sup>51</sup> 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.<sup>52</sup> 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."<sup>53</sup> 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.<sup>54</sup> 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

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

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

<sup>53</sup> "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>>.

<sup>54</sup> "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."<sup>55</sup> 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.<sup>56</sup> 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.<sup>57</sup> A program similar to Ontario's Rural Economic Development program would be just one way of achieving Fluvanna County's goal of economic development.<sup>58</sup>

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

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<sup>55</sup> "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>>.

<sup>56</sup> "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>>.

<sup>57</sup> "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>>.

<sup>58</sup> "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."<sup>59</sup> 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."<sup>60</sup>

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<sup>59</sup> "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>>.

<sup>60</sup> "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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Community Meeting 4. Interview by Benjamin Pinover. Personal interview. 14 Apr. 2010.

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

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[s1=&s3=31019&s2=&s4=&Sect4=AND&l=20&Sect2=THESON&Sect3=PLUR](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)

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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 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 nowhere 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 causing 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 78<sup>th</sup>). 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

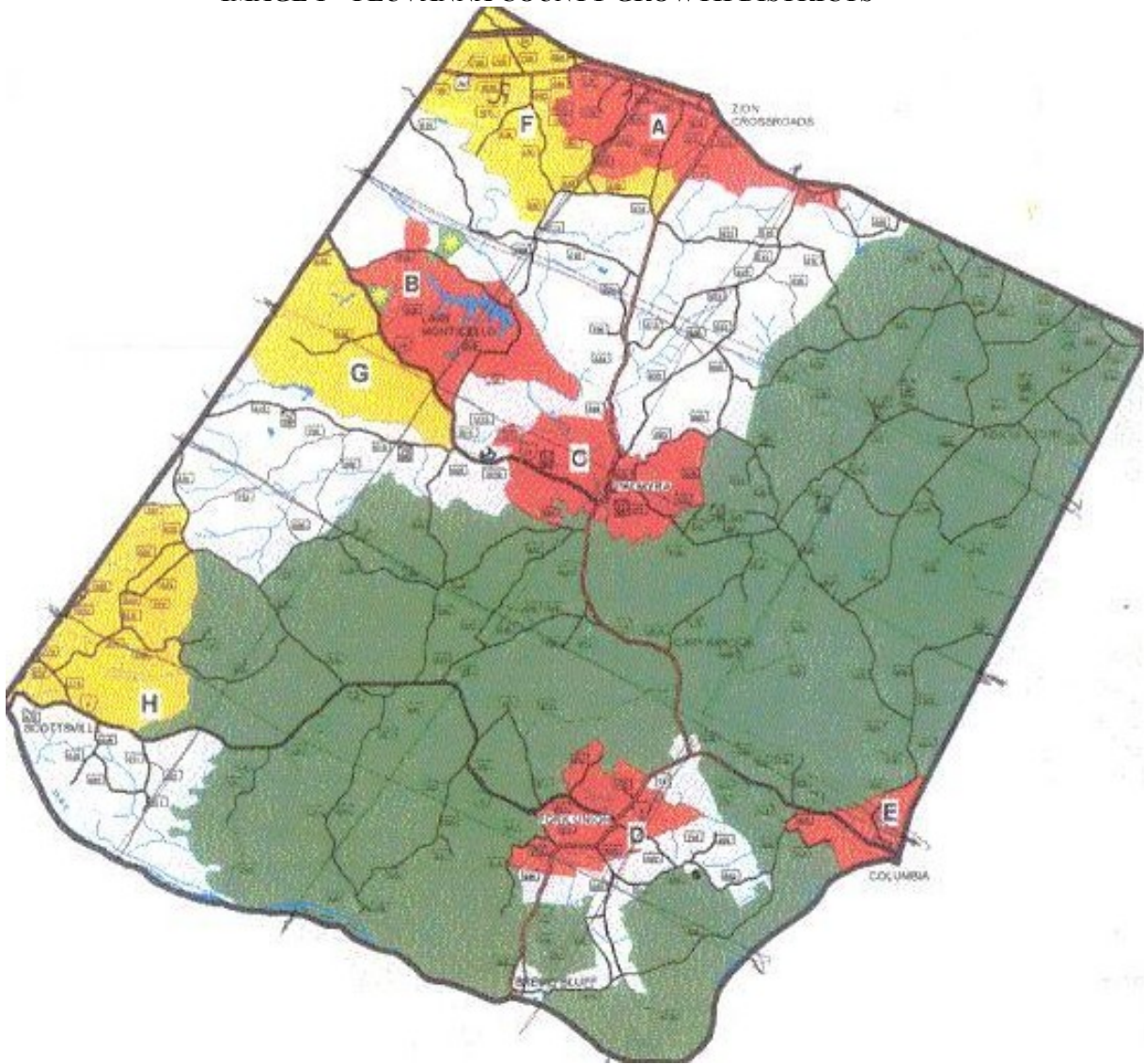


IMAGE 2—CENSUS DATA

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

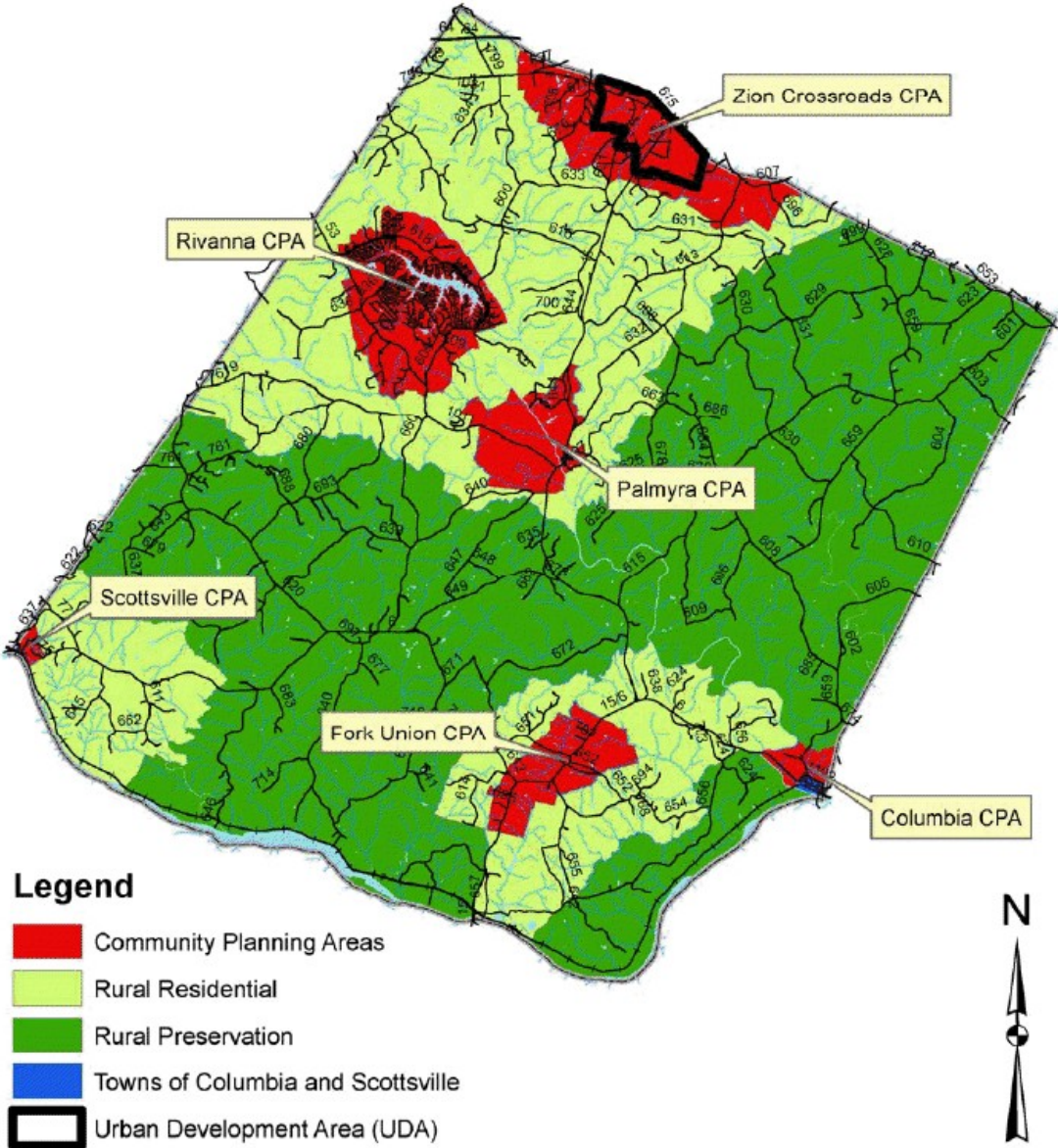


Figure LU-23, 2029 Future Land Use Map



**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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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		
<b>c. Flexible Policies and Zoning for creative and adaptive uses</b>												
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			
<b>d. Promote multi-modal transportation options to food sources</b>												
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	

<b>4. Reduce community exposure to pesticides and chemicals in foods</b>										
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	
<b>2. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT</b>										
<b>a. Support local food production</b>										
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>b. Support development of local processing infrastructure</b>										
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	
<b>c. Support development of local distribution infrastructure</b>										
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	John Thompson - Cooperative Extension
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	

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
<b>e. Support equitable working conditions for farm labor</b>										
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
<b>f. Promote community involvement and ownership in local food system</b>										
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.
<b>6. LAND CONSERVATION / ACCESS TO LAND FOR FOOD PRODUCTION</b>										

Fluvanna County Food Policy Audit										
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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 of 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, <a href="http://www.childhoodobesitytaskforce.org">http://www.childhoodobesitytaskforce.org</a> ; 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. 505
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, <a href="http://www.childhoodobesitytaskforce.org">http://www.childhoodobesitytaskforce.org</a> ; School Programs/Wellness Policy, Fluvanna County School Policy Manual, pg. 505; School District Strategic Plan, Fluvanna County School Policy Manual, pg. 505
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	<a href="http://www.vdacs.virginia.gov/presentation/farmlink.shtml">http://www.vdacs.virginia.gov/presentation/farmlink.shtml</a>
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		