

**FOOD, AGR, & FARM TO SCHOOL MEETING, 26 March 2009, 3:30-5:00 PM**  
**La Plata County Extension**

**ATTENDING:** Sara Holt, Krista Garand, Megan Jenks, Liz Risley, Denise King-Stovall  
Darrin Parmenter, Shari Fitzgerald, Sharon Orr, Linda Herz, Jim Dyer

**REPORTS:**

Linda reported on the Garden Project booth at the 9R Health Expo.

Shari indicated that 80 people applied for the Great Garden Giveaway.

Jim reported on the Portland National Farm to School Conference:

- A panel on the “Fifth Season” highlighted schools freezing produce in the summer for use in the school year. This allows buying produce when abundant and providing work for food service staff to achieve a more livable wage.
- Jim and the SWMN are partnering with Denver Public schools on a “School Food Focus” project which is working with the nation’s largest school districts to demonstrate buying power for more local, sustainably produced, healthy food.

The “Getting Dirty” article in the Herald on 17 March featuring Shari and the Dirt Club at Ft Lewis Mesa is linked below in the resources section.

Jim pointed out — in response to a question at the last meeting — that the principal at each 9R school can decide what grades have access to the salad bars at their school. The need for volunteer monitors was reiterated.

Marcus sent some announcements — contact him at: [RENNER\\_M@fortlewis.edu](mailto:RENNER_M@fortlewis.edu):

**Thursday, April 2nd – The Fantasy Food Connection**

**What:** Are you tired of looking high and low for the vegetable of your dreams? Something fresh and juicy to sink your teeth into? Do you want company digging your hands into a garden paradise? No worries. The Fantasy Food Connection is here to help. Join the fun as we discuss ways to match growers with one another, fertile spaces, and all the tools they need to have a lifelong relationship with their favorite fruits and vegetables. Walk away with the start of your own herb garden and enjoy some local greens.

**When:** 12 – 1:00 p.m.

**Where:** FLC amphitheater (in case of rain – presentations will take place in College Union Room 104)

**Sunday, April 5th – Southwest Colorado Community Garden Training**

**What:** Training for community members interested in starting or helping with community or school gardens in Southwest Colorado. Learn growing basics for our region, season extension techniques, how to lead a garden work day, and get the big picture on community gardens as part of our local food system. Swap seeds with fellow gardeners. Participants will receive a copy of the EC’s Eco-Garden Guidebook and a light snack. Registration forms are

available online on the EC's website at <http://envcenter.fortlewis.edu>. **Deadline to register is Friday, March 27th.** Co-sponsored by: Healthy Lifestyle La Plata, The Garden Project of Southwest Colorado, Backyard Harvests.

**When:** 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

**Where:** Fort Lewis College

**Cost:** \$10

The SWMN Conference Registration is still open for open for April 6-8, right here in Durango: [www.swmarketingnetwork.org](http://www.swmarketingnetwork.org)

**FOOD SERVICE DIRECTORS MEETINGS:** Food Service Directors from surrounding counties met again on 24 March to start a list of specific needs for products along with quantities used and their current prices. Jim will get this to area producers.

**GARDENS:** Sharon reported that the Escalante Greenhouse project is moving ahead with electricity expected in two weeks, piped water this summer, tomatoes started, and plans for a website and fundraiser.

Shari is working with Animas Valley, Needham, Ft Lewis Mesa, and has submitted a BP grant proposal.

Marye Jackson is helping on planting with Denier this Spring.

#### **DONATION FOR PRODUCER VISITS TO CLASSROOMS:**

We continued last month's discussion of the guidelines for the honoraria for producers visiting classrooms. We will consider \$50 to 100 depending on the amount of class time involved, and up to \$25 in supplies as needed. Jim will request an e-mail from the sponsoring teacher on what was done, where, when, and how many students involved before paying the producer. Jim will keep this group apprised of this process throughout the year in case more guidelines are needed.

Jim will develop a description of this program. Linda will get it to the Wellness teams at 9R for dissemination. Jim will get it to as many of the other schools in the county — public and private — as possible.

Shari is working on a producer list and farm tours brochure which will help us let schools know what producers can offer these services.

**NEXT MEETING:** The next meeting is planned for 30 April at Animas Valley Elementary from 3:30-5PM.

Remember — all FTS minutes and other FTS and local food info is at [www.sustainableSWcolorado.org](http://www.sustainableSWcolorado.org)

We are also appending below the **Resources List** from the bottom of our meeting agenda. This list is updated on each new agenda with new resources as they become available.

Thanks to you all

Jim Dyer

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### Resources (newest items in bold)

- **“Getting Dirty” Durango Herald 3/17/09:**  
[http://www.durangoherald.com/sections/News/2009/03/17/Getting\\_dirty/](http://www.durangoherald.com/sections/News/2009/03/17/Getting_dirty/)
  - **SWMN Conference Registration Open, April 6-8, Durango**  
[www.swmarketingnetwork.org](http://www.swmarketingnetwork.org)
  - Fresh Ideas in the Lunchroom: Denver Post, 10/1/09:  
[http://www.denverpost.com/lifestyles/ci\\_10593581](http://www.denverpost.com/lifestyles/ci_10593581)
  - Herald’s 22 Aug 2008 Editorial on Durango Farm to School: [http://www.durangoherald.com/asp-bin/article\\_generation.asp?article\\_type=opin&article\\_path=/opinion/opin080822\\_1.htm](http://www.durangoherald.com/asp-bin/article_generation.asp?article_type=opin&article_path=/opinion/opin080822_1.htm)
  - Herald’s 21 Aug 2008 Good Earth article: [http://www.durangoherald.com/asp-bin/article\\_generation.asp?article\\_type=earth&article\\_path=/earth/08/earth080821\\_1.htm](http://www.durangoherald.com/asp-bin/article_generation.asp?article_type=earth&article_path=/earth/08/earth080821_1.htm)
  - CitySpan show including FTS: <http://www.durangogov.org/cityspan10/tott/index.cfm>
  - LA Times mention of Durango: <http://www.latimes.com/features/health/medicine/la-na-lunch23-2008jun23.0.3503416.story>
  - Mary Barter’s 9 Apr 2008 article: [http://durangoherald.com/asp-bin/article\\_generation.asp?article\\_type=edu&article\\_path=E:/sites/durangoherald.com/education/08/edu080409\\_2.htm](http://durangoherald.com/asp-bin/article_generation.asp?article_type=edu&article_path=E:/sites/durangoherald.com/education/08/edu080409_2.htm)
  - Children’s House article, 6 Feb 2008: [http://www.durangoherald.com/asp-bin/printable\\_article\\_generation.asp?article\\_path=/food/food080206\\_1.htm](http://www.durangoherald.com/asp-bin/printable_article_generation.asp?article_path=/food/food080206_1.htm)
  - 10/11/07 Telegraph article: <http://durangotelegraph.com/telegraph.php?inc=/07-10-11/coverstory.htm>
  - 7/7/05 Article: <http://www.durangotelegraph.com/telegraph.php?inc=/05-07-07/coverstory.htm>
  - 9R School Wellness Teams contact person: Linda Herz [lherz@durango.k12.co.us](mailto:lherz@durango.k12.co.us)
  - National Farm to School Program: [www.farmtoschool.org](http://www.farmtoschool.org)
  - SWMN — Southwest Marketing Network: [www.swmarketingnetwork.org](http://www.swmarketingnetwork.org)
  - Mesa Verde Guide to Local Food & Fiber: [www.sustainableSWcolorado.org](http://www.sustainableSWcolorado.org)
  - **ALL LOCAL FTS INFO** at Sustainability Alliance — SASCO:  
[www.sustainableSWcolorado.org](http://www.sustainableSWcolorado.org)
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Jim Dyer, 2727 CR 134, Hesperus, CO 81326 • 970-588-2292, [jadyer@frontier.net](mailto:jadyer@frontier.net)