

**FARM TO SCHOOL MEETING, 27 SEPT 2006, 3-4:30 PM, 9R Admin Bldg**

ATTENDING: Beth LaShell, Krista Garand, Katy Pepinsky, Shari Fitzgerald, Katrina Blair, Jim Dyer

**REPORTS:**

Beth explained that she is working on several grant prospects for projects related to community food. Jim is meeting with her for that purpose.

Shari reviewed the progress in getting Farm to School surveys back from all the schools in the county, and recounted good discussions with Food Service personnel in Ignacio.

Katrina reported on an orchard near Cortez where the owner is interested in getting the fruit harvested and put to good use.

Jim indicated that the website should be ready soon.

**COMMUNITY & SCHOOL GARDENS:** Shari reported on the promising discussions with the city on a site for a demonstration garden operated by the Garden Project. She will keep us posted on progress.

Jim relayed a report about a possible garden site off Junction Street that was brought to his attention. We will be checking into this.

**9R REPORT:**

Krista Garand, the new Food Service Director at 9R and Katrina Blair discussed getting mung bean sprouts into salad bars at seven schools this year. Krista reports increasing interest in salad bars especially for younger students, and is even trying to get lower salad bars for those students.

Krista explained that she will try to incorporate some special local food items this year. Small amounts and non-critical items are the easiest for her to include on an ad hoc basis. However any items that require a menu change or larger amounts need much more planning -- they essentially have to be decided upon by November for the following year. We will work on arranging a meeting between Krista and local producers in Nov or so so they can discuss possibilities of small items for this year and larger items for the next school year.

Krista would like posters or other info about the local products they feature -- the producers, how raised, nutritional aspects, etc.

**OUTREACH/SPRING EVENT:**

Jim reviewed the notes from Marcus on the last outreach meeting regarding the Spring Local Food Event. The outcomes developed so far center on:

1. Enhancing producer-buyer relationships.
2. Looking at additional market outlets for local foods such as CSAs and more farmers markets.
3. Farm to School action teams at each school.
4. Research and education with Ft Lewis College as a prime resource.

Food security would be woven into each issue area, and the goal would be to have a core group emerge to carry on work in eon each issue.

Contact Marcus at <[mvrenner@yahoo.com](mailto:mvrenner@yahoo.com)> to join the committee or to offer suggestions or help for the Spring Event.

#### STRATEGIC PLANNING:

Jim proposed that we really need action teams or "champions" in each school in the county (about 17 public and 20 private schools or programs) in order to promote and help initiate Farm to School activities. These could be existing committees such as nutrition or wellness committees, individuals who are on other committees, or new committees formed specifically around Farm to School. Hopefully the Spring event could be used to model some existing groups of this sort and encourage more to form.

NEXT MEETING: The next meeting will be 3-4:30 Mon, 23 Oct most likely at the 9R Admin Bldg, but the location will be announced.

Thanks

Jim