

The NE IA Food & Farm Coalition met on May 4, 2006 at the Winneshiek County Extension office at noon.

At the May 4<sup>th</sup> meeting we heard a presentation from a representative of the Buy Fresh – Buy Local campaign in Iowa. We agreed it would serve us well as our marketing tool as we pursue the development of our organization. We agreed to pursue the first part of the survey process suggested by Rich Pirog and Craig Chase which includes recognizing institutions and businesses that potentially would buy locally grown food in our area. Then we set the date of June 8<sup>th</sup> for our next meeting.

In pursuing the Buy Fresh – Buy Local Campaign and the survey process we are faced with the need to establish a means for accepting and accounting for money. A financial institution needs a legal entity and authorized officers to establish a deposit account. Also, if we receive funds as donations from individuals we will want 501(c)(3) entity to accept funds. Here are some ideas of choices of organizations that I think could serve both needs if they chose to do so: Municipalities, colleges or the university, North East Iowa RC&D and our local community foundation can all accept donations as tax deductions for donors. Our county development organizations normally would not have this type of tax exempt status.

The Iowa Buy Fresh – Buy Local organization has earmarked \$1,000.00 for our area since we have already participated in the program once. Jon Jensen has said there are some funds in the Luther College account that are left over from the 2004 publication of this regions BF BL food guide and the college would prefer to transfer the funds to our organization prior to June 1<sup>st</sup> because it is the end of the college accounting year.

If we pursue the next phases of survey outlined by Rich Pirog and Craig Chase we will need to attract donor funds.

In order to complete the first portion of the survey, which can be done without any expense on the part of our coalition, we will need somebody to gather the names of businesses and institutions that could buy locally grown food in these three counties. Teresa Wiemerslage, would you make a list for Allamakee County? Jacque Hahn, would you make a list for Howard County? And Randy Uhl, would you make a list for Winneshiek County?

Northeast Iowa RC&D has applied for the Farmer's Market Promotion Program Grant on behalf of our coalition on April 28<sup>th</sup>.

See you on June 8<sup>th</sup>. Same time and same place.

Larry Grimstad