



Conference Agenda

Enhancing Food Security in the Northeast through Regional Food Systems

December 10 & 11 • Greenbelt, MD



United States Department of Agriculture
National Institute of Food and Agriculture

This event and the material presented is based on work supported by the National Institute of Food and Agriculture, U.S. Department of Agriculture, under award numbers 2011-68004-30057 and 2014-68004-22166. These projects, titled “Enhancing Food Security of Underserved Populations in the Northeast through Sustainable Regional Foods Systems,” and “Bringing Research and Communities Together To Advance a Regional Food Systems Project,” respectively, are led by the Northeast Regional Center for Rural Development. Any opinions, findings, conclusions, or recommendations expressed in this publication or at this event are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the view of the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Thursday, December 10 • Morning Session

7:00 BREAKFAST & REGISTRATION

outside of Salons A & B

8:00 PLENARY

Salons A & B

- **Welcome:** *Stephan Goetz, EFSNE Project Director*
- **USDA Opening Remarks:** *Elanor Starmer, Senior Advisor to USDA Secretary Tom Vilsack*
- **EFSNE Findings and Major Themes**
 - **Overview of the Project:** *Kate Clancy, EFSNE Deputy Director*
 - **Project Research:** The Consumption, Distribution, Production, and Scenarios & Models Teams report on their activities and findings, and what's next. *Anne Palmer, Miguel Gómez, Tim Griffin, Christian Peters*
- **Q&A**
- 9:40 • **Transdisciplinary Research: Definitions and Challenges**
Christian Peters
- **Students: Who, How and Why**
Clare Hinrichs, with Emily Piltch, Ryan Lee, Sarah Rocker, Houman Saberi
- **Audience Discussion**

10:15 BREAK

outside of Salons A & B

10:45 BREAKOUT SESSION A

Consumption Team *Salon C*

The Consumption team will review top line findings from its customer intercept surveys, focus group discussions and secondary data analysis on our stores and locations.

Distribution Team *Executive East*

This breakout session considers challenges and opportunities to alleviate food insecurity through local and regional food supply chains. We will share preliminary results on how products in the “healthy food basket” travel from farm to store and address the viability of achieving greater self-reliance across fresh produce markets in our region.

Production Team *Salon D*

The Production team will review our research on current and future production capacity in the region—on agricultural land, and also in urban and peri-urban areas—and the impacts of important drivers like climate change and diets. Please bring your own experiences in these areas to share!

Education Team *Executive West*

This session will feature vignettes from four graduate students on what they learned through the EFSNE project and some preliminary results from a survey of EFSNE students and postdoctoral trainees. Participants will be invited to share their own experiences from involving students in integrated or interdisciplinary projects.

12:15 LUNCH

Salons A & B



- *Salons A, B, C, and D are located on the lobby level.*
- *Executive East and Executive West are located on the 3rd floor.*

Thursday, December 10 • Afternoon Session

1:30 BREAKOUT SESSION B

Public Policy Implications *Salon C*

What are the policy opportunities and challenges surfaced by our food systems projects and how can we best engage partnerships toward good policy outcomes?
Kate Clancy, Jill Clark, Margaret Krome, Elanor Starmer

Scenarios and Models Team *Executive East*

Hear what an interdisciplinary team of modelers learned from one another in trying to coordinate their efforts, including an example of integrated modeling in action. We will discuss the challenges and opportunities of incorporating modeling into multi-, inter-, and trans-disciplinary projects.

Knowledge Networks for Food Systems Professionals and Practitioners *Salon D*

Three cutting-edge models for fostering knowledge access and sharing—the Community, Local and Regional Food Systems eXtension Community of Practice, NESAWG’s Internet-based “food knowledge ecosystem,” and the new North American Food Systems Network.
Jeff Piestrak, Brian Raison

Creating Collective Understanding Across Stakeholders *Executive West*

We will share what happened at our stakeholders workshop last year, how one location has applied the research in several situations, and how another site animated the project results with the community in a celebration. *Anne Palmer, Tom and Laurie Fowler, Roberto Martinez, Joyce Smith, Phyllis DiDano, Monica Kessel*

3:00 BREAK

outside of Salons A & B

3:30 PLENARY

Salons A & B

Panel: AFRI Projects Across the Nation

- **NC Growing Together Project (NC)**
Rebecca Dunning
- **Food Dignity Project (WY and other states)**
Christine Porter, Jemila Sequeira
- **Community and Regional Food Systems Project (WI and other states)**
Martin Bailkey, Margaret Krome, Greg Lawless, Lindsey Day Farnsworth
- **Food Systems Planning and Healthy Communities Lab (NY and other states)**
Samina Raja, Jill Clark, Julia Freedgood, Jeanne Leccese, Caitlin Marquis
- **Appalachian Food Shed Project (VA, NC, WV)**
Susan Clark, Kim Niewolny, Steve Hodges, Cheryl Brown, Nikki D’Adamo-Damery

5:15 ADJOURN SESSION

6:00 RECEPTION AND AFRI PROJECT POSTERS

outside of Salons A & B

7:00 DINNER (ON-SITE)

Salons A & B

Friday, December 11 • Morning Session

7:00 BREAKFAST

outside of Salons A & B

8:00 BREAKOUT SESSION C

Urban and Peri-urban Food System Mapping

Salon C

This session will present the challenges and opportunities around assessing, mapping and visualizing urban and peri-urban food systems. It will cover Columbia University's Urban Design Lab methodology for EFSNE to delineate food systems and quantify potential agricultural production. It will also discuss the John Hopkins Center for a Livable Future's Maryland Food System Mapping Project as a study in engaging communities. *Michael Conard, Houman Saberi, Amanda Buczynski*

Strategy-sharing for Evaluating Complex, Integrated Projects

Executive East

Join this workshop to discuss how to evaluate food systems projects. Learn how the EFSNE team approached its evaluation, and share your experiences and wisdom. *Linda Berlin*

Food Systems Research Going Forward

Salon D

In this participatory session, we will explore the impact that transdisciplinary food systems research has had, what new avenues of research need to be explored, and potential funding sources for doing that work. To start the discussion we will hear the identified needs for this work, and short examples of what this work can look like. *Mary Hendrickson, Phil Mount, Kate Clancy*

Building a Food Systems Modeling Learning Community

Executive West

The presenters welcome modelers and non-modelers to hear the history of the learning community's (LC) development, a review of the modeling projects presented to the group so far, and discussion among all the session attendees of how to collaborate on modeling in the future, and how to bring practitioners into the LC. *Jeff O'Hara, Casey Hoy, Miguel Gómez*

9:30 BREAK

outside of Salons A & B

10:00 PLENARY

Salons A & B

- Capturing the Systems Nature of EFSNE
Christian Peters, Kate Clancy
- What's Next for Interdisciplinary Food Systems Research?
Susan Clark, Stephan Goetz, Casey Hoy, Robbin Shoemaker
- Audience Discussion
- Closing

12:00 ADJOURN

Safe Travels & Happy Holidays