

Regional Food System – Production Subgroup Meeting Notes - Updates to Action Plan
Thursday, June 11, 2015

- 1. Meeting to move forward website/network to connect farmers to land. Include the following participants who have already been discussing working on this project and see if we can figure out a solution collectively:**

Mike McGirr
Brendan Buttimer
Patricia at Upstate Forever
Natureland Trust
Travelers Rest & Greenwood (Stephanie Turner) Farmers Market Managers
FSA (email Sallie to get person's name)
FFA
SPACE

Options: (Sallie will elaborate on each option.)

- Website: This option includes the creation of a website which will be able to hold a database of the available properties and names of those looking for property. One would be able to search the listings and find matches that fit their needs.
- Free blog/Facebook page/forums: This option is simply a Facebook page/blog/online forum where people could post land that is available and farmers could post their interest.
- Monthly conversation/network: This option would set up a monthly or bi-monthly meeting between organizations such as conservation groups and farmers market managers (or those working directly with farmers), which would allow for the opportunity to share available properties and farmer interest. These meetings would hopefully lead to introductions between farmers looking for land and landowners.
- Shared database (certain groups have access – people that are working with farmers/want land): This option is a variation or may accompany the monthly conversation/network option. This option is simply a database or Excel file accessed by the Internet, which compiles a list of property and farmer interest by county. The file would be managed or accessed only by certain individuals such as conservation groups or those working directly with farmers.

2. DIY Cooler

- Email Clara's outline and Sallie's U of KY information to Mike so he can find a small lender to help fund the construction (about \$2,500) – Tiffany completed this on June 16th, 2015 and Mike is going to talk with AgSouth about providing loans for farms that wish to build this cooler.
- Need to find out how to distribute:
 - Clemson Extension
 - TATT website/newsletter
 - Farmers Markets websites

- 3. Non GMO feed – locating region for Feed & Seeds to sell non GMO feed? Will conduct survey to create list of farmers that would buy non GMO feed locally. This will help dictate where feed should be held. Mike will help find Feed & Seeds to participate after survey is complete.**

Do you buy feed?

Where do you buy your feed?

Would you be interested in locally available non GMO feed? How far would you travel and still considerate in convenient?

What specie(s) would you buy non GMO feed for?

How much non GMO feed would you buy at one time and how often would you buy it?

What topics would you like to see educational topics for?

- 4. Educational Campaign – What topics do farmers want to learn about?**

- a. Clemson Extension could find/produce videos
- b. SARE: Clemson gets money each year to educate farmers and is currently using the workshop approach
- c. Non GMO feed survey will include a question to help determine which educational topics Upstate farmers would like to have available.