

The Northeast Iowa Food & Farm Coalition met on June 5, 2008 at noon at the Winneshiek County Extension office. Present: Dan Burkhart, Don Arendt, Lyle Luzum, Charlie Baier, Jacque Hahn, Randy Uhl, Ann Mansfield, Mary Steen, Eric Nordschow, Brenda Ranum, Teresa Wiemerslage, Liz Rog.

### **Welcome and Introductions – What is new and good with you?**

- Food and Society meeting was mind-expanding conference
- Family moving closer to home
- Economic developers looking at ways to use funds to support NIFF's work
- FFI Annual Report is completed and on-line
- Water bottling is up and going
- New grandbaby
- Dairy Processing Workshop and Farm Safety Workshops coming up.
- Re-elected as Cattlemen President. Doing local hamburger at all events.
- Taco meat at the fair from Edgewood locker.
- Farmers Market will have a booth at the Winn Co Fair.
- Going to Italy to learn about local food systems.
- Coop has meet and greet with 15 local meat producers on Friday
- Family Table local foods cooking contest at the fair.
- Coop will have booth at the fair for the first time
- September is Eat Local America Challenge. 80% local for week or month.
- June 14 Jepsens have a farm party
- Hog roast with Land Stewardship project in Canton, MN July 20

Approved minutes from May 8 meeting posted on the webpage:  
<http://www.extension.iastate.edu/allamakee/info/niffminutes.htm>

Brenda gave the Financial Report. All requested changes were approved.

- Update on requested transfers

### **Old Business:**

- Approve the county recommendations for the NIFF Producer grants from Howard County. Grant applications were submitted for Artesian Fresh for \$325 for a \$3250 project to market their locally bottled artesian water and \$220 to Howard County Farmers Market Association for a \$2200 project which will purchase signs for the farmers markets. The balance of the grant money will be reserved and distributed at another date.
- Update on BFBL local food directory. Will be completed in June.
- Report on Farm Tours scheduled for the fall. Dates and locations will be set this month.

### **New Business:**

- Presentation on the NIFF Policy & Education Model (strategies for FFI). Brenda shared the core values, vision, purpose and mental models surrounding the FFI.

### **Upcoming Events**

June 11: School Superintendent Meeting, 10 am - noon, Location TBD with the School Engagement Work Group.

**June 11, Helping Small Iowa Meat Processors Expand, Upgrade or Build New Facilities, Cedar Falls**

Hawkeye Tech Center, Cedar Falls. A shortage in small-scale meat processing capacity is a common problem cited by Iowa livestock producers. A group of ISU researchers, Extension staff, development professionals, small meat processors, and producer groups has come together to try to address this issue. Operating under the name of the Small Meat Processors Working Group (SMPWG), the group has produced a Resource Guidebook which explains the resources available at the local, state and national levels to assist small Iowa meat processors who seek to begin, upgrade, or expand their businesses. The guidebook also explains the necessary business and regulatory steps, and where to find guidance for each step. Copies of this guidebook can be downloaded for free from the North Central Regional Center for Rural Development:

[www.ncrcrd.iastate.edu/pubs/contents/189.htm](http://www.ncrcrd.iastate.edu/pubs/contents/189.htm) The SMPWG is also supporting this costing analysis workshop for small meat processors. For more information about the SMPWG or the costing workshops, contact Arion Thiboumery, (515) 294-2882 [arion@iastate.edu](mailto:arion@iastate.edu) or visit the website:

<http://www.ncrcrd.iastate.edu/projects/meatprocessors/index.html>

June 12: Clayton County Planning Team, Clayton County Extension, Elkader, 6-8 pm.

June 18: Allamakee County Planning Team, 4:15-6 pm, Dining Center at Waukon Wellness Center.

June 18: Howard County Planning Team, Cresco Hospital, 6-8 pm.

June 18: Winneshiek County Planning Team, 4-6 pm, Decorah City Hall Meeting Room.

June 19: Fayette County Planning Team, 4-6 pm, Fayette County Extension office.

June 23-27: 20 NE FFI members are invited to attend the FFI Networking Meeting in Detroit, MI.

**July 2: Midwest Dairy School or On-Farm Processing**

9:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. at The Dairy Center located on Highway 150 south of Northeast Iowa Community College campus at Calmar, Iowa.

**Oneota Coop Events**

- the co-op/GROWN Locally "Meat and Greet" this Fri
- the Co-op/Family Table Eat Local Cooking Contest at the County Fair
- the Co-op "Eat Local America" local food eating challenge, in Sept.