Webinar Agenda

- Review research approach
- Share results and findings
- Best practices
- Discuss future research needs

Approach

- Type of food system
- Identify communities
- Focus group questions related to a research based planning process
- Conduct focus groups in eight communities with 6-10 people
- Analyze data for best practices

Expected Outcomes

- Short-Knowledge of best practices for sustainability
- Medium-Sustainable local food systems
- Long-Increased community capacity
Resources and References

- Food System Profile / http://foodsystems.wisc.edu/
- Community Capitals
- Food Systems Wheel
- Other

Focus Groups

- Background/History
- Community Planning Process
- Sustainability
- Individual responses/comments

Background

- Organizational structure
- What was the availability of local food before this project began?
- Does this project attempt to address a specific need?
- Why did you start this initiative?
Community Planning Process

• Did you do a community needs assessment?
• Do you have a vision/mission?
• What are your goals and how were they developed?
• How do you determine your projects?
• How do you define success?
• How do you celebrate success?
• Were you in relation to your long term goals?

Sustainability

• What do you see changing as you move forward?
• Who are the partners to this project?
• What is your funding model?
• What do you anticipate to be your biggest challenge(s) as you move forward?

Individual Comments

• Level of support within the community
• Level of sustainability under current structure
• Enhancement of community food system because of the initiative
• We are attaining the goals we have set
• Other
Allen County, Kansas

About

• Newest project
• Food policy council
• Lots of enthusiasm

Brown County, Kansas
About
• Active for several years
• Very project oriented
• Partners
• Great amount of community interest

Douglas County, Kansas

About
• Long history back to 1970
• Food hub study
• Land use issues
• Financial support
Rawlins County, Kansas

About

- Producer driven
- Return of young professionals
- Local/regional/multi-state
- Increased hope

UP of Michigan
About

- Collaboration
- Needs assessment
- Strong community investment
- Key leaders

Recurring Themes

- Demand is greater than production
- Mutual understanding is critical
- Physical health
- Financial health

Best Practices

- All sectors of community represented
- Producers and consumers should be part of the initial conversations
- Comprehensive assessment
- Organized structure
- Celebrations
- Mixed funding base
- Engaged community
Products

• Fact sheet
• Local Food systems document
• AMS project

Questions

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