

THE NEW YORK STATE COUNCIL ON FOOD POLICY 2014 LISTENING TOUR
February 26th, 10am – 3pm @ The New York State Fairgrounds in Syracuse

COUNCIL MEMBER UPDATES

- **Ray Denniston**
 - Importance of food safety (GAP) and transportation with farm to school
 - Farm to School grant updates
 - Importance of value-added products for children
 - Hunger Task Force development

- **Ellie Wilson**
 - Food retail actively working with state on SNAP outreach
 - Signage of availability of SNAP benefits near staple foods and access
 - Working with cooperative extension in local area
 - Outreach with family meals

- **Patricia Race**
 - Supplemental food and nutrition programs
 - HPNAP working with southern tier food bank – have seen a significant increase in demand for services
 - 30.9 million requests for assistance
 - Program goals include to improve nutritional quality of food provided
 - CACFP
 - This year, more than 1400 participating agencies representing 156.5 million snacks served everyday
 - Just Say Yes to Fruits and Vegetables
 - After participating in the program, 85% of participants have intentions to consume fruits and vegetables

- **Cathryn Mizbani**
 - Caseload and participation is down in WIC – increasing outreach
 - Taking initiatives to train staff so that services are more participant friendly

- **Barbara Dennison**
 - Prevention Agenda – outlines goals for state – conducts community assessments to identify 3 actions to execute
 - Movement regarding the NYSCFP Food Procurement Guidelines

- **Lisa Irving**
 - New Initiative – public/private partnership with food industry alliance
 - SNAP nutrition education – working with DOH and community based providers (e.g., regional food banks)
 - Work with retailers to improve stocking requirements at institutions that accept SNAP
 - USDA Healthy Incentive Grant – provides incentives to beneficiaries so that they use card toward healthy purchases, will receive financial incentive toward another purchase (grant)

- **Julie Suarez**
 - Strong interest in applying to Cornell Life Sciences school
 - Released 2 new apple varieties in this year
 - In process of signing 2nd year of dairy acceleration program

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- Initiative involved with Governor to encourage dairy farmers to grow business in environmentally sound manner
 - Increased funding to Cornell to work on acid whey research
 - Turn waste stream into new dairy product
 - 2 new studies completed at college
 - Dyson school – Economic impact of food hubs in NYS
 - Economic multipliers in local community
 - Working paper on gleaning challenges in NYS
 - How do we encourage farmers to have more gleaning opportunities?
 - Forming first ever public/private Hudson Valley research lab – apple research station
 - Cornell Cooperative Extension has new director – Chris Watkins
 - Improving SNAP education work
 - Harvest NY Program
 - Working with marketing local food and distribution issues
 - Accessing funds for research in farm and food community
 - Working on procurement issues
 - Funneling growers who can sell to institutions
 - Hudson Valley grant to secure more funds for training
- **Andres Vivas** (*representing Linda Bopp*)
 - Significant cuts to SNAP; losing \$130 per month per household
 - Governor Cuomo announced that funds will be preserved
 - SNAP awareness campaign in grocery stores (partnered with OTDA)
 - Administer outreach and education program (NOEP)
 - June 30th 2013 – connect 32,000 to SNAP program = 80 million federal benefits coming to NYS economy
 - School breakfast report to be released on March 4th

PUBLIC COMMENTS & OPEN DIALOGUE

- **Debra Richardson** (*theme: developing and networking between food policy councils*)
 - How do we start a food policy council?
 - Suggests that the public should tap into the state food policy council
 - State initiatives should bounce off regional initiatives – increase communication
 - Look at big picture
- **Jeff Piestrak** (*see Appendix A for comments – theme: food system networking and logistics*)
- **Peter Ricardo** (*see Appendix A for comments – theme: food banks*)
- **Barbara Baron** (*see Appendix A for comments – theme: nutritional benefits of dairy*)
- **Jim Bittner** (*see Appendix A for comments – theme: farm viability & profitability – funding for applied agricultural research extension programs*)
- **Kathleen Dischner** (*see Appendix A for comments – theme: positive impact of CCE*)

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- **Maureen Blanchard** (see Appendix A for comments– theme: allowing online markets to participate in the Farmers’ Market Nutrition Program)
- **Allison Clark** (see Appendix A for comments –theme: funding/importance for value-added processing)
- **Kris Cail** (see Appendix A for comments– theme: agricultural research)
 - Food Hub Project stemming from the Finger Lakes Fresh via Challenge Industries
 - 35 jobs created for individuals with developmental disabilities
 - Opportunities for institutional buying – value added
- **Glenda Neff** (theme: farm to institution and Food Safety Modernization Act)
 - Specialty Crop Block Grant- Working with specific SUNY schools to track local F&V back to the farm
 - Tracking food procurement back to the farm level; utilizing the Food Metrics Bill to assist
 - Utilizing interns to execute project
 - Meet with agencies to discuss food tracking
- **Comments on Food Metrics Bill** (via Debra Richardson)
 - **Q:** How is the Bill going to work? Who is taking this on?
 - Share the processes of the Food Metric Bill with public so that they can help in execution
- **Comments on FSMA** (via Glenda Neff)
 - Food hubs are aggregating from smaller farmers and will have to track food safety plans back to the farm
 - Comparing it to nutrient management plans – need to help farms develop food safety plans, etc. need statewide program to provide technical assistance
 - **Council Member Ellie Wilson (Q):** How do we get the farming community to embrace this or get involved?
 - **Glenda Neff (A):** Develop a farmer-to-farmer campaign. Why should farmers do this?
 - **Jim Bittner (A):** Need to get the growers to the Cornell trainings. How do we do this? Small farmers do not want to document everything. This is a huge barrier to markets.
 - **Kris Cail (A):** Lots of overlap in the food safety programs. We need a person in the operation who is in charge of compliance.
 - **Allison Clark (Q):** Is GAP aligned with FSMA?
 - **Glenda Neff (A):** Yes, it will be.
 - **Jim Bittner (A):** Water testing and wildlife will be the biggest roadblock in regards to food safety certification.