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Working Group (NESAWG)
Walt Whitmer, Penn State University/NERCRD

Costs

Registration Fee: \$125 (Early Bird)
Early Bird Registration ends April 13, 2009

To register, please visit:

nercrd.psu.edu/LocalFoods/Registration.html



Workshop Goals

1. Provide an extensive opportunity for shared-learning and exploration related to the scientific research base on a wide range of local and regional food system development strategies and activities – what works, what does not, and what more we need to know.
2. Provide networking opportunities for researchers, Extension professionals, and others working to enhance local and regional food systems.
3. Identify emerging research, information, program, and research priorities and develop a set of options for addressing these issues across the region.

Intended Audience

Research faculty, Extension educators and other organizations representing a wide range of expertise and interests in local food system development.

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NERA
Northeastern Regional Association of State Agricultural
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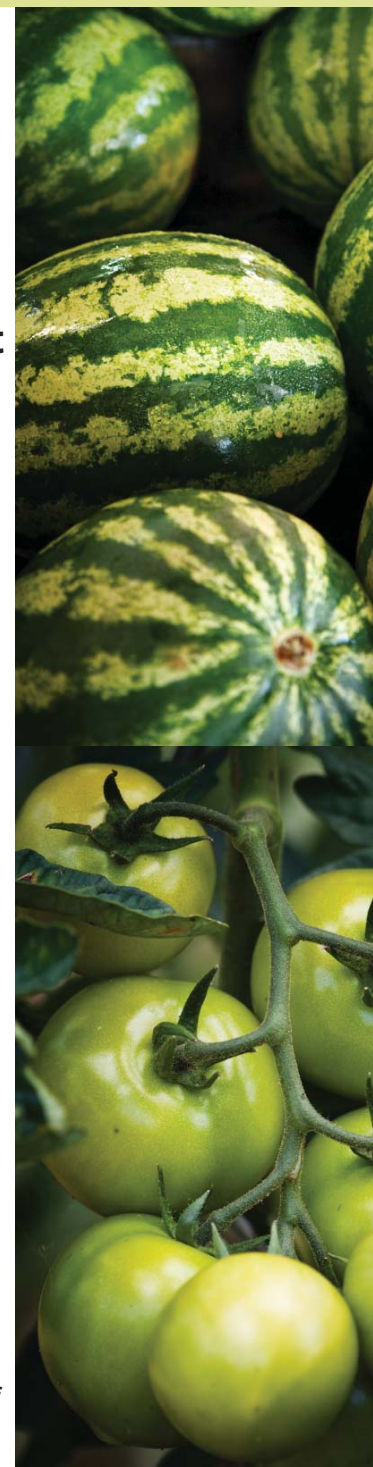
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Enhancing Local and Regional Food Systems: Exploring the Research, What Works, and What We Need to Learn

May 19-20, 2009
Hudson Valley Resort,
Kerhonkson, NY

[http://nercrd.psu.edu/
LocalFoods/Brochure.pdf](http://nercrd.psu.edu/LocalFoods/Brochure.pdf)



Introduction

Over the last decade, and most dramatically in the last five years, the concept of “local foods” has become a focal point of growing interest and attention. Consumers are now much more likely than in the recent past to recognize that what they eat has social, economic, environmental and political, as well as individual health consequences. Researchers and others have devoted a wide range of books, publications, media reports, and research articles to the concerns and opportunities surrounding this evolving issue. Most importantly, agricultural producers, processors, businesses, government agencies and non-profit groups have become increasingly engaged in a wide array of local agricultural development efforts around local foods.

Despite this growing interest and activity much remains to be understood about what makes local food systems thrive and what the empirical evidence suggests regarding the relative merits and impacts of efforts to address local food system development. Researchers, Extension professionals and others across the Northeast are increasingly being called upon to be able to provide this type of analysis and assistance to help states, communities, agricultural producers and processors, and organizations make the most of these emerging opportunities.



Enhancing Local and Regional Food Systems: Exploring the Research, What Works, and What We Need To Learn will bring together researchers, Extension educators, and others to explore the scientific research base relating to local food systems. Together, we will explore the opportunities and challenges inherent in promoting and evaluating local and regional food systems as a critical component for rural community and economic development in the Northeast. First and foremost, our goal will be to look critically at what we know, what we need to know, and what we can do as a region to address emerging opportunities for collaboration across disciplinary and institutional bounds.

Organizing Framework

This workshop will be structured around three major components:

1. Invited speakers to address key selected aspects of the scientific research base and the state of current knowledge related to the practice and strategies of local food system development.
2. Structured discussion sessions designed to identify research needs, strategies, partnerships, and emerging opportunities.
3. Poster sessions and practice roundtables.



Featured Speakers and Discussants

Kate Clancy, MN Institute for Sustainable Agriculture (Univ. Park, Maryland)

Jerry Cosgrove, New York State Department of Agriculture & Markets

Michael Hamm, Michigan State University

Duncan Hilchey, Cornell University

Claire Hinrichs, Penn State University

Rich Pirog, Iowa State University

Kathy Ruhf, Northeast Sustainable Working Group (NESAWG)

Dawn Thilmany, Colorado State University

Jennifer Wilkins, Cornell University



Early Bird Registration: April 13, 2009

Final Registration: May 1, 2009

Hotel Reservation Deadline: April 13, 2009

Timeframe

Tuesday, May 19: 9:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Wednesday, May 20: 8:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Location

Hudson Valley Retreat Center

400 Granite Road

Kerhonkson, New York 12446

<http://www.hudsonvalleyresort.com/index.html>