

7TH ANNUAL FORUM
June 23-26, 2009



SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE
AND FOOD SYSTEMS FUNDERS



GREENSBORO, NORTH CAROLINA

SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE &
FOOD SYSTEMS FUNDERS



A project of Community Partners

805.687.0551

www.safsf.org



TUESDAY, JUNE 23

7:00 - 8:30AM >>> Continental breakfast available

8:30 - 10:00AM >>> Plenary

Sacred Cows, Illegal Aliens, and Conscientious Investors: Labor, Faith and Finance in the American Meat Industry

This plenary will provide a brief overview of the many pressing issues involved in the way we produce meat in America and then focus in on how an intersection of leaders in the worlds of labor, faith and finance are seeking to shift the meat industry's exploitative practices.

MODERATOR

Judith LaBelle

President, The Glynwood Center, Cold Spring, NY

SPEAKERS

Rabbi Morris Allen

Project Director, The Hekhsheh Tzedek, Mendota Heights, MN

Leslie Lowe

*Director of Energy and Environment Programs,
Interfaith Center on Corporate Responsibility, New York, NY*

Reverend David Ostendorf

Executive Director, Center for New Community, Chicago, IL

10:30AM - 5:00PM >>> Site Visits

Tour One

Chaudry Halal Meats in Siler City followed by lunch and tour at the Goat Lady Dairy an organic farm, dairy, goat cheese operation in Climax, NC. This tour will be limited to 25 people.

Tour Two

North Carolina A&T, an 1890's College in Greensboro to tour research station, organic production followed by lunch and tour at the Goat Lady Dairy an organic farm, dairy, goat cheese operation in Climax, NC.

5:00PM

Bus returns to the hotel. You will be back at the hotel in Greensboro in plenty of time to rest and get refreshed before the evening's fun and food begins!

NOTE Please be aware the tour to Chaudry Meats is a meat processing facility; we will be seeing live slaughtering. The facility processes cows, goats, sheep, and poultry and it is unknown what will be on the line that day. Participants will be required to wear close-toed shoes. A protective coat and hairnet will be provided to each person to wear during the tour. Children will not be permitted on this tour.



Come celebrate the regional bounty of the Southeast.

6:30 - 8:30PM »» Eat Here! A Celebration of Local Foods

A celebration of local foods at the Proximity Hotel. Join together with farmers, producers, chefs and friends as we kick off the Forum and celebrate the regional bounty of the Southeast.



WEDNESDAY, JUNE 24

7:00 - 8:30AM »» Continental Breakfast available

8:30AM »» Welcome and Forum Opening

Virginia Clarke

SAFSF Coordinator, Santa Barbara, CA

Bruce Hirsch

*SAFSF Co-Chair, and Executive Director, Clarence E. Heller Charitable Foundation
2009 Forum Planning Committee, San Francisco, CA*

Tara Sandercock

*Community Foundation of Greater Greensboro, 2009 Forum Planning Committee,
Greensboro, NC*

8:45AM »» Opening Keynote

It's All in the Mix: How Demographic Shifts Are Redefining the "Sense of Place" in the New South

Explore sense of place in the Southern Comfort of the conference. Sense of place has been defined as the attribution of non-material characteristics to a place. The "soul" of a place; its genius loci. In the deep roots of the south, sense of place is often used to describe the geography, psychology and sociology of a region rife with contradictions. This opening session presents the experiential and professional insight of a local expert, **James H. Johnson, Jr., PhD, Director, Urban Investment Strategies Center & Co-Director, Center for Sustainable Enterprise, Kenan Institute of Private Enterprise, the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, NC.** Dr. Johnson's remarks will accelerate our knowledge of the changing landscape of the Southeast and encourage new insights about the depth of the soul of the New South. With empirical and anecdotal evidence, from two Southern states he will document the nature and magnitude of current shifts in demographics, economics, and culture.

MODERATOR

Imani Constance Burnett

Vice President, Southeastern Council of Foundations, Atlanta, GA

10:30AM »» Break

11:00AM »» Regional Reflections

A facilitated discussion for participants to meet with and reflect on issues highlighted in Dr. Johnson's opening keynote within their own regions.



WEDNESDAY, JUNE 24

12:30^{PM} »» Buffet Lunch and brief SAFSF Business Meeting

1:30 - 2:00^{PM} »» Break

2:00 - 3:30^{PM} »» Three Concurrent Workshops

Youth as an Emerging Force in Food Systems Change

Youth are an emerging force that can help us reach the next level in food system change. While youth have long been drivers of social change, today's youth are organizing in new and powerful ways. This session will highlight the work of the Real Food Challenge, which is harnessing youth energy to bring "real food" to college campuses across the nation, a \$4 billion market. Our panel, all of whom are engaged in the breadth of this movement, will explore how today's youth are engaging their peers to shape and contribute to the overall sustainable food movement at multiple levels, including personal, community, institutional, and political.

MODERATOR

Diana Donlon

Program Officer, William Zimmerman Foundation, San Anselmo, CA

SPEAKERS

David Hamilton

Coordinator, Southeast Region, Real Food Challenge, Cedar Grove, NC

Anim Steel

Director, National Programs, The Food Project, Boston, MA

Hillary Wilson

A young farmer at Maverick Farm in the Blue Ridge Mountains, Crucis, NC

Helping Farmers Thrive: Farmer Resource Network

In the midst the current economic downturn and credit/mortgage crisis, Southern farmers considering or already committed to sustainable transition face steep challenges in financing, disaster risk, technical and marketing support, environmental stewardship, and labor issues. This workshop addresses these issues directly, with Farm Aid hosting presentations by two of its major Southern grantees, the Rural Advancement Foundation International-USA and the Florida Organic Growers, and by a farmer who has worked closely with one of these organizations. What specific strategies are currently needed to assist transitioning farmers and deepen the sustainable farming movement across the South? How best to include the region's at-risk, low-income farmers and farm workers in this movement?



WEDNESDAY, JUNE 24

How to prepare for inevitable natural disaster when the safety net for sustainable and low-income farmers is so thin? This session will offer concrete, issue-specific examples of the current work of Farm Aid grantees in the South, and reserve time for a wider discussion of direct-service initiatives and related grant-making to help farmers thrive.

MODERATOR

Joel Morton

Director, Hotline & Farmer Resource Network, Farm Aid; Somerville, MA

SPEAKERS

Scott Marlow

Director of Community-based programs, Rural Advancement Foundation International—USA; Pittsboro, NC

Marty Mesh

Director, Florida Organic Growers, Gainesville, FL

Farmer

TBD - RAFI or FOG affiliated

Economic Crisis or Opportunity? Philanthropic Investments

Description and speakers TBD

3:30 - 4:00^{PM} >>> Break

4:00 - 5:30^{PM} >>> Study Groups—Topics TBA
OR Back of the House Green Tour at the Proximity Hotel

5:30 - 6:30^{PM} >>> Back of the House Green Tour at the Proximity Hotel
OR Free Time

6:30^{PM} >>> Dine Arounds

Designed as another way to ‘mix and match’ attendees, we encourage you to sign up for one of the no-host dinner ‘dine arounds’. Reservations for small groups will be made at area restaurants especially selected for their great food and dedication to serving healthy, local food and supporting area producers.



THURSDAY, JUNE 25

7:00 - 8:30^{AM} »» Continental breakfast available

8:30 - 9:30^{AM} »» PLENARY – TBD

9:45^{AM} »» Day-long site visit to Martinsville, VA

All participants will travel together to southwest Virginia in/around Martinsville.

STOPS WILL INCLUDE:

»» Tour of Blue Ridge Aquaculture

»» Lunch and afternoon discussions at The Center at Spencer Penn

»» Cultivating the Emergence and Promise of Clean, Green Sustainable Aquaculture

»» Creating Viable Regional Food Systems

»» Tour of Red Birch Energy

»» BBQ Picnic Dinner – Join us for late afternoon/early evening fun at Fairy Stone State Park

9:00^{PM} »» Return to Hotel



FRIDAY, JUNE 26

7:00 - 8:30^{AM} »» Continental breakfast available

7:30 - 8:30^{AM} »» Site Visit debrief (*Optional*)

7:30 - 8:30^{AM} »» Study Groups – Next Steps (*Optional*)

8:30^{AM} »» Three Concurrent Workshops

The Future of Urban Agriculture

What kind of agriculture addresses global warming, reduces air pollution, beautifies cities, provides healthy food where produce is scarce, and is ten times more productive than row crops? Urban Agriculture! It may seem like a new trend, but archaeology tells us it has been around for over 4000 years. Urban Ag has long been an important part of the food system in many countries, most famously in Cuba. It is enjoying a renaissance in the US, with talk of Victory Gardens and local foods aligning with concern about food deserts, urban blight and rising food prices. But how can Urban Ag scale up to become a larger force in the food system? We'll start this session with a "state of the state" of Urban Ag, and move quickly into a discussion of the potential for growth and ways that funders can help this growth

MODERATOR

Greg Horner

Program Officer, Cedar Tree Foundation, Boston, MA

SPEAKERS

Daniel Dermitzel

Associate Director & Farmer, Kansas City Center for Urban Agriculture, Kansas City, KS

Mary Seton Corboy

Co-founder, Greensgrow Farm, Philadelphia, PA

Land Security and Access to Healthy Foods: Arresting Land Loss and Building Local Food Economies on a Foundation of Traditional Food Cultures

This workshop addresses how issues of land access and tenure can either undergird or undermine food system sustainability. The focus will be on small holders, particularly African American and Native American. We will explore how institutionalized racism and class privilege are asserted through the legal system in the application of heir property laws and the denial of access to government supported agricultural programs. This issue is critical for minority land retention throughout the south, and particularly in NC. We will focus on



FRIDAY, JUNE 26

a multi-state effort to redress these concerns through legal reform and policy change. We will consider how reforms instituted in the 2008 Farm Bill may be employed to protect land tenure, and strengthen access to USDA programs. With these new tools, farmers and rural communities can develop sustainable local and regional food systems that feature the production of culturally appropriate foods necessary to protect community health.

MODERATOR

Kolu Zigbi

Program Officer, Jessie Smith Noyes Foundation, New York, NY

SPEAKERS

Beverly Hall

Executive Director of American Indian Mothers, Shannon, NC

Savi Horne

Executive Director, North Carolina Association of Black Lawyers Land Loss Prevention Project, Durham, NC

Moving Beyond Barriers: Building New Partnerships

Our rapidly changing world is facing global crises in food systems, climate and the economy. In recent years organizations have been responding to new challenges and opportunities, reaching across divides of age, class, race, ethnicity, issues and national borders to build new strategies and alliances, towards broad movements for social justice. Grantmakers, too, have resources and ideas to contribute to this process. Too often, however, power imbalances between funders and grantseekers make it difficult to work in truly collaborative partnership with those whose work we support. This session will describe an initiative by funders working closely with grassroots leaders to develop useful principles and guidelines for more effective funder/movement engagement. In small group sessions participants will share their own experiences and thoughts, and discuss ongoing opportunities for dialogue and learning for moving beyond the power dynamic between funders and grantee allies, to work collaboratively and effectively for long-term social change.

MODERATOR

Mark Randazzo

Coordinator, Funders Network on Trade and Globalization, San Francisco, CA

SPEAKERS

Millie Buchanan

Program Officer, Jessie Smith Noyes Foundation, Asheville, NC

Jee Kim

Program Officer, Surdna Foundation, New York, NY



FRIDAY, JUNE 26

10:00_{AM} >>> Break and Check out of Hotel

10:30_{AM} >>> PLENARY

A Rights Based Food System (RBFS)

Human and environmental rights, including resource rights, are potentially the conceptual “glue” to connect food system alternatives that otherwise often strive for different goals. Rather than fighting for independent wins, the concept of RBFS can help advocates and funders to find common ground among themselves and a coherent unified goal. Molly Anderson, Principal at Food Systems Integrity, will present the vision, principles and goals of Rights-Based Food Systems (RBFS). A farmer from the Global South (representative from Via Campesina) will share perspectives on how RBFS relates to their goal and strategy of Food Sovereignty. Baldemar Velásquez, Executive Director of the Farm Labor Organizing Committee, will address a rights-based approach for farm workers.

MODERATOR

Maria Aguiar

Director of Global Programs, Grassroots International, Boston, MA

12:00_{PM} >>> Closing Lunch

KEYNOTE

The Honorable Tom Vilsack

Secretary, US Department of Agriculture, Washington, DC (Invited)

2:00_{PM} >>> Forum Wrap up and Close