

**VIRGINIA IS FOR LOVERS<sup>®</sup>**  
**#LOVEVA**



**VIRGINIA  
IS FOR  
FOOD  
LOVERS™  
#VAFOOD**

## ♥ | VIRGINIA IS FOR FOOD LOVERS

Virginia's surging restaurant and bar scene propelled us to new heights in the opinion of leading food and drink journals.

Virginia chefs continue to elbow their way into the top echelon aided enormously by top Virginia-based purveyors in homegrown meat, seafood and produce along with artisanal cheese makers, bakers and salumeria. For that, and for the major tourism driver food has become in Virginia, we owe a lot of gratitude and credit to our farmers and growers – the people who leverage their products to showcase Virginia as a premiere destination to experience the bounty of our soil and our people. Agritourism is also an important part of diversifying our economy.

Rooted in Richmond, **Real Local RVA** is a group of independent, small grocery stores, restaurants, farmers' markets, farmers, growers and supporters dedicated to growing the local food scene in Richmond and the surrounding area. Real Local RVA hosts events throughout the year, including:

- Virginia Specialty Food and Beverage Educational Conference, Omni Richmond Hotel, March 6 – 7
- Joel Salatin: Building a Local Food System That Works, St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, March 16, 6 p.m.

**Southwest Virginia** will develop agritourism opportunities around the region; some of which include a Southwest Virginia wine trail, Southwest Virginia craft beer trail, 'Round the Mountain artisan integration and opportunities to further develop Appalachian cuisine.

**Prince William** and **Manassas** will partner with **Fauquier** and **Stafford** counties to begin an artisan and agritourism trail in mid-2017.

**Arcadia Farm**, which is located on the same grounds as Woodlawn Historic Site and Frank Lloyd Wright's Pope-Leighey House in Alexandria, has implemented a **Veteran Farmer Program**. Arcadia Farm works with local landowners, nonprofit organizations and the National Trust for Historic Preservation to identify affordable land suitable for farming where veterans can begin their new agricultural careers.

Visit [virginia.org/food](http://virginia.org/food) and [virginia.org/agritourism](http://virginia.org/agritourism) for more information.