



**Northeast Iowa Food & Fitness Initiative
Work Group Reports
August/September 2010**

Active Living/SRTS Team

- Walk to School Day is Oct 6, 2010

NIFF Coalition - Teresa & Eric

- Met with Dr. Wee from NICC about the RFP for their new dining services provider. They are interested in providing local food in their new facility.
- NIFF released the RFPs for the planning grants around processing, distribution, aggregation or storage. RFPs are due Sept 22.
- We are currently collecting sales and purchase data from producers and buyers for the annual report. Producer sales are over \$1.4 Million!!! Last year's number was \$500K.
- Thirty producers from 17 farms participated in the USDA GAP pilot audit program. They are working on their farm safety plans and starting to schedule audits for their farms. Iowa was the pilot for the "whole farm" certification process.
- The reports for the NIFF producer mini-grants are starting to come in. \$12,000 was awarded in grants this year.
- The Leopold Center has an RBEG grant to bring in consultants to support our work. We have talked about the need for specialists in aggregation, transportation logistics and meat processing.
- We have been contacted by a group in IL on putting together a proposal for a grant from the Food and Nutrition Service of the USDA to fund a People's Garden School Pilot Program. This program will create school gardens at low-income schools.
- The next Regional Food System Working Group meeting is Oct 1 in Ames to finalize the Iowa Food and Farm Plan.
- No NIFF Coalition meeting in October. Next meeting is Nov 4.

NE IA Business Network

- Partnering with NIFF to offer food entrepreneur webinars offered by eXtension.org. Sept 9: Starting a Specialty Food Business; Oct 14: Importance of Branding (Decorah); Nov 11: Culinary Tourism (Clayton).
- Working with Dan Lane to offer series of small business development and networking opportunities funded by a grant from the Community Vitality Center.
- Assisting with the final report collection of the NIFF producer mini-grants.
- Assisting with dissemination of information about the Iowa Microloan program.
- Recruiting businesses to join the Buyer-Supplier Network. <http://www.buyersupplier.org/>

School Wellness Team

- Meeting was held among Scot M., Heidi S., Ann M., Rachel W., Emily N., and Sue B. to discuss future direction of and connections among SRTS, F2S, and wellness teams.

Decided to develop a menu of options for schools to choose from based on the school's readiness and current interests. Also decided that meetings will be held with supt. and wellness leader from each school district; meetings will explain FFI and encourage wellness teams and involvement in conference and other activities.

- Healthy Kids Conference will be held in Waverly on Sept. 21. Representatives from school districts will be attending. Rachel will also be attending and then sharing info with regional schools.
- There are F2S activities such as "A is for Apple" that have been made available to schools. This is a good example of crossover projects with F2S, NIFF and school work group.

Farm to School Team

- NE IA schools will celebrate Home Grown School Lunch week on Sept 20-24!! Participating schools have the opportunity to receive equipment for their school kitchens if they sign up soon. A toolkit with ideas and materials are posted on the website.
- F2S folios are in first draft form from the graphic designer and are looking really super.
- September 16 x-age teacher training--Howard-Winn, Decorah, Turkey Valley
- September 21 x-age teacher training--Postville, Starmont, Oelwein
- F2S classroom teacher manual that is a supplement to the cross-age teacher program is being created.

Community Health Team

- FFI Community Health Work Group Meeting September 22, 2010 9:00 – 10:30 a.m. Decorah City Hall
- Update on IDPH Community Wellness Grant and 24 Year 2 Sites selected -Selina Quandahl, Winneshiek Public Health and Grant Project Leader will give update at Fall Conference
- Working on Fall Conference planning/logistics
- All County Health Needs Assessments due February 2011/is FFI being included?
- Encouraging CHWG members to become involved with school wellness teams

NE IA Funder's Network

- Next meeting is at the Fall Conference, Oct 19.

Youth Team

- The leadership team for the Youth Workgroup is teleconferencing on Wednesday, September 15 to plan the agenda and roles for the September 28 youth workgroup meeting from 9-2 AM at NICC, Wilder Room 105.
- **Each work group leader or assistant is invited to share about your work group and its efforts.** Each school has two youth reps and the adult team coach that will be attending. It is not possible for us to have youth join each workgroup and each workgroup's meetings....the logistics just don't work. However, the work group leaders and their reps can come to the youth....this is what we are trying to delivery for this meeting.

- The Youth Team is working on a messaging activity using the new messages developed in August. The Youth Team also has ideas for the FFI website.
- Lynette and Heather are making appointments for school team visits.
- The Engaging Youth, Serving Communities project with the 5 target sites (Cresco, Elkader, New Hampton, Oelwein, Postville) conducted the community leadership training for all but Oelwein on August 6. The University Core Leadership Team consists of Vanette, Lynette, Lauren Obermann, and Bronc Dykstra. Approximately 65 were in attendance. The Oelwein team will be trained on September 15 by Vanette and Bronc. Community Forums around food and fitness issues begin this month with Postville on September 19. Other community forum dates are to be determined in the near future. Following the forums, each community will develop a five-year action plan with yearly action steps. ALSO, we have encouraged these folks to come to the October 19 FFI Conference. This is where we have funds to sponsor their costs.

Communications Team - Flannery & Teresa

- Created a Basecamp account to help manage internal communication with team members. It allows us to manage “projects” -- Farm to School, Fall Conference, Communications Resources, SRTS, etc.
- Handout: Created a timeline for the Communications Plan
- Handout: Communications Responsibilities
- Working on Fall Conference planning/logistics
- Released info on Home Grown School Lunch Week.
- Working with a designer on the layout of the Cross-Age teaching folios
- The Nutrition calendars have arrived and will be distributed to county Extension offices. The Community Health Team will also give calendars to their family, childcare providers and family agencies.
- As stories continue to come in for the schools, each school will have a unique page. Look under the Schools tab and visit the pages for Decorah, Postville, Starmont, Howard-Winn, Turkey Valley and Oelwein. TW will be relying on content from the Youth Teams and Operations team to keep these pages fresh.

County Teams

- Danielle Bucknell has stepped down as an Allamakee co-leader.
- County Farm to School events were well received. Oelwein’s event is Oct 5.

Convener/Administration

- CFGD has notified us that the Year 2 funding has been received.
- WKKF has notified us that we will be able to carryover Year 1 funds as needed.
- Evaluation: Another milestones survey will be sent in October.

Additional Stories:

- Starmont School is hosting a groundbreaking ceremony on Wednesday, Sept. 15 at 1-1:30 pm for the Starmont Fitness Trail. The student body of 730 students will be part of the ceremony as this school works to provide more activity options for their school.
- 8/14/10. Eric Nordschow met with Iowa Beef Improvement Council Personal for several hours to go over information and trends for the beef industry to fit into. Purpose of presentation was to fit IBIC check off funding ideas with Food & Fitness agenda items to see if any fit is possible to bring check off resources and small processors and producers together in further work for NE Iowa food system engagement. Follow up phone conference is scheduled between the Winneshiek County Cattlemen's board of directors and IBIC staff and directors the end of September 2010