

FOOD, AGR, & FARM TO SCHOOL MEETING, 12 March 2008, 3:30-5:00 PM, Escalante Middle School

ATTENDING: Krista Garand, Darrin Parmenter, Julie Hudak, Linda Herz, Kay James, Jennifer Wheeling, Linda Daniel, Duane Tucker, Jenny Wrenn, Pat Hauschild, Jan Tuchscherer, Marye Jackson, Lisa Wilk, Jeanine Justice, Linda Illsley, Amy Kendziorski, Jim Dyer

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Beth Lashell sent word that the grant she proposed to Western SARE on an organic weed management learning center for market gardens has been approved and work will begin in May.

Julie reported on the Ft Lewis College effort to increase local foods on campus as part of the discussion of the Food Service contract negotiations. We expect to hear more on this from Marcus and Environmental Center students as the research and discussions unfold.

Linda Daniel reported that sales of plant starts will begin soon at the Srn Ute Academy.

Jim reported that the Farm Bill is expected to include provisions allowing schools, under the Federal Free and Reduced School Lunch Program, to set a local preference in bids – this would be a welcome improvement.

ESCALANTE:

Krista gave us a tour of the cafeteria. Escalante has two service lines, so it would be ideal for an all-local meal choice in the future. We discussed signage and the suggestion that having posters showing middle school children eating salad would be good.

Jan showed us the classroom where she offers a very popular class on Food (not on dieting, but food itself), an elective for 7-8 graders. The room included several well-equipped kitchen units for hands-on instruction.

Duane led us to the greenhouse site where the frame of a hoop-house greenhouse is awaiting electric hook-up and plastic covering. Daybreak Rotary provided seed funding and students have been very involved in the construction. The site has excellent sun exposure, and they are looking forward to having it in full operation.

9R REPORT:

Krista said that Natl School Breakfast Week went very well with several local products included.

Krista attended a Food Service Directors meeting in Estes Park earlier this month and gave a presentation on Farm to School. She said that there are a few schools, but not many, that are active in FTS. She learned that it is allowable for schools to send their commodity foods to local firms for

use in preparing school foods. An example would be commodity cheese that could be used by a local firm to make burritos for lunches at the school.

Julie will be attending the garden planning meeting at Needham on 13 March.

Darrin indicated that the DHS Hort class will be supplying starts for the Manna Soup Kitchen garden.

HEALTHY LIFESTYLES COALITION (HLC) FOOD COMMITTEE WORK:

Jeanine reported that the renewal funding has been approved for this year's work of the Healthy Lifestyles Coalition. Work on Farm to School, restaurants, stores, EBT for the farmers market, mid-week farmers market, Buy Local, and several other efforts will continue this year. Julie explained a farmer-chef event that will take place this Saturday.

NEXT MEETING: The next meeting is scheduled for Wed 9 April at 3:30-5PM. We will try to visit a school site for the meeting, and we will notify you of the location when determined.

Remember — all FTS minutes and other FTS and local food info is at 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

Resources (newest items in bold)

- **Children's House article, 6 Feb 2008:** http://www.durangoherald.com/asp-bin/printable_article_generation.asp?article_path=/food/food080206_1.htm
- **EWG "Pesticides in Produce" guide:** <http://www.foodnews.org/walletguide.php>
- **Mesa Verde Guide to Local Food Initiatives:** www.sustainableSWcolorado.org/mvinitiatives.htm
- 10/11/07 Telegraph article: <http://durangotelegraph.com/telegraph.php?inc=/07-10-11/coverstory.htm>
- Procurement Information Package on CFSC at <http://www.foodsecurity.org/procurement.html>
- Sustainability Alliance — SASCO: www.sustainableSWcolorado.org
- 9R School Wellness Teams contact person: Linda Herz lherz@durango.k12.co.us
- National Farm to School Program: www.farmtoschool.org
- Center for Ecoliteracy: www.ecoliteracy.org
- National Farm to College website: www.farmtocollege.org
- 7/7/05 Article: <http://www.durangotelegraph.com/telegraph.php?inc=/05-07-07/coverstory.htm>
- Colorado Policy Working Group: <http://www.coopext.colostate.edu/boulder/AG/FAP.shtml>

- Community Food Security Coalition: www.foodsecurity.org
- SWMN — Southwest Marketing Network: www.swmarketingnetwork.org
- ATTRA — Appropriate Technology Transfer for Rural Areas: www.attra.ncat.org
- Mesa Verde Guide to Local Food & Fiber: www.sustainableSWcolorado.org