

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

availability  
accessibility  
affordability

**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.

Cluster  
non profits

**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, *Associate* 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 – great slides  
Diana Jerkins, NPL, Ag Ecological Systems, USDA/NIFA/IBCE  
Hiram Larew, Director, Center for International Programs, NIFA  
Liaison to the NE Region

www.feedthefuture.gov

9:45-10:00 am

**Charge to Work Groups** Bill Hare

10:00-10:30 am

**Break**

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#1 135 - Nick  
#2 402 Dennis - Lendallay  
#3 21 Bull - Nancy

Jobs - small business

10:30-11:30 am  
11:30-12:00 Noon  
12 noon-12:45 pm  
12:45-2:00 pm  
2:00-2:15 pm  
2:15-2:45 pm  
2:45-3:00 pm  
3:00-3:30 pm  
3:30 pm

**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

**Reports from Work Groups - am**

**Catered lunch**

**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

**Break**

**Reports from Work Groups**

**Lessons Learned and Next Steps**  
Presenters: Stephan Goetz, Director, NE Regional Center for Rural Development-PSU  
Dan Rossi, Executive Director, NERA

**Next Steps Discussion**

**Adjourn**

Count off

Self-Select

Network & communication

planning grants

350 projects funded

Stephan -  
- 13 state letters  
- 11 discipline  
1. Start early to flesh ideas 3-5 years  
2. Communicated frequently - monthly calls for 3 yrs. - f2f  
3. Right people together to think about larger good - speak same language

Dan - Dos and Don'ts  
1. Important problem identified jointly w stakeholders  
2. Consistent in goals of funding agenda  
3. Break into groups  
4. Double w. same group  
5. Collaborative approach - not pasted together  
6. Team complete meeting not competitive  
7. Grader qualified  
8. Metrics to milestones  
9. Read as single entity - technical fund donor  
10. Follow RFA instructions -  
11. Matching confirmed - over match in case some disallow  
12. Municipal funds  
13. Have some group review  
14. Value of an external advisory panel  
15. Institutional offices - give them time  
Planning grants & NERA - advancement of projects