



CALL FOR PRESENTATIONS

The 6th Annual Future of Our Food and Farms Summit

Presented by
The Mid-Atlantic Food & Farm Coalition

December 2 - 3, 2004
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

www.foodfarm.org

A Regional Summit to Promote Sustainable Food Systems
Learn about Trends in Food Distribution, Support Nutrition Education, and
Reduce Hunger in the Mid-Atlantic Region

Conference organizers seek proposals for presentations for the 6th Annual Future of our Food and Farms Summit to be held on December 2 and 3, 2004 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. The Summit's goals are to increase knowledge about the region's food system, stimulate active participation in food-system change, provide opportunities for networking, and encourage collaboration among diverse people to ensure that everyone has access to affordable nutritious food.

The Summit brings together an array of viewpoints and experiences, and aims to find common ground among them. We invite presentations from government officials; policymakers; legislators; legislative staff; youth; nutrition educators; emergency food providers; faith-based community representatives; farmers; environmentalists; land-use planners; agribusiness representatives; food-industry representatives; media representatives; community gardeners; teachers; extension agents; researchers; food retailers; food buyers; produce managers; chefs; and others interested in the region's food system. We encourage presentations from minority and under-represented groups.

Topic areas for the 2004 Summit:

- Farming and agriculture (e.g., agricultural economic development, farm viability, farm diversification, enterprise development, minority farmers, direct marketing, innovative farming and marketing practices, organic products, promoting local and regional farm products, ethnic markets, niche markets, farm policy, farm to school programs, cooperatives)
- Nutrition, nutrition education, and food safety (e.g., nutrition education methods, obesity prevention programs, 5-A-Day initiatives, Nutrition Education Programs (NEP), Child Nutrition Act)
- Land use (e.g., conservation, farmland preservation, agriculture and sprawl, regulation, community gardens)
- Hunger, food access, and community food security (e.g., measures of food security, supermarkets in low-income communities, emergency food programs, school/summer feeding programs, food

stamps, WIC and Senior FMNP vouchers, community projects, food policy councils, hunger prevention, systemic causes of hunger)

- Food distribution and marketing (e.g., market access and marketing, processing, labeling, distribution, food industry trends, ethnic foods, consumer education, “buy local” campaigns, farm product aggregation and distribution, accessing urban markets)
- Partnership and capacity building: (e.g., local, state, and regional level collaborations, policy development, community and regional organizing, leadership development, outreach, educating and working with youth, youth community service projects, youth empowerment)

Format of Workshop Presentations:

Presentations will be single, 1½-hour sessions or two-part presentations that comprise two, back-to-back 1½-hour sessions. A variety of formats and innovative approaches to workshop presentation are welcome.

1. “How-to” and skill-building presentations--presentations designed to instruct participants in a particular technique (e.g., a specific technology, marketing technique, evaluation, resource identification) or skill (e.g., food-related community organizing or curriculum development).
2. "Debate and dialogue" presentations--pro-con presentations designed to show two sides of an issue or multiple view presentations designed to show several views on the same subject.
3. Informational and "show and tell" presentations--designed to inform participants by providing data, facts, and/or analyses on a particular area of interest, or that describe a particular farming operation, project, service, or industry sector.
4. Issue study or discussion sessions -- facilitated group exploration of an issue or topic or a focused working session; presenter provides background, goals, and guides participant discussion.

The proposal deadline is April 30th, 2004

To apply, complete the presentation proposal form including a brief biography or résumé and an abstract (300 words or less) of your presentation topic, which should include: major issues addressed, target audience, geographic focus, and major impact or expected outcomes of the presentation. You may submit up to three presentation proposals.

Presentation selection will be based on originality, broad applicability, and relevance to the Summit’s goals and audience. We may combine presenters and workshops on related topics in order to accommodate as many speakers as possible and create synergy within specific topic areas. You will be notified of selection decisions by July 1, 2004.

Presenters are responsible for their travel and accommodations. Presenters may attend the Summit the day of their presentation free of charge. If you plan to stay for both days, we ask that you pay the registration fee. Presenters are eligible to apply for available scholarships.

