



Work Group Updates February 2011

WG Report: Active Living/SRTS Team (Heidi, Anna, Scot, Jon)

- IDOT SRTS Non-infrastructure Grant – creating partnership with UERPC as fiscal agent
- Community Mapping events scheduled for Decorah & New Hampton coming up in next couple of weeks using Luther students.
- IWALK -Community mapping sessions with Chris Seeger in Riceville, West Union in April
- Healthy Neighborhoods, Healthy Kids is a curriculum by Shelburne Farms, VT. It teaches students to engage in community planning and revitalization activities through drawing connections between the design and condition of their communities and impact on their health.
- Safe Routes to School and Wellness Action Plans. We are making a SRTS binder for our schools that will hold tool kits, fact sheets, rationales for our activities. There are 0-8 SRTS programs in our schools. The most popular item are Go the Distance Day and Mileage Club.
- Built Environment Inventory. Winneshiek's park information is almost up on the FFI website. The rest of the countries are planned to be done by the end of March with the exception of Chickasaw County.
- We have also been working on **Fact Sheets** that will be utilized as a handout at future community meetings (wellness, mapping, etc.). The handouts are about Active Living and (I) Health, (II) Community, (III) Environment, and (IV) Academic Achievement.
- Luther College will be hosting the annual Peace Prize Forum this March. Heidi will be presenting from the Healthy Neighborhoods/Healthy Kids curriculum with the idea that we can't strive for peace in the world if we don't even know our own neighbor.
- We are looking forward to organizing parent and community meetings to discuss Walking School Buses starting in February in Decorah and New Hampton, due to their readiness.

WG Report: NIFF Coalition - Teresa & Eric:

- Over 150 people attended the NIFF Expo on Feb. 5. Lots of great comments. Were connected to 17 new producers.
- 16 farms had people attend the On-Farm Food Safety training in Oelwein on Feb. 3.
- The BFBL membership materials are ready to create the 2011 directory. We will be partnering with Inspired magazine to print and distribute the directory this year.
- The NIFF mini-grant information is ready to go out.
- We are having a teleconference with Anthony Flaccavento on Thursday, Feb. 10 from 10:30-11:30 am. Anthony is one of the consultants hired through the Leopold Center to help the working groups. Anthony will be talking about his work with a grower cooperative and their experience with aggregation and distribution.
- Hear from four nationally known food system consultants who met with local food businesses and networks throughout Iowa last November. They shared their observations and recommendations to build a stronger local food economy during a recent webinar hosted by the Leopold Center and funded in part by a grant from USDA Rural Development's RBEG (Rural Business Enterprise Grant) program. Listen to the 90-minute session at: <https://connect.extension.iastate.edu/p54535349/>
- UNI CEEE will receive two years of additional funding for the Farm Energy Working Group. We are meeting with them and the Winneshiek Energy District on Feb. 18 to talk about educational outreach to producers.
- Tentative: Mar. 4. Equipment Sharing workshop for Produce Growers, TBD.
- Several people attended the Midwest Value Added Conference in Madison, Jan 27-28.
- WI has a new Farm to School Toolkit they have asked us to review.

- Connected to the F2S broker in LaCrosse and the kitchen manager in Mineral Point and started brainstorming ideas for processing foods for schools.

Report: NE IA Business Network -- Teresa, Rachelle

- Many requests for scholarships for the Quickbooks and Smart Start classes in the region.
- NIBN and SBDA were present at the NIFF Expo on Feb. 5.

WG Report: School Wellness Team -- Sue, Rachel, Emily, Jon

- Working on evaluation needs for FFI and Wellmark.
- One component is to conduct focus groups with schools have established wellness teams. The team is looking for other schools in the state in focus. Resource contacts are getting their IRB certification to conduct the groups.
- We are looking at baseline collection and have two already developed assessments that could work: Iowa online and Patti Delgar.
- Continue to work on the Action Plan Renewal for schools (second plan for 11/12 school year). Will release to schools April 1. Schools must return the Action Plan by the end of the school year (May 27?). Schools will be given the opportunity to update their Action Plans when the 2011-2012 school year starts in August.
- Need to finalize amounts for each school for their mini-grants. (\$300 for the Action Plan and money for certain Action Plan projects) and send out the agreement forms. Resource contacts are helping schools get these set up FFI accounts.
- Upcoming School Wellness Events
- “Using Local Food in School” Webinars
 - Feb 15: Using Local Apples for School Lunch
 - March 29: Using Local Cucumbers for School Lunch
 - April 19: Using Local Broccoli for School Lunch
- Teacher Workshop/ Whole Wellness: Whole Curriculum. Workshop to teach educators how to incorporate natural movement and physical activity and healthier food messages throughout the school day. February 16, 9:00 – 4:00 pm, February 23, 4 -8 pm; March 2, 4 – 8 pm

WG Report: Farm to School Team -- Steph, Emily, Jon, Teresa

- Cucumbers are the Cross-Age Teaching Food of the month; folios and supplies are being distributed
- Farm to School pilots received cafeteria display boards at the Food Service Workshop, on January 25. Teresa is hoping to fund and produce more displays for other schools.
- A team will be attending the March 10 Conference, “Growing Your Farm to School Program, in Ames
- Consider increasing stipend for Pepperfield – with increased gardens and FoodCorps support; will know more in the coming weeks

WG Report: Community Health Team – Halesia

- Met Jan. 19. Had new members join us. All 6 counties represented.
- Discussion on Community Wellness Grant - need to plan spring conference for all 30 sites. In communication with NICC (Dana Dotzenrodd) Early Childhood Development Education to possibly expand current CWG curriculum into the NICC program. In discussion with IDPH on new funding/does not look positive.
- All counties completing the Community Health Assessment Process. Currently in review for approval. 5 of 6 counties are addressing obesity. FFI Community Health WG will work on addressing obesity with their work. Discussion continues on joining forces to create a survey for next community health assessment process.
- Positive reports on engaging in school wellness teams in all counties. Discussion on having CDC’s BMI tool used in all schools. Vicki Carolan was not present at meeting, but has information to share with group.

- Members assisting with plans for community gardens to be expanded this spring.

Report: NE IA Funder's Network - MJ

The network approved a \$7500 grant request to fund a Community Strategist position. The FN will host a conference April 6 for area community foundation reps and as well as other funders to discuss common goals and discover ways to support, partner and leverage around FFI. The FFI budget has included \$2000 in meeting and conference support for the FN and this is appreciated.

WG Report: Youth Team - Lynette, Heather

- January 19 Youth Policy ICN meeting. Seven schools with 48 participants.
- EYSC Community Grant is in transition with Dan Lane
 - March 9 - 13 - National EYSC training, Washington DC, Dan & Bronc
- January 27 Cresco EYSC meeting
- February 3 - EYSC Youth planning meeting
- February 8 - St Joseph FFI Youth Team Find-Out
- February 8 - EYSC Youth Prep
- February 13 - Cresco EYSC Forum
- March 17: Postville YMCA, FFI Youth/Coach Meeting
- Collection of FFI 4-H Enrollment forms continues

Report: Communications Team - Flannery & Teresa

- Links to the SRTS travel tallies are posted on the Data page
- A new resource for retailers is posted on both websites. Gives direction on the best way to display produce.
- The Faces of FFI feature was launched with profiles of 5 farmers.
- Creating Active Living video clip for Community Mapping meetings.
- Creating mini-documentary for multiple audiences (including local/city government) about system change/ food and fitness.
- Working on mega-fact sheet 1.) local foods 2.) school wellness and 3.) fitness
- Building relationships with local papers.
- Pending: Regional Messaging Campaign & Kellogg Communications TA support.

Convener/Administration: Ann, Brenda, Evaluators

- WKKF Food & Community Networking Meeting in January. Haleisa, Brenda, Ann attended.
- Brenda presented at a Smart Conference – North Carolina.
- Will be reviewing proposed RT/VWG meeting structure and roles for Community members at next RT meeting.

Budget Requests. Reviewed by Vision WG and endorsed to RT.

Active Living: SRTS Training in Denver. Grant: IDOT SRTS funding.

We submitted an application to become attend SRTS National Course Instructor workshop in Denver this April. We should know by February 9 if we receive a stipend. Even with the fee waived, the cost for FFI will still estimate to be estimated \$900 (hotel room: 141/night for three nights = \$450; flight: \$350; food: \$100). If we do not receive any waivers, we will not go.

NIFF Coalition

- Line 4B. NIFF meetings. \$400 to ISUE for scholarships for the Food Safety Meeting.
- Line 4B. NIFF meetings. \$210 to Annie's Gardens and Green for lunch for food safety meeting.

- Line 8. Travel. \$1000. Johnice is interested in attending the “Making Good Food Work Incubation Lab” in Detroit on April 19-21. A three-day participatory conference and incubation laboratory designed to develop innovative solutions and document best practices for distributing local and regional food, with a focus on underserved communities.
- Received \$2000 from the Leopold Center to support those attending the Family Farmed Conference in March. See Jan WG Report)
- We used funding from a Leopold Center grant to pay for lunchroom signage for the six pilot schools. Requesting funding for signage for other schools who are meeting food procurement benchmarks. Line 3A. Regional Communications. \$1000 for 10 sign sets.