

Community Food Security Assessment Process Overview

- **October 2011:** Capacity Building Forum
- **March 2012:** Search Conference
- **January-April 2013:** AFP management team characterizes the region using secondary data sources
- **April-May 2013:** State CFSA Meetings
- **May 20-21, 2013:** CFSA Workshop
- **Summer 2013:** Initiate CFSA Implementation (will vary by state)

Community Food Security Assessment Workshop

May 20-21, 2013

Claytor Lake State Park, Dublin, Virginia

University and Community Partners worked together to define the purpose of the Community Food Security Assessments in North Carolina, Virginia, and West Virginia, while finding common ground for regional learning.

In May, 2013, 30 university and community partners rolled up their sleeves and set themselves to the task of shaping community food security assessments

(CFSA) for West Virginia, southwest Virginia, and western North Carolina. Building on the foundations laid by the Capacity Building Forum (October 2011), Search Conference (March 2012) and state meetings, workshop participants began to address the specific needs identified in each state, while also finding opportuni-

ties for cross-state and regional learning.

Tracy Kunkler (Sims and Steele Consulting, Asheville, North Carolina) facilitated the two day meeting. To begin, participants discussed food assessments that were already taking place in the region, and shared examples of community food security success stories from their own work and experiences. Using that infor-

mation as a starting point, state breakouts revisited past state meetings and identified gaps in the current assessments. West Virginia, Virginia and North Carolina



Tracy Kunkler facilitates the Virginia AFP working group as they work to define the desired CFSA outcomes.

each came up with their own purpose for the assessments, which, in turn, determined the scale and scope of the CFSA's proposed for the region.

North Carolina: The NC group present agreed that the emerging need for western NC is the formation of a backbone organization focused on community food security to strategically align community part-



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A collaborative effort of North Carolina State University, Virginia Tech, West Virginia University, and community stakeholders

This material is based upon the Appalachian Foodshed Project's work supported by the USDA-NIFA under Award Number: 2011-68004-30079



United States Department of Agriculture

National Institute of Food and Agriculture

- ◆ The Appalachian Foodshed Project is using a **foodshed concept to address issues of food security in West Virginia and the Appalachian regions of North Carolina and Virginia**. Similar to the concept of a watershed, a foodshed takes into account everything between where food is produced and where it is consumed. This includes the farms and gardens used to raise food, travel routes used to transport products, processing facilities, distribution (farmers markets, brokers, retailers), and the restaurants, institutions, and homes where we all eat.
- ◆ The Appalachian Foodshed Project is designed to build on the work that is already happening in Appalachia, facilitating and enhancing formal and informal work by creating a **network of organizations and individuals** who are engaging similar issues related to community development, economic viability, health and nutrition, food access, social justice, and agriculture.
- ◆ By working collaboratively, the Foodshed Project hopes **to build on the human and natural resources in the region** to improve access, expand food security, and enhance food economies, especially in communities that have been underserved and are economically vulnerable.
- ◆ The Foodshed Project will work to **cultivate resilient food systems within the region**. This means creatively working with communities, farmers, policymakers, non-profits, and institutions to better understand the food system and implement changes that have long term benefits for all people in the region.

www.appalachianfoodshedproject.org

www.facebook.com/AppalachianFoodshedProject

CFSA Workshop (continued)



The West Virginia team discusses what a CFSA might look like in their state.

ners for future collaboration, communication, and achievement of collective impact. The North Carolina assessment will focus on how to develop the backbone

organization for the region.

Virginia: The CFSA will focus on how southwest Virginia can collaborate regionally to enhance access and availability of locally produced and distributed foods. The Virginia group will reconvene on June 14 to continue this dialogue.

West Virginia: The West Virginia contingent plans to initially undertake Community Food Security Assessments in Barbour, Randolph, Upshur and Kanawha counties, targeting low-income consumers and seniors. They will work with local partners such as Manna Meal in Charleston, Heart and Hand in Philippi, Elkins Farmers Market and WVU Families and Health Extension agents. This proposal will be presented to a larger group of community partners in early July.

For more information, and additional details from the CFSA Workshop, please contact Nikki D'Adamo-Damery, Project Coordinator: afp@vt.edu or 540-231-22654 or visit www.appalachianfoodshedproject.org.