

Northeast Food Systems Conference Call
Follow up to Forum
12/13/11
8 am to 9 AM

Present: Linda Kay Benning, Dennis Calvin, William Hare, Nick Place, Dan Rossi

Assessment of Meeting:

- Nick felt the meeting went well overall. The Maryland folks felt it was a good use of their time. It was an opportunity to get together in person rather than by email. Stephan Goetz has already put out a request for a conference call for January, stemming from the afternoon session on Urban Food Systems to Nick, Stephan and Anu Rangarajan from Cornell.
- Bill also felt it went really well. His people at UDC are excited and very positive. Feels it provides a great opportunity, the challenge is to keep the ball rolling. Rick from NJ is putting together a listserve to begin to look at the strengths of the ethnic foods group. Felt the process for the forum was good.

Note: Linda Kay asked that Rick include the executive director on the mailing list. The group agreed that Linda Kay should be kept in the loop to be sure it all stays connected.

- Dan supports the previous comments on the forum. He's encouraged by the follow-up already. He feels we need to be sure to reach out to those who did not attend. The forum identified three areas, but feels there may be other areas – what are the other areas? It also appeared there are services available for large operations, but not so much for the smaller operation needs. How do you meet these needs?
- Dennis added that Ken (from Cornell) in his session agreed to pull together a webinar.
- Nick's session's title is too long and needs narrowed down.
- Linda Kay noted that we do not want to add silos, to keep this cohesive.

General Discussion:

Next Steps – who else in the NE do we need to talk to? The NC set up meetings with state departments of agriculture, farm bureau. Dennis indicated he thinks we need to talk to our counterparts in research and resident education and begin to give the departments of agriculture and farm bureau a heads up on what we are working on.

Dan thinks it would be good to identify 1, 2 or 3 NPLs and use the white papers/concept documents as a basis for discussions.

Would be good to have Stephan, Ken, and Rick take the lead and have them be the group that keeps each other informed, provide the linkage - coordinating committee.

Nick noted that Stephan had indicated he'd be interested in staying involved and put the offer out there. Dan noted this is good a good idea to have the three group leaders plus Linda Kay, but feels the directors need to help team it. Need to get more directors involved.

How do we continue or use the data sources? Linda Kay said that all are listed in the document and she can provide a link to Stephan's website in the notes. Stephan's center can set up and coordinate efforts and will be the electronics "go-to" place.

Action Items:

1. Group will send their changes/suggestions to the notes to Linda Kay no later than Friday.
2. Linda Kay will send out the agenda and list of participants (highlight group leaders) to the NE and let them know we're cleaning up the notes. Clean up notes and send them out to those who couldn't participate; Draft opportunity letter for other directors to be involved.
3. Directors will get testimonials from their participants.
4. Linda Kay will contact Stephan about posting the data sources and providing the link to the site.
5. Identify other areas (we've got three; could have others)
6. Dennis will have Charlie White send his session's notes to Nick.
7. Dan will contact Rick in NJ and get that information to Bill.
8. Nick will clean up the title of his session and provide it to Linda Kay.
9. Groups will work on developing a concept paper of what they hope to accomplish to float to NPLs.
10. Stephan will head up the coordinating committee (includes Ken and Rick)***(I do not know who is to contact Stephan re: this or the other two to serve in this capacity? T.)***
11. Have either or both Nancy Garrabrants or Mary Jane Willis serve as a director to help support the groups. ***(I do not know who is to contact these individuals? T.)***
12. Linda Kay and Dan will follow-up on the grantsmanship training just conducted for the Southern region and figure out how to duplicate that for the NE. Will look for dates on the NIFA training.
13. Nick will try to get a testimonial from Adel - Assoc. Res. Dean at MD
14. When document is refined, Dan will share with research colleagues.
15. Tami will create and send out a doodle poll this week for another conference call in January.