

Special points of

interest:

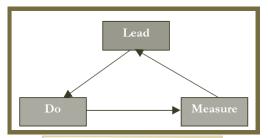
- AFP Management Team adopts Dynamic Self-Governance
- Check out our new AFP logoelement!
- Mary Oldham, graduate research assistant at WVU receives Northeast SARE Graduate Student Grant
- North Carolina AFP Regional Meeting: Nov. 2, 9am-noon

Dynamic Self-Governance and the AFP

In August, the AFP sent 5 project partners and 2 management team members to a training on Dynamic Self-Governance (DSG), hosted by Handmade in America, Asheville Area Chamber of Commerce /Economic Development Coalition, and Sims & Steele Consulting.

The DSG methodology helps create transparency and accountability in organizations by creating "double-linkages" between different levels of a hierarchy. Instead of information flowing from the top down, DSG provides a mechanism for a circular flow and feedback.

As part of the training, participants had the opportunity to learn facilita-



Dynamic Self-Governance establishes a circular structure for assessment, feedback, and action.

tion skills and explore "both/and" thinking as a way to build consensus through consent. The AFP attendees also decided to bring DSG methodology back to the AFP Management Team, as a way to facilitate collective impact. To learn more, visit: www.governancealive.com/dynamicgovernance.

AFP Forms New Coalition-Building Working Group

The Appalachian Foodshed Project Management Team met for its fall quarterly meeting on Saturday, October 6 in Blacksburg, VA. Based on feedback from community partners and project management, the team decided to create a new working group to focus on the building the AFP regional, tri-state coalition. The working group is charged with engaging stakeholders across state lines, and helping to define what it means to work together for food systems change in the region, while building on the coalitions and networks that are already on the ground.

Cheryl Brown (WVU), will take leadership for the new working group.

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AFP Receives Community Viability Grant for Regional Forum

The AFP was recently awarded a small Virginia Community Viability Grant to help bring together AFP stakeholders and project partners from western North Carolina, southwest Virginia, and West Virginia in a regional forum.

Building on the work of the Capacity Building Forum (Oct. 2011) and Search Conference (Mar. 2012), this forum will provide an opportunity for community partners and university partners to engage in dialogue around the community food security assessments (CFSA).

Thus far, the CFSA reflects the integration of two frameworks, the Whole Measures for Community Food Security and the Community Capitals. The Community Viability forum will allow for the integration of a third framework: the place-based perspective of rural central Appalachia.

This gathering will also enable the AFP to continue to build a regional coalition, facilitate learning across state lines, and create an community food assessment tool that meets the needs of communities in the region. Look for more information in the coming months.

West Virginia Releases Report on Local Food Supply Chains



A new report, West Virginia Food System: Opportunities and constraints in local food supply chains, examines the existing local food supply chain infrastructure in the state, including processors, aggregators, distributors, and retail markets. The report includes profiles of

some of West Virginia's local food businesses and a directory of local food resources.

The report was produced for the West Virginia Food & Farm Coalition and West Virginia Community Development Hub, with funding from the Benedum Foundation and the blue moon fund.

You can download the report from the Downstream Strategies website:

www.downstreamstrate gies.com/projects.html

Foodscape Directory

Based on feedback from project partners, the AFP is working to develop a database and directory of organizations doing food systems work in western North Carolina, southwest Virginia, and West Virginia. Project assistants in each state are currently contacting organizations and individuals to gather contact information and basic details about their scope of

work. The directory will eventually be available online and in print.

If you would like to be included in the directory, please contact Sarah Misyak (smisyak@gmail.com).



Volume I, Issue I

AFP Project Updates

•Implementation of

DSG: Based on feedback from participants of the Dynamic Self-Governance (DSG) training, the AFP Management Team decided to implement DSG methodology at the October 6 Fall Quarterly Meeting. In preparation, the team completed a webinar training with John Buck (Governance Alive) and Tracy Kunkler (Sims and Steele Consulting) prior to the day-long meeting.

•Community of Practice (CoP): We are in the process of merging our eXtension Community of Practice.

tice (an online format for creating and accessing public information) with a larger, national Community of Practice on local, regional, and community food systems. Kim Niewolny is taking the lead on this aspect of ASP, and will be meeting with other food system leaders from across the country. We are very excited to expand our conversation to a larger learning community, and hope that our new partners will enhance our work here in Appalachia.

•Community Food Assessments: We are

continuing to work to develop the Community Food Assessment tool, and are currently working to identify and map some basic information about the current food system across the 3 state region. This first stage of data will provide the foundation for the upcoming regional forum, where we will be collaborating with stakeholders to determine meaningful measurements and methodologies for assessing community food security. (See page 2 for more information about the Community Viability grant.)



Double-linked circles to provide information and feedback in multiple directions

North Carolina Regional Meeting: November 2, in Burnsville

If you live or work in western North Carolina, and have been involved, or would like to become involved, in the AFP, you are invited to the next NC AFP meeting on **November** 2nd from 9am till 12pm.

Please plan to join us for this meeting and help shape the efforts of our work in western North Carolina, learn about important NC Food policies, and join in the discussion of a WNC Food Coalition.

The meeting will be held at the Yancey Extension office, and participants will have the opportunity to tour the new TRACTOR facility (Toe River Aggregation Center. Training Organization Regional).

If you would like more information, or to RSVP, please contact Angel Cruz (aecruz@ncsu.edu) by Friday, October 26.

What:

NC Regional Meeting

When:

Friday, Nov. 2, 9am-noon

Where:

Yancey Extension Office 10 Orchard Dr, Burnsville, NC 28714





204 Wallace Annex Blacksburg, VA 24061 E-mail: afp@vt.edu

Phone:540-231-2264

www.appalachianfoodshedproject.org

The Appalachian Foodshed Project (AFP) is funded by a five year USDA NIFA -AFRI Global Food Security Grant. Coordinated by an interdisciplinary team of researchers at Virginia Tech, North Carolina State University, and West Virginia University, the project envisions a place-based food system that is resilient, accessible, affordable, and healthy for Appalachian communities.

In working towards this vision, the AFP aims to facilitate a network of organizations and individuals working to address issues of community development, economic viability, health, nutrition, food access, social justice, and agriculture in western North Carolina, southwest Virginia, and West Virginia.

In addition to building a regional coalition, the USDA grant that funds the AFP has several project outputs: a systems-dynamic model of community food security, a food systems graduate course, community food security assessments (CFSA), and community enhancement grants.

October

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Upcoming Events

- Oct. 28-30, 2012: Northeast Sustainable Agriculture Working Group "It takes a Region" Working Conference, Saratoga Springs, NY
- Nov. 2, 2012, 9am-12pm: AFP North Carolina Regional Meeting, TRACTOR Food Hub project, Burnsville, NC.

AFP Notes and Announcements

- If you have information or events that you would like for us to include in our next newsletter, please email them to afp@vt.edu by Thursday, November 8.
- Project coordinator, Nikki D'Adamo-Damery, will be out on maternity leave until after Thanksgiving. During this time, general project inquiries can be directed to the AFP email address (afp@vt.edu). For state inquiries, please contact:

Virginia: Susan Clark (clark55@vt.edu)

North Carolina: Michelle Schroeder-Moreno (michelle schroeder@ncsu.edu)

West Virginia: Cheryl Brown (Cheryl.Brown@mail.wvu.edu)