

Notes from **Capacity Building & Community Wealth Creation: Tools and Indicators**

Name of Notetaker: Sue Ann Funk & Lucas Neece

Number of attendees:25

Key points from speakers:

Dara Bloom:

- Currently it is a good moment to educate people, esp. what do communities expect from local foods, and how they can meet the challenges of health disparity, supporting local economy, address hunger and ensure farmers receive fair compensation
- Focused on the Local Food Program, esp. [Extension Master Food Volunteer Program \(EMFV\)](#). Why do we talk about local food? What are the societal & cultural influences?
- Increased consumer interest: Omnivore's Dilemma, King Corn, Forks over Knives, etc.
- Increasing interest in who raised food
- Communities expect impacts from local foods: health impact, economic, help farmers, address hunger/ food insecurity
- Efforts to educate/train extension agents. Extension agents understand the concepts but have a challenge being comfortable teaching these topics. Training includes practice answering questions. Also agents were involved in developing activities for the training.
- Extension Master Food Volunteer Program: modeled after master gardening programs, includes emphasis on local food.
- Educating on standards, certifications, and labels
- Tension between local food and pushing fruits and vegetables (fresh, canned, or frozen)--which is a primary focus
- Ideas for the future: leading tours of farmers' markets, engaging with farmers' markets
- Powerpoint series: What is a food system/What is a local food system?
- No single definition of local food; reactive to consumer/community expectations. Let the community define what the food system is to their community.

Mary Hendrickson:

- Community food systems: local integration with goals: economic, environmental, social and nutritional health (Garrett & Feenstra, 1999).
- Sustainability is a journey, not a destination
- Importance of organizing & relationships; political (not partisan).
- Relationships need opportunity, space, and proximity
- [FEAST model--Sharon Thornberry at Oregon Food Bank](#)
- Who's not involved in decision making? How to get them to the table?
- Important to reconvene to understand what projects/relationships have spun out of the original FEAST group

Was there a lot of energy on a particular topic? Which one(s)?

- Impacts of federal law, regulations, and policy
- Lack of small scale meat processing facilities
- Plight of rural grocery stores
- Lack of cooking skills/time/tools/food budget. Complexity.

What generated lots of questions?

Where do we start? Once we've started, what's the next step?

What did people need more information about?

What tools did people express needing to move forward?

Additional notes: