

The NE IA Food & Farm Coalition met on October 5, 2006 at noon at the Winneshiek County Extension office. The following members were present: Liz Rog, Rich Lukes, Eric Nordschow, Larry and Diane Grimstad, Ann Mansfield, Brenda Ranum, Lora Friest, Gary Steinlage, Teresa Wiemerslage, Craig Chase, Charlie Baier, Jacque Hahn, Linda Long, and Lyle Luzum.

Welcomed Gary Steinlage from West Union and Linda Long, a Howard Co. farmer to the coalition.

Report from Assessment Committee

- **Institutional Survey** – distribute and discuss county distribution plan for October/November

Craig reported on the institutional survey. Kathleen from ISU gave comments on the survey and letter to include with it . Brenda handed out the survey packets and script.

NEED TO MAKE CORRECTION to page 3. The bottom box should say PROCESSED FOODS instead of MEATS. Keep track of your hours (useful for in-kind match on grant applications). There is a mileage sheet included in the packet. Craig will do Oelwein.

- The **Household survey** has been re-submitted for editing. We should have it back in November to pilot it with a sample group. Thanks to the committee: Eric, Lora and Ann.
- **Asset Mapping**--The local Farm Bureau boards have offered to pay for the Asset Mapping assessment. They would like some NIFF members to visit with them at an upcoming meeting in Des Moines. Details will be announced within the next 2-3 weeks (Nov 3). That frees up the \$3500 allocated to this survey--how are we going to use it? (see below)
- **Economic Analysis Update**--Dave Swenson is interested working on the survey in the beginning in January. It should cost \$3500. He is excited about doing more with meat and dairy. What do we want the economic study to look like? Craig will prepare a draft to bring back to NIFF. If we can get assumptions ready in November, we should have results by end of January.
- **Base-Line Data Survey** – no discussion.

Report from Financial Committee:

- The members reviewed and updated the Assistance Plan from Leopold Center's Regional Food System Working Group. Money needs to be spent by July 30.
- Current Budget for \$20,000:
 - \$10,000 for the consumer survey
 - \$5000 for hired help. The group reviewed two proposals for internships. They agreed on the two-intern concept.
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 - \$1500 for seed money for producer grants

- Split the \$3500 for the Asset mapping (Farm Bureau is paying)
 - Add \$1000 to the producer grants. This is a total of \$2000 or \$500 per county. Lora suggested to let the county Economic Development directors determine who should receive these monies the first year. A maximum grant is \$250.
 - Use \$1250 for the Local Food Directory (already have \$1000).
 - Add \$1250 to the survey costs.
- W.K. Kellogg Foundation Invitation—We received the invitation to submit the full proposal!! The proposal is due Dec 11. Kellogg will do a site visit in February. We should hear by April about the award.
- GROWN Locally has received funding from the Leopold Center's Marketing grant to develop software/website that will be used as public domain for food producers throughout the state or nation.

Report from Education Committee:

- **Update on Buy Fresh/Buy Locally Campaign.** The publication date for the Local Food Directory has been postponed until spring. We need more time to find the producers in Fayette and Clayton counties. We will also need time to do fundraising for the directory. At a past meeting the NIFF members indicated that they would like to see a general circulation piece put in all the area newspapers. The cost for this will be between \$5000-6000. We have \$1000 from PFI/BFBL. The remainder will be raised through memberships or grant proposals. Teresa will send out a detailed list of the costs.
- Lora has asked that members **bring photos** for a slide show presentation.

Report from Policy Committee:

- The group briefly discussed a membership policy/plan for future members as we continue to grow and develop. The committee will continue to discuss.

Other items:

- Lora reported on Halvorson's vineyard in West Union and McGregor. There are also plans to develop an Upper Mississippi Viticulture area where grapes in this area will be in higher demand.
- Lora submitted several samples of letterhead for the group to vote on.
- Eric handed out a publication called "A decade of change in Iowa's small towns"
- Teresa talked about the future need to keep local producers involved. Local coalition meetings may need to be scheduled several times a year to bring some of the ideas from the main coalition group back to the local producers in each county.

Upcoming Events

- Brenda shared information on Marketing and Food Systems Initiative workshop on November 6 in Ames. NIFF will be part of a panel at that conference.

- Lora invited all to the Iowa League of RC&D on Oct 12-13 at the Hotel Winneshiek. Ken Meter will be there.
- Taste the Local Harvest at the Oneota Coop on Oct 26 from 4:30-6:30 pm. Lots of local farms will be there.
- The next NIFF coalition meeting will be November 2 at noon at the Winn Co office. Agenda items include: the Buy Fresh, Buy Local update, Report from education committee and photo gallery.

Who are on the committees????????? Post on the web