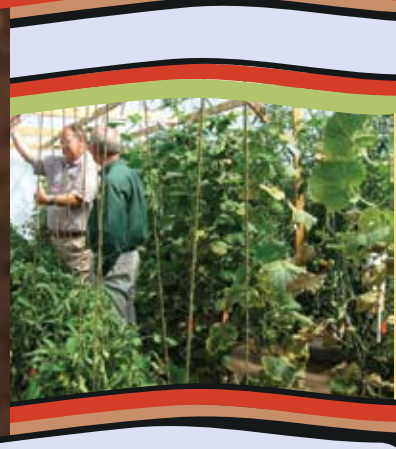


Moving Local Foods To the Next Level



An Educational & Inspirational Evening for Local Leaders *about Local Food Aggregation & Distribution Strategies* *for Building a Viable & Vital Regional Food System in Southeast Minnesota*

Thursday, July 21, 6:30 PM – 9:15 PM

University Center Rochester

851 30th Avenue SE, Rochester

Coffman Hall section of the main campus building; Rooms CF 206-208

RSVP by July 18 to: Greg Schweser - schwe233@umn.edu - 612-625-9706

While demand for local foods continues to increase, farmers in Southeast Minnesota still face familiar struggles - how to get more product into markets, how to work with other growers to aggregate for larger institutions, and how to process and add value.

Throughout the United States, private enterprises, cooperatives and organizations are solving these problems and bulking up their local food systems through the development of food hubs, aggregation and distribution systems, farm to institution projects and local food incubators, to name a few. Many such efforts are happening in and around Southeast Minnesota!

On Thursday, July 21, the Experiment in Rural Cooperation (University of Minnesota SE Regional Sustainable Development Partnership) will host a panel of project leaders from Minnesota, Wisconsin and Iowa who have been working to expand the capacity of local farmers to grow, produce and sell food in their own regions. Come hear the stories of these local food pioneers, participate in small group discussions, and network with your neighbors to be part of the movement to strengthen the regional food system of Southeast Minnesota.

Presenters:

Jon Seipel – Producers and Buyers Cooperative, Eau Claire, Wisconsin

Nicole Penick – Fifth Season Coop, Viroqua, Wisconsin

Caroline van Schaik – Land Stewardship Project & Ridgeway Community School Farm to School Project, Minnesota

Teresa Wiemerslage – Iowa State University Extension, Northeast Iowa Food & Fitness Initiative

Directions: http://www.roch.edu/html-spectrum/getting_to_ucr.html

Building map: <http://www.rctc.edu/campustour/maps/buildingmaps.html#ucr>

Parking is available in lots around the main campus building. West lots are closest to the room.

