Please list your project goals and each one, write a brief narrative report on accomplishment progress. OR you can submit your ISUEO success story on the project.

The EIE grant we received was combined with grants from two other sources. The first was a SARE-PDP grant. The primary objective of the PDP grant was to develop a 2-day training (including tours, presentations, and materials) providing professional development for Extension and other educational providers on local food system work in Iowa. The EIE grant specifically provided resources to add a third day of training. The third day provided both additional resources and the ability to integrate discussions on a regional basis with other non-Extension food system organizations and individuals (e.g., the Regional Food System Working Groups [RFSWG]). The second source of funding was through the VPEO Strategic Initiative program. The Iowa Food System Working Group – Phase I project was funded to provide curriculum development, enhance grant opportunities, develop professional training opportunities, enhance partnerships, and develop resources (websites, publications, etc.). An extensive amount of time and resources were utilized from the IFSWG project in support of the EIE grant. It is extremely difficult to be able to report only on the dollars utilized through the EIE grant program. Therefore, the following is a compilation of outputs and evaluative outcomes we have developed as a result of the combined efforts of all three programs.

Outputs:

1. A resource guide was developed for participants at the “Putting the Pieces Together - Building Partnerships in the Iowa Food System” professional development training, September 11th - 13th, 2012, and was made available to other local foods advocates. The guide was a web-based interface to access publications and websites related to local food production, marketing, and partnership development. It was loaded onto flash drives for distribution and easy access. This resource was the precursor and model for the ISUEO Local Foods website (http://www.extension.iastate.edu/topic/local-foods) that went online May 2013.

2. An identifying logo for the Iowa Food Systems Working Group was developed for use on materials for the conference, meetings, and correspondence. It will continue to be an icon that relates to ISUEO local foods program and projects.
3. Four professional development and leadership opportunities were offered for Extension staff and other local foods advocates and partners. Below is a summary of those programs:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date and Location</th>
<th>Title of program</th>
<th>Number of participants</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>September 11-13, 2012</td>
<td>“Putting the Pieces Together - Building Partnerships in the Iowa Food System”</td>
<td>70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ames</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 19-20, 2013</td>
<td>Road Map for Resilience: Empowering Iowa’s Local Food Economy</td>
<td>107</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ames</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 2, 2013</td>
<td>Regional Workshop to Strengthen the Links within the Iowa Food Value Chain</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Independence</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 3, 2013</td>
<td>Regional Workshop to Strengthen the Links within the Iowa Food Value Chain</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Iowa City</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Outcomes:

“Putting the Pieces Together - Building Partnerships in the Iowa Food System” conference:

- 95% of respondents (35) reported they made new contacts as a result of the conference. Of those, the vast majority (86%) made new contacts with ISUEO staff. More than two in three (68%) also made new contacts with non Extension staff.

- The conference has already facilitated the development of 8 new partnerships. If plans for new collaborations are carried out, the total will be 16 new partnerships attributable to connections made at this conference.

- Of the 22 respondents attending the Regional Food Systems Working Group (RFSWG) meeting, the vast majority (17 or 77%) said they learned something new about the activities of the RFSWG in their area. For whom it applied, 14 or 70% discussed opportunities for future partnerships with RFSWG coordinators in their area.

- Compared to non-Extension respondents, Extension respondents are more likely to agree that the organization they represent (Extension) has the capacity and resources it takes to organize and lead local food systems work in their geographic service area. There also is a tendency for Extension respondents versus their non-Extension counterparts to be more likely to agree they understand the purpose of the newly formed Iowa Food System Working Group (IFSWG) and how it will support the work of the Regional Food Systems Working Group. These data suggest more work may be needed to help non-Extension partners understand the purpose and aim of the Extension-led IFSWG, while at the same time communicating details about Extension’s capacity to provide support for local food systems work.
Finally, the opportunity to provide open-ended comments revealed some cautious optimism about Extension’s leadership role in local food systems development. Extension should be mindful of these concerns by honoring and recognizing the impactful and important work that has already been done by Extension and other groups to move local food systems forward in Iowa, while at the same time continuing to emphasize the capacity of Extension to strengthen, support, facilitate, and coordinate future work among all partners.

Road Map to Resilience: Empowering Iowa’s Local Food Economy:

The following are results based on 19 completed surveys received.

- The average number of years respondents spent working professionally (work for which they received pay) on local food systems was 6 years (ranging from 0-30 years).
- The average percent of time respondents currently spend on local food systems work (FTE) is 44 percent (ranging from 0-100%).
- 1 in 4 (26%) of respondents were employed with Extension or had an Extension appointment.
  - Of those who did, the average number of years in service with Extension was 16 years.
  - 1 was a county-based employee, 2 were state specialists, and 1 was ISU faculty.
  - 3 worked for ANR. There was no representation from the other program areas (Extension to Families, 4-H/Youth, Community and Economic Development, or CIRAS).
- Of the 3 in 4 respondents (74%) who were not affiliated with Extension,
  - 2 were farmers, 3 were farm-based entrepreneurs, 1 was a nonfarm-based entrepreneur, 4 worked for non-profits not affiliated with a university, 3 were University employed, 1 was a government employee, 3 were volunteers, and 1 was a consultant.

Describe the most significant thing you learned from the sessions at the conference and how you will apply it to your current or future work.
- The power of networking and actually doing it. Don't get sidetracked by extreme points of view.
- Change is upon us.
- Networking opportunities; supporting young aspiring farmers.
- Evaluation material was quite helpful--I also met a new person who will mentor me.
• Learned that there are a lot of more resources and people working on local food than I thought. Great chance to make contacts.
• Resources: We will use information on accessing resources to start a local food initiative in Mills City.
• Some collaboration with local folks who I already knew. Awareness that RFSWG exists.
• To educate my local ISU Extension about my work.
• Connections with local and regional people and organizations.
• I learned some excellent resources for farm to school from the Farm Incentives: Farm to School session.
• Talking with individuals during networking time.
• Facing challenges with pre-determined, defined measurable outcomes. Networking with others was also very valuable! Thinking of "bigger" regional thinking multiplier.
• Red Tomato’s work and the NC 10% campaign.

If applicable, please share any stories related to new relationships formed through this conference.
• I met so many people--very helpful.
• I rekindled some very old connection and made new ones as well.
• RFSWG members introduced themselves to me.
• Talked with some of the regional foods specialists who helped me make some plans for my local foods/farm to school program.
• Was asked to partner on a grant proposal at the conference.

Two Regional Workshops to Strengthen the Links within the Iowa Food Value Chain:
• 65 % of the 33 participants had ISUEO appointments
• Prior to the meetings, 82% of all participants were working on local food systems development plans and projects
• Prior to the meetings 50% of Extension staff present were partnering with RFSWG coordinators and/or members; after the meeting, 83% of Extension staff present said they plan to partner with RFSWG coordinators and/or members, 17% said they didn’t know.
• Prior to the meetings 50% of RFSWG coordinators and/or members present were partnering with Extension; after the meeting, 100% of RFSWG coordinators and/or members present said they plan to partner with Extension staff.
As a result of the workshop:
  o 61% said they were able to network with someone from within their own organization
  o 40% said they were able to network with someone from outside their own organization

From what they learned at the workshops, participants planned to:
  o Make use of and/or adapt Extension programming on local food systems development
  o Refer others to Extension programming on local food systems development
  o Apply for grant funding in collaboration with staff from within and outside their organization
  o Reach out and network with potential new partners within and outside their region/service area
  o Conduct joint planning with partners within and outside their region/service area

Iowa Food System Working Group (IFSWG):

Twelve Iowa Food System Working Group (IFSWG) Steering Committee members were interviewed in June 2013 regarding the impact that IFSWG, including the conferences and regional gatherings (partially funded by this grant), has had on them. The following are some of the most common themes mentioned by interviewees

• New or improved connections with other members of the IFSWG steering committee

Eleven of the twelve sources mentioned improving relationships with other members of the IFSWG steering committee or meeting new people. Results of improved relationships ranged from a simple increase in awareness of what others on the steering committee are doing in their local foods work to collaboration on projects to applying together for new grant-funded projects.

• Awareness of resources

Not only did interviewees become more aware of what other steering committee members do, they also became aware of Extension programs and resources that are available to them. Five out of twelve interviewees mentioned an increase in awareness of Extension resources and programs.

• New Local Foods Work

The second most mentioned theme was that new work has begun as a result of IFSWG. New connections have led to program and grant partnerships. One mentioned that other members of IFSWG now regularly contribute articles and event announcements to a newsletter this person regularly distributes around the state,
thus improving the quality of the newsletter. Another explained that he/she had gotten to know two of the newer faculty members through IFSWG and has since helped these people connect with funding opportunities for their educational programs.

Several mentioned that they have partnered on grants with others they met or grew closer to through IFSWG. New grant-funded projects that resulted from relationships built through IFSWG include:

- An equipment sharing project for small farmers through a Leopold Center for Sustainable Agriculture grant entitled, “Innovative equipment solutions to reduce costs and improve productivity for small-scale fruit and vegetable growers”
- An aquaponics project between ISU’s National Resources Ecology and Management department and the Value Added Agriculture Program
- A statewide three-level food safety training program for farmers through an Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship grant
- A contract to conduction the evaluation of the Illinois Stewardship Alliance farm to restaurant program, which has a Specialty Crop Block Grant.

New projects that are being completed without additional funds included:

- Creation of new food safety publications on accepting donations of locally grown products at food pantries and sanitizers for fruits and vegetables and an update of a publication on fruit and vegetable safety in flooded areas
- Update of the Growing in the Garden curriculum through adding a new chapter on local foods, with a special focus on using local foods in schools
- A partnership was created through connections at the fall 2012 conference between a Horticulture faculty member, the Polk County Extension, and a horticulture field specialist to pilot an advanced master gardener class. This class gave Master Gardeners additional training in vegetable production so they can assist community and school gardens.

Cross-disciplinary work

Six of the interviewees explained that IFSWG has allowed for interdisciplinary work. Not only did they include people from other disciplines in their work, but they also felt that even when offering their regular educational programs they were able to offer some perspectives from other disciplines. For example, one interviewee said, “I am understanding the need to be multidisciplinary in our outreach.” This person goes on to say he/she now recognizes that in Extension’s outreach they can target not just the topic of their own expertise, but look at broader extension goals of making people, the economy, and the environment healthier.
External Partners

Most comments regarding IFSWG’s external partners were very positive, saying that IFSWG has given people opportunities to strengthen connections with external partners, especially through the various conferences and meetings supported by IFSWG. For example, three committee members specifically mentioned they now have a closer relationship with the Practical Farmers of Iowa (PFI) through IFSWG and two said they are now partnering with PFI to deliver programming to farmers around the state. Other new external partners include school gardeners, FoodCorps members, a farm equipment supply company, and local food groups.

Summarize the actual budget expended on the project.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Expenses</th>
<th>Total Amount</th>
<th>ISUEO In-Kind Contribution</th>
<th>SARE PDP Funds</th>
<th>Amount Requested</th>
<th>Amount Expended</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Salaries/Benefits</td>
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<td>$8,529</td>
<td>$19,357</td>
<td>$5,300</td>
<td>$6,210</td>
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<tr>
<td>Materials/Supplies</td>
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<td>$22,551</td>
<td>$2,800</td>
<td>$0</td>
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<td>Travel</td>
<td>$1,564</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$564</td>
<td>$1,000</td>
<td>$0</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>$60,101</strong></td>
<td><strong>$8,529</strong></td>
<td><strong>$42,472</strong></td>
<td><strong>$9,100</strong></td>
<td><strong>$6,210</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1 The SARE PDP Materials/Supplies figure includes all direct costs including subcontract awards and workshop expenses.

Total amount requested from Excellence in Extension: $9,100.

Note the in-kind and SARE PDP revenues are support provided from other funding sources and not being part of the dollar request for this grant. The SARE PDP program pays for two of the three days of the planned workshop. The Howell grant will help pay for the third day of the workshop in addition to some expenses not covered by the SARE PDP grant.

Comments:

Thank you for the funding. It added to other funding streams allowing us to accomplish our objectives. We believe behavioral and institutional changes are already occurring and we will continue to monitor these dynamic outcomes.

Attach additional information describing the project, including news releases, programs, photos, URLs, etc.

Thank you!