Local Food Advisory Committee

What is it?
Why do we have it?

February 16, 2013
Sustainable Farming Association Conference
Why?

• Confusion among farmers and others on what the rules are for selling local food

• Inconsistent information from MDA and MDH inspectors

• Rapid change in the size and complexity of the local food scene
Confusion
Confusion is a subset of Inconsistency.
Confusion

Inconsistency

Rapid Change

Trouble!
Issue Areas:

- Local Meat & Poultry Sales
- Meat Processing
- Farmers’ Markets
- Processed Local Products
- Farm-to-School/Institutional Sales
- Restaurants
- Grocery Stores
Years of ongoing conversations among MISA, U of MN Extension, MDA Dairy & Food Inspectors

Endowed Chair in Agricultural Systems held by Jan Joannides in 2010-2011; worked on meat processing issues
History

Sustainable Farming Association secures FMPP grant to work on local meat sales & processing, late 2011

SFA, U of MN Extension, MISA, and Endowed Chair approach MDA about forming advisory committee, August 2012
History

Core steering committee began meeting in September, 2012

Mission, scope, operating documents developed through end of 2012
Steering Committee:

University of Minnesota Extension
Sustainable Farming Association
Renewing the Countryside
Minnesota Institute for Sustainable Agriculture
Minnesota Farmers Market Association
Minnesota Department of Agriculture
History

Letters of invitation to farmer organizations and other stakeholders sent out end of Dec. 2012

First official Local Food Advisory Committee meeting held January 30, 2013
Advisory Committee Participants

- Homegrown Minneapolis
- Just Food Co-op (Northfield)
- MN Association of Meat Processors
- MN Department of Agriculture
- MN Department of Health
- Minnesota Grown
- MN Farmers Market Association
- MN Farmers Union
- MN Institute for Sustainable Ag
- Renewing the Countryside
- Sustainable Farming Association
- U of MN Extension
- U of MN Meat Science
Mission

Help the State of Minnesota to achieve its goals with respect to meat and food safety by serving as a conduit between MDA, MDH, other agencies, and the community/farmers/stakeholders in regards to the production, processing, marketing and distribution of local foods.
What are “Local Foods?”

We are focusing on the sector of the food system that includes foods for direct human consumption that are raised, gathered, or processed by farmers, farmer groups, or non-farm individuals for direct sales to:

• Individual consumers

• Buyers who re-sell the products to individual consumers

• Business entities that act as brokers or distributors, but retain some level of producer identity with the products
Goals

• Help communicate to stakeholders what the rules are

• Help to make the rules and information more transparent and clear

• Ensure consistent interpretation of the rules across the system
About the Committee

• Non-adversarial and co-operative

• MDA and MDH are integral to the committee

• MDA and MDH commit to provide staff presence at the meeting, to bring forth issues of importance, and to listen
What it’s NOT!

- A way to make changes to statutes
- Open season for complaints
- Rubber-stamp for MDA and MDH decisions
Scope

Provide a non-adversarial forum to work collaboratively toward common goals:

- reducing food-borne illness
- fostering a robust local food sector.
Scope

Provide an opportunity for public discussion and a means for the public to submit comments to the MDA and MDH
Scope

Represent the pertinent stakeholders

• Communicate issues to & from the committee

• Surface questions and concerns related to production, processing, marketing and distribution
Scope

Advise on:

- communication strategies

- educational materials

that the MDA and MDH develop
Scope

Help facilitate outreach and education to stakeholders.

Ensure that meeting proceedings are recorded and transmitted outside the group.
This committee has no budget!!
- No travel funds
- No per diem funds
- No staffing funds

Staff support is currently provided by Wayne Martin (U of MN Extension), Jan Joannides (Renewing the Countryside), and Jane Jewett (MISA)
Meetings

- Quarterly in-person meetings
- Devote time to each issue area at meetings
- Conference calls & emails in between if needed
- Issue-area subcommittee meetings if needed
Issue Areas:

- Local Meat & Poultry Sales
- Meat Processing
- Farmers’ Markets
- Processed Local Products
- Farm-to-School/Institutional Sales
- Restaurants
- Grocery Stores
How to Connect

• Contact a committee member

• Use the comment form:
  www.misa.umn.edu >> Contact >> Comments for Local Food Advisory Committee

• Listening Sessions
Contact Information

Mailing Address:
Minnesota Institute for Sustainable Agriculture (MISA)
University of Minnesota
411 Borlaug Hall
1991 Buford Circle
St. Paul MN 55108-1013

Telephone: (612) 625-9235
Toll Free: 1 (800) 909-MISA
Fax: (612) 625-1268
email: misamail@umn.edu

Contact

Staff

Board Members

Project Idea Proposal Form

Comments for Local Food Advisory Committee

Workshop Planning 2012-2013
Comments for Local Food Advisory Committee

The Local Food Advisory Committee works with the Minnesota Department of Agriculture’s Dairy and Food Inspection Division on issues concerning local meat and food.

The intent of this advisory committee is to provide a non-adversarial setting where issues relating to local meat and food can be raised and discussed, information can be shared and problem-solving between Dairy and Food Inspections and the local food community can take place.

If you have a concern or you’ve spotted an issue in some way that local food production, distribution, and marketing interacts with state regulations, please send us a note!

You can send your comments anonymously using the form below.

You are welcome to contact us directly! Contact Persons for this committee:

Wayne Martin, U of MN Extension. marti067@umn.edu
Jane Jewett, Minnesota Institute for Sustainable Agriculture. jewet006@umn.edu
Jan Joannides, Renewing the Countryside. jan@rtcinfo.org
John Mesko, Sustainable Farming Association. john@sfa-mn.org
Kathy Zeman, MN Farmers Market Association. kzeman@mfma.org
Ryan Cox, Meat Science Program, U of MN. ryancox@umn.edu
Nicole Nacee, MN Department of Agriculture. Nicole.Nacee@state.mn.us
Advisory Committee Participants

• Megan O’Hara (Homegrown Mpls)
• Patrick Neily (Just Food)
• Mike Phillips – Three Sons Meat Co.
• Jon Christiansen (MAMP)
• Nicole Neeser (MDA)
• Jennifer Stephes (MDA)
• Colleen Paulus (MDH)
• Sarah Leach (MDH)
• Paul Hugunin (Minnesota Grown)
• Kathy Zeman (MFMA)
• Doug Peterson (MFU)
• Jane Jewett (MISA)
• Jan Joannides (RTC)
• John Mesko (SFA)
• Wayne Martin (U of MN Ext.)
• Katherine Waters (U of MN Ext.)
• Ryan Cox (U of MN Meat Science)