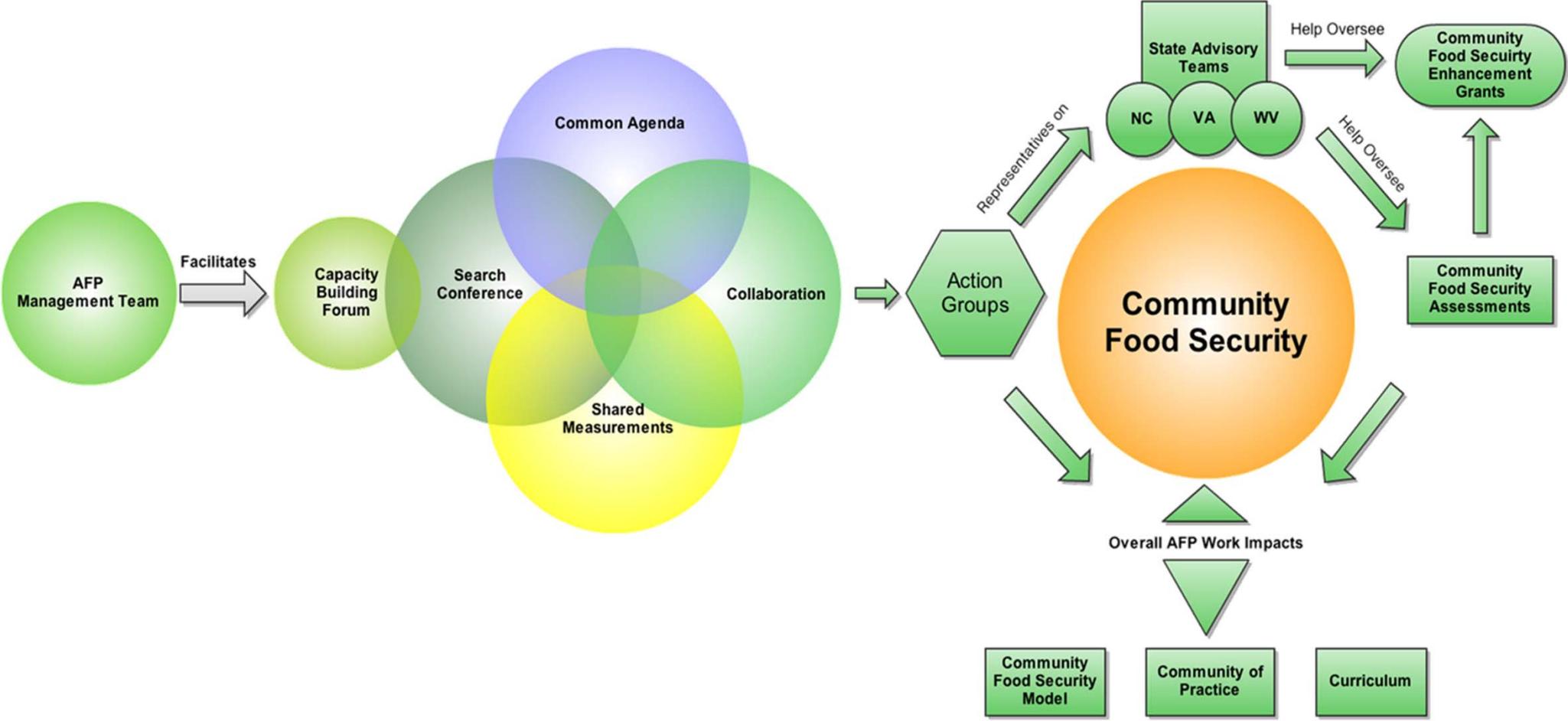




THE APPALACHIAN FOODSHED PROJECT

Enhancing Food Security by Cultivating Resilient Food Systems and Communities



Community Food Security Model

Community food systems are complex and always changing. In order to better grasp how these changes affect community food security, the AFP is creating a systems-level computer-based model of the local and regional community food systems. This type of model is akin to a high-detail concept map—it has data to support the relationships between different parts of the map, in this case the components of the community food system. The model is designed as a tool, to compliment the ongoing work of the individual groups and people involved with the AFP. By examining the relationships between different parts of the community food system, the model offers an additional way to find leverage points for enhancing community food security as well as the ability to simulate possible scenarios that may result from changes at these leverage points.

Community Food Systems Curriculum

The AFP is an educational endeavor for all of us. As we shape our understanding of the regional foodshed it will be important to transfer our gained knowledge and experience to students, eager to contribute to enhancing our regional food security through professional or academic practice. To meet this end, the AFP is developing a multidisciplinary graduate course in Community Food Systems that will be offered across the three partner institutions- Virginia Tech, NC State and West Virginia University. The curriculum development team will be a collaborative effort between faculty, students, and community partners. The goal is to enhance graduate student understanding of the complexity of community food systems by emphasizing systems thinking and community involvement and leadership. Connection to the greater community will be reinforced through an experiential learning project pairing the students with community partners in each state.

Foodshed CoP

eXtension is an interactive learning environment delivering knowledge from land-grant universities across America, focusing on specific resource areas known as Communities of Practice (CoP). CoP's are typically multi-institutional, multi-state, and multi-disciplinary bringing the "best of the best" educational resources to the public. Through the establishment of the USDA AFRI grant, The Appalachian Foodshed Project (AFP) established a *Foodshed Community of Practice (CoP)*. This *CoP* is in the early stages of development. Its long term aim is to help facilitate the exchange of community-based "best practices" to enhance community food security and community food system development. This could include, but is not limited to, best practices of developing and implementing Community Foodshed Security Assessments. *The Foodshed CoP* also draws upon project stakeholders to exchange knowledge about our best practices to enhance our regions foodshed.

Community Food Security Assessment (CFSA)

A community food security (CFS) assessment is a unique type of community assessment. It includes the collection of various types of data to provide answers to questions about the ability of existing community resources to provide sufficient and nutritionally sound amounts of culturally acceptable foods to households in the community. The result of the assessment is the generation of a community profile that may highlight the impact of the community's efforts to enhance community food security. We will conduct a statewide inventory of the local food system across the food supply chain in an identified studyshed. This will involve conducting focus groups, face-to-face interviews and surveys with key informants (community households, farmers, food distributors and processors, NGO's, CBO's stakeholders, and other relevant groups). *Grant funds available to support CFSA in year 2: 2012-2013 and year 3: 2013-2014.*

Community Food Security Enhancement Grants

Small community food security enhancement grants are available (year 4: 2014 – 2015; year 5: 2015 – 2016) to community-based organizations (CBOs and NGOs) as well as to extension personnel for programming that aligns with foodshed issues in community food security. Potential grantees can apply to their respective State Advisory Team for funding to operationalize a community food security project; the State Advisory Teams will develop guidelines for funding, review applications and decide which projects are funded.

AFP Management Team

PROJECT DIRECTORS:

Susan Clark, Project Director

Horticulture

Virginia Tech

Virginia Advisory Council, AFP Advisory Council, Community Food Security Assessments

Cheryl Brown, Co-Project Director

Agricultural and Resource Economics

West Virginia University

West Virginia Advisory Council

Steve Hodges, Co-Project Director

Crop and Soil Environmental Sciences

Virginia Tech

Model Working Group

Kim Niewolny, Co-Project Director

Agricultural and Extension Education

Virginia Tech

Foodshed eXtension CoP

Michelle Schroeder-Moreno, Co-Project Director

Crop Science

NC State

North Carolina Advisory Council, Curriculum Working Group

PROJECT STAFF:

Nikki D'Adamo-Damery, AFP Coordinator

Virginia Tech

Communication, outreach, evaluation

RESEARCH ASSISTANTS:

Angel Cruz, Graduate Assistant

Crop Science

NC State

Phil D'Adamo-Damery, Graduate Assistant

Agricultural and Extension Education

Virginia Tech

Sarah Misyak, Graduate Assistant
Human Nutrition, Food, and Exercise
Virginia Tech

Mary Oldham, Graduate Assistant
Agricultural and Resource Economics
West Virginia University

Margaret Smith, Graduate Assistant
Crop and Soil Environmental Sciences
Virginia Tech

ADDITIONAL PROJECT ASSOCIATES:

Elena Serrano
Associate Professor
Human Nutrition, Foods, and Exercise
Virginia Tech

Dan Taylor
Professor
Agricultural and Applied Economics
Virginia Tech

Pete Ziegler
Research Assistant Professor, College of Agriculture and Life Sciences
Director, CALS Resident Instruction
Virginia Tech

Funding Opportunities