

Howard County FFI meeting Minutes
March 13, 2008, 6:00- 8:00 PM
Laura Rose Lobby at the hospital in Cresco

Present: Elaine Govern, Matt Kabliska, Charlie Baier, Larry McGee, Hazel Boyle, Boyd Bollman, Mary Bollman, and Ronda Hughes.

Welcome by Charlie & Matt. A meal was served. People introduced themselves and told why they came tonight. This was a small group due to a number of other events going on in the county at the same time. Charlie then reviewed the NE Iowa FFI vision and goals. Matt talked about what tonight's program would be and introduced the Regional team members.

A summary of the Regional Food & Fitness Leadership Team Meeting was given by Ronda and Larry. Matt reviewed the Webcasts and explained that all the webcasts could be viewed at: www.iowafoodandfitness.org.

Matt Introduced the Webcast: *"Building A Local Food System Part 2- What Have We Learned?"*

What would it take to make NE IA a unique place where all residents and guests of every age experience, celebrate and promote healthy locally grown food every day?

- We need know who is already doing local food production? Need to identify producers.
- Community Gardens- need to be organized with policies in place.
- Need to educate growers on crop rotation for the garden.

What would this look like?

- Tie local foods into community events – Taste of Howard Co., at the Art show, etc
- Communicate availability of local foods and identify needs - marketing. What can be sold? - maple syrup? - What are the regulations? Fresh from the garden to the table.

What would we need in NE IA for every age to experience, celebrate and promote healthy locally grown food every day?

- Policy change—allow homemade food at school vs. processed foods
- Fresh fruit/veggies at concession stands
- Change mind set of school boards
- Parents donating vegetables to school for freezing, use during school year
- Older generation teach how to can to the younger generation
- Donate excess local grown food to community action

If our success was completely guaranteed, what bold steps might we choose to grow the food, make it accessible and promote consumption of the local foods?

- Have churches teaching groups how to process and can foods
- Grow more local foods
- Hold neighborhood garden competition

- Facility to process, outlets to sell, distribution channels, grower support
- NICC class-local food processing
- Grant education- what dollars are available.

We ran out of time to answer the final question.

Wrap-Up: We thanked everyone for sharing their time and ideas. **The April meeting will be Wednesday April 16, 2008 at the Laura Rose Lobby in the Cresco hospital.** Everyone was encouraged to complete their evaluations. The meeting ended at 8:00 pm.