

Food Roots Community Food Assessment

March 8, 2008

Break-out Discussion Group Priorities:

Local Food Distribution & Availability

- More locally grown and organic food.
- Better distribution (local food in grocery stores, restaurants, farmers' markets, community supported agriculture [CSA]).
- More farmers' markets.

Community Education

- Education opportunities for all Tillamook County residents and visitors
- Where and who our local food comes from.
- How it is propagated, grown, produced, etc.
- How to eat healthy using local food as much as possible.

Agriculture Education Kindergarten and Higher

- Create Ag. Advisory group to define specific vision.
- Prepare presentation to pitch concept to public and private stakeholders.
- Conduct Ag. Education stakeholders outreach to gauge interest and level of commitment.

Local Foods in School

- Use local food in school meal programs.
- Teach nutrition and agriculture in all schools.
- Remove all unhealthy foods and beverages from the schools including vending machines!

Food Processing & Networking

- Food Processing facilities
 - Mobile meat slaughtering facilities
 - Certified kitchen for community use.
 - Composting facility for processing waste.
- Create small farms networking
 - Offering business education and support for small farmers and producers.
 - Maintaining a seed bank for locally successful varieties.

Community Gardens

- More community gardens

Low-income access to local food

Not addressed at this meeting.

Community Needs As Identified During Initial Group Brainstorm (above priorities selected from these lists):

Local Food Distribution & Availability

- Year-round farmers' market (covered?)
- Farmers' market in every town
- Daily farmers' market
- Consistent availability of local produce
- More diverse/increased food production in Tillamook County
- More local foods in local restaurants
- More organic food and farmers
- More food outlets/ grocers selling local product
- More availability of local seafood
- Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) throughout Tillamook County
- Distribution network for local foods in retail outlets

Community Education

- Increase awareness of local food sources & educate folks about advantages of buying local, benefits to community
- “Cradle to grave” inculcation of “grow local – eat local – buy local”
- Increase educational opportunities about food - schools, community college, extension
- Greater education about food prep & preservation methods, accessible for low-income
- Increased awareness, regionally, of the community food security concept.
- More cooking with local foods, classes.

Agriculture Education - Kindergarten and Higher

- Kids gardening clubs going year round, or at least in the summer
- County wide summer youth agriculture programs
- Vocational agriculture training & career education.
- Agriculture should be a required part of all levels in classes
- Programs for youth and immigrant farmers.
- TBCC – Voc. Ag studies – New campus/new land
- Elementary through High school gardens
- Farm to school with education element, history, science, and culture, for kids; teach what is regional--traditionally and currently.

Local Foods in School

- Healthy locally-produced food options in Tillamook county schools – healthier foods in the schools
- Healthy school lunches available to all students
- Healthy lunch programs featuring locally grown food
- No pop vending machines in schools country wide
- Enhance school lunch programs and hospital food programs
- Helping students and teachers understand what a healthy meal is and where food comes from so that they learn to eat better throughout life

Programs in all schools where students grow food and prepare meals, from scratch.
Kitchens utilizing local foods
Nutritious school lunches that are tasty, etc.

Food Processing & Networking

USDA meat slaughterer – mobile unit to aid in local meat production
Local meat butcher inspection
Local compost facilities to recycle waste & a composter in every yard
More local processing - value added
Local seed banks for varieties that grow well here
Program linking producers together with business tools
Develop vibrant system of small producers
Networking of farmers
Niche food processor
Kitchen available for local processors

Community Gardens

Community garden in every community
County-wide program to help all Tillamook County residents create kitchen gardens

Low Income Access to Local Food

Adequate, good, local food for all people in Tillamook County
Fresh produce available to all income levels
Less waste in restaurants, schools, churches, etc. Sharing of left-overs
Increased donations of fresh produce to food pantries by restaurants/grocers
Transportation for low-income residents to food pantries and other food sources
100% of Tillamook County residents get enough to eat – no one goes to bed hungry.

Results of Dot Survey from the Taste of Tillamook (March 15-16)

*Passers-by at Taste of Tillamook were asked to vote for the 3 most important issues from the priorities identified within each category. Percentages here are for voters who self-identified as being from Tillamook County.

Category	Votes for Category (Tillamook County)	% of Total Votes for all Categories (Tillamook County)
Local Food Distribution & Availability	21	23.9
Community Education	6	6.8
Agriculture Education Kindergarten and Higher	6	6.8
Local Foods in School	25	28.4
Food Processing & Networking	5	5.7
Community Gardens	6	6.8
Low-income access to local food	19	21.6
TOTAL VOTES FOR ALL CATEGORIES (Tillamook County)	88	100