

Public Meeting			
Subject:	Food System Collaboration		
Facilitator:	SLO FSC, Shannon Klisch/Jeff Wade	Meeting Date:	11-15-2022
Location:	Virtual Meeting via Zoom (25 attendees)	Time:	9:00a-10:30a

Agenda

- 9:00- 9:10 Welcome, FSC Announcements, Work Group Updates
- 9:10 - 9:25 Intro & Announcements
- 9:25 - 9:30 Panelist Intro
- 9:30 - 10:15 Presentations
- 10:15 - 10:25 Q&A
- 10:25 - 10:30 Networking

Announcements

Work groups -

- CalFresh Alliance: a group with representatives from agencies that work with lower income folks.
 - 985,000 grant - seen more CalFresh apps
- EBT at FM - this group represents SLO and Northern SB county
 - 2 new farms accepting EBT for CSA
 - Next meeting on Fri
- Food Policy Work Group - focusing on affordable housing for farm workers
 - Worked on housing, PSHH,
 - Learned to be more specific with policy and to leverage FSC

Panelist Presentations

- Brent Burchett, SLO Farm Bureau (get slides?)
 - Diversified ag economy
 - Agritourism will be necessary for farmers/slo county econ
 - Support for new farmers (young farmers/ranchers group)
 - Land prices, labor challenges, water!
 - Regulations are biggest challenge!
 - Veg costs inc by 25%, regulatory compliance cost inc 795%
 - Water quantity
 - Demands for food going up, need to support farmers because we need food!
 - Need viable ag system to keep farms going, will just get developed
- Kayla Rutland, City Farm SLO
 - 2-4 acres for nonprofit, regen ag and sustainable practices
 - Tenant farming programs
 - 15 acres subleased to independent, org farmers
 - Enables small-scale, beginning, and minority farmers
 - Supportive services (needs survey), grant to build them out (reduce market barriers)
 - Challenges: market access/barrier to entry, need niche crop to get in, labor to staff booth, time/cost of transportation, constant S&D issue, labor!, access to training and tech support
 - brainstorm solutions
 - farmer collaborative = shared support, unified brand

- Opportunities: Access to direct consumer sales, Harvestly!, more housing can be opp or challenge
 - Take a lot of profit, cut back waste - good for small scale
- Claire Tuohey-Mote, Farm to School
 - For small farmers to increase their local sales
 - 7 districts buying locally! All districts in SLO buying (except Atasc./Cayucos)
 - Challenges:
 - Not enough labor, need more access to markets, farmers think schools pay low prices (they pay market prices), transportation costs (delivery is req.), niche crops, reorders
 - Opportunities:
 - bulk sales, market prices, taste testing/exposure to new products, meet the farmer and ask questions, edu tool, community connection through school opportunities, big fruit opportunities (speciality crop grant), marketing to new customers, local meat, districts want to buy local

Next Meeting

- Feb 07, 2023

PREPARED BY: Sarah Frimtzis

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Side notes:

Leola Macmillan - food from restaurants for houseless pop downtown
Interested in receiving food just past sell by day?

TENANT FARMER APP (1 acre opening in January)
Marginalized groups/ppl who typically wouldn't have access to land
Experienced farmer as hobby
Starts as 1 year lease

Regional Equity Roundtable: Dec 1 (contact Leola)
All things grants!