

Hometown Harvest of SE Iowa provides an abundance of high-quality foods to our community that are delicious, nutrient-rich, self-sustaining, and grown by local farmers.

Through cooperation, education our community members about their food and utilizing good business practices, we are building a high-quality of life and a diverse and healthy landscape to allow future generations to be self-sustaining.

Leadership Team goals

1. Establish a Leadership Team (LT) representing all six counties and a diversity of background.
2. Convene the Leadership Team every two weeks for three months.
3. Invite a guest to each LT meeting to present for the first 15 minutes of the meeting.

Leadership Team Members:

1. Willie Van Weelden (Mahaksa County Supervisor)
2. Dale Taylor (Davis County Supervisor)
3. Anthony Schleisman (Wapello County producer)
4. Doug Webster (Keokuk County producer)
5. Kim Blair (Van Buren County producer)
6. John Whitaker (Van Buren County producer)
7. Neric Smith (Jefferson County Extension)
8. Burt Chojnowski (Fairfield Entrepreneurs Association)
9. Claude Nicholson (Jefferson County producer)
10. Jocelyn Engman (Jefferson County producer)
11. Cary Spray (Jefferson County producer)
12. Roland Wells (Cypress Village, Fairfield)
13. Marsha Laux (ISU Extension—Value Added Ag)

Facilitated by Detra Dettmann, NRCS/Pathfinders RC&D

Goals for Education and Public Outreach

1. Create a regular Local Food Spotlight (feature individual producers, crops, retail businesses, etc.) and submit it to newspapers in the six-county area.
2. Select a name for the campaign by April 15 by creating a naming contest.
3. Create letterhead for the group to be used for all correspondence and public relations.
4. Make three presentations to service groups in the six-county area.
5. Develop a website to post information about the group, resources, other local food efforts, educational materials, etc.

Goals to Support Farmers and Producers

1. Certify an instructor for the “Tilling the Soil of Opportunity” course focused on business planning and value-added agriculture.
2. Research and apply for three grants to increase local food production.
3. Develop a comprehensive list of local producers in the six-county area.
4. Establish a local leader (point of contact in each county).
5. Make contact with FFA leaders in each of the six counties about the local food system group.

Goals to Broaden the Market

1. Develop a plan to create a more favorable climate for financing alternative agriculture enterprises.
2. Create an awareness with lending institutions.