

The Council Executive Committee invites community participation in working groups that are being formed to help fulfill the mission of the IL Local Food Farms and Jobs Act.

Below are the four working groups, with contact information, and initial activity reports.

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I. **Information clearinghouse** (Chair Marjorie Sawicki; Turkey Hill Grange)

CONTACT: sawickim@slu.edu material to be posted on www.foodfarmsjobs.org

II. **Policy** (Chair Lindsay Record - executive director Illinois Stewardship Alliance, point person is ISA's Wes King - wes@ilstewards.org).

Last week, Wes sent a letter to various listservs statewide announcing the formation of this working group and inviting participation in its first conference call on Thurs. Oct 13 at 2pm.

Call-in [559-546-1000](tel:559-546-1000) access code: [720043#](tel:720043)

RSVPs are not necessary but they are appreciated.

The immediate focus is a grassroots response to federal farm bill legislation. State matters will also be addressed as the working group activities develop.

Thurs Oct 13 Agenda

- What is the Federal Farm Bill & Why Does it Matter?
- Status of 2012 Farm Bill
- Farm Bill Provisions Supporting Local & Regional Food Systems
- What you can do to get involved in the Farm Bill Process?
- IDOA Director Jennings Retirement, Replacement and IL Local Foods Commitment

III. **Institutional markets** (Chair Ray Lenzi) A Gov. Quinn-appointed group of state agencies—the IL Green Governments Coordinating Council—is beginning to address IL Local Food, Farms and Jobs Act purchasing mandates at the behest of former IDHS official/Council co-president Hero Taming. Cheryl Metheny--the DHS liaison to the ILFFJC Executive Committee—says agencies are being asked “the total dollar value of food (for institutional food service)...purchased in FY2011” and “the total dollar value of local food...purchased during FY2011.” The intent is to establish the baseline food reporting mandated in the ILFFJ Act. Agency procurement officers/offices are expected to present information to the Coordinating Council's procurement subcommittee by mid October.

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IV. **Strategic plan** On first conference call, Chair Tom Spaulding (E.D. Angelica Organic Learning Center), Lindsay Record, Barbara Rose and Marjorie Sawicki initiated discussion about simplifying priorities and ensuring that they're aligned with eight goals from strategic plan.

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