



Community, Local & Regional Food Systems *An eXtension Community of Practice*

Enhancing Food Security in the Northeast Conference

December 10-11, 2015 – Greenbelt, MD

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Today's Objectives:

- provide an overview & history of the network;
- show the basics of how to connect via eXtension platform;
- generate discussion of opportunities to focus (or direct sub-teams) over the next year or two.





Community, Local & Regional Food Systems

Goal:

To provide resource materials, training opportunities, and collegial interaction for Extension educators, community-based practitioners, and individuals involved in work related to building sustainable and equitable food systems.





Join the national discussion and collaboration.

<http://people.extension.org>

Click “Communities” and join the CLRFS group.

If you do NOT have an email with .gov or .edu, contact us to join.

Brian Raison raison.1@osu.edu



Join us on **Facebook**:

Search: “Community, Local & Regional Food Systems”

Fan page: <https://www.facebook.com/ExtensionsCommunityLocalRegionalFoodSystems>

Group Page: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/LocalFoods/>





What we do:

- Communications and networking; frequent *crowd-sourcing*
- Working groups (4 active)
- Webinar hosting
- Content curation and creation



CLRFS Working Groups:

Urban Agriculture Working Group – Share information, learn, and collaborate on topics and issues related to urban agriculture (Contact Lucy Diekmann (ldiekmann@scu.edu))

Undoing Inequality in the Food System Working Group – Learn about addressing issues of structural racism and inequality in the food system (Contact Lucy Diekmann (ldiekmann@scu.edu))

Webinar Development Working Group – Help set the direction for our CLRFS webinar series, invite and host webinar presenters online, and market the webinars to our membership and beyond (Contact Dee Singh-Knights, Dosingh-knights@mail.wvu.edu)

National CoP Leadership Team – 2 web-based meetings per year to talk strategy and direction for the overall CLRFS CoP (Contact Brian Raison, raison.1@osu.edu)



Current grant commitments to CLRFS:

Katie Wright, Univ. Arkansas: 50% time from May 2014 – May 2017 for eCoP Core Functions. Grant focus on farmers' market food safety/food safety in local food systems. Also \$17,430 for conference in 2015 (can be moved to 2016)

Dawn Thilmany, Colorado State: \$25,000 for conference expenses and travel stipends. 2016. Tied to Economic Dev. (Food Distribution Research Society)

Becca Jablonski/Todd Schmidt, Cornell: Heidi Marie Mouillesseaux-Kunzman and Jennifer Keller Jensen \$36,000 over 2 years, starting Jan. 1, 2015. 1.8 months per year, or 15%. Grant focus on economic impact of local & regional food systems.

Lucy Diekmann, SCU: 35% time for 2 years (September 1, 2014 – August 31, 2016), split between eCoP Core Support and establishing a working group on urban agriculture.



Other things we do:

- Partner to share resources, curricula, programs, etc.
- Partner to achieve collective impacts.
- Assist NAFSN (North American Food Systems Network) in developing the “Food System Certificate” program.
- National meetings of CLRFS members



National meetings of CLRFS members

(2012 in Pittsburgh, 30+ attending – initial formation)

(2014 in Cleveland, 102 attending – Food Justice & Security Conf. focus)

Food Distribution Research Society

Sept. 28 – Oct 4, 2016 – New Orleans

(CLRFS team planning a breakout or pre/post day)





NAFSN

NORTH AMERICAN FOOD SYSTEMS NETWORK

- **Benefits**
- **Background**
- **Structure**
- **Certification Program**



NAFSN Member Benefits

- Receiving **self-paced**, affordable training and ongoing professional development opportunities;
- Receiving **credits** toward certification in food systems development (**the focus of this primer**); **CEC after certification to maintain certification**;
- *Finding a **mentor** or **being** a mentor*;
- Accessing a **jobs and experts wanted board** that is constantly updated;
- Accessing a large and growing **resources clearinghouse**;
- Helping develop and update **good practices** in food systems work;
- Sharing a **code of ethics** as practitioners;
- Participating in **NAFSN surveys** to gather data on the emerging profession;
- Applying for **scholarships and fellowships**;
- Receiving **discounts** on NAFSN events and partner organization memberships, training events, conferences, and materials; and
- Receiving a **free subscription** to the *Journal of Agriculture, Food Systems, and Community Development*.



NAFSN Background

- **Survey** of food systems development professionals in 2012
- **Working group** of 100+ people
- **Steering committee**
- **White paper**
- **Founding membership campaign** this fall
- **Certification program** development underway
- **First annual meeting** in 2016 (bylaws, elect board)



NAFSN Structure (Current)

National Partner
Organizations

Steering Committee

Working Group

Food Systems Development Certification Program

Standards created

Utilize existing training
programs

Self-paced, accrue points
and/or CEUs

Online dashboard with
training calendar and metrics

Join as a Founding Member of NAFSN!

Join by December 31 and receive a
Founding Member Discount:

- \$20 off regular dues for 2015-2016 and
 - 5% lifetime discount

For more information:

<http://nafsn.cybersense.us>

Duncan Hilchey: duncan@newleafnet.com



Discussion:

For the remaining time, we want your input!

Open forum to explore opportunities for collaboration across existing or new networks...

QUESTIONS:

1. Based on the existing national networks and infrastructure (technologies), what potential do you see for enhancing and learning collaboration?

What might we do together?

Where should the focus be?

What new network capacities or tools might be useful or necessary to support this?

QUESTIONS:

2. What are the challenges to success?
3. What are the needs and roles of various constituencies involved in or connected to your initiatives (including USDA)?