eXtension Community of Practice
Community, Local, and Regional Food Systems (CLRFS)

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Acknowledgement

- USDA NIFA
- Katie Wright, University of Arkansas (Support Specialist)
- EFSNE project that is being led by the Northeast Regional Center for Rural Development secured the initial grant from NIFA that served to launch CLRFS (including Deno DeCiantis at the Penn State Center in Pittsburgh, Kathy Ruhf of NESAWG and the NERCRD);
- Brian Raison (Ohio State University) and other leaders and colleagues
Click on Communities
Click on Community, Local and Regional Food Systems

http://articles.extension.org/community_and_regional_food_systems
**eXtension Benefits: Roles, Services and Tools for Every Extension Professional**

An eXtensionID is available to anyone closely associated with the U.S. Cooperative Extension System — individuals working at Land-Grant Institutions, State Colleges, U.S. Government personnel affiliated with Cooperative Extension or individuals in extension-related organizations working on projects with Cooperative Extension staff. Benefits vary by type of institution membership in the extension Foundation. Find your institution’s membership in the current Membership Listing.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Benefits</th>
<th>Institution Membership</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Be a Community Leader.</td>
<td>Non-Member</td>
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<tr>
<td>Be in the I-Three Issue Corps.</td>
<td>if grant PI</td>
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<td>Corps Members in 2016 also receive access to an extension Slack account; their own extension Zoom room; Quizzes; custom program support and participation in a special track at our conference that focuses on the process of designing projects and innovation skill building.</td>
<td>✔️</td>
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<td>Schedule a Zoom Webinar for the Professional Performance Hub.</td>
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<td>(Available April 2016. Adobe Connect currently available.)</td>
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<td>Create and manage projects in Basecamp.</td>
<td>✔️</td>
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<td>Offer a free or fee-based course in Campus using Moodle.</td>
<td>✔️</td>
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<td>Build an Innovation Team. Gain access to monthly Innovation webinars, custom education via one-on-one Zoom meetings and the Innovation Strengths Preference Indicator (ISP) instrument.</td>
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<td>Apply to be a funded eXtension Fellow.</td>
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<td>Apply for Extension Innovation Project funding.</td>
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<td>Get discounted pricing per person for the National extension Conference.</td>
<td>No discount</td>
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<tr>
<td>Get discounted pricing for Professional Development</td>
<td>$80/person</td>
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<td>such as the Impact Statement Reporting Course developed at Oregon State University by land-grant communications professionals specifically for Extension professionals. This does not include other offerings available on Learn.</td>
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Community, Local and Regional Food Systems

An Evolving Classification Scheme of Local Food Business Models

By Allie Bauman, Colorado State University; Dave Shideler, Oklahoma State University; Dawn Thilmany, Colorado State University; Merritt Taylor, Oklahoma...>Read More
Explicit Benefits

- Financial support (small grants, development fund, scholarship)
- Integrate research, extension, and education
  - Invite the right people to start the conversation
  - Participate in on-going discussion and projects
  - Share challenges, failure, and issues
  - Contribute to new ideas and innovative strategies
  - Share your outcomes and stories – webinar, blog, case study, publication, report
Working Groups
localfoodeconomics.com

- Supported by USDA AMS Toolkit project
- Open to anyone!
- Website, listserv, forum, glossary
- Featured case studies

Who We Are

In 2014, the U.S. Department of Agriculture Agricultural Marketing Service convened a team of regional economists and food system specialists to develop a best practice Toolkit for evaluating the economic impacts of local food system activities. The team, coordinated by Dr. Dawn Thilmany McFadden at Colorado State University, hopes that this Toolkit can guide and enhance the capacity of local organizations to make more deliberate and credible measurements of local and small-scale economic activity and other ancillary benefits.

The Toolkit is made up of seven modules that can be grouped into two stages of food system planning, assessment and evaluation. The first set of modules (1-4) guides the first stages of an economic impact assessment and includes framing the system, relevant economic activities and assessment process as well as collecting and analyzing relevant primary and secondary data. The second set of modules (5-7) provides a more technical set of practices and discussion of how to use the information collected in stage one to conduct a more rigorous economic impact analysis.
Urban Agriculture Working Group

Accomplishments

- Conducted survey of Extension’s role in urban ag
  - ~ 19 working group members
  - 147 responses

Next Steps

- Compile resource directory
- Prepare journal article
- Identify next activities
- Any interest in co-leading?

Contact
Lucy Diekmann at ldiekmann@scu.edu

Available online at:
Undoing Inequality in the Food System
Working Group Update

• New Volunteer Co-Leaders:
  o Lisa Gonzalez (Maryland) and Rachel Lindvall (South Dakota).
  o Contact info: lisacgo@umd.edu and rachel.lindvall@sdstate.edu

• Survey sent out and completed by 35 people
  o Strong interest in remaining in/reigniting work around inequalities in food system
  o Food access issues, structural racism in the food system, education programs around food justice, engaging communities and meaningful evaluation were top themes
  o Members very interested in attending and contributing to webinar series
  o The majority of members are most interested in peer-to-peer networking and staying up to date on the issues
  o About half of respondents interested in contributing to efforts such as scholarship, curriculum writing and grant applications

• Next Steps: Schedule working group conference call, begin scheduling webinars
Want to be a Member?

• Katie Wright  
  katiew@uark.edu

• Kathleen Liang  
  cliang@ncat.edu

• Brian Raison  
  raison.1@osu.edu

Post to forum by email if you are a member  
localfoodsystems@extension.org
Hi Kathleen, Welcome Back!

You are joining 1,957 colleagues that have been active in People within the last month.

Exploring eXtension

• Learn more about eXtension at About eXtension and eXtension Create.
• Explore the content at eXtension.org produced by our Communities of Practice.
• See the public courses available at eXtension campus.
• Interact with the public and answer questions at Ask an Expert.
• Search all of Extension through Extension Search.
• Find professional development opportunities through Learn.

Search for Communities and Institutions

You can also browse the list of the eXtension Communities of Practice and the newest communities created by your colleagues.
Kathleen Liang
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Time zone: Eastern Time (US & Canada)
Contributor Agreement: Accepted (September 12, 2013, 4:15 PM EDT)
Interests: community development entrepreneurship innovation local foods sustainable agriculture youth development
Last Active At: September 30, 2016, 10:08 PM EDT

Retired?
If you are no longer working or associated with Extension, you can retire your account.
Retire my account
Community, Local and Regional Food Systems

BACKGROUND: With over 400 members, our goal is to put "knowledge to action." We provide resource materials, training opportunities, and peer interaction for Extension Educators, community-based practitioners and individuals involved in work related to building sustainable, equitable, and just food systems. Please join our group. Watch for opportunities to get involved. Learn more at our eXtension web pages:
(http://create.extension.org/node/91605)

People and Activity

View member gallery
8 Leaders
406 Members
6 Invitations
Invite others to join

View connection activity
Activity Notifications: ON
Turn Off

Elsewhere in eXtension

Links to information for this community in other eXtension applications
create.extension.org
Community Dashboard

Community Attributes edit settings

eXtension Community of Practice

Membership:
Open Membership
Created by:
Brian Raison
Created:
December 4, 2009, 4:19 PM EST
Other Resources and Opportunities of Collaboration
Benchmark your farm to improve your profitability and financial position

Don Nitchie, Extension Educator, Agricultural Business Management

Introduction

Benchmarking is the practice of measuring the financial health and performance of your farming business compared to the performance of your business in the past and to similar or peer farms. Without some standard to benchmark to, or compare, you have little idea if a measurement is good, bad or makes any difference at all. There are many production benchmarks commonly used such as yield per acre or pounds of gain per pound of feed fed. Financial benchmarks focus on how effective annual expenditures on inputs and long term investments in farming assets are. Whole farm financial benchmarks indicate the profitability, financial efficiency and risk-bearing ability of the entire operation. Individual enterprise benchmarks compare how effective expenditures on specific inputs are in producing income, for example seed and chemical for crops or feed for livestock.
Financial Benchmarks and Economic Impact of Local Food Operations

A STUDY OF THE FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE OF 11 COMMERCIAL VEGETABLE OPERATIONS IN CENTRAL MINNESOTA

Authored by Ryan Pesch and Brigid Tuck
USDA Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS)
USDA Market News works with State Departments of Agriculture and local and regional food systems to provide prices, volume, and other information on agricultural commodities sold at local and regional markets throughout the United States.

Information gathered from Farmers Markets, Farmers Auctions, Food Hubs, Direct to Consumer sales, Retail advertisements, and Farm-To-School programs is currently available for select locations. More reports and locations will be added in the future.
Regional Rural Development Centers

• An example and a change agent to design, develop, apply, and assess Integration of science-based research, extension, and education

• Four Regional Rural Development Centers
  o Northeast  http://aese.psu.edu/nercrd
  o Southern  http://srdbc.msstate.edu/
  o North Central  http://ncrcrd.msu.edu/
  o Western  http://wrdrd.usu.edu/
The Northeast Regional Center for Rural Development

Based at Penn State University

Dr. Stephan Goetz
sgoetz@psu.edu
Some Current Projects

• Enhancing Food Security in the Northeast (NIFA)
• USDA/AMS Agricultural Marketing Service
  o Technical Assistance (AMSTA) project (2 phases)
  o Local Food Resource Mapping (LFRM) project
• 1890 Capacity Building grant (TSU) using SNA to understand & improve farmer-market connections
• Factors associated with Food Hub locations (statistical and simulation analyses)
• Determinants of F&V consumption
Land grant university programs helped keep farmers on the farm

Land grant university programs have helped more than 137,000 farmers stay in business since 1985, according to economists.
Cooperative Extension’s effects on Farmer Retention

Farmer Retention: Why does it matter?

Between 1984 and 2010

490,000 farmers exited farming

Due to technological advances, fewer farmers than ever are growing our food.

Since the middle of last century, the number of US farm workers has declined by 78%, even while agricultural output has more than doubled.

Even so, there may be a critical minimum number of farmers to maintain a viable agriculture.
What can be done to keep farmers on the farm?

The federal Cooperative Extension program was set up in 1914 under the Smith-Lever Act to translate and transmit state-of-the-art research findings from the Land Grant Universities.

Between 1984 and 2010, 137,700 farmers stayed in farming as a result of Extension and associated research programs.

A new study shows that investment in Cooperative Extension was directly associated with higher net farm income, which helped farmers stay in business.
How much does Cooperative Extension cost relative to other federal investments in farmers?

Researchers found that Cooperative Extension programming costs $266 per farm, while farm commodity programs and subsidies cost $6,572 per farm.
The same study found that higher levels of commodity payments or subsidies to farmers were associated with more farmers *leaving*, rather than staying in agriculture.

Between 1984 and 2010, an additional 55,000 farmers would have stayed in farming if $100 of commodity spending per farmer was shifted to Extension spending.

This research shows that public investments in farmers are better made through the research and educational programs of the Land Grant University system, rather than through direct subsidies to farmers, if the policy goal is to keep farmers on the farm.


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The Impact Indicators Tips Booklet

One major output of the Learning Circle's efforts was the development of "The Impact Indicators Tips Booklet," a 38-page document written by George Morse, Charles French, and Scott Chazdon that explores practical and credible methods for using the "but for" rule to document Extension Community Development Impacts.

Other Resources

Examples of Impact Statements:

- North Central Region Extension Community Development Impacts
- Southern Region 2015 Impact Statement (Word doc)
- University of New Hampshire Impact Statement from Hillsborough County (PDF)

Estimation Methods for Impact Indicators shown in the booklet
Call for presentations and save the date: What Works in Rural Business Innovation and Economic Development

Posted: August 26, 2016

The Northeast Regional Center for Rural Development (NERCRD) is pleased to announce a new conference in its acclaimed What Works workshop series. The conference theme this year is Rural Business Innovation and Economic Development, and the event will be held in conjunction with Create West Virginia’s Universal Design conference, at the Civic Center in Charleston, WV on May 15-17, 2017.

To this end we seek presentations that may include papers, posters or educational (Extension) programs addressing some aspect of new or innovative product development in a broad sense. Topics may include new products, services (such as agri-tourism) or business processes, including those based in the arts, or creative ways of valorizing while preserving natural assets, including wilderness trails, whitewater rafting and the development of other nature-based recreational opportunities. The submission deadline is December 13, 2016 and submission guidelines are forthcoming. Please email krd111@psu.edu to be notified of guidelines when they become available.
Open Discussion
and Thank you!

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