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Notes from the NE IA Food & Farm Coalition
May 3, 2010

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HAPPY MAY!

Next NIFF Coalition meeting

The next NIFF Coalition meeting will be **Thursday, May 6** at noon at the NE IA DAIRY CENTER in CALMAR, room 112. Please note the location change. Several of us are busy teaching kids about dairy cows that day. When faced with moving the meeting and rescheduling the meeting, the former prevailed.

Tentative Agenda items:

- Update from the Regional Food Systems meeting on April 1.
- Update on Buy Fresh Buy Local memberships
- Update on the producer mini-grants
- Update on the Food Safety workshop and training
- Farm to School report
- Education committee will be meeting at 2 pm.
- Please send other agenda items to Teresa by Wednesday at noon.

Upcoming Events:

- Open Farm: KyMar Acres, May 22. Small farm equipment demonstrations. Pastured poultry.
- County Food & Fitness Farm tours TBA in June
- Oneota Community Food Coop Meat & Greet, June 4, 4:30-7:30 pm
- High Tunnel workshop, July 19, Decorah. The workshop on April 29 was full with 35 people and a waiting list of 20. We are working on repeating the workshop on July 19.
- High Tunnel workshop for NRCS, ISUE and FFA staff, July 20.

Driftless Meeting Summaries Posted

In the last week we have posted [summaries from 10 breakout sessions](#) held during the second Driftless Food and Farm Project meeting in Prairie du Chien a few weeks ago. Please use the comment section of each post to reflect on the next steps and suggest anything we may have missed. If you are looking to get involved in participating on a task force related to one of our breakout groups, let us know in the comment section or by emailing us at: driftlessfoodandfarm@gmail.com.

Orchard & Vineyard Spraying Workshops

Dr. Andrew Landers from Cornell University will be coming to Wisconsin to train orchard and vineyard growers on the effective use of their spray equipment and how to calibrate each piece of equipment they have to ensure proper spray patterns and coverage of their trees. Iowa fruit growers are invited to attend. These workshop are limited to 24 participants as Dr. Andrew Landers from the University of Cornell feels that smaller groups create a very active and effective learning experience for all.

[Effective Spraying of Orchards, June 10, Sturgeon Bay, WI](#)

[Effective Spraying of Vineyards, June 11, Kewaunee, WI](#)

Looking at Alternatives

Thinking about trying a new enterprise? Before taking the plunge, you'll want to check out the capital, labor and management requirements for the alternative agricultural production possibilities. A new series of crop and livestock enterprise budgets is available from the Leopold Center and the Beginning

Farmers Center at ISU. Click here for [enterprise budgets](#) for sweet corn, sorghum, popcorn, sheep and beekeeping.

Big Impacts

Expanding the fruit and vegetable industry in the upper Midwest could have a huge economic impact. A [new analysis from the Leopold Center](#) and regional partners estimated potential state and regional economic values associated with increased production of fresh fruit and vegetables in Iowa, Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota and Wisconsin. The study looks at the number of jobs that could be created and the amount of land needed for growing fruit and vegetables.