

New England Food Summit

Burlington, Vermont

June 28-29, 2012



The University of Vermont



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*Bringing together food system stakeholders to strengthen
collaboration for regional food system sustainability*

Summit Organizers

Principal Conveners:

Linda Berlin, UVM Center for Sustainable Agriculture and Dept. of Nutrition and Food Sciences

Joanne Burke, UNH Department of Molecular, Cellular, & Biomedical Sciences

Tom Kelly, UNH Sustainability Academy

Staff Support:

Elisabeth Farrell, UNH Sustainability Academy

Cheryl Herrick, UVM Center for Sustainable Agriculture

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

Amanda Beal, Sustainable Food Systems Research and Policy Consultant (Maine)

Courtney Bourns, Kendall Foundation

Katharine Brown, Southside Community Land Trust (Rhode Island)

Cris Coffin, American Farmland Trust (Massachusetts)

Michael Devlin, Harvard Pilgrim Health Foundation

Brian Donahue, Brandeis University

Ellen Kahler, Vermont Sustainable Jobs Fund

Russ Libby, MOFGA

Britt Lundgren, Stonyfield Farms

Jiff Martin, University of Connecticut Cooperative Extension

Margaret Sova McCabe, UNH Professor of Law

Matt Sayre, UVM Continuing Education

New England Food Summit
University of Vermont, June 28-29, 2012
Agenda

Thursday, June 28th

- 12:00, 12:15 Shuttle bus from Sheraton Hotel to UVM Royall Tyler Theatre
- 12:30-1:00 p.m. Conference registration (*Royall Tyler Theatre*)
- 1:00-6:30 p.m. The Necessary (r)Evolution for Sustainable Food Systems (*Royall Tyler Theatre*)
- 5:45-6:30 p.m. Reception (*Royall Tyler Theatre*)
- 6:45-8:30 p.m. Delegate dinner (*Mt. Mansfield Room, Davis Center*)
- Welcome from Summit Organizers
 - Welcoming remarks by John Bramley, Interim President, University of Vermont
- 8:30, 8:45 Shuttle bus from UVM Davis Center to Sheraton Hotel

Friday, June 29th (*All events on Friday will take place in the Mt. Mansfield Room, Davis Center*)

- 7:00, 7:15 Shuttle bus from Sheraton Hotel to UVM Davis Center
- 7:00-8:00 a.m. Conference registration
- 7:00-8:00 a.m. Continental Breakfast
- 8:00-8:30 a.m. Welcoming remarks
- Summit organizers: Linda Berlin, Tom Kelly & Joanne Burke
 - Chuck Ross, VT Secretary of Agriculture, Food & Markets and Harry Chen, VT Commissioner of Health
- 8:30-9:00 a.m. The Good Food Vision: Brian Donahue
Provide an update on the New England Good Food Vision including assumptions and calculations that enable New Englanders working in all sectors and states to envision a shared, regional, sustainable food system.
- 9:00-10:00 a.m. Open Forum Q&A on the New England Good Food Vision
- How does this regional vision help us in our work? How can it build momentum for our work? Are there ways to improve and strengthen it?

What is the process for bringing the vision forward post-summit by states and the region as a whole?

10:00-10:15 a.m.

Break

10:15-11:15 a.m.

Round Table Discussion

Individual states discuss the following questions and prepare briefings for state of the state presentations to the whole. Please consider the five areas identified by Kania and Kramer.

1. "Common Agenda": What is the status of your state-level food planning efforts? How can the New England Good Food Vision contribute positively to your state's food planning efforts?
2. "Shared Measurement Systems": What measurement systems are in place in your state to monitor food system activity? Could a shared regional measurement system contribute positively to your state food planning efforts and vice versa?
3. "Mutually Reinforcing Activities": How can the unique capabilities of the academic, research, governmental, nonprofit and private sectors be aligned in greater collaboration within your state and within the region? How can efforts at the state level to engage in "mutually reinforcing activities" be supported by regional efforts and networks and vice versa? What information do you need from other states to help your state move forward? What can your state offer the region?
4. "Backbone Support Organizations": Who are the backbone support organizations/entities in your state food planning and implementation efforts? What role might these organizations/entities play in communicating and working with like organizations in the other New England states?
5. "Continuous Communication": What form of communication would best support states learning from each other and beginning the process of advancing the direction laid out in the New England Good Food Vision?

11:15-12:30 p.m.

State of the states:

Please be prepared to report out: What is the status of food system planning in your state? What components of Kania & Kramer's 5 Conditions have been established in your state thus far? What lessons have been learned thus far? What else would be helpful to know as you move forward with your state's planning effort? How can these state-based efforts inform and be informed by each other and a regional Good Food Vision? 10-minute briefings by states, followed by 15 minutes for plenary discussion.

12:30-1:45 p.m.

Working lunch

- Luncheon speaker – Rich Pirog
- Plenary discussion

1:45-3:00 p.m.

Knitting together of states and region

Considering emerging needs and existing high-level regional projects already underway, presentations will be made to spotlight regional efforts around food system planning.

- Farm to Institution New England (FINE) – Peter Allison
- Vermont Food System Atlas Project (VT Sustainable Jobs Fund)– Ellen Kahler
- Northeast Sustainable Ag Working Group (NESAWG) regional indicators research; policy mapping project – Kathy Ruhf
- New England Farmland Convening (American Farmland Trust) – Cris Coffin
- Update, New England Chief Agricultural Officers

Discussion: How can the initiatives outlined in these presentations inform state efforts in developing a more comprehensive regional approach? Are there other critical initiatives that are well suited for a regional approach?

3:00-4:00 p.m.

Next steps

What could be our process for moving forward on the New England Good Food Vision, state planning efforts, regional network collaboration, metrics development and additional research? Concrete suggestions for action.

4:00 p.m.

Adjourn

Speaker Biographies

Peter Allison is the Coordinator of Farm to Institution New England (FINE) , a six-state collaboration working to strengthen the regional food system by increasing the demand and use of New England food by New England institutions. He is also the director and founder of the Upper Valley Farm to School Network (on the borders of VT and NH). Peter brings over 25 years of experience working on a range of environmental initiatives in the non-profit, government and business sectors. He has served in advocacy, research, and management roles - yet has always approached work with the lens of a community organizer. Peter has an MA in Urban and Environmental Policy from Tufts University and a BA in Philosophy from Drew University. He lives with his family at Cobb Hill co-housing and farm community in Hartland, VT.

Linda Berlin, Ph.D. has been with the University of Vermont (UVM) since 1992, when she began coordinating a federally funded nutrition education program for underserved families ("EFNEP"). In 1999, she moved into a faculty position within the Department of Nutrition and Food Sciences, at which time her role shifted to include broader involvement in food and food systems issues. In March 2009 she became half-time Director of the UVM Center for Sustainable Agriculture, and also continues as an Extension faculty member focused on food systems. She holds an M.S. from Cornell University in human nutrition (1990) and a doctorate from Tufts University's Friedman School of Nutrition Science and Policy (2006) with a focus on agriculture, food, and environment. Since being in Vermont, she has chaired boards for two Burlington-based non-profits (Friends of Burlington Gardens; Vermont Campaign to End Childhood Hunger) and held a three-year term on the board for the national Society for Nutrition Education and Behavior. She currently co-facilitates the Vermont Sustainable Agriculture Council, and is a member of the Vermont Farm-to-School Network Steering Committee, the Chittenden Hunger Council, and a Farm to Plate working group. Dr. Berlin's scholarship examines food access from a food systems perspective and looks at food-related impacts of Farm-to-School.

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.

Cris Coffin joined American Farmland Trust in 2001, where she leads efforts to promote farmland protection, farm viability and conservation practices in New England through research, outreach, advocacy and policy development at the local, state and national level. Coffin brings a wealth of federal agricultural and conservation policy experience to the position, having worked on and off Capitol Hill for many years. Prior positions include research assistant with Resources for the Future, legislative assistant to U.S. Senator Jim Sasser, professional staff on the Senate Agriculture Committee, and legislative assistant and chief of staff to Senator Herb Kohl. Her policy specialties include conservation and forestry issues, and she is a veteran of several federal Farm Bill reauthorizations. She has also served as consultant to both the Vermont and Wisconsin Departments of Agriculture. Coffin holds a B.A. in geography from the University of Massachusetts-Amherst and a J.D. from Georgetown University Law Center. She sits on the board of the Franklin Land Trust.

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..

Ellen Kahler became the Executive Director of the Vermont Sustainable Jobs Fund (VSJF) in late 2005. The VSJF provides grants, technical assistance and now loans (through its new VSJF Flexible Capital Fund, L3C) to early and growth stage businesses in Vermont's natural resource based industries such as sustainable agriculture and forest products, and renewable energy. In 2009 the Vermont Legislature tasked the VSJF with developing the Farm to Plate Strategic Plan and the organization now serves as the Network Coordinator for the Farm to Plate Network which is the governing structure working to implement the plan. 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 (1990 to 2002). 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. In January 2006 the Collaborative became a core technical assistance program of the VSJF. Ms. Kahler currently serves on the Board of the Sustainable Forest Futures, Energy Action Network, and the Vermont Sustainable Agriculture Council. She served on the Board of Directors for the Clean Energy Development Fund (2009-2011), Vermont Works for Women (2007-2011), 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.

Rich Pirog joined the newly created Center for Regional Food Systems at Michigan State University as senior associate director in May 2011. His current work includes developing a statewide food hub learning and innovation network and providing oversight to new Center work groups that include Center and MSU faculty and staff. From October 1990 to May 2011 he was associate director and program leader for marketing and food systems at the Leopold Center for Sustainable Agriculture. At the Leopold Center Pirog directed the Value Chain Partnerships (VCP) project, an Iowa-based network of food and agriculture working groups that provides technical assistance to farmer-led food businesses in Iowa. Through VCP, Pirog lead the Regional Food Systems Working Group, which focuses on making the case for investment in local and regional food businesses and networks. There currently are 16 local food groups representing more than 80 Iowa counties that participate in the Regional Food Systems Working Group. Pirog lead the development of Iowa's Local Food and Farm Plan in 2010-2011, which was mandated by the Iowa legislature and includes funding and policy recommendations to develop a stronger local food economy in Iowa. Pirog's research and collaborations on local foods, food networks and communities of practice, food value chains, and ecolabels has been publicized in magazines and media

outlets across the globe, used by local food practitioners, and are often cited in books and college courses. He currently is consulting and writing publications with the Ford Foundation, Wallace Center for Sustainable Agriculture, and the Kellogg Foundation.

Kathy Ruhf has served as coordinator of the Northeast Sustainable Agriculture Working Group since 1992. In that capacity she has led many projects, organized conferences and enabled collaboration among groups in 12 Northeast states. She is a proponent of regional approaches and solutions to food system challenges. She also works at Land For Good, specializing in farm access, tenure and succession. Kathy is based in western Massachusetts.

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