

# Shenandoah Valley Local Food and Farm Working Group

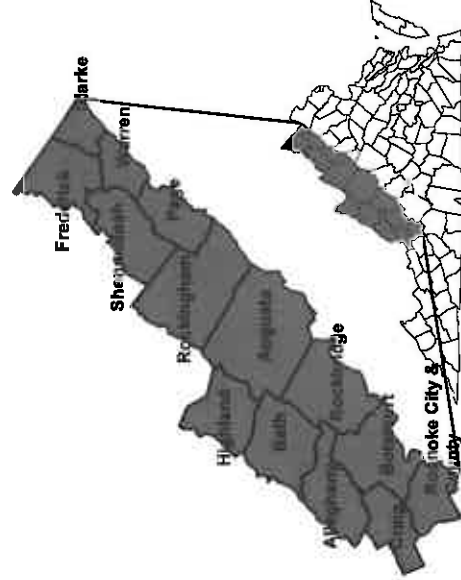
## Who We Are

The Shenandoah Valley Local Food and Farm Working Group (SVLFFWG) is a community of producers, businesses, organizations, institutions, and agencies collaborating to strengthen the local and regional food system and economy.

The SVLFFWG meets on a monthly basis to share knowledge, identify educational resources, develop partnerships, and incubate projects and new initiatives.

## Why Form a Working Group

Small to mid-sized farms represent an important dynamic in communities, and are a critical segment of Virginia's food and farming industry. And yet, Virginia experienced a significant decline (i.e., 10 and 23%) in the number of these farms from 1997 to 2007. The loss of these farms changes landscapes, jeopardizes the future productive capacity of land, threatens our food security, and the health of rural and urban communities.



## What We Do

- Encourage a locally-integrated community-based food system approach
- Address pressing food and farm needs
- Encourage more direct and equitable linkages between producers and consumers
- Support farm-to-school, university, and hospital programs
- Expand the visibility and market opportunities of local farmers, growers, participating food businesses and institutions through Buy Fresh Buy Local.



## Working Priorities

- Education and outreach
- Infrastructure and distribution development
- Value chain and supply development
- Food access and community health
- Marketing and networking
- Grant opportunities



## Purpose

The Shenandoah Valley Local Food and Farm Working Group was formed as a local food and community health initiative in September 2007 to accomplish the following objectives:

- Create a diverse and inclusive support network and community
- Increase community access to healthy local food
- Encourage major institutions to purchase 25% of their food from local farmers
- Promote environmental stewardship and sustainable farming practices
- Help producers and consumers realize the social, environmental, and economic benefits of a locally-integrated community-based food system
- Promote practical and innovative information sharing

## Participating Organizations\*

Augusta Co. Public Schools  
Baker, Inc.  
Eastern Mennonite University  
Friendly City Food Co-op  
Harrisonburg Public Schools Nutrition Program  
Harrisonburg Downtown Farmers Market  
Healthy Community Council  
James Madison University (JMU)  
Lexington-Rockbridge Grows  
Mary Baldwin College  
New Community Project  
Our Community Place (OCP)  
Portwood Gardens  
Radical Roots, CSA  
Rockingham Co. Schools Nutrition Program  
Rockbridge Grown  
Rockingham Memorial Hospital  
Shenandoah County  
Shenandoah Co. Public Schools  
Shenandoah Forum  
Shenandoah RC&D Council  
Shenandoah Valley Beef Cooperative  
Shenandoah Valley Produce Auction  
Shenandoah Valley SWCD  
Staunton-Augusta Farmers Market  
Staunton Grocery  
T&E Meat Market  
Valley Conservation Council (VCC)  
Valley Crop Mob  
Virginia Cooperative Extension (VCE)  
Virginia Department of Agriculture and  
Consumer Services (VDACS)  
Virginia Tech  
Washington & Lee University Dining Services

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If you are interested in collaborating to strengthen the local and regional food system and economy, please consider participating in the Shenandoah Valley Local Food and Farm Working Group.

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# Shenandoah Valley Local Food and Farm Working Group

## Collaborating to strengthen the local food system and economy



### Mission

To support the development of a more locally-integrated community-based food system that positively impacts local farmers, provides consumers with more access to healthy food, encourages environmental stewardship of natural resources, and strengthens communities and local economies.

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