



## THE NATIONAL CONFERENCE CENTER™

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### **YOUNG FARMERS HOLD CONFERENCE AT THE NATIONAL CONFERENCE CENTER**

#### *Farmers, Chefs and Chickens Meet Up at NCC*

LEESBURG, Va., Feb. 3, 2012 – Anyone walking around The National Conference Center week before last, may have wondered why there were chickens in the parking lot. The chickens were participants in the Chesapeake Alliance for Sustainable Agriculture’s Future Harvest Annual Conference where more than 400 attendees came together to learn about the different advances in agriculture.

On February 3-5, young farmers from Maryland and Virginia will meet at NCC at one of the largest gatherings of young adults who work in agriculture. The event is designed to provide young farmers an opportunity to network with their peers, while learning about improving their success in agriculture, business and rural or urban communities.

“The National Conference Center is very proud to be the host of these important agriculture conferences as part of our commitment in supporting local and regional agriculture,” stated Kurt Krause, general manager at NCC. “Between our own agriculture program using local ingredients from local farms, to becoming a meeting place for agricultural seminars and symposiums, we are promoting the importance of agriculture, healthy eating and the next generation of farming.”

NCC’s Executive Chef Craig Mason is using locally grown products including tomatoes, spinach, lettuce and other fruits and vegetables for the approximately 3,000 meals he cooks a day. To further NCC’s commitment to sustainability, the conference center provides its used cooking oil to a local farmer who then powers his greenhouses and tractors.

The message of healthy eating by NCC is further carried out through a healthy eating employee program and a white paper produced last year on the importance of food in successful meetings. The paper outlines the power of eating “brain” food during meetings as opposed to junk food.

“We believe that food plays an important role in all of our daily lives and eating healthy at work and at training seminars is just as important as healthy eating at home,” Krause adds. “And, by eating locally grown food, we’re also helping the farmers in our community.”

Additional information on the upcoming Young Farmers Conference is available at [www.vafbyoungfarmers.com](http://www.vafbyoungfarmers.com) or [www.mdfarmbureau.com](http://www.mdfarmbureau.com).

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**Editor’s Note:** Media interested in attending the Young Farmers conference should contact Marcia Massenberg at 540-687-8990, or [marcia@bendurepr.com](mailto:marcia@bendurepr.com).

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*The National Conference Center (NCC), located in Northern Virginia 12 miles from Dulles International Airport and 35 miles from Washington, D.C., is one of the largest and most comprehensive conference centers in the nation. With 917 guest rooms and over 250,000 square feet of meeting space, NCC has become a hub for productive meetings and is on the GSA schedule. NCC is also home to West Belmont Place, Northern Virginia's largest ballroom with 16,500 square feet for holding an elegant wedding or accommodating a large trade show or special event. For information call 800-640-2684 or visit [www.conferencecenter.com](http://www.conferencecenter.com), or [www.westbelmontplace.com](http://www.westbelmontplace.com).*

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