



NC GROWING TOGETHER

Connecting Local Foods
to Mainstream Markets

NCGT Management Team Meeting Notes (abridged)

03/20/2014, 512 Brickhaven Drive, Room 106, 11 – 1:00 pm

Attending: N. Creamer, R. Dunning, J. Day, J. Lelekacs, A. Fugate, K. Chojnacki, J. Mosley, A. Fugate, T. Tripp, R. Stout, N. Ranells

I. Discussion items

a. Krystal – housekeeping and administrative news

When traveling try to use motor pool vehicles, and use the new OUC 111502.

b. Annual partner meetings:

We are currently conducting our annual partner meetings with Group 1 Partners: Lowes and Foster-Caviness occurred in Feb and March. US Foods occurs on 3/20. Major objective is to review objectives from last year's kickoff meetings, evaluate what has been accomplished, and make plans for the year ahead. A Consumer Research team meeting will be held with Lowes on 4/7 to define cross-cutting interests, objectives, and action steps.

c. Food hub training for extension agents:

Joanna is working with Cooperative Extension to design two food hub trainings for extension field staff in the fall and is requesting speaker funding. Group agrees to fund an honorarium (which can cover speaker time + travel cost) for one of the two speakers. That speaker could then give a talk for NCGT partners, or a subset of these. Suggestion that NCGT fund Steve W. for the fall Raleigh training and then have him talk with interested NCGT partners about Group GAPs; or fund Rich Pirog and have him talk with group about food hub development and networking.

d. Effectively drawing on producer advisors:

Discussion as to how to hear producer voices in a more effective manner in the supply chain advisory groups where producers may feel unable to share info freely due to other producers being in the room. Agreement is for Meat and Seafood team leads to individually consult with producers quarterly, and engage with a broader base of producers in person at group gatherings (Carolina Meat Conference; NC Catch Annual Meeting).

e. Upcoming events:

Rebecca reports on upcoming NCGT Research and Extension update meeting on April 22 and NC Food Hub Info Exchange on May 22.

f. Work at Fort Bragg and farmer development in area:

Little progress has been made on moving source-identified local food through Foster-Caviness or US Foods to the base. We will continue to work these options but are also exploring ways to move local food into the base through other routes.