

Regional Food System – Production Subgroup Meeting Notes
Thursday, April 16, 2015

Additional Short Term Goals

- Educational campaign as to what can and cannot be grown in the Upstate and the best time to grow certain protein – Southeastern Vegetable Crop Handbook
 - o Website
 - o Workshops
 - o Farmers markets
- Need sustainable/non GMO feed
 - o Very few local feed mills
 - o Feed comes in large quantities; need feed & seed/farmers market to hold the large quantity and sell in smaller quantities.
 - Would need a dry warehouse; no refrigeration
 - Possible action step: contact local warehouses/local food businesses and find one that is willing to store feed – Fishes & Loaves? – group of 5 or 6 farmers share a warehouse to store feed and need the equipment to unload the feed on the pallet
 - o Non GMO feed company will be coming to Atlanta; high shipping cost
 - Would Atlanta company want to buy feed from Upstate farmers?
 - o Consider nontraditional feeds
 - Sprouts
 - fodder
 - Educate farmers on what can be grown – SARE puts on workshops for farmers
 - Possible action step: have a price sheet for current feed and look for pricing on alternative feeds – SFSA

Action Plan

1. Website to connect farmers to land - Who will maintain the website? Who will use the website?
(BRENDAN & GARY) Make initial contact/meetings by end of May.
 - a. Upstate Forever
 - b. SPACE
 - c. Naturaland Trust/ land conservancies/trusts
 - d. Clemson University?
 - e. Farmers Markets
 - i. Other sources to find land: newspaper, market bulletin, SC Farm Bureau publication, social media, Mother Earth News, farm trust alliance
2. DIY “cooler on wheels” for farmers – Clemson University has plans
(CLARA & SALLIE) end of May
 - a. PDF with building plans
 - b. Develop cooperation with organization for a small loan program to build the cooler – AgSouth? USDA?

- c. Education piece that informs farmers what can and cannot come into contact with iced
- 3. Non GMO feed (50 pounds & up)
 - (GARY & TOMMY/WHITNEY?) Some research and possible locations done by end of May.**
 - a. Find existing warehouse/feed&seed/market that can hold large quantity of feed and sell in smaller quantities
 - i. Two Upstate locations that feed can be delivered to – Williams in Campobello?
Rogers Seed & Feed in West Pelzer?
 - b. Investigate the company coming to Atlanta (company coming in September)
 - c. Find out what quantity of feed is needed/current pricing – Green Brier
- 4. Educational Campaign for Farmers
 - (GWEN & JENNIFER & TOMMY – SALLIE will help as needed) end of May.**
 - a. Tommy is currently hosting workshops/classes – workshop/class: cost is a barrier for many farmers – contact CU for assistance or look for grants to put on the classes
 - b. Where is the Southeastern Vegetable Crop Handbook online? How can it be more widely distributed?
 - c. Webinars