Regional Sustainable Development Partnerships
Serving Greater Minnesota

Regional Partnerships
The Regional Sustainable Development Partnerships
Five Regions
Addressing Minnesota’s community-identified issues:
- Sustainable agriculture
- Local foods
- Natural resources
- Clean energy
- Tourism

Regional Partnerships
Five Regions and a Statewide Office
Each Regional Partnership is driven by a board of citizen and University leaders who are committed to fostering sustainability in our ecosystems, communities, and local economies.
With $17,210 in support from the HCRRD, the U of M Regional Partnerships hosted the Foodshed Models and Methodologies Symposium.

Foodshed Symposium

82 People attended from 8 states. 36 from organizations outside of universities and from multiple disciplines:
- Geography, Public Health, Nutrition,
- Landscape Architecture, Applied Economics, Agronomy, Sociology,
- Horticulture, Conservation Biology,
- Bioproducts & Biosystems, Forestry, Anthropology and Extension.

Sponsoring funds were leveraged to support 20 student attendees from the Regional Partnerships, MISA, and Healthy Food Healthy Lives.

“Serves as a reference base, access to knowledgeable people, and very transformational.”

Symposium attendee evaluation

Based on pre-survey of registered attendees, the steering committee identified the following overarching questions to be addressed as part of the keynote addresses and breakout sessions:

- Addressing urban-rural connections and divides
- Access & affordability (beyond well-differentiated niche markets)
- Facilitating cross discipline research (including some discussion of evaluation)
- Finding ways to engage with community folks and designing methods and models that can be applied (and evaluated)
Regional Sustainable Development Partnerships

Symposium Outcomes
- Evaluation
  - Powerpoint presentations and videos can be found at: http://localfoods.umn.edu/foodshed
  - Successful event in terms of information, networking, forming future efforts: “Serves as a reference base, access to knowledgeable people, and very transformational.”
  - Collaborative grant writing and proposals. Relationships strengthened and endured.
  - Results of foodshed analysis demonstrate viability of local and regional food systems for our region.

Thank you!
- NCRCRD for enabling support
- Kris Igo, Healthy Foods Healthy Lives
- Planning committee:
  - Valentine Cadieux, Abby Gold, NDSU
  - Frank Kutka, NDSU
  - Randall Hanson
  - Linda Kingery
  - Mindy Kurzer
  - Erin Newer
  - Helene Murray
  - Ryan Pesch
  - Stacey Stark
- Admin Support from:
  - Diane Swefeldt
  - Lois Krens

Thank you!
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Can we grow the food we need to feed this region’s population? What is our carrying capacity?

A Locally Adapted Food System Assessment

Western Lake Superior Region

Research Components

- Ethnographic interviews
- Landscape assessment
- Western Lake Superior Healthy Diet
- Economic impacts analysis
Interviewed growers and harvesters

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Landscape Assessment

- 35% open water, wetlands
- 9% on greater than 15% slope
- 9% protected and developed lands

Still ... 45% area left in MN
- 6,093,900 acres
- 79% area in WI
- 3,459,200 acres

In 1939, 18% of Northeastern, MN was farmed, representing 3,090,000 acres
Minnesota
2008 Est.
Aitkin 15,736
Cariton 33,933
Cook 5,437
Itasca 44,512
Koochiching 11,251
Lake 10,609
Pine 28,297
St. Louis 196,864
Region Total 348,639

Wisconsin
Ashland 16,295
Bayfield 14,926
Burnett 16,196
Douglas 43,774
Iron 6,187
Sawyer 17,117
Washburn 16,712
Region Total 131,217

Region Total 479,856
Create...a "regional pattern" diet model and look at the impacts a local foods eating shift would have on the collective physical and economic health of the community compared to a typical SAD diet...
The SAD Diet food consumption profile would require 500,671 acres to meet 83% of our needs locally...

The WLSH Diet food consumption profile would require 369,567 acres to meet 100% of our needs locally...

How much money is spent on food?

2006 Food Cost (CU) = $6,608
Consumer Unit (CU) = 2.5 people
Divide $6,608 by 2.5
Total Food Cost per capita is $2,643 (2006)
Times that number by the 479,856 est. population (2008)

$1,268,259,400

Economics of building a local food system for the Western Lake Superior Region

$2,643 per person x 479,856 - $1,268,259,400

19 cents $240,969,290
(- 7%) $227,437,310
(x 93%) $211,516,698
(+ 50%) $513,645,060
Total $ impact $952,559,068

Obesity Health Care Savings for 100% local diet $154,333,640
Our food system: muscle ~ farmers!

Western Lake Superior: Farms Needed

Infrastructure

Production
Increased Farms & Food production

Processing & Distributing
Farmer & Consumer Coop’s & Businesses

Farm Equipment & Supplies
Tractors, Animals, Scowled Tools

Access to Land
County 40’s set aside for agriculture
"Freedom Fields" non-profit holdings
The **Good Food Network** is a network of regional food system organizations representing farmers, gardeners, anti-hunger advocates, consumers, businesses, nutritionists, policy makers and others. We will share resources, energy and information - working together to achieve common goals.

Recognizing our history and looking forward to a bright future...
Education

Farmer Education - SFA, Farm Beginnings, University Extension, Internships, Mentor programs etc.

Consumer Education - Harvest Festival, Workshops, Presentations, Articles, Food Curriculum & Classes, Farm Tours, Radio & TV food and farming shows

Lake Superior Farm Beginnings

Cook Book

Board Game

“Travel and fill your plate”
To win the game you have to find all the food groups and finish your county puzzle
Establish an agricultural production system that will supply healthy, organic and affordable food for the center’s meals and provide educational food programs for Wolf Ridge.

Sawmill Valley Farm
Wolf Ridge
Environmental Learning Center

Tomatoes
291 cases
$5,997

.01 acres