

NE Iowa Food & Fitness Initiative – Allamakee County

The Allamakee County Food & Fitness Planning team met on September 16, 2009 at the Allamakee County Extension office at 6:30 pm. Attendees: Teresa Wiemerslage, Mary Koopman, Dave Schmelzer, Keith Schroeder, Jane Rausch.

Introductions were made. Members shared their role in the FFI Implementation phase which starts November 1, 2009. Answers included:

- Involved with the Postville Farm to School team
- Working with Waukon school team
- Coordinating the local food system work.

The team reviewed the strategies, tactics, policy and system targets submitted to the WKKF on Sept 4. We should hear in October about the funding for the Implementation Phase.

Wiemerslage talked about the Farm to School and Safe Routes to School pilots and the expectations.

Allamakee Schools are one of six Safe Routes to School pilots. Danielle Bucknell has been coordinating the recruitment of a team. The team is asked to attend a workshop in Elkader on Oct 8 presented by Mark Fenton. Fenton will also be presenting at a public forum at Luther College on Oct 7 at 7 pm. Team members so far include: Dave Herold, Ann Hart, Deb Tweedy. Schroeder indicated reps from the city are interested in attending. Bucknell was unable to attend the meeting. Wiemerslage will follow-up with her.

Criteria for a SRTS pilot school – (what FFI is asking each SRTS to do

- Form a school-community SRTS Team
- Review SRTS Assessment in Oct-Nov – completed by RC&D
- Attend the SRTS Regional Workshop with Mark Fenton on Oct. 8 (orientation workshop for SRTS)
- Participate in monthly FFI County Planning Team meetings
- Create a plan to promote safe ways for children to walk and or bike to and from their school
- Collect data Spring and Fall (# of children walking /biking to school)

Postville Schools are one of six Farm to School pilots. CiCi Mueller is the contact for that team. The expectations include:

- Report on local food purchases (dollars spent and vendors) for 2008-09 school year and 2009-2010 school year.
- Develop a plan for Homegrown Lunch Week, October 5-9. (Schools are encouraged to participate at a level comfortable to them.)
- Send team members to the Regional FFI Fall Conference, October 20 in Decorah
- Work with Americorp volunteers to develop a lesson plan for F2S lessons for K-3 students led by High School students (Jan- May).
- Food service staff will participate in a planning process with local producers to plan for the 2010 growing season.
- Develop a plan to address needed policy changes around food procurement.
- Select a location and develop plan to support a school garden (spring 2010).

- Send representatives to participate in the month County Planning Team meetings.

The Allamakee County team needs to name two county team co-leaders effective Nov 1. These co-leaders will also be the county reps on the Regional Team. The group talked about possible leaders, but no decisions were made.

The group decided that when the new co-leaders are selected, they can decide on a new meeting date and location. The next county planning team meeting will be in November.

IMPORTANT DATES:

October 5-9 – Homegrown School Lunch Week in area schools

October 7 – Mark Fenton Public Presentation, Luther College, 7 pm

October 8 – SRTS Workshop for Schools, Elkader

October 20 – Fall FFI Conference, Luther College

November 18 – FFI Youth Team Conference

There are not county meetings in October due to other activities. Meeting adjourned at 8 pm.

Submitted by Teresa Wiemerslage.