

## Northeast Iowa Food & Farm Coalition Minutes

The NIFF Coalition met on February 5, 2009 at noon at the Winneshiek County Extension office. Present: Carolyn Corbin, Kayla Willis, Don Arendt, Dan Burkhart, Gordon Murray-John, Lyle Luzum, Karla Organist, Brenda Ranum, Eric Nordschow, Ann Bushman, Randy Uhl, Jacque Hahn, Charlie Baier, Chris Askelson, Mary Steen, Teresa Wiemerslage.

Group approved minutes from January meeting.

### Financial Report

- Submitted a grant proposal to the Community Vitality Center to hire a Technical Assistance Coordinator to plan educational activities as part of starting a *Local Food Entrepreneurial Network in Northeast Iowa*. This grant, if funded would begin in Sept. 09.
- Submitted a grant proposal to the Leopold Center for a variety of items to begin a Farm-To-School program with NE Iowa Schools. FUNDED!!

### TIPS of the Month:

March 21: Organic Conference in Cresco

March 26: Midwest Dairy Conference: Transitioning to Organic, Calmar

2007 Ag Census is now online

### Old Business

- Report from Education Committee
  1. Local Food Breakfasts on March 4 and 24
  2. Grower symposium on March 13
  3. Windridge Open Houses in March featuring new equipment for small farms
  4. Working on greenhouse field days in June
- Report from Microloan Committee. Continue to work on becoming an affiliate.
- Wrote letters of support for FFI application to the Robert Woods Johnson Foundation and for Plantpeddler.

### New Business

- Marketing and Food Systems Workshop  
[http://www.leopold.iastate.edu/research/marketing\\_files/workshop09/index.html](http://www.leopold.iastate.edu/research/marketing_files/workshop09/index.html)
- Plans for Local Food Directory. Group decided that we need to do a 2009 directory. Membership info will be presented in March.
- Review draft of Seasonal Produce Guide. Feedback requested by March meeting.
- Request for proposals from Fruit & Vegetable WG. Proposals due March 9.  
[http://www.leopold.iastate.edu/news/newsreleases/2009/020409\\_FVWG.html](http://www.leopold.iastate.edu/news/newsreleases/2009/020409_FVWG.html)
- Steering Committee Update, Jan 20. Talked about what is needed for processing and aggregation. Will be submitting an RFA to the FFI for assistance.
- Request for Activity process for FFI. See [www.iowafoodandfitness.org](http://www.iowafoodandfitness.org). RFAs are due April 1.
- Food & Fitness (FFI) Update. Workgroups and county planning teams are talking about activities for the implementation phase of the FFI.
- The WKKF has reserved 10 slots for the NE Iowa FFI to send 10 people to their Food and Society meeting in April 20-23, 2009 in San Jose, California. FFI has funds to pay for air fare and transportation for people to attend and WKKF will cover the costs of the Food & Society meeting.

Upcoming Events -- Visit [www.iowafoodandfitness.org/calendar](http://www.iowafoodandfitness.org/calendar) for details.

Feb 5,	10:30am – 12pm NIFF Coalition Education Committee Meeting - Winneshiek County Ext
Feb 6 -7,	12pm – 5pm Annual INCA Conference - Clear Lake, IA
Feb 12-14,	Midwest Wine Growing Conference - Bloomington, MN
Feb 17	Organic Producer meeting, FMSB, Waukon 7-9 pm
Feb 20-21,	Women Adding Value to Agriculture Conference - Hotel Winneshiek, Decorah
Feb 26-28,	9am – 4:30pm 20th Annual Organic Farming Conference - LaCrosse, WI
Feb 28,	From Recipe to Reality - Storm Lake, IA
Mar 5,	10:30am – 12pm NIFF Coalition Education Committee Meeting 12pm – 2pm NIFF Coalition Meeting - Winneshiek County Extension Office
<b>March 13</b>	<b>Grower Symposium, Dairy Center, Calmar</b>
Mar 21,	9am – 3pm 4th Annual Blazing a Trail Organic Conference - Cresco, IA
<b>March 24</b>	<b>Local Food Breakfast, West Union</b>
Mar 28-29,	8pm – 9pm 4th Annual Natural Living Expo - Polk County Convention Center
Mar 30,	4th Annual Marketing & Food Systems Initiative Workshop - Ames, IA
Mar 31-Apr 2	Wisconsin Better Process Control School - Best Western InnTowner, Madison, WI
April 2	2pm – 4pm WIC/Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program Vendor Training, Cresco