

Working Group or Cross-Cutting Team (links to group's page on F2P website)

Task Force (links to group's page on F2P website)

Chair

Highlighted = has explicitly been submitted as a research Q; otherwise these are topics that are currently being explored but have not necessarily been framed as a "research question" yet.

Current Topics in Farm to Plate Network Groups

September 2018

Farmland Access and Stewardship Working Group

Graham Unangst-Rufenacht, Rural Vermont

- [Farmland Access Task Force](#) (*Mike Ghia, Land for Good*): carrying on many ongoing projects, such as Land Link
- Working Group is also exploring or interested in exploring:
 - Energy siting – both stewardship implications & impact on financial viability & therefore farm access
 - Silvopasture, agroforestry, and forestry in general as a complementary land use to agriculture
 - Potential schemes for payment to ecosystem services for farmers, and other ways to transition from only harm-reduction opportunities to proactive/transformational support

Education and Workforce Development Working Group

John Mandeville, Lamoille Economic Development Corporation

Kristyn Achilich, St. Michael's College

- [Career Profiles Task Force](#) (*Liz Kenton, UVM Extension 4-H*): Works directly with highschools (both traditional and CTE) to organize career panels on food systems professions and/or to help schools implement our Career Profiles Project, where students interview community members with these careers & submit profiles on their career paths to a statewide F2P resource
- [WEBs \(Workforce dev.- Education- food system Business partnerships\)](#): Task Force members convene regional networks among these 3 stakeholder groups. Currently Washington (*Mary Niebling, Capstone Community Action*), Bennington (*Liz Ruffa, Northshire Grows*), Lamoille (*Christine Dudley, Green Mountain Technology and Career Center*). Interest in Washington on researcher helping with evaluation of Community Kitchen Academy program
- Also looking into apprenticeship programs – new Dairy Grazing Apprenticeship capacity, new Culinary apprenticeship program, others to explore...?

Production and Processing Working Group

Jenn Colby, UVM Extension Center for Sustainable Agriculture

Regina Beidler, Organic Dairy Farmer

- [Farm Viability Indicators Task Force](#) (*Mark Cannella, UVM Extension*): Recent work: Grass Fed Beef Value Chain research, Grass Based Beef Production Guide. Potentially exploring other products/value chains to work on. Also completed related research through the [Meat Processing Task Force](#)
- Secured funding for Vermont's first State Education Coordinator for the national Dairy Grazing Apprenticeship – just hired in August!
- This fall, bringing a national professional development/business advising program for graziers, Ranchers to Profit, to run a session in Vermont

Aggregation and Distribution Working Group

Richard Berkfield, Food Connects

Julia Scheier, Salvation Farms

- [Farm to Institution Task Force](#) (*Erin Buckwalter, NOFA-VT, and Abbey Willard, VAAFM*): created Farm to College Report. Now exploring role for the future; should the TF shift to addressing all of wholesale? How to encourage conversation about expanding to markets outside of Vermont?
- [Independent Grocers](#) (*Annie Harlow, ACORN*): Works to increase the sale of local food at independent grocers, by providing direct technical assistance and free online resources (webinars, worksheets, etc) around local-food-specific skills, but also TA just generally (in order to support these stores' overall viability)
- Working Group is looking into supporting a NOFA study around wholesale markets and will be taking any gaps that are not covered in that study, as potential topics for 2019.

Consumer Education and Marketing Working Group

Becca Warren, Vital Communities

Jean Hamilton, communications consultant

- [Rooted in Vermont](#) (*Shane Rogers, VSJF*): The F2P Network's consumer-facing local food marketing campaign. Social media/grassroots campaign (with a full time program manager) to expand public perception/awareness of local food, and break down stigmas/cultural divides so that we can all come together in increasing our local consumption.
- [Agritourism Task Force](#) (*Vera Simon-Nobes, Shelburne Farms, and Lisa Chase, UVM Extension*): Helps organize the Open Farm Week annual agritourism event; also running a series of workshops on agritourism-related topics. Lots of potential ideas to explore – will be setting new work plan this fall.
- The Working Group will also be exploring the question of how to disseminate communications and marketing best practices among members of the Network, and runs a [Communications and Marketing Community of Practice](#) (*Nicole Driscoll, Consultant, and Vicky Tebbetts, Consultant*)

Energy Cross-Cutting Team

Between chairs – contact Jake@vsjf.org

- At the moment most likely to dive into siting renewables on farmland (see also Farmland Access & Stewardship Working Group)
- Has shared with the Research CCT a document on all their strategies and objectives that includes several specific research needs (e.g. “understand the total energy impact/usage of food system businesses,” “improve our understanding of transportation efficiency needs of food system businesses”, “assess feasibility for solar hot water at a variety of different food system businesses”)

Financing Cross-Cutting Team

Eric DeLuca, Leverage Point Consulting

- [Slow Money Vermont](#) (*Janice Shade*) is a Task Force of this CCT. Upcoming Entrepreneur Showcase in December – accepting applications!
- Working with members from Farmland Access and Stewardship & Production and Processing to design an event for finance providers, farmland access/TA service providers, and farmers, to address common “sticking points” in the succession process

Food Access Cross-Cutting Team

Erin Buckwalter, NOFA-VT

Faye (Conte) Mack, Hunger Free Vermont

- [Food Access Planning Module Task Force](#) (*Faye Mack, HFVT*) is working to create a resource for town and regional planners on why & how to incorporate food access into their plans.
- Working on a Food Justice Rubric – an educational tool for organizations to self-assess and learn more about the differences between food access, food justice, food sovereignty, and more.
- Exploring other topics such as best practices for incorporating “lived experience” into member organizations’ work and into the Network.

Health Cross-Cutting Team

Suzanne Kelley, Vermont Department of Health

Jane Kolodinsky, UVM Center for Rural Studies

- Currently engaged in a project collecting examples of Food + Health programs all around the state to create a resource for those looking to start/expand/improve such programs.
- Diving into the question of how to leverage the healthcare system to increase access to local food – learning from existing models like healthcare shares but going beyond to explore health insurance covering CSAs, the potential role of hospitals in funding local food, etc

Food Cycle Coalition Cross-Cutting Team

Natasha Duarte, Composting Association of Vermont

- Currently working on a number of discrete projects such as: organizing a workshop in Brattleboro for the spring; coordinating with a Library of Congress Occupational Folklife Project on waste management employees in VT to highlight some food system specific stories; building connections between waste management and the food access world.
- Interested in beginning a project to create a resource for small-scale farmers on how to accept small volumes of food scraps for compost, to address dual goals of improved farm bottom line, and increasing the statewide composting capacity. **If they pursue this project, interested in research help**