

Regional Food System – Market Subgroup Meeting Notes

Friday, April 10, 2015

- **SNAP, WIC & Double Coupon Value** – Brendan Buttimer with Hub City Farmers' Market discussed the large number of households in the Upstate that participate in government assistance programs to purchase food. The United Way of the Piedmont awarded a grant in Spartanburg to allow double coupon value at the farmers' market resulting in about \$11,000 of food stamp revenue for Spartanburg's farmers' market. Greenville's farmers' market only brought in about half that amount. You can check out South Carolina's food stamp participation month by month on the DSS website by [clicking here](#).
- **Furman University, Dr. Alicia Powers & Dr. Ken Kolb's Research Summary** – Jennifer Oladipo with LiveWell Greenville presented a summary of the research done at Furman University. Check the group website for more information on their research.
- **Clemson University, Farmers, Markets & Communication** – Mike McGirr presented a project worked on by Clemson University to inventory, interview, and map farmers' markets in an effort to make them more accessible. This research also resulted in an extensive, but not comprehensive, list of farmers' markets, farm-to-table restaurants, co-ops and more. The presentation and list can be found on the group website.

Homework & Next Steps

- **Identify Farmers' Markets, Economic Development Contacts & Media Contacts- Send contact information to Tiffany Tate by Monday, April 27, 2015** so the information can be accessed and we can keep moving towards the goals outlined in the action plan.
 - Using the list of farmers' markets posted on the group website, please review for farmers' markets in your area and send any additions to Tiffany Tate (ttate@tenatthetop.org). Please include the market/organization name, location served, services, affiliation, director, address, phone number, and website.
 - Identify your area's economic development offices and send contact information to Tiffany Tate (ttate@tenatthetop.org). If you have a relationship with the key contact, please share with them the existence of the Regional Food System Group and invite them to get involved.
 - If you have any media contacts (newspaper, TV, radio, advertising, etc.) please send the contact information to Tiffany Tate (ttate@tenatthetop.org). Please also reach out to them and let them know what the Regional Food System Group is working on to help get them interested and engaged.