

NW WISCONSIN REGIONAL FOOD NETWORK

<http://www.uwex.edu/ces/cty/barron/cnred/foodnetwork.html>

(Meeting information, web links)

NWRFN YAHOO GROUPS

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/nwrfn/>

(Discussion, documents, etc...)

If you have an email address please email andrew.dane@co.barron.wi.us to receive this newsletter via email (preferred method)

NEWSLETTER

ISSUE #6

MAY 2007

AGENDA FOR MAY 30TH 2007 MEETING

6PM – 9PM. BOYCEVILLE, WI COMMUNITY CENTER

Meeting to include another spectacular home-made dinner by ON FIRE OVENS!

This is a low brick building at 1233 Charlotte St. (corner of hwy 79 and Charlotte two blocks South of hwy 79 and 170 intersection - approximately 30 minutes drive from Barron and Eau Claire; 1 hr. from River Falls)

Updates

Eat Supper and visit/Cluster discussion - 30 minutes

6:30pm start - volunteer to record minutes?

Introductions - hello to new participants

Marketing Cooperative Feasibility Study Update - Tom, Ann, Andrew

Risk Management Update (budget status, overall plan for completing grant obligations, other) - Andrew/Tim

Farm Fresh Map Atlas Update - Andrew/Gail/Pam

Regional/Statewide Eat Local Challenge Update

Presentations - start by 7:15

Paying It Forward Presentation - 10 minutes plus discussion - Tracey

NAFDMA agri-tourism Conference overview - 5-10 minutes plus discussion - Andrew

Future of Farming Conference - 5-10 minutes plus discussion -

Andrew/Gail/Linda/Tracey

Food System/Network Planning - start by 8pm

What is the NWRFN? Who is it? Who do we serve? What do we want to do?

How can we connect, communicate, and interact w/other groups

How to formalize the network?

Network image - website, brochure, reaching out - Pie & Politics/John Ikerd (June 28th @ Big Top), Eat Local Challenge, etc.

Fundraising

Dinners, Soup Stock, other ideas?

Set next meeting Agenda ** Meetings to occur on 4th Wed. of each month**

MINUTES FROM APRIL 19TH, 2007 MEETING

Will be posted to both websites when available.

FEASIBILITY PLAN FOR CO-OP STEERING COMMITTEE

Some members of the steering committee traveled to visit with members of the Grown Locally co-op in NE Iowa last month. They were unable to schedule a visit with Homegrown Wisconsin, however. The feasibility study is proceeding along and there will be a more detailed progress report at the May 30th meeting.

NEWS TO SHARE

Farm Fresh Atlas - 70,000 copies of the Farm Fresh Atlas of Western Wisconsin were printed in the end of April. Distribution across the region has gotten off to a good start thanks to many, many volunteers and the support of all the agency partners. WestCAP will be distributing to the seniors that receive farmer's market vouchers across the region. There are additional atlases available at county UWEX offices and there will be a list of places to pick them up posted to the website soon at www.wifarmfresh.org.

State Inspection - Tuesday a bill was introduced in the U.S. House of Representatives that would allow for state-inspected processing plants to ship beef across state lines. H.R. 2315 – the New Markets for State-Inspected Meat and Poultry Act of 2007 -- is jointly sponsored by Congressmen Earl Pomeroy (D-ND) and Roy Blunt (R-MO) and already has 15 co-sponsors. Federal law requires the USDA to inspect all meat products that are shipped across state lines. In the 1960s Congress created state inspection programs that are mandated to be “at least equal to” the federal inspection program. Perishable products – including milk and other dairy items, fruit, vegetables, and fish – are freely shipped across state lines after state inspection. But standard meat products, like poultry, beef, and pork, are prohibited from interstate commerce, despite decades of meeting or surpassing the federal inspection standards. This bill would remove that prohibition. Currently, 28 states have state-regulated meat and poultry inspection programs and these programs serve about 2,000 small or very small establishments.

Local Foods as Economic Development - Recently, in an effort to address and explore how local foods can be an economic development engine for rural communities, Congressman Collin Peterson sponsored a conference called "The Home Grown Economy: Foods from Local Farms as an Economic Development Tool". The proceedings from this conference are now available online. Presentation materials and videos of parts of the conference are available to download from

www.morris.umn.edu/HomeGrownEconomy/. Additional resources, such as biographies and contact information for the speakers, are also available on the web site.

Serving local food guide - The Glynwood Center has released A Guide to Serving Local Food On Your Menu. This Guide is a primer to help foodservice managers and directors, caterers, chefs, restaurateurs and others consider creative ways to incorporate local food products into almost any foodservice setting. Chefs, institutional purchasing agents and others share their experience in short case studies within the 32-page Guide. Topics include where to begin, identifying sources of supply, developing relationships with farmers, working through existing distributors, and things to consider about the regional food system. To learn more visit the website at

<http://www.glynwood.org/resource/localguide.htm>

Marketing Local Food guide -. This handbook is designed to help Minnesota farmers explore the various options for marketing local food. It introduces the basics of different marketing systems, suggests resources and includes profiles of farmers who are selling farm products directly to consumers via farmers' markets, roadside stands, CSAs, on-farm stores; as well as information and profiles about selling indirectly via retail food establishments or food services. <http://www.misa.umn.edu/>

Interesting stuff

FEEDS project - <http://feeds.uwex.edu/about/contact.cfm>

UPCOMING EVENTS

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

CALL TO ACTION

BUY LOCAL, BUY WISCONSIN

- *From Jeanne Merrill, Michael Fields Agricultural Institute.*

The Buy Local, Buy Wisconsin program has the following objectives:

1. Develop, expand and enhance regional food markets for Wisconsin producers and processors
2. Increase consumer awareness and access to high quality locally produced foods
3. Expand regional agricultural tourism in Wisconsin

The program's two components are 1) Regional food system development and 2) Food & culture tourism trails. If you would like more information about the Buy Local, Buy Wisconsin initiative, please contact Jeanne Merrill with the Michael Fields Agricultural Institute at 608-256-1859 or jeannemerrill@earthlink.net For more information visit the WI Rural Partners info. Page at <http://www.wirural.org/BLBW.htm>

NORTHWEST WISCONSIN REGIONAL FOOD NETWORK

A grassroots group of local farmers, volunteers and agency staff working together to create a regional food system that connects consumers back to the land and provides locally produced, fresh and nutritious foods to all segments of our community while preserving the region's environment and sustaining the local economy for years to come