

Western North Carolina Food Alliance Group

At the August 2012 Dynamic Self-Governance training (Asheville, NC), a group of people, including participants from the AFP, began to discuss what it would mean to create positive change in Western North Carolina's food system. That conversation evolved (using DSG) into the WNC Food Alliance Group. Michelle Schroeder-Moreno currently represents the AFP in the Food Alliance, as we work to align our common goal of addressing community food security in the region.

Other updates from the NC AFP working groups:

The TRACTOR Food Hub and Yancey County Extension Office hosted a working group meeting on November 2, in Burnsville, NC. Nineteen people attend the meeting and represented all of the three working groups.

- The Local Food and Food Security group continues to work on their "I Grow to Give" campaign, and are currently working to develop a brochure and facebook page for the campaign.
- As part of the Advocacy and Policy group, Shivaugn Rayl from Carolina Farm Stewardship Association (CFSA) presented results from the WNC AFP policy survey and discussed how those concerns in WNC were similar to statewide policy concerns.

The Intergenerational Educational group discussed developing their 'elevator speech' about the group, creating a brochure and ideas for highlighting successful examples in the region.



Upcoming Regional Opportunities

- **January 23:** Virginia AFP Stakeholder meeting, Christiansburg, VA. Contact Nikki D'Adamo-Damery at nikkid11@vt.edu for more info.
- **March 18-19:** Dynamic Self-Governance Training for Leaders in Food System Change, Asheville, NC. Contact [Tracy Kunkler](#) of Sims and Steele Consulting.

Virginia

On January 23, 2013, Stakeholders and partners in southwest Virginia are invited to join us for a regional meeting at Attimo Winery in Christiansburg, Virginia (12:30-3:30pm). We will be hearing updates from Virginia action groups and dialoguing about the upcoming Community Food Security Assessments (CFSA). If you have questions or would like to RSVP, please contact Nikki D'Adamo-Damery, nikkid11@vt.edu

West Virginia

The West Virginia Food and Farm Coalition is holding a state-wide "Road Map" meeting on January 29 in Bridgeport, WV. It will include a convening of the working groups to reflect on progress and plan for the coming year. AFP is supporting the event--Karen Day (Plenty!, Floyd, VA) and Nikki D'Adamo-Damery will be attending to learn more about the WVFFC efforts and success stories. It should be both educational and celebratory!

Updates from the AFP Management Team

The AFP Management Team is composed of faculty, staff, and graduate students from West Virginia University, Virginia Tech, and North Carolina State University. For more information on project goals and objectives visit [www. appalachianfoodshedproject.org](http://www.appalachianfoodshedproject.org)

Working Group Updates

- *Community Food Security Assessment (CFSA) Working Group:* The CFSA continues to gather data from existing sources, while developing the methodological framework. The working group is developing a white paper to help communicate the CFSA approach and framework.
- *Community, Local, and Regional Food Systems Community of Practice:* In addition to the National Leadership Team, several working groups have been created to move action along. Kim Niewolny is facilitating the "Content Boundaries" working group with assistance of Phil D'Adamo-Damery. Kim is also participating on the "Webinar" working group. The AFP is represented within both efforts. A webinar series is about to be launched where AFRI groups will be invited to present on their projects. AFP is on this list of presenters. Formal invites and details will be made in the coming weeks.
- *Curriculum Working Group:* Virginia Tech is offering an Advanced Concepts in Community Food Systems this spring. It will be tied to AFP efforts in the VA region. The syllabus will be made available to AFP curriculum working group members as a resource at the end of the semester.
- *Coalition Building Working Group (CBWG):* AFP Management Team members on the CBWG had an internal meeting to discuss integration and interaction of the Community Viability grant, CFSA, and Coalition Building process.
- *Communications:* Nikki D'Adamo-Damery is working to create content for a project brochure. We are currently trying to find someone to help with design.
- *Modeling Working Group:* no update at this time

The next management team meeting is Wednesday, January 23 at 9am.