

NOTES OF FARM TO SCHOOL MEETING 21 SEP 2005, 3-4:30 PM, 9R ADMIN BLDG, DURANGO

Attending: Shari Fitzgerald, Katrina Blair, Jan Blanchard, Dave James, Kim Cotta, Bill Manning, Trent Taylor, Jeanne Trupiano, Jerry Zink, Michael Rendon, Patrick Crowell, Jillian Steen, Barbara Barnes, George Rankin, Elayne Kerrigan, Jaynee Fontecchio, Bliss Bruen, Jim Dyer.

POLICY ISSUES:

Jim reported on the Statewide Policy meeting 11 August in Brighton where 70 people gathered to start a statewide Food and Agr Policy group. Meeting details to be posted soon under policy on the oakhavenpc.org website.

Jeanne Trupiano has started a comment letter on the County Land Use Code Revision. We will get her request for comments to you soon. Thanks Jeanne for taking the lead on this. Jeanne would like to receive your comments within about 2 weeks to be sure they are considered.

FARM TO SCHOOL ISSUES:

9R DISTRICT: Kim described the 9R All-Staff Breakfast on 17 August. It was very successful and featured local beef, tomatoes, peaches, flour, and eggs. Jim will work with Kim on getting this story out to the public.

Dave James said he felt that these special events do help in bringing attention to local food, and he volunteered to come to school to talk to the children as part of our educational efforts.

Kim explained that she has the leeway to spend about 15% of her food budget outside of the CSTAR state co-op system, amounting to about \$65,000 per year (Kim may have other constraints of course which she could explain as needed.). She only has product forms from Trent and Bill, so anyone interested in selling to the school should fill one out -- get forms from Kim or Jim. Kim reiterated that no liability insurance is needed for special event meals. She currently is buying local plums and peaches for Needham lunches.

TURTLE LAKE: Katrina described their upcoming apple cider making event with Los Amigos students. They will be writing this up for local papers.

IGNACIO: Barbara Barnes, Food Service Director at Ignacio reported that they have received a Dpt of Educ. Grant related to nutrition and wellness. Jan is now on the Ignacio Health Adv Board.

FORT LEWIS COLLEGE: Michael Rendon gave an overview of their composting plans for campus and then introduced Sodexo Director, George Rankin. George recently attended a sustainable food service conference in Portland, OR which highlighted sustainability initiatives in food service across the country. George reported that they currently feature James Ranch beef, are introducing Fair Trade coffee and tea, and would like to do more along these lines in spite of the large contracts and established procurement system he deals with. Two opportunities we discussed are the catering of special events that George does and incorporating the new service learning at the

college by having students work on local farms providing food to the college. George's number is 247-7351.

NEEDHAM SNACKS: Jaynee Fontecchio explained the interest in a snack program for Needham Elementary. Currently many teachers provide their own snacks to the kids, but they have some money from three grants this year to pilot some fresh fruit and vegetable snacks. Jim will get some cases from New Mexico to Jaynee.

LIABILITY: Jim brought some information on liability insurance: Jim Thompson in Denver at 303-996-6726 can give quotes and arrange policies. Minimums seem to be about \$500-600, but some can be attached to other policies. Formal co-ops of growers can apply together -- one minimum, but separate applications.

Bill Manning said that he could consider working with smaller producers without insurance to move their product to the schools.

Barbara Barnes reported that the CO Dept of Educ. told her that schools could buy from local growers, without need for liability insurance, anything that could be washed. (You should confirm this directly with Barbara if you are going to act on this.)

OTHER DELICIOUS OPPORTUNITIES: Bill said he would have apples into November. Katrina is interested in getting sprouts to the schools all year. Ignacio bakes nearly everything except sliced bread. Trent is starting to grow spelt. Ft Lewis College also bakes.

NEXT MEETING: Thurs 20 Oct at 3PM -- probably at the 9R Admin Bldg as usual, but Kim will have to confirm its availability.

Thanks again to all. Jim Dyer