Just the Beginning: 2011 New England Food Summit

From farmers markets to farm to school programs, the sustainable food movement in New England continues to grow. Yet at the same time healthy, affordable, locally-grown food is beyond the reach of many of our neighbors.

Food Solutions New England at the University of New Hampshire (UNH) convened a working summit March 24-25 in Portsmouth, NH, to bring together decision-makers across the New England food system – from farm to fork to health and nutrition – to discuss concrete ways to work together as a region to address issues like these.

The summit built upon exciting work already happening in New England, from the Northeast Sustainable Agriculture Working Group to the student-driven Real Food Challenge to a new Vermont Farm to Plate Strategic Plan. Key leaders in food charters developed in California and Michigan shared lessons learned.

Cathrine Sneed gave the keynote address on The Garden Project, a program she co-founded in San Francisco that helps former criminal offenders learn horticultural skills and grow organic vegetables that feed seniors and families in their communities.

Finally, the summit also saw the debut of Food Solutions New England’s new documentary “Voices from the Field.” The film explores food insecurity through those directly experiencing it in New England.

Video, including “Voices from the Field” and Cathrine Sneed’s keynote address, along with photos, blog entries, and more from the summit can be found at www.foodsolutionsne.org.

Generously sponsored by Common Vision New England, Harvard Pilgrim Health Care Foundation, the New Hampshire Charitable Foundation, Share Our Strength, and the UNH Sustainability Academy, the summit is only the beginning. A “rolling summit,” work will be ongoing. To stay informed, visit the Food Solutions New England website: www.foodsolutionsne.org.

Tip of the Month
Watch “Voices”

“‘Voices from the Field’ captures the hardship and resilience of those who have been unable to consistently access fair, affordable and nutritious food,” says Dr. Joanne Burke, Clinical Assistant Professor and Director of the UNH Dietetic Internship and the Food & Society Faculty Fellow of the UNH Sustainability Academy. Watch now at www.youtube.com/user/Sustainableunh#p/a/u/0/
Profile in Sustainability

How did you get involved in sustainability at UNH while an undergraduate student?

My interest and involvement with sustainability at UNH began in a course on global environmental change taught by Cameron Wake and Tom Kelly. Since then, it has been a pleasure to remain engaged with the UNH Sustainability Academy through research and internships that have substantially enriched the quality of my undergraduate experience.

What do you hope to do with your UNH degree after you graduate this May?

My four years at UNH have left me with a uniquely valuable perspective on sustainability as it relates to businesses and higher education. I’ll be working as a Sustainability Research Analyst for Pax World Investment researching the environmental, social and governance performance of companies and securities considered for inclusion in Pax World’s portfolio and assisting in implementing Pax World’s shareholder advocacy, public policy and other initiatives.

What motivates you personally to be involved in sustainability?

Of all the magnificent and breathtaking things I’ve encountered in my life, my experiences in nature rise to the top as the most memorable and impactful. To me, sustainability is a framework for living our lives in a way that respects and preserves the natural wonders of our environment for generations to come.

Learn more about sustainability academic programs at www.sustainableunh.unh.edu/curricula.html.

Upcoming Events

April 6, 13, 20, & 27
COLSA/NHAES Sustainable Agriculture and Food Systems Seminar Series
3:15 PM
G46 James Hall, UNH Durham
Contact: www.colsa.unh.edu/aes/seminar-series

April 10
Trash 2 Treasure Banquet Fundraiser
5 - 7 PM, $10 suggested donation for non-students
UNH MUB Granite State Room, Durham, NH
Contact: www.unh.edu/trash2treasure

April 14
Taking a Community Stance! Stepping Out to Speak Out Against Violence Rally
12:30 - 2PM
Great Lawn in front of DeMeritt Hall, UNH Durham
Contact: www.unh.edu/sharpp/events.html

May 1
SolarFest!
UNH Durham campus
Contact: Sara Gassman, UNH Student Environmental Action Coalition, see64@cisunix.unh.edu

May 6
12:45 - 2 PM
UNH MUB Theater II
Contact: UNH Inclusive Excellence, jerrianne.boggis@unh.edu

Corey Johnson ’11, Business Administration Major, Sustainable Living Minor

Transforming education, transforming the world

The UNH Sustainability Academy is moving UNH and the region “beyond green.” The oldest endowed sustainability program in US higher education, we bring together diverse resources, voices, and interdisciplinary scholarship to transform the global challenges we face into opportunities.

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