

**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**
- 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**
- 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, Director, NE Regional Center for Rural  
Development-PSU*  
                  *Dan Rossi, Executive Director, NERA*
- 3:00-3:30 pm      **Next Steps Discussion**
- 3:30 pm              **Adjourn**