



## Food Security Forum 2010 Discussion Group Notes



### Disaster Preparedness and Food Security

Facilitator: Noelle Melchizedek

Panelist: Linda Nellist

Gotten away from the model of helping ourselves and being prepared for other people. Think they're self-sufficient but are only as self-sufficient as their pantries.

\*Information/Education

\*Making People aware of what they can do (growing their own space)

\*Tracking resources – Linda doesn't know where all of the fresh food resources are. Everyone should have a sense of where these are; where the resources could be.

Publication of locally produced foods has happened in the past – information is available.

Public health had created a list of food resources.

Issue: 28 Items on list: 6 of them we can produce here in Humboldt County – is not self-sustainability at all.

ACTION ITEM: Create a community cannery. Hoopa could be a model. Steve Suttell.

Issue: Lack of information

ACTION ITEM: How are we going to promote these informational resources that exist about what food is available. Information about who is responsible for what when disaster strikes. Where are those resources and how will we access them? How to make those public.

Question: Who has food stored? Red Cross? No, Red Cross doesn't have warehouse space.

Red Cross helps other agencies set up the information and Red Cross and such – but the COUNTY is the lead for this work.

Issue: What agency is responsible for assisting with an economic disaster?

ACTION ITEM: Economic disasters? Is not a formal protocol that Red Cross would deal with, however it's part and parcel of having a healthy community. Practicing it needs to happen.

Issue: Sustainability/supplement existing food

ACTION ITEM: Informational brochure/package: For individual households: Set of seeds + information about how to grow food in a small household. Would educate and empower the



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entire community, which would need an educational campaign. Approach the existing Garden Collaborative to assist/create: Andrew Newcomb

Issue: Neighborhoods don't have a sense of community for preparedness; traditionally neighborhoods don't discuss food preparedness/have set up for a neighborhood mini-garden.

**ACTION ITEM:**

Issue: raise awareness of individual responsibility and encourage support of local food support efforts.

**ACTION ITEM:** Create mini-gardens that neighbors can either buy into, work in as part of, or can participate in, honoring their physical abilities and talents. Have experts present to assist with the set-up of these gardens, have mini-grant programs. Multiple agencies could come together to also incorporate food preparedness as part of their mission/promotion (supporting community gardens, community garden collaborative, Lawns into Gardens is not the current infrastructure, CAFF, food not lawns to be prepared for disasters). Linda Nellist & Andrew Newcomb – and as a suggestion Anne Holcomb (not as the coordinator/contact, but interested as in the concept). Linda will take this back to the Volunteer Organizations Active in Disaster Consortium.

Issue: Need to coordinate resources for teaching cooking and also being prepared for disaster preparedness.

**ACTION ITEM:** Purchase a vehicle that has two purposes: one is to have a vehicle to be a demonstration and teaching kitchen people how to cook in outlying areas that can be owned by disaster preparedness agencies. CalFIRE has model, and locally the Salvation Army has a canteen. \_\_\_\_\_??

Issue: Communities don't have information specifically of what land could be used for community gardens.

**ACTION ITEM:** cities and County map available infill areas that could be community gardens, and offer them to communities/neighborhoods, with an emphasis on perennial food sources (oil baring and protein baring nuts and seeds).

Issue: there are foraging opportunities available in Humboldt County.

**ACTION ITEM:** categorize and educate about availability and location of forage foods.