



Food Security Forum 2010 Discussion Group Notes



Distribution and Coordination in New Local System

Facilitator: Kelley Kyle

Panelist: Melanie Patrick

Initial discussion group: Willow Rain, Steve Salzman, Pat Higgins, David Lippman, Dana Silvernale, Chris Wisner, Helen Love, Claudia Abbot-Barish, Mediha Saliba, Michelle Wyler, Nate Wiesner, Melanie Olstad

Double Humboldt County Agriculture--How long to set up distribution system?

- Starting now—two farmers bought trucks
- need volume model to get food into institution; risk to plant one

Ideal location for food distribution system—Plan West-Rio Dell

- Where do the farmers want the facility?
- Farmers are focused on farmers markets
- Food hub can be built on existing lots
- Co-op has shared cooler for restaurant pick up

Headwaters a source for funding?

Farmers need to cooperate to have enough volume.

- Concern—price per item for institutional sales

Land use concern—too much emphasis on exporting (beef)

- Ship to Bay Area in niche market—export truck farming.

Pie in sky is creating enough volume to export

What is the price point to eat local food?

Food is so subsidized—what does it take to create a new model?

- USDA commodities 10 cents /pound for ground beef
- \$1 for every kids lunch going to fresh produce

How do we create the infrastructure?

- Capitol—share banking for creating action item

Local investors interested in local economy—community corporations model

- refrigerated storage unit
- need plan
- use model of buying chickens, animals, except buying refrigeration



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Agreements in place for CSA for schools

Food for People money going for purchase from local farms

Partnership with Locally Delicious helps with gleaning

Headwaters goals had to focus on exports. That was success. Farmers spend lots of time in pick-up trucks doing the circle. Need to stop redundancy—raise volume, still have distribution problems. If farmers, stay on farms and not focus on distribution.

Needs:

- store grain
- share equipment
- commercial kitchen

Need communal vision—what is next piece to move forward?

Arcata Economic Development facility

Model NCGA model—Farmers' Market

Utilize Farm Bureau? Facility to sell only local products

Facility on First & E

Waterfront development at foot of C

Start focus with distribution & refrigeration

Does Co-op want to deal with two farmers who consolidate their volume?

Co-op is like a Farmers' Market. Local is important

Need organization that can sell local tomatoes

Hospitals want one vendor

Schools want salad bar delivered

Huge stimulus fund coming through Jr Co—can we funnel it?

Move away from non-profit model



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Move away from individual farmer's needs to cooperative model

Ship from maverick model to how to work together

50% locally grown food within two years—have mentoring system

Tomato people need to talk; potato people need to talk

Do more research—visit Bob's Redmill—check out what's needed to move to next level

Some co-ops act as distribution system

Arcata Economic Development Commission needs vision to push through proposal

NCGA? (North Coast Growers Association)

Sysco (food distributor) demands 80%--local farmers locked out of contracts and can't sell to jails, hospitals, HSU, institutions

Is there a sequence to connect dots—needs commitment from farmers, then next steps can happen