

**Alaska Food Policy Council Meeting
May 18 & 19 2010, Anchorage
Meeting Summary**

Eighty people from around Alaska attended the first meeting to discuss establishing the Alaska Food Policy Council (see Appendix I for *Participant List*). The facilitator of the meeting was [Mark Winne](#), of the [Community Food Security Coalition](#), a national expert on food policy and food policy councils. The meeting was funded by a CDC Communities Putting Prevention to Work (CPPW) grant and was organized by the [Obesity Prevention and Control Program](#) of the [Alaska Department of Health and Social Services](#), the [USDA Farm Service Agency of Alaska](#), the [Alaska Center for the Environment](#), the [Alaska Division of Agriculture](#), and the Farm Bureau of Alaska (see Appendix II for *Steering Committee Members and Contributors*).

The meeting began with an excellent lunch made with Alaska foods prepared by Robert Kinneen, executive chef of the restaurant [Orso](#). The menu included shrimp, an elk and vegetable roll loaf, and cole slaw, with almost all the ingredients grown or harvested in Alaska. The meal made the point that Alaskans can eat and eat well with foods that originate in their own state. Introductory speeches were given by Alli Harvey, the Sustainable Communities Director of the Alaska Center for the Environment, and Bill Hogan, the Commissioner of the Department of Health and Social Services. Mark Winne gave a presentation, "What is a Food Policy Council?" and led the group in several large and small group discussions (see Appendix III for *Presentation Slides*).

A panel of Alaskan experts gave brief overviews of different aspects of food issues in Alaska (see Appendix III for *Presentation Slides* and Appendix IV for *Snapshots of Alaska's Food System*):

- **Economy:** Danny Consenstein, Farm Service Agency. Approximately 100,000 Alaskans make their living in a food-related business, and Alaskans spend \$2.5 billion per year on food.
- **Rural issues:** Craig Gerlach, professor of anthropology with the [UAF Center for Cross-Cultural Studies](#). Gerlach discussed food systems and their vulnerabilities. He pointed out that "being self-reliant does not mean producing all food locally."
- **Production:** Milan Shipka, [UAF professor of animal science](#) and associate director of the [Alaska Agricultural & Forestry Experiment Station](#). Alaska's food production is incredibly diverse. We may not be able to be completely self-sufficient in food production, but we can improve our food security and export markets, and we can produce food anywhere in the state including urban centers.
- **Health:** Ward Hurlburt, State of Alaska Chief Medical Officer and director of the [Division of Public Health](#). Two out of 3 Alaska adults are overweight or obese and obesity-related medical cost estimates for Alaska of \$477 million exceed Alaska's tobacco-related medical costs of \$380 million. Access to affordable, healthy foods is imperative to good nutrition and health.
- **Food Insecurity:** Merri Mike Adams, managing director of the [Food Bank of Alaska](#). More than 12% of Alaskans are food insecure and 13 million pounds of food is needed to meet the need in Alaska.
- **Supply chain:** Robin Richardson, member manager of the [Global Food Collaborative](#). Alaska's supply chain consists of numerous links in the chain: end-use customers, retailers, distribution, transportation, manufacturing, packaging, harvesting, growing, fertilizer, equipment, animals, and research.

- **Safety:** Kristin Ryan, director of the [Alaska Division of Environmental Health](#). In 2008-2009 Alaska recorded 17 foodborne outbreaks affecting at least 170 people.

The meeting's objectives were to:

- **Develop a clear understanding of the role and activities of a food policy council.** Mark Winne provided a thorough overview of what food policy councils do (there are 100 of them across North America) and how they operate, but questions were still surfacing about them on the second day of the meeting. Part of the reason for this is that the structure and activities of food policy councils depend on the individual council. The [executive summary \(PDF\)](#) of a report by the Community Food Security Coalition on food policy councils, *Food Policy Councils: Lessons Learned*, was included as part of the participant materials. (The [full report](#) is also available as a PDF at their website.) Winne described how effective food policy councils complement the work of the private and public sectors, working best with the three Ps: projects, partnerships, and policies. Winne pointed out that there are no departments of food in any state government, although many state departments have to do with food (agriculture, transportation, health & safety, commerce, etc.); a food policy council can act as a de facto Department of Food.

- **Identify food system issues and priorities in Alaska.** Most of the meeting was devoted to this topic. Winne led discussions over two days, during which the participants identified issues at play in Alaska concerning: values around food; food issues in Alaska (these ranged from nutrition, food safety, environmental contamination, food equity and justice concerns, food production, production support industry [compost, agricultural equipment manufacturers, seed growers & sellers, etc.], food education, game management, traditional use, food security in the event of a natural or man-made disaster, social and cultural importance of food and eating, and so forth); strengths and weaknesses of the food systems in Alaska, and so on (see Appendix V for *Discussion Notes* and Appendix VI for *Issues*). On the second day, six main areas were identified: council governance and structure; health, food security, hunger, social justice, and safety; indigenous traditional and cultural foods; education and regulation; food production; and the food supply chain (processing, distribution, development, transportation, and infrastructure). The attendees broke up into groups along these lines and reviewed and prioritized issues in their respective groups, and considered two questions: what do we need to know, and who is missing? (See Appendix VII for *Committee Notes*.)

- **Evaluate different organizational structures of food policy councils around the country and decide what could work for Alaska.** Food policy councils tend to be either independent of government, government-based entities, or a hybrid of the two. The meeting attendees seemed to lean toward either an independent group or a hybrid, the main concerns being that if there was not buy-in from the policy makers and agencies in government, that the council would not be taken seriously, or would have no impact; however, if a part of government, then the council might be too subject to political vagaries. The Governance Committee was established to examine the different options and identify the organizational structure of the Alaska Food Policy Council.

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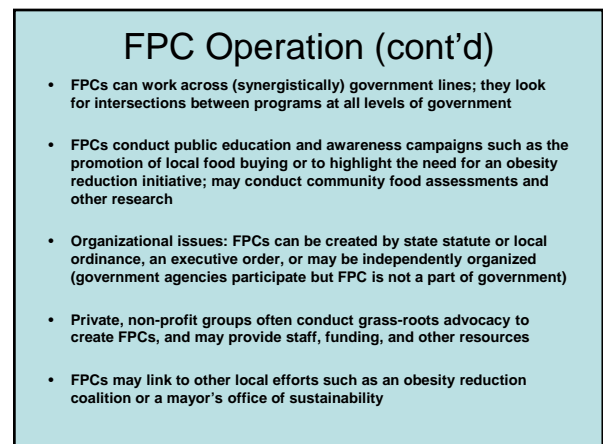
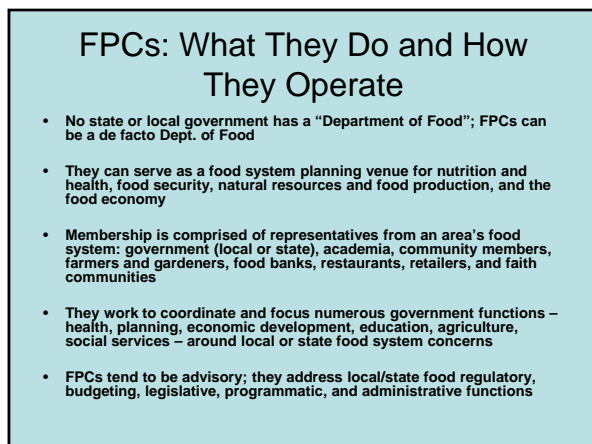
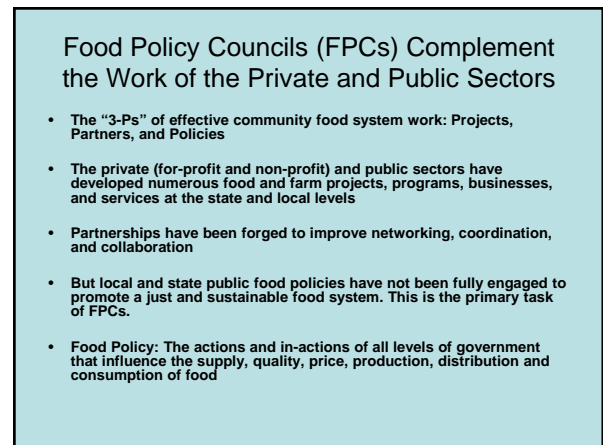
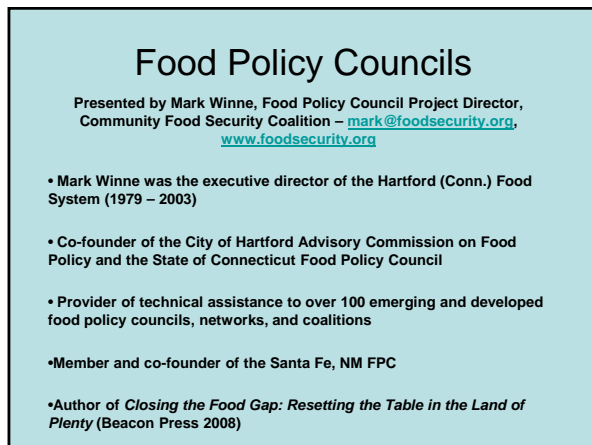
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What Do We Know about FPCs?

(based on recent FPC survey by Food First and CFSC)

- We estimate there are 100 FPCs in North America (only a few in Canada)
- 75 FPCs were contacted for the survey; 39 FPCs responded: 7 state, 17 county or multi-county (regional), and 14 city
- A small number are joint city/county FPCs
- About 50% of FPCs have no staff; 40% have less than 1 FTE; 10% have 1 to 3 FTEs
- Most (60%) of state FPCs are part of gov't; some (20 to 40%) of local/county FPCs are a part of or have a strong connection to gov't
- Between 8 and 28% of FPCs have no funding; between 16 and 50% receive some gov't funding; Foundations fund about 25% of FPCs
- The only known federal sources of FPC funding are the Community Food Project Competitive Grant Program and RMA

FPC Actions and Accomplishments...a sampling

- The New Mexico Food & Agriculture Policy Council: Created school nutrition rules governing use of competitive foods; developed and expanded a farm to school program; expanded funding for farm enhancement grants (new farm marketing and value-added enterprises); currently working on a new economic development initiative to address the lack of high quality grocery stores in "food desert" rural counties
- Cleveland/Cuyahoga County FPC: Instrumental in securing zoning changes that protect community gardens, urban farms, and raising of chickens and bees; expanding urban agriculture through use of city economic development funds for such enterprises, and promoting use of city/county purchasing for locally grown food; working with Case Western Reserve University and Oberlin College to buy local food

FPC Actions cont'd...

- Missoula, Mont. FPC working with county land use board to direct development away from prime farm and ranchland
- Boulder County FPC working with county government to develop a plan for the sustainable agriculture use of 25,000 publicly-owned acres of farmland
- Fresno, CA food policy coalition worked with city planning office to secure zoning changes to protect farmers' markets and protect community gardens; also included significant food-related components (farmers' markets, community gardens, supermarkets, and protected farmland) in a plan for annexation of 9,000 acres

FPC Action cont'd...

- City of Hartford FPC worked with city WIC agency to improve service delivery that restored WIC caseload to 10,000 from 6,000 persons; conducted public transportation study that led to the creation of a new bus route that connects the city's lowest income residents to new supermarkets;
- State of Connecticut FPC conducted major public education campaign regarding loss of the state's farmland that resulted in the development of \$30 million per year in state funding for farmland preservation, a farm to school initiative, and farm viability grant program; coordinated and improved the delivery of nutrition education services that were previously operated independently by 5 separate state agencies; developed a plan that brought the EBT program to most of the state's farmers' markets; currently working on the development of new livestock slaughter and processing facilities

FPCs in the Pipeline

- City of Seattle and King County working on creation of a food policy council as part of the area's larger sustainability initiative
- Salt Lake City FPC is the "food expert" on the newly formed Mayor's Office of Sustainability
- San Francisco has announced a new region-wide sustainable food initiative that includes a FPC
- Los Angeles recently announced the creation of a FPC
- Legislation to create a Massachusetts Food Policy Council is close to passage

FPCs – Opportunities and Challenges

- With limited resources and occasional resistance from large food and agriculture groups, FPCs have demonstrated the ability to identify, and secure important local and state policy gains
- Their comprehensive focus – from food security to sustainability – often makes FPCs the only place where systemic and coordinated local or state food system work take place
- Given the enormous complexity of the food system, the number of stakeholders, and the vast array of local, state, and federal food and farm programs, well-staffed and adequately resourced local and state food system planning, educating, and coordinating entities have become an increasing necessity
- FPCs should receive additional financial and training support to expand their numbers and effectiveness, and to ensure a just and sustainable food system for all

Food Economy in Alaska

Danny Consenstein
State Executive Director
USDA Alaska Farm Service Agency




Rural and Alaska Native Food Systems:

Food security, food system innovation, policy barriers and constraints

S. Craig Gerlach
Philip A Loring

Center for Cross Cultural Studies,
Alaska Center for Climate Assessment and Policy
University of Alaska Fairbanks




Food Systems

- What are they?
The totality of activities, social institutions, material inputs and outputs, and cultural beliefs within a social group that are involved in the harvest and production, distribution, preparation and consumption of food
- Why are they important / useful?
 - Includes both production issues and consumption issues
 - e.g., nutrition education
 - Ecosystem health
 - Individual and community health
 - Link local, regional, and global scales
 - A context for understanding identity, tradition, security, and environmental justice

Food Systems

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The Alaska Food System

- Alaska agriculture supplies ~5% of the state's food needs (USDA)
- 12% of Alaskans are food insecure (USDA)
- Commercial fisheries harvested 2.8 thousand metric tons of fish (2007) (NOAA)
 - <1% stays in state food system
- Food costs 25% higher than in lower-48 (CES)
 - 2-3x more in rural 'bush' communities
- Few food security mechanisms instilled in rural or urban community plans
 - Little-to-no in-state food storage
 - Urban food assistance involve transfers and non-profit services (food bank)





The Rural Alaska Food System

- Families value country food
- Only ~2% of Alaska's harvested fish and game are for subsistence (Wolfe 2000)
- 20% of Alaska's population lives in rural areas
 - >90% rely on wild fish; >70% rely on large game, marine mammals
 - 100% rely on global food inputs for at least part of the year
 - 51% of Alaska Natives live in urban areas
- Rural and urban systems are highly connected
 - Employment, healthcare
 - Split families, food transfer from urban to rural and vice versa





Food System Vulnerabilities



- Decreased control over food supply
 - Distancing weakens important producer-consumer feedbacks
 - food cost, quality, availability, with options limited in rural areas
- And increased vulnerability in the food supply
 - Exposure to contaminants
 - Decline in food quality during transport
 - Disruptions in supply
 - Lack of emergency options
 - Seasonal shortages and the absence of food

Barriers to effective adaptation

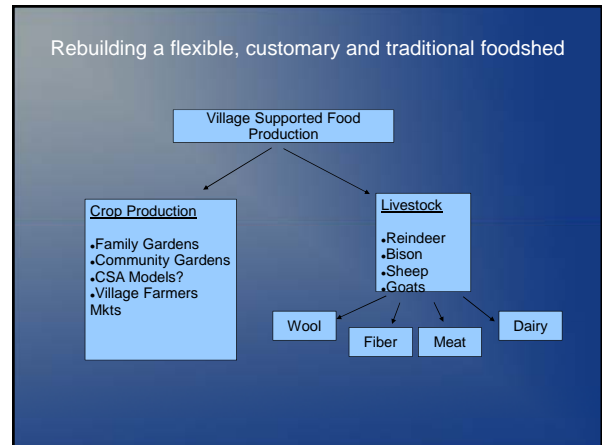
- Climate and extreme weather are impacting the ability of people to maintain food security
- Existing policy regimes do not respond effectively to variability and change
- Questions regarding agriculture and customary and traditional uses of land
- How do we enhance local food options to reduce vulnerability rather than constrain households?



Food System Innovation and Policy Opportunities

Being self-reliant does not mean producing all food locally

- Local and co-management of wild food resources
- In-state marketing: local production for local consumption
 - e.g., 2010 AK farm to school bill
 - 15% (420k metric tons) of commercial fishery landings are in AK jurisdiction
- Re-visiting reindeer, wood bison
- Infrastructure
- Implementation of the regulatory framework is as important as the design of the policy itself

ALASKA'S AGRICULTURE: What is the vision?

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Associate Director; Agricultural and Forestry Experiment Station

Animal Scientist and Extension Livestock Specialist;
School of Natural Resources and Agricultural Sciences

Cooperative Extension Service
University of Alaska Fairbanks






Presented to:
Alaska Food Policy Council Meeting

May 18-19, 2010
Anchorage, AK



BUILDING A VISION FOR ALASKA'S AGRICULTURE:


Agriculture is a private sector industry supported by relevant government policy and regulation, appropriate private and government sector financial programs, a strong and targeted marketing function, and a land-grant university that provides research, outreach and education.

FIRST:

- Acknowledge that food comes from farms not shelves.
- Understand that Alaska is in a precarious food position.
- Embrace agriculture rather than ignore it or chastise it.

THEN:

- Understand the industry in Alaska.
- Learn what drives agricultural markets.
- Determine what needs to be done to move from vision to success.



WHAT IS THE INDUSTRY VISION?


Self sufficiency?
Food security?
Export markets?
Commodity based?
Local production?
Diversified industry?



OPTIONS FOR AN AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRY IN ALASKA


	YES	NO
Self sufficiency		X
Food security	X	
Export markets	X	
Commodity markets		X
Local production	X	
Diversified industry	X	

We cannot be self sufficient in the food supply for all Alaskans.
 We can improve and increase our food supply throughout the state.
 We can enter selected export markets.
 We cannot compete in commodity markets with our present infrastructure.
 We can produce locally anywhere in the state including urban Alaska.
 We have a diversified agriculture.



A POTENTIAL DESCRIPTION OF THE INDUSTRY SIDE OF ALASKA'S AGRICULTURE

Alaska's Agricultural Industry Vision: A locally focused and diversified agricultural industry that can augment Alaskan's food supply through import substitution and participate in selected export markets compatible with existing or slightly modified handling and transportation infrastructure.




VISIONS TO ACTIONS TO SUCCESS

- Map a path that emphasizes private sector ownership and support to increase agricultural production
 - Farm support
 - Processing
- Concentrate on increasing production in urban and non-urban areas
 - Research
 - Outreach
 - Education
- Provide a support network for entrepreneurship in the Alaskan retail sector
 - Cooperatives
 - Farmers' markets
 - Broker/retailers
- Educate consumers about all advantages of purchasing locally grown and processed products

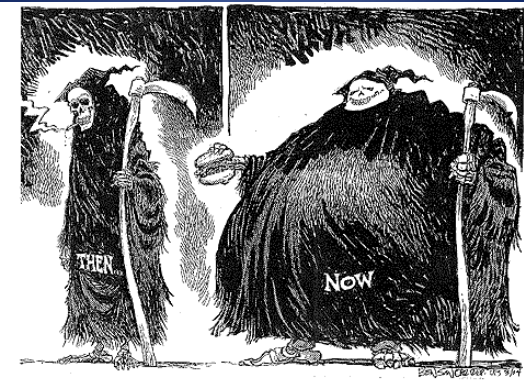


The Food System and Health

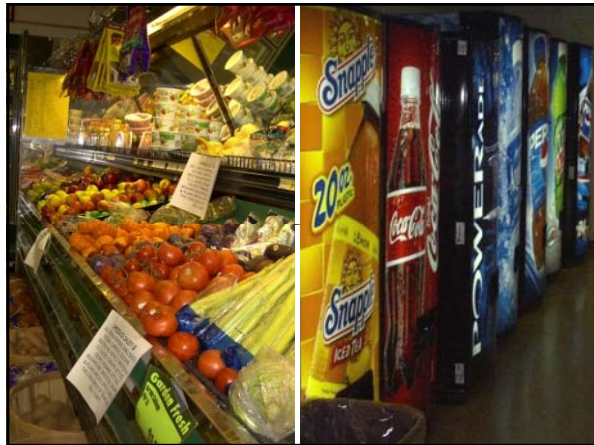
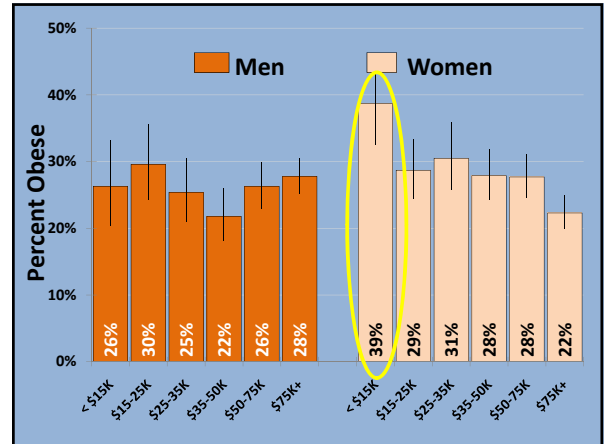
Ward B. Hurlburt, M.D., MPH
 Chief Medical Officer
 Director, Division of Public Health



Alaska Division of Public Health
Prevention Promotion Protection



BIG TOBACCO AND BIG BURGER VIE FOR THE TITLE AS THE NATION'S
 NO. 1 KILLER.





Food Insecurity in Alaska

Merri Mike Adams
Managing Director
Food Bank of Alaska



FOOD BANK OF ALASKA
BECAUSE NO ONE DESERVES TO BE HUNGRY



Alaska's Supply Chain

GFC-CONNECT.COM

Robin Richardson
Global Food Collaborative

Alaska Food Policy – May 18, 2010




Alaska's Supply Chain

What Is Alaska's Supply Chain?







1. End Use Customers (People)
2. Retailers, Restaurants, Food Service, Manufacturing, Farmers Markets, CSA's, Convenience Stores, Food Kitchens
3. Distribution/Transportation
4. Manufacturing/Processing/Packaging/QC
5. Transportation
6. Harvesting/Growing
7. Fertilizer, Equipment, Medicines, Animals, Fry, Research




Alaska Food Policy – May 18, 2010

Alaska's Supply Chain

The consumer and what they purchase defines the supply chain. Alaska's unique geography has resulted in such examples.

- ✓ Seafood (Alaska-Seattle-Asia Trade Lanes)
- ✓ Groceries and Food Service To Alaska's Railbelt (Ship/Distribution)
- ✓ Groceries To Rural Alaska (By-Pass Mail)
- ✓ Tourism (Saturday Market/Gift Stores)



Alaska Food Policy – May 18, 2010




Alaska's Supply Chain

▶ GFC supports sustainable business in food, beverage and agri-products. It was and remains important to this sector to have an industry resource and advocate that positively impacts their bottom line.



- ✓ GFC connects buyers, suppliers and those who add value to that transaction.
- ✓ Designed to transcend changing political regimes.
- ✓ Designed to be structured that it is "member-driven" organization.
- ✓ Collaborative INSIGHTS, Global Food Collaborative.Com, Global Food Alaska, GFC-Connect and daily advocacy for member companies.
- ✓ All services that support sustainable business for member companies.



Alaska Food Policy – May 18, 2010



Alaska's Supply Chain

- ▶ **Food Policies that could negatively impact Alaska's supply chain.**
 - Increased regulation (costs) to food producers.
 - Reduction of transportation/distribution competition.
 - Confusion/Impediments To End Consumer and/or Commercial Buyer.
 - Market substitution schemes.
- ▶ **Food Policies that could positively impact Alaska's supply chain – A Uniting Policy.**
 - Healthy foods education.
 - Healthy foods development.
 - Healthy food business development.
 - Smart Alaskan, Healthy Alaskans
 - Prosperous Business and Opportunity



Alaska Food Policy – May 18, 2010

Food Safety in Alaska



Kristin Ryan
Director
Alaska Division of
Environmental Health

Appendix IV: Snapshots of Alaska's Food System

Food Economy in Alaska

The food industry employs Alaskans.

- The State Department of Labor does not keep records of workers directly employed on farms. All of their statistics refer to “non-farm” employment. But using Dept. of Labor data, we can get some rough idea about how many Alaskans make some part of their income on jobs related to food.
- Of Alaska's major industries, including construction, oil and gas, mining, and forestry, the seafood industry employs the highest number of Alaska workers (43.5 %). In 2008, 52,000 people were directly employed at some time in the seafood industry.
- Another 20,000 work in restaurants, coffee shops, or other food services.
- About 10,000 Alaskans have jobs related to “Food Manufacturing”
- Over 6,000 Alaskans work in retail stores related to food, such as grocery stores.
- 20,000 Alaskans work in the transportation business. Although the department does not sort out how much of Alaska's transportation employment is related to food, we can expect that many of our pilots, truck drivers and warehouse workers are dealing with the movement of food on a daily basis.
- Almost 100,000 Alaskans make their living in the food business.

Alaskans spend \$2.5 Billion a year on food.

- Most of these “food dollars” are exported to the lower 48 or other countries. Imagine if just 10% of the food Alaskans purchased was locally produced. The multiplier effect of \$250 million in food dollars staying in Alaska communities will stimulate our economy and create jobs.
- A recent study estimated that if the greater Seattle area were to source just 20% of its food locally, it would inject an extra billion dollars per year to the city's economy.
- Other recent studies show that money spent at local businesses returns three times as much to the local economy as spending at national chain stores.

Rural and Alaska Native Food Systems

- Alaska commercial fisheries provide 50% of the seafood consumed in the US, and 44% of the seafood exported by the US (NMFS 2008). Less than 1% of the commercially harvested 2.8 thousand metric tons of fish (2007) (NOAA) stays in the state food system.
- The amount of food in-state agriculture provides is unknown, but estimates are Alaska agriculture supplies approximately 5% of the state's food needs (USDA 2008).

- 20% of Alaska's population lives in rural areas
 - Greater than 90% rely on wild fish; greater than 70% rely on large game, marine mammals
 - 100% rely on global food inputs for at least part of the year
- 51% of Alaska Natives live in urban areas. Rural and urban systems are highly connected with food transferring from urban to rural and vice versa.
- Only approximately 2% of Alaska's harvested fish and game are for subsistence (Wolfe 2000).
- Food costs are 25% higher than in lower-48 (CES) and 2-3 times more in rural 'bush' communities.

Food Production in Alaska

Most recent agricultural statistics for Alaska¹

Cash receipts:	<u>\$\$\$</u>	<u>Trend</u> ²
All Commodities	\$31,241,000	Declining
Livestock Products	6,393,000	Declining
Cattle and calves	1,877,000	Increasing-Mixed
Hog and pigs	306,000	Increasing-Mixed
Dairy products	1,699,000	Declining
Reindeer	490,000	Increasing
Lamb and mutton	26,000	Level
Wool	25,000	Increasing
Aquaculture	475,000	Declining - Mixed
Other ³	1,741,000	Level
Crops	24,848,000	Level
Feed crops	3,884,000	Mixed
Potatoes	2,719,000	Increasing
Other vegetables	2,825,000	Increasing
Greenhouse and nursery	15,000,000	Level
Other ⁴	420,000	Mixed
Alaska net farm income	5,194,000	Declining
Number of Farms (inc > \$1000/yr)	680	Increasing

¹Source: Alaska Agricultural Statistics 2009

²Data from 2001-2008

³Includes equine, goats, honey, muskox, poultry products, and other animal products not listed above

⁴Includes berries, grass seed, and other crops not listed above

Health Status in Alaska

- Four of the top 10 leading causes of death in Alaska are diet-related: cancer, heart disease, stroke, and diabetes.
- An estimated \$477 million is spent annually in Alaska for direct medical expenditures related to obesity.
- 66% of Alaska adults are overweight or obese.
 - 31% of American Indians/Alaska Natives are obese compared to 25% of white Alaskans.
 - 39% of women with household incomes less than \$15,000 annually are obese compared to 22% of women with incomes over \$75,000.
 - 33% of women with less than high school education are obese compared to 22% of women who have graduated from college.
 - 30% of Alaskans living in rural Alaska are obese compared to all other regions (25-26%).
- Between 27% - 40% of Alaska's children and adolescents are overweight or obese.
- From 2000-2002 to 2004-2006, the number of adult Alaskans with diabetes increased by 48%, from 16,631 to 24,555 individuals.
- 25% of adults and 16% of high school students eat the recommended amount of fruits and vegetables (2 fruit servings and 3 vegetable servings per day).
- 16% of 2-year-olds, 49% of high school students and 43% of adults drink one or more sugar-sweetened beverages per day.

Food Security in Alaska

- More than 12% of Alaskans are food insecure, 14.6% nationwide (USDA 2008).
- 4.4% of Alaskans have "very low" food security, meaning they chronically have inadequate food intake (5.7% nationwide) (USDA 2008).
- Last year, Food Bank of Alaska (FBA) distributed almost 6 million pounds of food across the entire state of Alaska.
- FBA partners with more than 300 agencies in 50 communities throughout Alaska.
- 13 million pounds of food is needed to meet the need in Alaska.
- 1 in 5 Alaskan kids is hungry.
- 34 percent of hungry people surveyed said that either they or their child had skipped a meal because of lack of food.
- FBA partners with schools, village councils, soup kitchens, daycare centers and shelters, as well as food pantries, to get food to more than 74,000 Alaskans.

Food Safety in Alaska

- In 2008-2009 Alaska recorded 17 foodborne outbreaks affecting at least 170 people.
- These outbreaks were associated with
 - Restaurants, boarding houses, cafeterias and farms
 - Commercial products (pepper, chicken, ground beef, oysters)
 - Native fermented foods (botulism)
 - Local foods contaminated by environment
- The magnitude of foodborne related illness is much higher than reported: approximately 10% of people with foodborne illness seek healthcare and less than 2% submit specimens to confirm the pathogen and outbreak.
- Alaska was recently praised by the Center for Science in the Public Interest (CSPI) as one of the top seven states in foodborne illness outbreak reporting to the CDC/Nation Outbreak Reporting System (NORS).
- DEC has specific regulatory chapters to implement state law: Seafood Processors (18 AAC 34) Food Code (18 AAC 31), and Milk, Milk Products, and Reindeer Slaughtering and Processing (18 AAC 32).
- Alaska has many partners in foodborne safety, surveillance and investigation: Municipality of Anchorage Health Dept., Alaska Native Health Corporations, Alaska State Public Health Labs, Alaska State Section of Nursing; Alaska DEC Food Safety and Sanitation Program, Alaska DEC Environmental Lab, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Food and Drug Administration, United States Dept. of Agriculture.

Appendix V: Discussion Notes

May 18th - Strengths and Weaknesses of Alaska's Food System

Strengths

- Local foods are fresh and high quality
- High demand for local
- Good subsistence food use and knowledge
- Good variety in hub communities
- WIC (Women, Infants & Children Program) uses Farmers' Market Coupons (2600 Senior FMC, 17,600 WIC FMC)
- Capacity of people – “pioneer spirit”
- Alaska grown is the best quality produce – sweetness and nutrient content
- We have SNAP (Food Stamps) EBT (electronic benefits transfer cards) Farmers' Market technology
- SNAP buying power
- Short growing season means less pests, less need for pesticides
- Alaskans know their farmers
- We have access to all food at all times
- 42 million acres of land
- Lots of fish

Weaknesses

- Vulnerability (national and international)
- Lack of infrastructure/supplies increases cost (fuel) – distribution & processing
- Fresh foods are cost prohibitive
- Increasing diabetes and cost of food a big problem in Native communities
- Availability of fresh foods
- WIC foods in rural areas are difficult to get due to lack of storage
- Lack of communication
- No Department of Agriculture (we have Division of Ag)
- Comparison of small/local farmers to corporate/processed foods (costs)
- Farmers have to market and grow
- Game regulations and subsistence
- Too much focus on agriculture (compared to hunting/fishing)
- Under-supply of employees to work on farms (especially youth)
- Manipulation of fresh food price by “Big Box Stores”
- Lack of processing (animals) facilities (competition with hunters and subsistence)
- High cost of transportation – lack of support/collaboration with “Big Box” haulers
- Young soils and challenging growing seasons (especially for seed harvesting/production)

- Processing facilities no owned by locals, so not locally minded
- Distribution of by-catch
- awareness

May 18, 2010 – Values

Mark asked the large group “What is it about food that stirs your passion - makes you want to get up in the morning and work on? What are your values around food?”

- Working with community
- Producers need to make a living
- Food connects people – to larger community, healthy people
- We have responsibility to earth to take care of it
- Quality of health
- Happiness
- Food is an equalizer – food used to communicate and connect
- There’s enough to go around (food distribution)
- Everyone has the right to healthy, non-toxic food
- Social Justice – balancing the imbalance
- Compassion
- Giving back –being a part of a community
- Responsible and compatible resources
- Food is a gift (from the land, people, animals) – not a right
- Sharing surplus
- Knowledge and education of what’s in food – knowing what “it” is
- Simple joy in eating something good
- Good food “makes life worthwhile”
- That kids know where food comes from
- Right-to-know what is in food
- Work hard, take only what you need, use what you take
- Food should not make you sick (food safety)
- Family meals – eating together as a family
- Recognize economic challenges of local farmers
- Food preservation and preventing waste
- Local control and ownership
- No work, no eat
- Connection with food and people producing it
- No one deserves to be hungry
- Private ownership of genes is wrong – seeds/etc. are public interest

May 19, 2010 – Summary of Values

- Increase production and distribution of Alaska food products
- Community and connecting people (family)
- Knowing where your food comes from and education
- Access to healthy, affordable and safe food
- Joy and happiness
- No one deserves to be hungry
- Be responsible with resources
- Hard work
- Local control and ownership
- Producers need to make a living
- Food preservation and minimizing waste
- Food is a gift
- Stable, secure and healthy food supply
- Culturally relevant food is important

Appendix VI: Issues

May 18th – Small Group Discussions on Issues (divided into categories by Mark Winne)

Processing, Distribution, Development, Transportation, and Infrastructure

- Processing and distribution of by-catch fish
- Processing and distribution of AK food during the winter, i.e. 5 percent of farm has to be processed for next season
- How to keep seafood in AK instead of going to Seattle
- Transportation
- Access to local food and sustainably produced food
- Support the development of small businesses
- Reduce cost of shipping; credits and/or tax reduction for fuel/transportation costs
- Education and information about available subsidies and credits
- Reduce hassle of buying and selling AK food
- Secure funding to market local foods
- Develop policies to support local preference (purchase of locally grown food) for schools
- Enforce the 7 percent Alaska Preference for state entities food purchases
- Need more infrastructure for value-added food processing
- Create fail-safe transportation systems
- How do respond to consumer demand
- Development of local and export markets “trade is value-added.”
- Investigate opportunity for more exporting
- What inhibits the consumption of AK products
- Coordinate transportation to take advantage of back hauling

Production

- Promotion of appropriate animal husbandry by Region
- Research by regions
- Need data
- Sitka: goats and feed issues; hay and money
- Overcome belief that you have to import food to AK – you can grow it here
- Appropriate crops for daylight and changing seasons
- Greenhouses
- Encourage networking between producers and consumers
- Develop community kitchens for small producers to provide safe, local foods
- Need economic development for farmers and ranchers
- Create demand for local food
- Need decent living for producers

Education and Regulations

- Teaching people how to cook: food education, how to store food, where does food come from; root cellars and storage
- Food and Nutrition Consumer education
- Greenhouse education
- Food safety
- Create fair and equitable regulations for smaller businesses and small organic farmers
- Eat more barley and rhubarb (develop recipes?)
- Food safety and gardening – ravens – GHP and GAP
- Put “culture” back in agriculture
- Educate and create a healthy environment for children
- Need additional money for school food programs

Food Security/Hunger, Social Justice, and Health

- Make farmers’ market produce cheaper/affordable to low-income families: provide incentives for them to shop at farmers’ markets without reducing profit for farmers
- Get POS systems for farmers’ markets
- Develop policies to eliminate vending machines in public buildings
- Food Sovereignty: access to traditional, culturally appropriate food sources
- Food security meaning enough food stored for acute emergencies
- Food must be affordable, accessible, and available
- Food prices should be equalized throughout the state
- Improve food access in villages
- No one should be hungry
- Should be not restrictions for people trying to live off the land
- Should be a way to introduce traditional foods into settings for elders
- Need food safety education (not available in AK)
- Focus on food security and healthy lifestyle
- Could do mapping
- Reach out to youth
- Improve school lunches
- Involve employers and health insurance companies
- Reduce carbon footprint

General

- Create a position of Community Food Coordinator to focus on all the issues; apply for grants; work with stakeholders, etc.
- Mitigation of emergency situations may not be a good fit
- Workforce Development
- Need to be inclusive of all stakeholders: subsistence, commercial, private, processors, regulators, and consumers.
- FPC should have committees
- FPC needs to address rural needs – need a rural food policy with emphasis on local economic development
- Possibly regional councils
- Encourage economic independence for the state
- Need a sustainability policy

Appendix VII: Committee Notes, May 19th

The Charge for Each Committee:

- Select a facilitator & a recorder
- Review Issues
- Discuss & prioritize
- What else do we need to know?
- Who is missing?

Governance Committee

- Glenn Haight
- Merri Mike Adams
- Milan Shipka
- Rob Leech
- Alli Harvey
- Mara Bacsujlaky
- Andy Verner
- Hans Geier

Issues

- Broad representation
- Community-based
- Integration of entities/interests in AK – somehow tied to food “interdisciplinary” – make sure all voices are heard; building a protection against “co-option”.
- Communications (internal)
- ID of seats
- Analysis – users, processes, regions
- Credibility-making – FPC recommendations credible
- “Branding”, outreach
- How does organization set objectives – mechanism
- Strategy – identifying policy
- Pursuing windows of opportunities
- Understanding “lay of the land”
- Before we to the Legislature, we know what we want – vision
- Founding documents: by-laws, mission statement
- Funding – do we want a legislative authorization (3 ways we could be formed)

Pros and Cons of Food Policy Council Organizational Structures

Independent:

- More chance for rural voice (i.e. out of population centers)
- Keep independent with buy-in from the State
- Voice of people can more easily be integrated (i.e. not like B.O.G)
- Be wary where money comes from
- Work with 237 recognized tribes
- More chance for buy-in if independent with representation from all stakeholders
- Representation = specific sectors/positions

Government:

- Need cabinet level involvement because of power
- Need buy-in from State/government and mechanism to involve government
- Need Tribal organization representation
- Where is the money and where does it come from?
- 12-35 appointed people (15-20 good)
- Food Policy Council elects governing body annually; categorical representation
- Policy-makers “trust” the system we design so that recommendations are credible

Brainstorm on Board Representation

“Executive Committee”, “Steering Committee” – appointed by membership, stakeholders, users:
Ag productions & education markets, cruise ships, economy-economic policy, rural issues, food transportation, farmers/CSA, fisherman, school districts, hospitals, subsistence, gardeners, public health, tribal, nutrition, connection to lawmaker, consumers, legislators, long-term stability

Priorities

- Funding – ID sources/plan; ID fundraiser, committee structure or umbrella; \$ amount?
- Structure of organization
 - “Board”
 - Staff
 - Membership
 - Who has the time?
- Who are we missing?
- Mission (values?)
- Communication – internal/external
- Sectors/stakeholders – who is/should be involved? Broader than membership

Plan to move forward = action plan!

- #1 Mission Statement – values based, then shop around, invite a representative from each committee
- Goals
- Strategy
- Structure – decision making process; funding; size
- Lay of the land
- Membership
- Objectives
- Compile sheet of policy “low hanging fruit” for 2011 legislative resolution?

Education & Regulation Committee

- Deirdre Helfferich
- Clarissa Moon
- Betsy Hanson
- Shaun Lott
- Nelli Williams
- Venietia Santana
- Bret Luick
- Ted Fosket
- Chris Johnson
- Cheryl Kagee

Who should we educate?

- Consumers
- Producers
- Regulators/Policy Makers
- Middleman

Identify Resources & Gaps:

- Who's already doing food education (i.e. CES)
- Regulations that are already available (such as SB 3306)?
- What's missing? Who's Missing?
- How does marketing fit in?

Education Topics

- Buy local
- Nutrition education
- Food preparation
- Food safety
- Putting culture back in agriculture
- Farmer's internship program

Mission:

- Education
- Facilitation/collaboration
- Promotion
- Lobby? Advocacy
- Be a "concerns" committee for the public

Production Committee

- Reed Dunn, Mat Valley Credit Union
- Tom Zimmer, Calypso Farm & Ecology Center
- Jeff Werner, UAF
- Ruby Hollembach, Alaska Interior Game Ranch
- Mike Emers
- Margaret Adsit
- Tim Doebler
- Alberto Pantajc
- Franci Havemeister
- Julie Riley

Review Issues:

- Education for better production
- Research by region
- Production development – increase efficiency
- Production regions capabilities

Who's missing?

- Fisheries
- Value added
- Larger agricultural producers
- Youth
- Nonfood agriculture
- Farm industry ag support

What else is needed?

- Logistics
- Realistic regulations for small AK
- Food safety, middle ground for small scale farmers
- Money flow – grants, loans
- Educational approach – University/agency abilities to help

Food Security, Hunger, Social Justice and Health Committee

- Kathleen Wayne
- Vanessa Salina
- Craig Gerlach
- Leslie Shallcross
- Darren Snyder
- Linda Swarner
- Kelly Ingram
- Diane Peck

Issues:

- Safe food
- Available daily
- Emergency food supply
- Enough of the right kind of nutritious food
- Education/knowledge to prepare
- Resources to prepare – fuel, pots, etc.
- Getting people to use the benefits of fruits & vegetables provided by WIC
- Accessible – easy to get to; transportation/time of day market is open
- Obesity is increasing so we need to do more & different education (example – WIC is doing new model “participant-centered education”)
- Modern lifestyle makes it difficult to prepare healthy food at home
- Parent may rely on school food programs – must be healthy
- Focus on food & healthy lifestyle
- Transportation infrastructure (public transit, shuttle for seniors to the farmers’ market, etc.)
People need transportation to farmers’ market.
- Adequate storage for emergency food and plan for distribution.
- Already framework/laws for subsistence – should broaden discussion
- Subsistence food is seasonal – doesn’t get to security; may be missing nutrients; issue of storage

Priorities:

- Affordable, accessible food on a daily basis
- Adequate emergency supply and distribution plan
- Healthy foods that are safe and nutritious
- Education & resources to implement a healthy lifestyle
- Plan for future food system changes (ie: costs, availability, etc.)

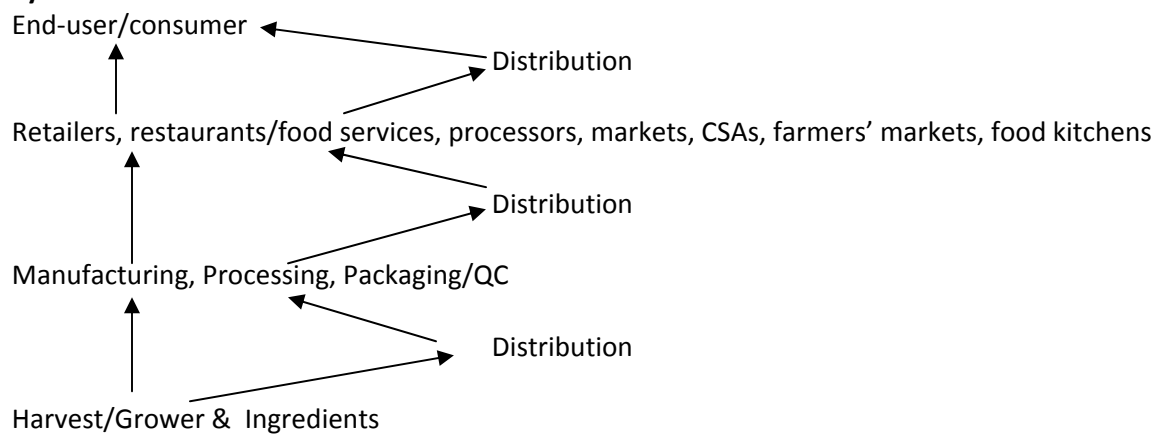
Who is Not Here?

- Corporate food
- Emergency response/planning agencies
- Faith-based & social-based organizations
- Local government
- Civic organizations
- Other NGOs
- Rural stakeholders
- Elected officials
- Youth

Supply Chain: Processing, Distribution/Transportation, Infrastructure, Development, and Planning Committee

- Mark Carper
- Carey Thissen
- Kim Stryker
- Don Harman
- Mike Hanzuk
- Arlene Rosenkrans
- Anibel Galindo
- Karol Fink
- Wendy Christianson
- Richard Wilson
- PJ Cranmer
- Jennifer Davis
- Robin Richardson
- Jan Flora

System



Opportunities:

- Government buyers – commodities
- Grant opportunities
- Technical Assistance – business, permits, food safety education
- Development of permissible processing facilities
- Build relations & cooperative networks – make connections
- *1 – Identify established solutions

Focusing Questions:

- Why is there a lack of available healthy food in rural areas?
- Why are there fewer producers of food in AK?
- Why are more Alaskans not demanding AK Grown?

Factors:

- AK buying power
- Importance/impact to community for locally-grown; not well understood to drive demand
- Population transient
- \$\$ - free market
- Modernization
- No incentives
- Limited ingredients/resources to grow business

- Cost to break into business
- Confusing requirements
- Access to technical assistance
- Business plans – know market-solid base
- Must be food professional to be successful – many fail
- Lack of infrastructure
- Cost of distributing product
- Lack of permissible processing facilities (meat, general food)
- Producers can't supply enough for demand
- AK-produced is too expensive for buyers
- Lack of cooperative solutions at the private level – networks (relationships)
- Businesses not self-sustainable
- Backhauls work great in some areas to reduce cost – depending on whether product distribution within/outside AK – ID opportunities
- Increased fuel cost, increased competition
- Some rural, remote transporters are not widely known – network
- Regulations re: bypass mail (USPS) – no incentive to care for perishable foods
- Logistics – high cost
- Raw materials not available to processors
- Product more expensive because of freight costs – competing tough

Member Interests:

- Small business assistance
- Mat-Su produce into restaurants
- Safe transport of food – storage barge, bypass mail, air, road
- Safe, quality nutritional food to AK
- Research re: food systems
- Access to rural areas of healthy food
- Cross-pollinate environmental, social justice, agencies, suppliers, distributors, buyers, producers
- More producers

Who is Not Present?

- Soil & water conservation districts
- Lenders/investors
- Cooperative extension
- USDA – National resources, Conservation Service
- USDA –Rural Development
- DNR , Division of Ag
- AK Trucking Assoc.
- USPS Bypass Mail
- Seafood
- Growers/producers
- Retailers, food services
- Suppliers, packaging

Indigenous Traditional & Cultural Foods for Health and Food Security Committee

- Tony Nakazaura
- Nancy Berland
- Dewey Schwalenberg
- Kerry MacLane
- Iris Matthews
- Angela Valdez
- Lincoln Bean, Sr.
- Diane DeFazio
- Sarah McConnell

Issues:

- Traditional & Customary Foods/Subsistence
- Indigenous Food & Health
- Security
- Indigenous lifestyle
- Inter-tribal Bison Cooperative
- Equity of Indigenous Native Issues – raising indigenous issues to policy level
- Problem of indigenous people being told by health professions that traditional/indigenous foods are NOT healthy – this is incorrect, evil and wrong.
- Indigenous foods are more than sustenance, they are spiritual, they are health.
- Traditional foods are the healthiest
- Store foods – costs inflated due to fuel costs; \$100K/month for power for cold storage
- Needs for indigenous people that had to move to city for work or medical still need traditional foods – SHARING
- 138 K Alaska Native sitting here
- NO words for “subsistence” in AK Native language – it’s traditional foods
- Contaminants – local (military, waste disposal); “global” (industrial, air & water drift)
- Problems w/government regulations prevent access to health of traditional foods
- Protection of local/traditional food sources from contaminants
- Health – physical, environment – al, social & spiritual
- Food sovereignty – reclamation of legal access and reclamation of health of the land, water, sky reclamation and right to access to indigenous traditional foods.
- Acknowledging food-related traumas, historical and current – lies about health value of foods, forced obstruction of access to traditional foods (e.g. boarding schools, Exxon Valdez oil spill)
- Costs of storefoods – health value of store foods
- Regulating indigenous people out of existence – out of their health
- Shouldn’t have to go to court to get food for Elders to get access to health
- Diabetes, healthcare and food choices are a “health disaster”
- Activity and hard work are a part of traditional food
- Indigenous knowledge HAS to be part of this work (history & experience)
- Indigenous control is essential
- Green houses, gardens to integrate w/harvest of traditional foods
- Village store may be marker of economic health of community – noted by outside study or informal conversation; western definition of economy; disagreement on this – some say stores bring in illness w/pop & junk food.
- Storage safety
- Community input is essential

- Infrastructure issues – e.g. by-pass mail

Priorities:

1. Improve ACCESS to indigenous traditional and cultural foods for HEALTH and community wellness. Integrate healthy local production.
2. Promote and recognize importance of indigenous knowledge for health and food security.

Need (Who's Missing?)

- State & Federal Fish & Game/ Fish & Wildlife
- State & Federal Subsistence Board
- AFN – Julie Kitka
- Increase tribal community representation – at least regional
- ANTHC
- Elders
- Youth
- Healthcare

What Else?

- Info on production, harvest, purchase, storage
- How do we produce foods locally?
- Any additional community strengths & resources
- Any additional barriers