New England
Food Summit

Portsmouth, New Hampshire
March 24-25, 2011

www.foodsolutionsne.org

Bringing together food system stakeholders to strengthen collaboration for regional food system sustainability
Summit Organizers

Principal Conveners:
Joanne Burke, UNH Department of Molecular, Cellular, & Biomedical Sciences
Tom Kelly, UNH Sustainability Academy

Staff Support:
Sara Cleaves, UNH Sustainability Academy
Michele Chapman, UNH Sustainability Academy
Elisabeth Farrell, UNH Sustainability Academy
Alaina Pritchard, UNH Sustainability Academy
Amy Redman, UNH Sustainability Academy

Summit Steering Committee

Thank you to the following steering committee members for assisting with the development of this summit:
Celina Adams, New Hampshire Charitable Foundation
Diego Angarita, Nuestras Raices
Juli Brussell, UNH Cooperative Extension
John Carroll, UNH Department of Natural Resources and the Environment
Dorn Cox, Tuckaway Farm
Michael Devlin, Harvard Pilgrim Health Foundation
Timothy Griffin, Tufts University
Curt Grimm, UNH Carsey Institute
Nancy Hirshberg, Stonyfield Farm
Ellen Kahler, Vermont Sustainable Jobs Fund
Gail McWilliam Jellie, NH Department of Agriculture, Markets and Food
Lorraine Merrill, NH Department of Agriculture, Markets and Food
Martha Page, Hartford Food System/Hartford Food Policy Commission
Kathy Ruhf, Northeast Sustainable Agriculture Working Group (NESAWG)
Anim Steel, The Food Project
Cameron Wake, Carbon Solutions New England
Jon Wraith, UNH College of Life Sciences and Agriculture
1:00 p.m.  Registration

2:00 p.m.  Welcome & Opening Remarks
          Joanne Burke, Clinical Assistant Professor & Director, Dietetic Internship, University of New Hampshire
          Tom Kelly, University of New Hampshire Chief Sustainability Officer

2:30 p.m.  “Voices from the Field”

Voices from the Field: Perspectives on Food System Access, a project of Food Solutions New England, is a qualitative research project designed to make more visible the invisible by exploring food insecurity through those directly experiencing it. Through personal interviews and documentary film, the project captures the hardship and resilience of those who have been unable to consistently access fair, affordable and nutritious food. Brief table discussions will follow the viewing.

Amy Redman, Food Solutions New England Research Assistant and Ph.D. Candidate, UNH Dept. of Sociology

3:00 p.m.  Panel Session: Building Regional Vision and Collaboration

Numerous innovative collaborative food system efforts already exist in New England and the Northeast. This panel session will present leaders involved in these efforts and how they envision our regional ‘food future.’ This panel is meant to inform delegates about some of the exciting work happening in our region, suggest how this work can be scaled up to maximize impacts and will provide foundational points for the discussion session.
Dana Hudson, Shelburne Farms and coordinator of New England Farm to Institution project

Ken La Valley, Assistant Extension Professor and Director of Extension for NH Sea Grant, University of New Hampshire

Kathy Ruhf, Coordinator of Northeast Sustainable Agriculture Working Group (NESAWG) and co-director, Land for Good

David Schwartz, Campaign Coordinator, Real Food Challenge

Brian Donahue, Associate Professor of American Environmental Studies, Brandeis University, *moderator*

**4:30 p.m.** Refreshment Break

**4:45 p.m.** Breakout Session

**5:45 p.m.** Brief report out from groups

**6:15 p.m.** Cash Bar Reception

**6:45 p.m.** Dinner

**7:45 p.m.** Keynote Address: Cathrine Sneed, Founder, The Garden Project
8:00 a.m.  Breakfast

8:30 a.m.  Opening Remarks
           Joanne Burke, Clinical Assistant Professor & Director, Dietetic Internship, University of New Hampshire
           Tom Kelly, University of New Hampshire Chief Sustainability Officer

9:00 a.m.  Panel Session: Developing a Food System Charter
           Michael Dimock, President, Roots of Change
           Mike Hamm, C.S. Mott Professor of Sustainable Agriculture, Michigan State University
           Ellen Kahler, Executive Director, Vermont Sustainable Jobs Fund
           Tom Kelly, University of New Hampshire Chief Sustainability Officer, moderator

10:30 a.m. Refreshment Break

10:45 a.m. Breakout Session 1: What can we do together that we can’t do alone?

12:15 p.m. Break

12:30 p.m. Networking Lunch
1:30 p.m.  Report out from Breakout Session 1

2:00 p.m.  Breakout Session 2: What are we each committing to do?

3:30 p.m.  Plenary Session: Next Steps and Closing Remarks

4:30 p.m.  Adjourn
Joanne Burke, Ph.D., RD, LD, is Clinical Assistant Professor in the Department of Molecular, Cellular, and Biomedical Sciences (UNH College of Life Sciences & Agriculture), Director of the UNH Dietetic Internship Program, and UNH Sustainability Academy (UNHSA) Food & Society Faculty Fellow. Dr. Burke advances activities across curriculum, operations, research and engagement in sustainable food systems. This work includes directing Food Solutions New England (FSNE) in partnership with the UNHSA and the FSNE Advisory Committee, working on the design and execution of a Spring 2011 regional food summit sponsored by UNHSA, working with the FSNE Graduate Student and the UNH Dietetic Interns to advance an UNH Engaged Scholars Academy project called “Voices in the Field” (research on food security and access), and sitting on the UNHSA Collaborative Council to help guide the direction of FAS and the UNHSA as a whole. Dr. Burke's scholarship focuses on community and public health nutrition education, food security, food and nutrition practices, and the integration of research into the dietetics and nutrition curriculum.

Michael Dimock is President of Roots of Change (ROC). Its purpose is to create a sustainable food system in California by the year 2030. ROC fosters public dialog, offers fellowships, contracts and grants to support both grass roots and grass top leaders as they educate themselves and the public. The ROC network includes a dozen foundations, 650 innovative nonprofit, business and government leaders, 35,000 Californians, and 13,000 residents of other states. Since 2007, ROC has injected or attracted $7 million to spawn future-oriented food and agriculture in California. Michael has focused on agriculture and food since 1989. He was a marketing executive in Europe for Riverbend International, a global agribusiness company, and then farmed organically for three years in Sonoma County. In the 1990s, he founded Ag Innovations Network to build consensus, support strategic planning, and implement projects related to agricultural marketing, stewardship, and food and farm policy. His clients included agribusiness companies, nonprofits, counties, cities, and the Minister of Agriculture for the state of Western Australia. From 2002 to 2006, Michael was the first elected Chairman of Slow Food USA and a member of Slow Food International’s board from 2003 to 2007. He received a BA with honors in History at UCLA in 1983 and a Masters in International Affairs at Columbia University in 1988.

Brian Donahue is Associate Professor of American Environmental Studies on the Jack Meyerhoff Fund at Brandeis University, and Environmental Historian at Harvard Forest. His courses cover environmental issues, environmental history, and sustainable farming and forestry. He holds a BA, MA, and PhD from the Brandeis program in the History of American Civilization. He co-founded and for 12 years directed Land’s Sake, a non-profit community farm in Weston, Massachusetts. For three years he was Director of Education at The Land Institute in Salina, Kansas. He is the author of Reclaiming the Commons: Community Farms and Forests in a New England Town (Yale University Press, 1999), which won best book prize from the Society for the Preservation of New England Antiquities; and The Great Meadow: Farmers and the Land in Colonial Concord (Yale Press, 2004), which won best book awards from the New England Historical Association, the Agricultural History Society, and the American Society for Environmental History. His primary research interests include the history and the prospects of human engagement with the land. He aspires to be a yeoman and a scholar.

Michael Hamm is the C. S. Mott Professor of Sustainable Agriculture at Michigan State University. Mike has a B.A. in Biology from Northwestern University and a Ph.D. in human nutrition from the University of Minnesota. Mike is currently affiliated with the Departments of Community, Agriculture, Recreation and Resource Studies; Crop and Soil Sciences; and Food Science and Human Nutrition. His appointment encompasses teaching, the Experiment Station and Cooperative Extension. Prior to moving to MSU he was Dean of Academic and Student Programs for Cook College, Rutgers University. He was co-founder and director of the New Jersey Urban Ecology Program, an effort to address sustainable food systems in New Jersey. He was founding director of the Cook Student Organic Farm as well as board member and board president of the Northeast Organic Farming Association of New Jersey. At MSU he is co-founder of
the C.S. Mott Group for Sustainable Food Systems, which engages communities in applied research and outreach to promote sustainable food systems. Community food security, community and sustainable food systems are active research areas. Mike is a member of the Governor-appointed Michigan Food Policy Council, a member of the Eastern Market Corporation Board of Directors and chairs the National Advisory Committee of the W.K. Kellogg Foundation’s Food and Fitness Initiative.

Dana Hudson recently left her position as the Northeast Regional Lead for the National Farm to School Network to work on an exciting New England-wide Farm to Institution initiative that expands the established Northeast Farm to School collaboration into a greater project implementation stage. She works for Shelburne Farms and Vermont FEED (Food Education Every Day) on these special Farm to School projects. She was raised on her family’s farm in Maryland and has 15 years of experience working on food, farming and education issues. She has a Bachelors in Environmental Analysis and Planning and a Masters in Environmental Studies – focused on Agriculture Education and Nonprofit Administration. Dana has facilitated farmer to school relations throughout the state of Vermont. She led in the project management of the initial 3 years of Burlington School Food Project, highly successful multi-partner farm to school initiative in Vermont’s largest city. She is an adjunct faculty at Johnson State College and has run graduate level professional development courses on farm to school throughout the state, as well as farm-based multi-day seminars and workshops for farmers from all over the US and Canada. She is a founding and current board member of the Farm Based Education Association.

Ellen Kahler became the Executive Director of the Vermont Sustainable Jobs Fund (VSJF) in late 2005. She is a graduate of Bucknell University in Pennsylvania with a BA in Political Science and from the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University with a Masters in Public Administration. Prior to joining the VSJF, Ms. Kahler was the Executive Director of the Peace & Justice Center in Burlington (1999 to 2002). Her most well known work through the Peace & Justice Center — the Vermont Job Gap Study and the Vermont Livable Wage Campaign — won statewide attention around the issue of basic family needs, livable wages, and under-employment. After graduating from the Kennedy School for Government in 2003, Ms. Kahler created and directed the Peer to Peer Collaborative, an initiative that assists founder CEOs of small, Vermont-based manufacturing and natural resource based companies. For its first two years, the Collaborative was sponsored by the Vermont Business Roundtable. In January 2006 the Collaborative became a core technical assistance program of the VSJF. Ms. Kahler was a recipient of a three-year leadership development fellowship through the W.K. Kellogg Foundation (1994-1997) and was a member of the Snelling Center for Government’s Vermont Leadership Institute class of 1997. Ms. Kahler currently serves on the Boards of the Clean Energy Development Fund, Sustainable Forest Futures, the Vermont 25x'25 Initiative Steering Committee; the Vermont Sustainable Agriculture Council and Vermont Works for Women. She served on the Board of Directors for the Vermont Community Foundation (2001-2009), the Advisory Board of the VT-Small Business Development Center (2008-2009), on the Vermont Council on Rural Development’s Rural Vermont Energy Council (2006-2007) and as a Commissioner on the Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission (1998-2002).

Tom Kelly, Ph.D., is the founding director of UNH's endowed sustainability program and the UNH Chief Sustainability Officer. Dr. Kelly collaborates with faculty, staff, students and others in the development of curriculum, operations, research and engagement policies, practices and initiatives related to UNH's four educational initiatives in biodiversity, climate, culture, and food. Co-editor and co-author of "The Sustainable Learning Community: One University's Journey to the Future" (2009), Dr. Kelly has been working in the field of higher education and sustainable development for more than fifteen years in the US as well as Colombia and Brazil. In addition to an undergraduate and master's degree in musical composition and conducting, he holds a master's degree and a Ph.D. in International Relations from the Tufts University Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy.

Ken La Valley, Ph.D., is an Assistant Extension Professor and the Director of Extension for NH Sea Grant. He coordinates the fisheries and aquaculture programs for both Sea Grant and UNH Cooperative Extension. Currently fisheries programs are focused on connecting consumers with the fishing industry, facilitating direct marketing efforts by the fishing community (NH Fresh and Local Brand, Community
Supported Fisheries, Farmer’s markets and “off the boat” sales) as well as developing and transferring fishing technologies that reduce bycatch and are more selective. In addition, the UNH fisheries program partners with the regional fishing industry on projects that reduce marine debris or “ghost gear” and that promote collaboration between fishermen, scientists and managers. La Valley also works to identify and transfer aquaculture technologies to the fishing industry that may be used to supplement their current business operations. To date these have included offshore mussel and inshore oyster aquaculture and most recently steelhead trout farming.

Amy Redman is the Graduate Research Assistant for Food Solutions New England. In this work she’s helping to inform FSNE’s direction, prepare for a spring 2011 regional food system summit, and develop a transparent, web-based, visual tool to help frame policy discussion around the food system—the Food System Scenario Tool (FSST). In 2008 she served as Research Assistant for the National Citizen Technology Forum, a project of the Culture & Sustainability Initiative. Amy is a Ph.D. candidate in the University of New Hampshire Department of Sociology. She holds a MA in sociology from UNH and a BA in sociology from St. Lawrence University.

Kathy Ruhf has coordinated the Northeast Sustainable Agriculture Working Group, a 12-state food systems action network, since 1992. She also co-directs Land For Good, a New England nonprofit focusing on farm access, tenure and transfer. Kathy lives and works out of western Massachusetts.

David Schwartz is the Campaign Coordinator for the Real Food Challenge. David graduated from Brown University in December 2009, where he spent more time organizing with the Real Food Challenge than he did in class. Coming from a Jewish household where issues of economic and racial justice were common dinner table discussions, David came to the world of food justice and sustainable agriculture in high school and hasn’t looked back. On campus he helped start a student garden, a local distribution scheme for local produce, and a campaign to redirect over $1 million of school food dollars to “real food.”

Cathrine Sneed is founder of The Garden Project, a program for former offenders. Originally from a suburb outside of Newark, New Jersey, Cathrine came to California in the early 1970’s. She enrolled in law school and took classes with a professor named Michael Hennessey, who would soon become Sheriff of San Francisco, and ask Cathrine to join his staff in 1980. Cathrine decided to leave law school and take a job as a counselor at the San Francisco County Jail. In 1982, after a life threatening illness, Cathrine decided to begin a gardening program at the San Francisco County Jail. Taking her inspiration from John Steinbeck’s *The Grapes of Wrath*, Cathrine sought to give the prisoners hope in their own ability for personal growth by giving them a sense of purpose and connectedness. Prisoners grew organic vegetables and donated those vegetables to soup kitchens. While the program thrived, in 1992, Cathrine saw the need for a post-release program. The Garden Project began in 1992 with a mission to offer structure and support to former offenders through job training in gardening, counseling, and assistance in continuing education. The program continued the work of the original Horticulture program, and sought to affect the high rates of recidivism by offering participants job skills and resources. Further, through their work in the community, the Project would impact the urban environment and contribute to the health of the community through farming and greening projects. Today, the program also comprises a program for at risk young adults called Earth Stewards, which was begun in 2006. Cathrine and her work have been featured in The New York Times, The Economist, The Chicago Tribune, The Los Angeles Times, US News and World Report, and The San Francisco Chronicle, among other publications, and the A&E Channel’s “Uncommon Americans” and the Lifetime Channel. Cathrine has spoken across the country and has been honored with such awards as the National Caring Award, the Hero for the Earth, and the National Foundation for the Improvement of Justice Award.
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