

**Northeast Food Systems Initiative
Forum Agenda
December 7-8, 2011
Beltsville, Maryland**

NEED Charge:

1. Develop strong grant proposals around the area of specialty crops that builds on the competitive advantage of the Northeast states.
2. Engage the Northeast land-grant universities and other potential partners in defining a comprehensive proposal that combines strengths in local food systems, ethic and other niche markets, Good Agricultural Practices (GAPs), global food security, sustainability, and human nutrition.
3. The proposal should have a strong component on the human dimensions associations with adoption of local food systems.
4. The team should also consider supply chain issues, agro-tourism possibilities, rural development, network science, demographic shifts, food deserts, and urban-rural connections.
5. The proposal should be developed with extension as the lead but include strong research and/or resident education objectives.

Wednesday, December 7, 2011

5:00-7:00 pm **Registration & Networking Buffet Dinner**
Holiday Inn (Moose Creek Steak House – Adirondack Room)

Thursday, December 8, 2011 (USDA-ARS-BARC Building 5, Room 21)

7:00 -7:50 am **Breakfast (Continental Buffet)**

8:00-8:45 am **Welcome, Forum Goals and Expectations**
Presenters: Allison A. Yates, *Director of the Beltsville Human Nutrition
Research Center, Beltsville Agricultural Research Center*
Dennis Calvin, *Director, Penn State Cooperative Extension*

Introductions: One minute background/interest/expectations from participants

8:45-9:45 am **Regional, National and International Food Systems Perspective**
Panelists: Stephan Goetz, *Director, NE Regional Center for Rural
Development-PSU*
Diana Jerkins, *NPL, Ag Ecological Systems, USDA/NIFA/IBCE*
Hiram Larew, *Director, Center for International Programs, NIFA
Liaison to the NE Region*

9:45-10:00 am **Charge to Work Groups**

10:00-10:30 am **Break**

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| 10:30-11:30 am | Work Group Breakouts <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Use the strengths & assets listed in survey to identify unique attributes of NE Food Systems• Add concrete data or sources that quantify these strengths & assets for future grant applications• Develop a statement that can be shared with the group |
| 11:30-12:00 Noon | Reports from Work Groups |
| 12 noon-12:45 pm | Catered lunch |
| 12:45-2:00 pm | Work Group Breakout Sessions by Issue Area <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Identify who has what type of capacity for issue expertise• Determine how to build on the strengths and opportunities• Identify potential funding opportunities for each issue |
| 2:00-2:15 pm | Break |
| 2:15-2:45 pm | Reports from Work Groups |
| 2:45-3:00 pm | Lessons Learned and Next Steps
Presenters: Stephan Goetz, <i>Director, NE Regional Center for Rural Development-PSU</i>
Dan Rossi, <i>Executive Director, NERA</i> |
| 3:00-3:30 pm | Next Steps Discussion |
| 3:30 pm | Adjourn |