

NIFF Coalition & BFBL Year Summary August 2007-July 2008

Educational Events (External)

Nov 14, 2007 Local Food Breakfast for Food Producers and Food Buyers, The Oaks, Decorah. Sponsored by Iowa Farmers Union. 45 attended. The goal was to bring local producers and institutions to network about the use of more locally grown foods in the area. For example, several producers are in the process of growing more food for Luther College.

Feb 8-9, 2008 Women Adding Value to Agriculture Conference, Hotel Winneshiek, Decorah. 100 people attended. In a survey distributed 3 months after the conference, 70% of the respondents said they had purchased more locally grown food, 59% had talked to others about the use of locally grown food and 51% were planning to grow more food this year. In addition, 43% had explored a new value added ag venture and 30% have implemented that new venture. Thirty percent of the respondents planned to sell products at a farmers market this year.

Jan-March Transitioning to Organic classes for Producers, Cresco. 2 producers regularly attended and were provided scholarships.

Feb 2008 Local Food Grows Local Dollars; 6 workshops in the 5 counties. 177 attended. The goal was to share information about the NIFF Coalition and what we have learned in the last 2 years about the development of a local food system. The attendees shared feedback as to the next steps to consider.

March 13 Safe Food Handling on the Farm, Waukon. 15 attended. As a result of this workshop, one CSA implemented a food handling policy manual for their employees.

March 22 Blazing a Trail, Part III. Organic agriculture conference, NICC Center, Cresco. 36 people attended.

March 17 Marketing Fruits and Vegetables, Calmar. 35 attended.

April 1 Organic Crops Workshop, Decorah. Sponsored by MOSES. 18 attended.

April 4-5 Oneota Coop Open House

June 6 Oneota Coop hosted a Meat & Greet on June 6, 2008. 200 plus people attended their meats tasting/grilling night.

July 2 On Farm Dairy Processing Workshop, Calmar. Paid scholarships for 11 local producers to attend. Organized by NICC.

July 9 Local Foods Cooking Contest at Winneshiek County Fair.
<http://webstar.postbulletin.com/agrinews/293159595165833.bsp> . Organized by Oneota Coop and the Family Table.

August 2 Plant Variety Tour, Plantpeddler, Cresco. 100 attended.

Educational Events (Internal)

- Nov. 26: Meeting with Pam Benike, SE MN Food Network Coordinator.
- March 6: Hosted Hal Shroer: Development of a Viable Business Proposition.

Administrative:

- Met 11 times from August-July with an average of 16 members present.
- Participated in RFSWG meeting in September and December.
- Presented at the Regional SARE meeting in Des Moines.
- Participated in Marketing & Food Systems workshop in March 08.
- Participated in the Value Chains Workshop in April 08.
- Awarded \$ 7545 in mini-grants to producers leveraging \$10
- Completed Economic Impact Study.
- Prepared webcasts on the NIFF Coalition work to be viewed by the FFI County Planning Teams.
- Prepared webcasts, “Local Food Grows Local Dollars” to share with existing and potential growers and lenders.
- The NIFF Coalition was named as the Work Group to focus on local food system development by the NE IA Food & Fitness Initiative Regional Team.