

LOCAL FOOD SYSTEMS ROUNDTABLE

CENTER FOR TOWN/CRAFT

PERRY, IOWA

AUGUST 12-13, 2009



In response to the rapidly increasing interest in locally-grown foods and farmers markets, Iowa State University Extension and Town/Craft are hosting a Local Food Systems Roundtable. Invited guests are planners, policy makers and leaders in Iowa's current foods system efforts. The goal of the roundtable is to help leaders better understand how a city or region can develop a high-value local and/or regional food system. Speakers will address (1) how locally-grown foods impact economic development, (2) how to improve access of all community residents to locally-grown fresh foods and (3) how to incorporate local land-use strategies that preserve open space for local food production.



Keynote speaker Michael Shuman is an economist and author of *The Small-Mart Revolution: How Local Businesses Are Beating the Global Competition* and *Going Local: Creating Self-Reliant Communities in the Global Age*. Dr. Shuman is the vice president for enterprise development for the Training and Development Corporation in Washington, D.C. He has also written on these topics in *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, *The Nation*, and *The Weekly Standard*.



Also speaking is Mark Olinger, planning director for the City of Madison, WI, and a nationally known leader in food systems development. Matt Russell, state food policy project coordinator at the Drake University Agricultural Law Center will share information about the Iowa's Local Foods Policy Council. Rich Pirog, leader of the marketing and food systems initiative at the Leopold Center for Sustainable Agriculture and Ken Meter, president of the Crossroads Resource Center in Minneapolis, will provide examples of how regions can encourage local foods systems. Gary Taylor, ISU Extension specialist and assistant professor of community and regional planning, will show how local foods systems can be incorporated in community long-range planning.

The roundtable format encourages participants to interact with speakers and other participants, pose questions, share experiences and meet other leaders with interest in this topic. A primary outcome of the roundtable will be to provide direction on resources, policies, and education needed to help interested communities and regions plan for the development of local or regional food systems.



For additional information about the Local Food Systems Roundtable, contact Abbie Gaffey at 712-251-8595 or agaffey@iastate.edu, or Alan Vandehaar at 515-231-6513 or alanv@iastate.edu.