

**FOOD, AGR, & FARM TO SCHOOL MEETING, 12 Nov 2008, 3:30-5:00 PM**  
**La Plata County Extension**

**ATTENDING:** Darrin Parmenter, Krista Garand, Marje Cristol, Julie Hudak, Jenny Wrenn, Jeanine Justice, Beth LaShell, Sharon Orr, Darcy Craig, Kevin Lockrow, Kyle Stusbur, Kelly Miller, Pam O'Donnell, Lisa Wilk, Jim Dyer

**REPORTS:**

Shari Fitzgerald sent a note that there will be sheet composting at Needham on 21 Nov and if needed on 24 Nov.

Beth is offering a "Community-Based Agriculture" course at Ft Lewis College this Spring. Students will be looking for projects, and reviewing the Community Food Assessment for ideas, so contact Beth if you have some projects in mind: [Lashell\\_B@fortlewis.edu](mailto:Lashell_B@fortlewis.edu)

Pam reported that the Ft Lewis Env Center is in the middle of their Sustainability Action Plan. They are also wrapping up the gardening projects, so if you would like to help, call 247-7676.

Sharon is working on a garden curriculum that can be integrated throughout Escalante, and they are currently planting garlic.

Kelly described her interest in furthering FTS activities at Bayfield.

Lisa announced that they will be able to do some winter growing inside at DeNier this year.

Julie announced that there will be a chef cooking demo at the Durango Farmers Holiday Market on 13 Dec at the Fairgrounds.

Krista served 36 gallons of local cider this week with Beth's help. She has committed to purchasing FoxFire grassfed ground beef for 2009-10 as well as this current year. She is hearing from producers who she hasn't heard from before, so outreach is working.

Jim explained discussions going on with LiveWell and Colorado Health Foundation on state food policy council development and a proposed statewide FTS program.

**BEGINNER FARMER PROGRAM:** Jim explained the kick-off of a two-part "Beginner Farmer Program" to support new local food producers – as well as help existing producers be profitable and scale-up if appropriate. Darrin explained the "Growing Farmers" course he is starting in January which will focus on business planning and management. Contact Darrin for details: Darrin Parmenter <ParmenterDM@co.laplata.co.us>

Jim explained the process he is facilitating aimed at developing community support for new farmers through support in the marketplace and through public policies. The kick-off meeting was last Monday with Joelle Riddle's agr group and discussions ranged from reviewing land use regulations,

to assistance with farmland leases that encourage new farmers. Contact Jim for details and to get involved: [jadyer@frontier.net](mailto:jadyer@frontier.net)

## **HEALTHY LIFESTYLES UPDATE:**

The LOCAL coupon book should be ready by month's end.

The Mesa Verde Guide has been converted to an online searchable format with availability updating capability and is being tested before being launched publicly in the Spring.

**STATE FTS PROGRAM:** Jim handed out a workplan that is being used by the National FTS Program to help states and regions develop their own FTS programs. This plan outlines the ways that state programs can organize their activities in support of community FTS programs such as ours, and the assistance made available by the National Program. Areas of work include media, networking, info services, technical assistance, and policy development.

We discussed what type of assistance we would like from a state level program. Suggestions included help with beginner farmer programs to generate more food for schools, more state funding for food service, social marketing campaigns aimed at the need to pay for good food, a mandate that schools not charge less than the federal free lunch rate for meals, outreach to the public about nutritional improvements in school meals, and more.

**NEXT MEETING:** The next meeting is planned for Thursday, 11 Dec, 3:30-5PM hopefully at the Extn Building. We plan to address strategic planning for FTS locally.

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)**

- **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](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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