

HEALTH LEADERSHIP NETWORK
Farm-to-School Meeting Notes
Thursday, January 7, 2010

In attendance: Michelle Malm, Kelseyville USD Food Service Director; Marla Peterson, Konocti USD Food Service Director; Lori Gray, Hunger Task Force; Terre Logsdon, Lake County Economic Development; Coleen Rentsch, local grower; Tom Jordan, First 5; Jim Leonardis, local grower; Susan Jen and Jackie Armstrong, HLN.

EAT SMART: Marla and Michelle received copies of the Eat Smart guide and expressed interest in training for that component of the CATCH program, indicating that they could be available after 2 p.m. on weekdays.

LOCAL FRESH FOOD EXPENDITURES: Marla reported that she had received a \$4,999 grant from Network for a Healthy California to buy fresh fruits and veggies and that she expected a large DOD shipment on Monday. In response to her unresolved concern about distributing the produce to five off-site kitchens, Jim said that he would make those deliveries if he was one of the growers included in her purchase.

Michelle said that she has spent \$10,000 so far this school year purchasing local produce and was committed to expanding that amount next year contingent on what produce was available.

In response to Susan's comment that the superintendents might be considering the development of common menus to facilitate coordinated fresh food purchasing, Michelle and Marla both said that common menus may present a challenge because of equipment limitations and other differences between the county's seven school districts. Jim added that the districts are already big customers and that combining their purchases may make it more complicated for growers.

FRESH FOOD DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM: Susan said that the CDFA budget included funds that could be used by an organization to pay a driver and that the organization's in-kind contribution would include providing the vehicle, its maintenance, and insurance. She said that she'd planned on Lake County Community Action Agency filling that role but understood that they'd lost one of their two trucks and wondered if the CDFA funds might be better used purchasing another truck.

Jim said that the Co-Op was currently talking about hiring a driver and that he was using his own refrigerated truck to make deliveries for himself and other Co-Op members. He said that he thought that it was more practical to build on that existing system than to struggle with delays inherent in developing a different one.

Susan said that the hospitals were eager to host a weekly produce farm stand and wondered if that kind of event could be incorporated into the delivery system. She added that whatever system grant funds were invested in had to become self-sustaining by the end of the grant term. Tom suggested that delivery costs should be built into produce prices.

FOOD SUMMIT: Susan summarized the tracks, suggesting that the Farmer-Buyer track would incorporate unveiling the online ordering system and might include discussion about development of a more detailed distribution system.

Susan said she hoped to further imbed CATCH and Farm-to-School programs in a track for schools. Another goal of the Summit, she said, would be achieving commitments between farmers and school districts that would institutionalize local food purchasing regardless of food service director changes. She thought the commitment might take the form of a purchase agreement or development of district policies.

Suggestions for Food Summit presenters included:

- Owner of Harvest Market
- Libby Uhuru, Ukiah Food Co-Op
- Tim Will who implemented farmer training and an online ordering system in Rutherfordton, NC
- Cache Creek Casino Food Manager
- Micky Patterson, Lake County Jail Food Services Manager

The meeting was adjourned at 4:45 p.m.