

## **NW WISCONSIN REGIONAL FOOD NETWORK**

<http://www.uwex.edu/ces/cty/barron/cnred/foodnetwork.html>

(Meeting information, web links)

## **NWRFN YAHOO GROUPS**

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/nwrfn/>

(Discussion, documents, etc....)

## **NEWSLETTER**

**ISSUE #9**

**NOVEMBER 2007**

---

\*DECEMBER 1<sup>ST</sup> SPECIAL EVENT

\*DECEMBER 5<sup>TH</sup> CO-OP MTG

\*OCTOBER 24<sup>TH</sup> MTG MINUTES

### **DEC 1<sup>ST</sup> DINNER (YES THAT IS A SATURDAY!!!)**

**6 PM – 8PM. BOYCEVILLE, WI COMMUNITY CENTER (5:30 APPETIZERS)**

Meeting to include another spectacular home-made dinner by ON FIRE OVENS!

This is a low brick building at 1233 Charlotte St. (corner of hwy 79 and Charlotte two blocks South of hwy 79 and 170 intersection - approximately 30 minutes drive from Barron and Eau Claire; 1 hr. from River Falls)

ALL DONATIONS WILL GO TO SUPPORT FUTURE FOOD NETWORK ACTIVITIES  
GIVE WHAT YOU CAN...NOBODY WILL GO HUNGRY!!!

### **DECEMBER 1<sup>ST</sup> 2007 MEETING AGENDA**

The purpose of this “special event” will be for our cluster groups to share their plans for the future. Five groups have been working over the past year to develop strategic plans including an herb/flower group, a vegetable/fruit group, a healthy meats group, an ethnic meats group, and an agri-tourism group. Bring a friend or family along to hear and see what these groups have been up to and explore how we can work together to make their future plans a reality.

Please RSVP via email to [andrew.dane@co.barron.wi.us](mailto:andrew.dane@co.barron.wi.us) or by calling 715 537 6250 so that Jenny knows approximately how many to cook for on Dec. 1<sup>st</sup>.

### **DECEMBER 5<sup>TH</sup> MARKETING/DISTRIBUTION CO-OP (LLC?) PRESENTATION** **6:30 pm, Barron Electric CO-OP, Barron, WI**

The feasibility study steering committee will present a concrete proposal to those growers *that are interested in forming a joint business venture* to market/distribute some product together starting in 2008. Those farmers that attended the co-op meeting at Barron Electric on November 12<sup>th</sup> will receive a copy of the proposal *before* the December 5<sup>th</sup> meeting so that they come prepared. It will be mailed out on November 30<sup>th</sup>.

*If you were not* at the November 12<sup>th</sup> meeting but plan to attend the December 5<sup>th</sup> meeting then please contact Barb Trine at [btrine@co.chippewa.wi.us](mailto:btrine@co.chippewa.wi.us) or 715 726 7950 to request a copy of the proposal so that you can come to the meeting well prepared.

**OCTOBER 24<sup>TH</sup>, NRWFN MTG. MINUTES**  
**Barron County Courthouse, Barron, WI (6-9PM)**

Thanks to Linda Zillmer for providing a summary of the meeting. There were 19 people at the meeting. We did introductions all around and started off more about vegetable growers and the co-op since some participants needed to leave early

Agenda items:

Soup Stock Wrap-up

Vegetable Growers Meeting

What's happening?

Cluster Updates

Future Goals

Buy Local Update

Survey to send out to mailing list

Brochure/Website

Hunger Summit

Marketing and Distribution Co-op meeting set for November 12. We need to get commitment from growers for next year. Question was, what is commitment? Money, crops, what? That would be discussed more at 11/12 meeting. 3 important questions were going to be asked of the producers at that meeting, but no one knew what these 3 important questions would be. Likely to be visioning questions....where do you see the co-op 5 years from now.

Feasibility study was completed. Next step is a business plan. Folks are leaning towards a co-operative. Producers need to come up with \$5,000 to have CDS do the business plan. Anne could get into the business plan in January, could start some work in December? Produce would spearhead cooperative, but then could include meat, dairy, beef, bison.

Questions on what would be expected from producers...again no definitive answers..kinds of produce, varieties, quantities? Primary, secondary, and emergency growers. Move towards organic, even though not currently organic certified.

Maurice provided an update on where he thought the group could be in 3-5 years \$750,000 to \$1,000,000 and where things have been the last two years with what Dragsmith has done on its own and now with purchases from others. Products have been produce, honey, bison, elk, and chicken. Maintains customer base of 20-25 and used up to 4 employees this year

Tracey attended Hunger Summit in Stevens Point on October 4<sup>th</sup>. 200-250 attended...nutrition educators, food pantries, agencies, university reps. Food deserts in rural areas, develop synergies between local food efforts and hunger efforts, social and economic issues.

Midwest Value Added Conference and Local Food Summit will be held in Eau Claire on January 24 and January 25 (Thurs/Fri)

Buy Local, Buy WI proposal was funded and will be administered through DATCP including a grant program of roughly \$200,000 per year for local food system and culinary tourism development.

Risk Management Grant Closeout and Report out by Cluster Groups. Andrew asked for help in compiling an illustrated report for the entire group of clusters. Scheduled for December 1st in Boyceville for 50-100 people. Appetizers at 5:30, supper/meeting at 6:00. Andrew and Jenny will work on menu. We should invite press and those who attended kick off in October, 2006 to show progress.

Soup Stock-Final accounting not completed. Folks didn't want to get into discussing details (what went right, what we could do better, etc.) Soup Stock wrap up will be a separate meeting. Next year, maybe a Soup Stock South in the Spring and Soup Stock North later?

Tracey will be working with Stasha Marsh for the coming month to help develop the website and brochure for the food network. Tracey would like to develop concrete goals and objectives...send Tracey your input. Would like to develop a survey to gather feedback. What are people getting from the food network, what is the direction for the future? Need to do goal setting.

### **NORTHWEST WISCONSIN REGIONAL FOOD NETWORK**

A grassroots group of local farmers, volunteers and agency staff working together to create a regional food system that connects consumers back to the land and provides locally produced, fresh and nutritious foods to all segments of our community while preserving the region's environment and sustaining the local economy for years to come