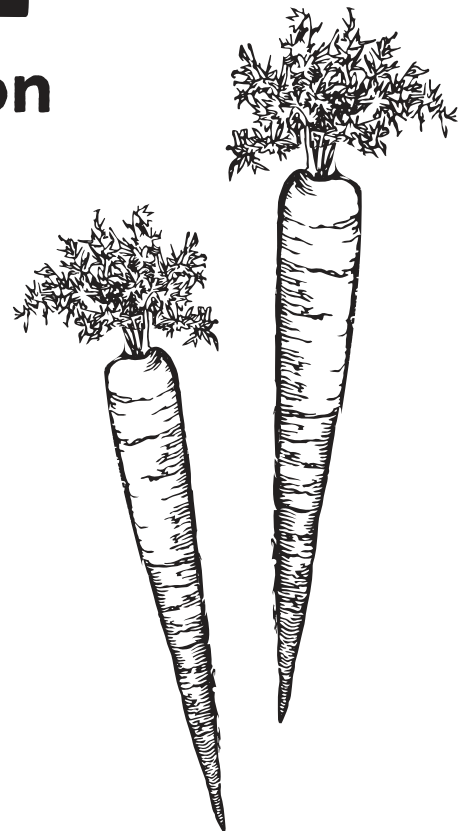


LAND & TABLE

Mission and Vision

10/4/22



History and Background

We began in November 2011 as a grassroots community sparked by a report titled: *'Land and Table: Cultivating Sustainable Agriculture and Resilient Food Systems in Virginia's Region 2000*'*. Originally produced for the Region 2000 Local Government Council (now called the *Central Virginia Planning District Commission - aka: CVPDC*). This white paper summarized the economic impacts of the local food movement at that time – nationally, across the state, and in the Lynchburg regional area. This report was reviewed by local government leaders from the surrounding towns and counties.

We used the white paper as a springboard to begin our initial local food forums. Our first forum had three local residents present and from there our monthly gatherings grew month by month (with an average of 20 to 30 adults each event). Two questions were at the forefront of these early meetings:

1. **"What do we want from regional leaders to help grow and support the local food movement?"**
2. **"What will we do to grow and support the local food movement?"**

We not only began with these two questions, but we also began with two assumptions. We believe these assumptions are essential and related:

1. **Our food system must be relocalized. Local agriculture must prioritize feeding the local, regional community.**
2. **It is critical that we now shift to more ecological methods of agricultural production that prioritize regenerative and sustainable practices.**

To give context to both our founding questions and our founding assumptions consider this quote:

"Between 1950 and 1975, the number of farms in the [USA] declined by half, as did the number of people on farms. And the average size of farms nearly doubled, from 216 acres in 1950 to 416 acres in 1974." (p. 50, *The Third Plate* by Dan Barber)

The centralization and globalization of our food system is a multifaceted crisis impacting the ecological, economic, and social dynamics of our life as a people. But a new generation is rising to meet that crisis with a vision to create a more resilient, food secure future - that is both local and community based.



Mission and Vision

Land & Table exists to revitalize the connections between local food, land, and community.

Our vision is to catalyze and strengthen small family farms, self-reliant families, and community based local food initiatives to create a thriving regional food system.

Our geographic focus includes: the City of Lynchburg and surrounding towns and counties, including: Bedford, Amherst, Campbell, and Appomattox.

Central to our work is seeking the social, ecological, and economic resilience of our region through regenerative agriculture, rebuilding social capital, and encouraging food-based entrepreneurship.

This work is accomplished through four main key areas of focus:

1) **SUPPORTING:** We seek to support and promote the Lynchburg region's local farms, food producers, and food entrepreneurs by expanding marketing channels, training, skill-sharing and community building.

2) **STRENGTHENING:** We seek to help strengthen the food security of families in our region's rural, suburban, and urban neighborhoods - by offering food production resources, training, skill-sharing, seed sharing and distribution, and community building.

3) **ACCELERATING:** We seek to accelerate the widespread adoption of ecological and regenerative agricultural practices through educational training, demonstration sites, and mentorship programs (both formal and informal).

4) **RAISING AWARENESS:** We seek to raise awareness of the importance of relocalizing food production and local eating for our personal, social, ecological, and economic health.



Activities

In these five key areas we will engage in the following activities:

1) **COMMUNITY BUILDING:** We believe that true thriving comes through shared connections. Reweaving the frayed fabric of local community through shared meals, common work, and mutual support is critical to our work. We believe the foundation for positive change comes through the restoration of social capital.

2) **EDUCATION & HANDS-ON TRAINING:** To accomplish our goals we must address the very real gaps in practical skills, knowledge, and wisdom needed for the development of a robust regional food system. We will do this by cultivating learning environments through events, workshops, programs, and mentorships, that span our five key areas.

3) **DEVELOPING RESOURCES:** We live in a time when information has exploded but wisdom has been often forgotten. We are committed to creating media, storytelling, and other platforms that communicate the lost wisdom necessary for a new future that prioritizes the thriving of local ecologies and local community in the context of our regional foodshed.

To summarize:

- We build community.
- We cultivate learning environments.
- We create resources.

All to advance our mission: to catalyze and strengthen small family farms, self-reliant families, and community based local food initiatives - and ultimately create a thriving, regional food system.



