

Upcoming Regional Opportunities



Grants:

[Livable Communities In Appalachia](#): ARC/EPA. Small cash grant; \$200,000 total. Due 10/4/13.

[Rural Community Development Initiative](#): USDA. \$50,000-\$300,000. Due 11/12/13.

[Improve the Quality of Life in Rural Communities](#): USDA. Grants ranging from \$250 to \$5,000. Due 10/1/13.

Conferences:

[Carolina Farm Stewardship Association Annual Conference](#): 11/15/13-11/17/13, Durham, North Carolina. Annual Carolina Farm Stewardship Association Sustainable Agriculture Conference.

More information on webinars, grants, and events are posted on our [blog](http://blogs.lt.vt.edu/afpblog) (<http://blogs.lt.vt.edu/afpblog>).

The AFP Blog: Voices on the Ground

The AFP is excited to be hosting [a blog](http://blogs.lt.vt.edu/afpblog) (<http://blogs.lt.vt.edu/afpblog>) for community partners across West Virginia and the Appalachian regions of North Carolina and Virginia. The blog is a place to celebrate your successes around the region; detail ongoing work; and share your challenges, roadblocks, and pitfalls so that others might learn from your experiences. This is also a space for us to keep you informed on project progress, challenges, future opportunities and potentially useful resources. Check the blog now for interesting posts from:

[SustainFloyd](#) on the “pocket farm” model they are ground-testing at Blue Valley, their working model farm. They are also teaching the template as part of two 6-week classes which begin on Monday, September 9th.

[Youth Empowered Solutions!](#) on their Second Chance Breakfast initiative which gives students who get to school late a second chance to eat breakfast

[Appalachian Sustainable Development](#) on their use of Geographic Information Systems (GIS) to strengthen their food system and food access work in southwest Virginia and northeast Tennessee.

You can also find posts from graduate students, project directors, and staff on food summits, soil health, and the various food assessments in western North Carolina.

Information on the project management team, project restructuring, and webinars is also available. If you would like to contribute to the blog, or have a suggestion for a topic, please email afp@vt.edu.



Collective Impact in Western North Carolina

The WNC-AFP group is using the Whole Measures for Community Food Systems as a framework for gathering trusted food system leaders in the areas of fairness and justice, strong communities, healthy people, thriving local economies, vibrant farms, and resilient ecosystems. They are organizing around collective impact, and have a proposed common agenda to

"Cut the number of food insecure people in WNC in half by increasing availability and accessibility of safe, local, nutritious, and culturally appropriate foods for people in WNC." Their next steps include:

- Taking the common agenda to the larger WNC group,
- Establishing shared measures, and

- Identifying 4-5 strategic ideas/actions that would address the common agenda.

The group will convene again in mid-September to continue their work. Contact [Michelle Schroeder-Moreno](mailto:michelle_schroeder@ncsu.edu) (michelle_schroeder@ncsu.edu) for more information.

West Virginia CFSA

The WV-AFP group has decided to conduct two regional community food security assessments. One assessment will occur in the region of Barbour, Randolph, and Upshur counties and will focus on the issues of how transportation affects access to food and the barriers to redemption of WIC vouchers. The second assessment will be conducted in Kanawha County, and may

involve Clay and Braxton. This will focus on the issue of senior access to and use of food support systems. It will also look at how and from where low income residents get their food to understand their barriers and challenges, with the hope of identifying possible ways to improve access. University researchers and community partners designed the scope and looked at ways to imple-

ment the assessments. University researchers are putting these ideas into a research plan format that will be presented for revision with community partners.

Contact [Cheryl Brown](mailto:Cheryl.Brown@mail.wvu.edu) (Cheryl.Brown@mail.wvu.edu) for more information



Virginia AFP Taskforce



At the May tri-state AFP's Community Food Security Assessment (CFSA) Workshop, Virginia community partners agreed to focus its CFSA on access and availability of locally produced and distributed foods.

In June, another VA-AFP meeting convened to discuss how to strengthen current partnerships while working towards a common agenda to ad-

dress the community food security assessments in Appalachian Virginia. Twenty-one participants attended the meeting. It was agreed that a taskforce would serve as a provisional organizing body to develop an outreach strategy and expand our stakeholder base. Their time commitment, leadership and energy are appreciated as they work towards how to best engage in mean-

ingful conversation that will help shape the community food security assessments in Appalachia Virginia.

The Taskforce plans to gather Virginia stakeholders together in October to share the work to date and discuss next steps. For more information, contact [Susan Clark](mailto:susan.clark@vt.edu) (clark55@vt.edu).

Updates from the AFP Management Team

The AFP Management Team is composed of faculty, staff, and graduate students from West Virginia University, Virginia Tech, and North Carolina State University.

If you missed the webinar explaining the new AFP structure, you can view the archived recording [here](https://connect.extension.iastate.edu/p5qnmu8pypv) (<https://connect.extension.iastate.edu/p5qnmu8pypv>).

- ***Community, Local, and Regional Food Systems Community of Practice:*** The national CoP is about to go live! The goal of the CLRFS CoP is to provide resource materials, training opportunities, and

collegial interaction for Extension Educators, community-based practitioners, and individuals involved in work related to building sustainable and equitable food systems. Look for more information soon. In the meantime, check out the Facebook pages:

Fan page: <https://www.facebook.com/ExtensionsCommunityLocalRegionalFoodSystems>

Group Page: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/LocalFoods/>

- **Curriculum:** NCSU is developing a "co-dependent" course focused on community food security and based on Virginia Tech's Advance Concepts in Community Food Systems course (taught last spring). The course will be co-dependent-taught at VT and NCSU as individual courses, but sharing flexible course learning objectives and content, with opportunities for students to interact across institutions and co-develop learning content that utilizes faculty expertise in the region. The team has drafted focus group/survey question to gauge student interest and the need for this type of course at NCSU, and may be used as a tool at other institutions. A long-term goal of the curriculum is to integrate community partners into the learning process to help students gain knowledge and skills that can be applied "on the ground."

Communications: The [AFP blog](http://blogs.lt.vt.edu/afpblog) (<http://blogs.lt.vt.edu/afpblog>) is up and running,

with new posts from community partners, graduate students, and faculty every Monday. In addition, two new undergraduate students have been hired to help develop the website and develop tools for the food assessments. Starting in October, the AFP will host a monthly webinar, featuring regional partners and their success stories-- look for more information soon.

- **Modeling:** The working group developed and refined a model overview diagram, and then worked on a short powerpoint presentation for general communication of the model structure and how the story of the model has unfolded. We kept this fairly basic, but did go ahead and include an example of the progression from concept, to concept map, to stock and flow diagram in the modeling language.

The next management team meeting will be on October 14, 2013.