**Agriculture of the Middle NC1198**

**Minneapolis, MN**

**October 10-11, 2018**

# Participants

1. Keiko Tanaka (University of Kentucky)
2. Bill Lacy (University of California – Davis)
3. Clare Hinrichs (Penn State University)
4. Kate Clancy (Consultant)
5. Hikaru Peterson (University of Minnesota)
6. Jan Joannides (Renewing the Countryside)
7. Lindsey Day Farnsworth (University of Wisconsin – Madison)
8. Michelle Miller (University of Wisconsin – Madison)
9. David Conner (University of Vermont)
10. Becca Jablonski (Colorado State University)
11. Christine Sanders (University of Missouri – Columbia)
12. Jill Fitzgerald (University of Massachusetts - Amherst)
13. Christy Anderson Brekken (Oregon State University)
14. Alejandro Plastina (Iowa State University)
15. Gail Feenstra (University of California – Davis)
16. Larry Lev (Oregon State University)
17. Rob King (Oregon State University)
18. Marcy Ostrom (Washington State University)
19. Kathryn De Master (University of California – Berkeley)
20. Sarah Lloyd (Wisconsin Farmers Union)

**Date of next meeting. U of MN, Minneapolis**

**October 15-16, 2019**

**Chair Succession:**

Mary Hendrickson 2018-2019

Kathy DeMaster 2019-2020

Becca Jablonski 2020-2021

**Action Items from this meeting**

**Minutes** will be mailed out and people should review and revise. These notes will be available on the website so take a look and make revisions. Keiko will send out and give people 1 month for people to review.

Keiko needs to prepare reports – **Please send Keiko accomplishment, impacts, outreach, and publications for the objective that you have signed on to by November 15, 2018**. We only need it for people that are officially signed on to the project. Publications we will keep a running list. The accomplishment, impacts, and outreach should be done under the specific objective. Technically we are reporting on October 1, 2017 – September 30, 2018 activities. But when in doubt report all 2017 activities.

**Website** – David, Mary and Keiko with help from UW CIAS, Cris Carusi. Becca sent around a [Google Sheet](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/197zCxWmQGj0_-Rf3liczdaNvHWOWn14MFrLwRLkFOq8/edit?usp=sharing) for people to put their link to their websites and any other links that can be put on the website showing work of the project. Michelle also set up the Box

**Follow-up on Book Discussion/Journal** idea - Call for Abstract – Michelle, Lindsey, Gail, Kate are going to do a call and then propose a timeline for moving the process of decision making and action on the idea.

**2020 meeting maybe in DC? Or should it be 2021**. Who is going to keep the conversation going? The Policy Committee will keep this going (Kate, Christy, and Lauren). But perhaps tied into the publication conversation and the outreach and briefs. There has been some conversation in the past about having a special issue of a journal that is just on policy issues.

**Organizing a Conference?** Or could we do tracks at conferences that already happen. Perhaps a first step or more effective thing to do is to look at places that we are already at - Food Distribution Research Society, Ag and Human Values or other ones. Folks have done that in the past and had the opportunity to do presentations. Next year – Food Distribution Research Society - Oct 18-22, 2019 in Seattle

**For next year on the Agenda**. Please list - Open time for Committee meetings starting at noon day before and also after lunch the final day. This will allow for Committee meetings and allows people to plan travel and get approval to come in early and stay after for Committee meetings.

**Introductions and New AOTM Projects**

Keiko Tanaka – U of KY, finishing Value Based Supply Chain, also Beginning Farmer, Fresh Stop Market (hybrid CSA and Farmers Market)

Bill Lacy – U of California Davis, Chair of Human Ecology. Have hired 15 new faculty and will hopefully identify 1 for this group.

Claire Hinrichs – Penn State Univ., working with Kate Clancy on Enhancing Food Security in the NE. Working on some special issues on renewable ag. Grad Student, Sarah Rocker PhD student at Penn State – Value Chain Coordination – embedded with the FoodLink project. Looking at environmental aspects of these value-chain food chains. How do differentiated products might fit in to the planting of buffers in the Chesapeake Bay and the water quality issues there. Serves on the Admin Council for NE SARE. New Book out that is possibly of interest - *20 Lessons in the Sociology of Food and Agriculture* – Jason Konefal and Maki Hatanaka (eds.) Oxford University Press.

Kate Clancy – Food Systems Consultant. Working on manuscripts and report on Enhancing Food Security in the NE. Made briefs on all the research so that policy people and others can read. Working on marketing of the briefs. White paper on regional food systems done a couple years ago. Working to get funding to do a new edition. This was done with Kathy Ruhf, Interdisciplinary research and systems thinking.

Hikaru Peterson – U of MN Applied Economics. AFRI grant on Value Based Supply Chains - will be starting to write papers on this. Working with Rural Grocery as a back hauling opportunity for producers in the rural areas. Farmers Market as an aggregation point, grant submitted, waiting to hear on funding. Would like to look at Emergency Food System as part of working with local producers. Teach an Intro to Food Systems. Adopting Christy’s policy brief assignment.

Jan Joannides – Renewing the Countryside. Working in a team – Beyond Fresh and Direct. Working on some fact sheets that will be available soon. Also working with Hikaru Peterson on the Values Based Supply Chain – using farmers market as temporary food hubs. Finishing 1st year going into 2nd. Working in farm transitions and farm land transfer. Working in MN, IA, and WI. Looking at some differences between the NE and the Midwest. Also now looking at small grains and specialty grains and integrating them in cover crops. Working with an artisan grain collaborative out of Chicago to start something similar here in MN.

Lindsey Day-Farnsworth – finishing AFRI post-doc case studies of wholesale food markets at UW CIAS – how they interface with community and food hubs, role of government, and what variation in the governance, services and tenants. Applying that to City of Madison, Just got an allocation from the City of Madison for a Feasibility Study on a shared crossdock project. RFP just went out. We presented research to them and then the city alders used the info and got a project funded and issued an RFP!

Michelle Miller – UW Center for Integrated Ag Systems. Getting someone in to the grazing role again. Working on cover crops, working on gamifying that. Working with the tribes on some beginning farmer work. Working on the cider project with others in this AOTM work. Also working on the fair labor that we will talk about today as well as the project that Lindsey talked about on a potential shared cross-dock.

David Connor – U of Vermont. Finishing up a project on food hubs. One publication out on perceptions of suppliers, what sort of services and benefits do selling to a food hub provide. 2nd one coming soon is a survey of buyers. Using transactions cost analysis approach.

Becca Jablonski – Ag and Resource Economics – Colorado State. National Evaluation at Farm to School. Working on some Bench Marking on Farm and Ranch profitability associated with sales to different markets. FAR funding with commodity groups pitching in – how urban policies can support both urban and rural (farmers, ranchers) businesses. Have commodity groups with food security and food access people at the same table and with policy makers.

Christine Sanders – U of MO – sitting in for Mary Hendrickson. Working on power dynamics and competition across various ag systems.

Jill Fitzsimmons – Was at USDA AMS, now at U Mass soon on the market. Working on a paper on the industrial organization model looking at behavioral models for farmers and how they make choices on markets they want to/can sell into. This is a theoretical model. On the applied side working on processed food and frozen products – funding from SARE. Looking at supply chain and cost of production at a regional scale processing facility. Also working on a proposal from NOAA on a marine product – regional scale. Looking at a proposal the Preventative Controls part of the FSMA regulation and how that fits in to the conversations with farmers and supply chain work.

Christy Anderson-Brekken – Oregon State University – Regional Food Network project just wrapped up. Impact of minimum wage increases on local farms. Also looking at cottage food laws. Also involved in the Values Based Supply Chain project that has been mentioned by others. Teach Ag Law, Environmental Law, Food Systems, going to a full-time instructor position. Also working on a project of engaging students in a project on civil discourse in big issues that will look at agricultural and food issues. Lauren Glynn sends are greetings.

Alejandro Plastina – Iowa State University. Economics, Extension, Research and Teaching. Big Data for Sm(All) Farmers project. Identified the need for more price data that farmers can use as reference price. Created an app that can take price information that farmers can use – aggregates and allows for reference data. This can help farmers market and people selling at the farm gate. We think we can develop a crop insurance product for vegetables. SARE cover crops research just completed, website now up with website with 3 papers an also spread sheets to show net returns. Also a number of other projects.

Gail Feenstra – UC Davis. Working on the Food Hub Network in California. Working on the Food Hub to connect with institutional buyers. Getting to Wholesale – a website for farmers is up. Working on food safety for farmers that are involved with food hubs. And recently got a grant to work on the Preventive Control measures of FSMA. Also working with immigrant and small-scale farmers, including the moringa farmers. A new superfood – green plant used in SE Asia, high levels of protein vitamin A and C being grown and sold fresh. But all dried product is coming from Africa and India. Working with Hmong farmers in Fresno area to dry it. Role of Food Policy Councils in CA and local gov’t – just had paper accepted at JAFSCD. Looking at social and racial justice in the food system – looking at developing tools on how we can assess ourselves on our projects and the people that we connect with and how we can improve on racial and social justice issues.

Larry Lev – Oregon State Univ. AFRI project almost finished – Fresh and Direct. He is retiring at the end of the year. Moving into a different rhythm.

Rob King – retired from Applied Econ at U of MN. Also work at OSU. Fresh and Direct AFRI grant finishing up.

Marcy Ostrom – Washington State University. On the Extension side I work with immigrants – sustainable farming programs in Spanish and English and farmer-to-farmer projects. And also how to extend the immigrant farmers into the undergraduate degrees. Also working more on Interinstitutional efforts, working on social equity in food and agriculture. Working at the national level on the National Extension network on these issues. Teaching several graduate and undergraduate class. Trying to get the ag grad students to think about sociology. NFAS

Kathy DeMaster – UC Berkeley, Place Based Products. Interested right now in the land question right now in at AOTM. Looking at the financialization going on in land and interested in working on integrating that in to the AOTM work. Also how that relates to environmental issues and multifunctional agriculture. One project is a strawberry project. Also a bird project and strawberries and lettuce. Quite interested in the environmental part of this and the large land areas that we are talking about. Recently asked to do a review of a group of anthropologists that did a group of papers on AOTM. Culture, Agriculture, Food edited volume book. Should be out in December.

Sarah Lloyd – Wisconsin Farmers Union and the Wisconsin Food Hub Cooperative. Rural Sociologist by professional training. Work on the fair labor project with UW CIAS. Sarah runs the biennial Midwest CSA Conference, which is by CSA farmers for CSA farmers. Right now the Wisconsin Farmers Union is leading national efforts of developing a farmer-led movement to address the dairy price crisis. (dairytogether.com). The Wisconsin Food Hub Cooperative just received an Local Food Promotion Program (LFPP) to work with the UW CIAS on the shared cross dock idea in the Madison area.

**AOTM Project Reports & Discussion on Future Projects**

Michelle Miller – UW CIAS – Getting to Fair: Strategies for Achieving Fair Labor. (power point)

This is situated in the AOTM (do we have a template slide that we can present ourselves at meetings). Partnership with Wisconsin Farmers Union, Domestic Fair Trade Association and Labor Network for Sustainability.

Fair Trade strategies explored:

Certification

Negotiation

Coalition building

Public Policy (big P and little p policy)

The work was situated in the ILO and FAO talking about labor in the terms of “decent work”.

Quantitative evidence – looking at earnings, wage rates, poverty rates and citizenship. Also compared farm work to restaurant work.

Case study work:

Organic Valley

Milk with Dignity/Migrant Justice

Good Food Purchasing Program

Fight for $15

Farm Apprenticeship Programs

CSA farmers in the Midwest

Christy Anderson-Brekken (power point)

Values-Based Supply Chain (VBSC) -- Does participating in a VBSC improve farmer return? This looks at produce (vegetables, fruit, nuts) specifically. Project looked at farm gross income and price scenario using a tradeoff model. This was a simulated model. Compared to conventional wholesale. Also looked at their direct market preferences.

Shows in the model that the largest farms do the best. All the different farm sizes (by value) there is a net positive. The gainers gain more than the losers lose. The smaller farms did show a small loss by participation in VBSC. Includes a quantitative and qualitative data from the analysis showing the specifics of the benefits and challenges, including price and cost specifically.

**Beyond Fresh and Direct** (hard copy hand outs) U of MN, Jan Joannides and Robert King

Greatest Hits based on 60 interviews. 20 in MN in WI, 20 WA, OR and 20 in CA. Also break them up by fruit and vegetables, grains, dairy, and charcuterie.

Created 5 outreach pieces that cover each of these 5 areas. (would like to make these available online).

Benefits

Criteria

Connections

Standards

Value Added

Summary of the 4-page outreach pieces on each subject.

Benefits – How can sourcing directly from farmers benefit specialty food manufacturers? Ease and openness of communication, assistance, marketing advantages, transparency, values alignment, simple economics.

Criteria – What Criteria Must you meet to sell to specialty food manufacturers? Quality, food safety, reliable supply, price, local or regional sourcing, stories.

Connections – How Can farmers and specialty food manufacturers connect? Getting Connected (networking, farmers markets, visit to food stores), Agreeing (start small, verbal commitments and shared written record, win-win pricing), Making it work (Communication, reliability, flexibility).

Standards – What do you need to know about standards that must be met? Food Safety, Certification to meet consumer preferences, personal verification.

Value Added – Should you produce your own specialty food products? Reasons to Consider Vertical Integration, How to analyze this decision, steps to vertical integration, marketing.

Question to Jan, Gail and Rob, Larry – what were your takeaways from the possibilities for VBSC? It’s not all roses. It’s hard. And many processors the local and relationship is not the first priority for the processor. Jan has looked at farmers that have partnered with processors and have been able to go to the bank to get a loan for on-farm equipment because they had a contract with the processor.

**Cider Project – funded by AFRI**

From Apple to Glass: Improving Orchard Profitability…. Developing a terroir of cider. UVT, Michigan State, UW-Madison, Washington State Univ.,

Many cider apple growers and cider makers would like to explore some sort of marketing or labeling for “real cider” using real cider apples because many places and larger brands are not using real cider apples.

UW Madison will be building a cider network.

Cider Project is having a lunch time meeting today and bringing in some of the partners that weren’t able to travel to this meeting in MN.

**Big Data for Sm(All) Farmers** (power point)

Alejandro Plastina, Economics. Iowa State University

ISU survey and then also a survey went out to Tuskeegee University. 351 farmers.

53% part-time, 44% full-time farmers

Looking at data that they are looking for, what they use currently. They were able to identify some key gaps in what data farmers want and what they are currently using. They are working on an app that could provide some price data that would be available to farmers to establish reference pricing.

<https://www.card.iastate.edu/conservation> webpage that shows the cover crops research. Economics of Cover Crops. Project with NASS and Practical Farmers of Iowa. Includes a decision tool.

**Discussion about Farm and Ranch Profitability HATCH - Becca Jablonski**

**National Benchmarking**

<https://localfoodeconomics.com/benchmarks/#factsheetsection>

Local Food Marketing Practices survey is being done again. Obtaining good data continues to be our challenge.

Would Farm Credit be interested or have this data? There is some interest. Farm Credit East has the most Young and Beginning Farmer lending and is most interested. Have tried to talk with CoBank.

Is RMA possibility? There grants are pretty small. They were bigger at one point. But now are smaller.

Would the Farm Management Associations be a place to talk to?

WI has AgFA for dairy farmers. <https://cdp.wisc.edu/agfa-farmbench/>

For example you have the FINBIN, <https://finbin.umn.edu/>

<https://finbin.umn.edu/Home/AboutFinbin>

IL, MN, KS, MI?, etc.

<https://www.agmanager.info/kfma>

**Announcement - Marcy Ostrom – Coming Together to Promote Racial Understanding through Civil Dialogue**

INFAS <http://asi.ucdavis.edu/networks/infas/about>

Association Public and Land Grant University (APLU) – Challenge of Change Report.

<http://www.aplu.org/projects-and-initiatives/international-programs/challenge-of-change/index.html>

There was a group of people that went further to address structural and systemic racism in the food system, which they felt was lacking in the APLU Challenge of Change Report.

<http://asi.ucdavis.edu/networks/infas/about/a-deeper-challenge-of-change-the-role-of-land-grant-universities-in-assessing-and-ending-structural-racism-in-the-us-food-system-1>

Everyday Democracy, <https://www.everyday-democracy.org/> A week long training. Included a Michigan State Diversity Trainer. Marcy attended found it really valuable.

**Edited Book Discussion**

Handout Circulated. Gail and Lindsey and Michelle. Came out of Ag and Human Values Conf. A publisher is interested in a book. The idea of an edited volume. It’s been a decade since Remaking the North American Food System has come out. Time to bring these ideas together again in a volume. An appropriate framing might be the regional piece.

Question of if Springer is the best editor. And also are edited volumes the best idea? Or is it better to do a special issue of a journal?

There are a number of special issues that have come out and are on the way out?

Should we try to find a high impact journal and really try to have a big impact. And also get citations and bring this important scholarship up to the level that it deserves.

Citations and Impact are really important for young scholars. Also a special journal edition also allows for things to come out as they come in. This is good for young scholars. And also any scholar who has regular reviews, even after tenure.

The regional focus would be really good. The space is not filled at all on the regional in the US. A lot of things are coming out Europe. New column in JAFSCD coming out making a case for regional. Climate, resilience, and scale and some other categories.

Kate Clancy - Definition of region – multi-state. (except for perhaps California.) Scale that production needs to be considered and also from a resilience model based on what is predicted with climate change models. Also governance – which is important for the consideration of water and other things.

That could be the framing paper. That is the framing paper. 2000 words that will come out in JAFSCD.

Journal of Rural Studies? This has a high impact factor and might be a good home for the mix of this group.

Many people are talking about Regions. City-Regions.

Is there a way to provide something that could also support it if we do go with the academic journal? Only academics read academic journals.

The Conversation – an online place to help translate some of the academic findings and writing into something more accessible for the broader public. <http://theconversation.com/us>

Can we set up a system that makes sure that all the chapters or articles always reference every other manuscript or article. And also a brief that is created for each articles or chapter and geared towards non-profits and others.

Promoting the careers of young scholars without forgetting how we get it out to the non-academic community.

Some general agreement that perhaps the journal is better than an edited volume. But still need to look at. Sometimes there are series that you might fit in with? MIT Press? Or U of MN libraries have an online books. UC Press did let you have an academic and a practitioner. Maybe that’s a way to do it to have both. However Kathy DeMaster’s experience with her edited volume that is coming out (Bite Back) that it was a lot of work to bring these two groups together in the book.

Perhaps having a more senior faculty that does an edited volume about the more theoretical. But it does help to have the more senior faculty on the journal article in the special issue. Having that senior name on the journal articles drives traffic to the other journal articles in the special issue.

We might not be able to control a Special Issue of a Journal. A Journal might ask for us to open a wider call. Some of the work of this group might get bumped out.

Where are we at with the disucssion?

Based on the outline that Lindsey handed out. Kate Clancy is suggesting that we cover the Regional

Climate Change

Resilience

Governance

Transportation

Environmental Resources (and how it connects with Climate Change. Water)

Social Equity

Marketing (small scale v. mid-scale – what does it mean to scale up?)

Collaboration

Examples – what happened to Red Tomato, article in the Minneapolis Star Tribune 10/9/18 about what weather change will mean for Upper Midwest fruit and vegetable production.

<https://www.redtomato.org/can-the-good-food-movement-make-it-to-market/>

<http://www.startribune.com/more-frequent-intense-rains-imperil-local-foods-sector/496021191/>

Can we come up with a process for this conversation?

Should everyone who wants to submit an abstract and indicate if they would prefer a journal article or the edited volume.

Look at the model of the JAFSCD special issue on Ag in the Middle. This could be the model.

Lindsey, Kate and Michelle – and anyone else who wants to be on the call will follow up. They will rework the concept summary and the outline. Also look at any guiding articles that can help us.

What is the timeline for this? Kate and Lindsey will also sketch out the timeline and how it might look depending on which adventure we choose. This will be important for where people are in their careers.

Probably need to decide which journal would impact what type of article you would write. Would need to know before we submitted abstracts.

A timely topic is how this impacts the rural and how this impacts the urban-rural connection.

**Website conversation -** [**http://agofthemiddle.org/**](http://agofthemiddle.org/)

What permissions do we need to put things on the AOTM website? What is the authority structure?

What are the informal rules among ourselves to guide that. Internal guidelines?

If it is people that are not part of the AOTM group what do we do about that?

We should designate 3 people that should provide the oversight of the website. We as a group come up with a set of criteria.

Past, present and future chair make up the 3.

David Connor

Keiko Tanaka

Future Chair

David will come up with a set of criteria and send them around for review.

Becca is going to start a google doc and everyone can put their personal webpages so that Cris Carusi at UW CIAS can link to the list of participants. Also we can make sure that any project websites.

Problem is not too much content – problem is too little.

Right now we don’t have a Project category to put new things in. It is based on the original project.

Can Cris look at the Google Analytics

Does UW CIAS need some funding to make sure that the website is kept up. U of MN has some money that might be available to pay to UW CIAS. In future grant proposal can we write in some money for web support.

Michelle sent a message to Cris to ask about her time commitment and also how much money would she need to be able to actively manage the page. Still the 3 on the oversight committee need to be getting info and then reviewing to get to Cris.

@agofthemiddle is the twitter handle.

Discussion of meeting dates for next year.

Are people ok with the $85 registration fee? Continuing to meet at the U of MN Mpls campus. Some people have funding some don’t? Is the hotel too expensive or do we need to find something less expensive. Some are doing AirBnB. General agreement that U of MN Mpls campus was a good spot and the Campus Club is nice.

Date of next meeting. U of MN, Minneapolis

October 15-16, 2019

Do we want to try to see if we can overlap with the Food Ag and Ideas Week that is happening in the Twin Cities this week? Not sure when it is happening next year.

<https://www.foodagideas.com/>

If we

New Chair: duties are to plan the meeting for the next year. And to write up the annual report

Mary Hendrickson 2018-2019

Kathy DeMaster 2019-2020

Becca Jablonski 2020-2021

Thanks to all of them for stepping up!

**Thursday, October 11, 2018**

Continued conversation on journals and impact. Several people shared that they have trouble now with their libraries getting them to buy JAFSCD access. Perhaps the group could work on a group letter to their libraries to try to get this institutional access.

Policy Issues & Work (Kate and Christy)

Gail – A webinar was organized by Lauren to do a webinar with National Sustainable Agricultural Coalition (NSAC) for researchers to share the policy implications of their research. This was limited to just NSAC and a group of researchers. The slides from the presentations are available on the AOTM website. <http://agofthemiddle.org/?p=340>

Feedback: If it is done again it might be good to open it up. And also, despite directions to those participating there weren’t consistent presentations. Some were very academic and others were more in laymen’s terms. Perhaps setting a structure of the presentations – 2nd slide is the policy implications and then some of the research details and then back to the policy implications. Also perhaps 15 minutes was too long. Shorter might work better. Could we plan a panel at Ag and Human Values or RSS or another conference and invite an NSAC person to participate. Or the idea of going to DC as a group and do some organized presentations and have some face to face time and discussions. Perhaps every other meeting could be held in DC. Bill Lacy shared some of the experience that he has had with different group. E-CoP has its own legislative committee and has hired lobbyists in the past. There are other groups that do this so we could look to how they do things. Also working through the university legislative liaison. You

Localfoodeconomics.com there are the two pagers that they used in DC. We can share the templates for people.

Perhaps we can plan to meet in DC.

NSAC does fly-ins and has organized things for AOTM in the past.

Also National Farmers Union does a September fly-in. 2nd week of September.

Union of Concerned Scientists also has a spring meeting in DC that brings people out.

Jan Joannides – Farmland access, incentives to get new farmers on to the land. In Minnesota we don’t have farmland easements. Suggestion from Becca Jablonski – check out Poudre Valley Community Farm as a for-profit model.

Gail Feenstra – work with Food Policy Councils – working with the National Food Policy Network folks, also the Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) education. So mostly educating people on food policy issues.

Lindsey Day-Farnsworth – Mostly at the local and regional level to look at public – private partnerships and municipal investment in food system infrastructure, terminal markets, etc. Also met with and helped facilitate connections with the National Association of Produce Market Managers and the food systems work and initiatives. Have interacted with USDA AMS Transportation Division. Michelle Miller and some others will be on a panel on transport with USDA.

ESNI[?] (Kate Clancy mentioned this acronym – don’t know what it is) work of Michael Connors, divided 8 zones of the urban-rural continuum to map in the North East, 5 major cities the location of all the farms and all the wholesale distributors and the retails. Created maps. 3 peri-urban.

A policy aspect of this is that we need better people to get on the review panels for the LFPP and FMPP and other USDA grants.

Kathy DeMaster – finishing up a mapping project on land access for Beginning Farmers and Ranchers programs are mostly doing skill acquisition. They have a policy brief that encourages that the Beginning Farmers programs add land access in their programming. Berkeley Food Institute has been helpful in packaging the research. They have a dedicated policy person.

Kathy also has a strawberry project and also bird project. The bird project is focused on food safety and how farmers are encouraged all birds out. That discourages biodiversity and habitat. One of the researchers went to DC and also have

Next issue is financialization and land access and corporate land access.

Bill - This is good and we need to be strategic. So finding those people that do this work already or can do the work is important.

JAFSCD also does this now they take papers and then they identify those that are policy focused and they ask to write a shorter policy brief. This is a good example of outreach possibilities. For example the Cottage Food Law paper.

Claire Hinrichs – Looking at the formalizing and codification of the value chain coordination … Hybridity of the private-public and what the levers are for change.

Kieko – zoning issues of farming in the peri-urban. Land zoning issues. Fresh Stop market – hybrid of CSA and farmers market in food insecure neighborhoods. Next Farm Bill –

Michelle Miller – partnering with organizations that can do the policy work on things. For example Wisconsin Farmers Union in

Marcy Ostrom – Practical impacts of values-based supply chains – there is something policy in there. Beginning Farmer – Farmer Incubator program that is run by Extension. Interested in the immigrant farmers and farm workers. Organic certification and also helping to feed them in to areas that farmers are retiring. Right now things are happening a bit here and there – not in a systematized way. Tracking the shift of Latino farmers. Many coming up as orchard managers. Also connected with the Tufts project to look at Farmer Incubator.

Also looking at dismantling racism – extension how we fund and organize extension to deal with this in the food systems. An article is coming out.

Kathy DeMaster – a Land Access App. A database – you can enter what you are looking for Kathy will send it around. This has

Becca – Farm to School evaluation. Looking at goals behind Farm Bill programs and the Rural Economic Development outcomes.

Christy Anderson-Brekken, Asking farmers how policy changes will impact them? Interview data collection - Asking what the impact of $15 minimum wage increase and also Oregon cottage food laws. Farm succession and land access also a theme right now. Work with Rogue Farm Corps and Farm Link programs. The state legislature is interested in doing something about that on farm transition. Also cannabis in Oregon and how it impacts farmers.

Haiko – At the regional level you also have city level government and then county and multiple counties and multiple municipalities creates a fragmented systems. Advocating for regional policy. FMPP grant is set up to do that.

Christine Sanders - University of MO works with Mary Hendrickson and Wah Jen – looking at industry and impact of Dow Jones Sustainability Index and the FTSE for Good. Financialization of Food as a focus. Firm decision making and pressures. Christine has worked on strategic sourcing teams and commodity risk management. Worked in clearing firms and how the big companies managed risk and profited. Will have implications for the crop insurance programs.

Jill Fitzgerald – She did present on the NSAC webinar. Look at the Farm to Institution Market and the intermediated Farm to Institution Market. Farm to School survey results – schools that are using intermediated markets are not seeing a cost reduction. The categories they could look at were - only buying through intermediated, only buying through direct, or a “portfolio” or hybrid. Need to look in to that a bit more. Looked at cost savings on the school side. If we think that the Farm to School is a market that is profitable for farmers – we might want to intervene that market to increase supply over time.

Suggestion of a a conference call on Land Access for those who are interested in this. Yes. Jan Joannides will send out a note to

**National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition, call with:**

Juli Obudzinski, National Policy Coordinator and Nichelle Harriet, Policy Specialist in the Research Program (2nd day on the job). Michelle has worked in the environmental field. Juli and Nichelle were not on the policy webinar but Ferd from NSAC said that it was a good way to stay in the loop. Recommendation – to try to do it on an annual basis. Think about who we could expand. NSAC has a standing research committee monthly. Also AOTM might want to think about doing a Congressional briefing. National Coalition of Food and Ag Research does a weekly briefing for staff. Good for our champions on the Hill to have good information to use.

Relocation of ERS and NIFA proposal from the Trump Administration. Raised a lot of concerns. There is a lot of uncertainty. Not a lot is known. Some different efforts with scientific communities and universities. We have 130 institutions and organization that stated their concerns and asked for this to be postponed and until concerns are addressed.

2 threads to the debate.

1. Relocation. Physically moving 600 employees. But cost-benefit analysis has not been released.

2. Reorganization is a separate issue. This is potentially more devastating. Taking out of ERS out of the USDA – and directly under the Secretary and the Office of the Chief Economist. Sets a dangerous precedent, to potentially weaken the scientific integrity of the work coming out of ERS.

One could anticipate that many of the staff will choose not to relocate – so the capacity may be weakened. Research community seems to be united in opposition to this plan. There was no consultation on this proposal. NSAC asked for a group to be involved but have been rejected. Roberts and Stabenow the ranking members sent a letter to Secretary Perdue and did not receive an adequate answer to the concerns. Checks on this are annual appropriates and the Farm Bill. If Congress didn’t approve funding for relocation. Stalled until December 7th because the US is operating under a past budget. Current subcommittee chair is in support of the move. Hoven from ND put out a press release in support of the move and welcoming the agencies to Fargo and North Dakota. Georgia Congressman It is helpful to have people continue to call attention to this.

Example of sign-on letter that went in from a number of university ag econ, econ and natural resource departments <https://www.aaea.org/UserFiles/file/AAEA-USDAERSLetter-Final-AgCommittee.pdf>

Farm Bill – LFPP/FMPP and VAPG. New program Local Agriculture and Market Program (LAMP) is a new program in the Senate version of the Farm Bill. <http://sustainableagriculture.net/blog/lamp-farmbill-2018/> Streamline and consolidation. $60M mandatory funding. That creates permanent baseline. Producer Development Grants (formerly known as VAPG) is folded in that. Details still under consideration, would it be run by Rural Development or AMS? Farm Bill has expired so right now there is no funding for these programs in the future.

ERS report on VAPG. Came out in May. Assessing the impact on the survivability on rural businesses. VAPG recipients were 89% less likely to fail than non-recipients after 2-years after the grant. 79% less likely 4 years after the grant. VAPG recipients also created more jobs. <https://www.ers.usda.gov/amber-waves/2018/may/impacts-of-the-value-added-producer-grant-program-on-business-outcomes/>

Question does NSAC have a position on where VAPG should have a home. Because it is administered at the state level there is a difference in how it is administered. NSAC would recommend that AMS administer and that Rural Development could enter into an agreement with AMS to do some of the outreach, etc.

Jill Fitzgerald - Might be worth talking to folks at FNS that farmers that don’t apply that are working on Farm to School. Might be useful to think about how to do outreach.

Update on EFSNE – has a big body of work. Question on if they could do another national meeting or a set of presentations at Ag of Human Values or another conference?

<https://agsci.psu.edu/research/food-security>

Also there is the JAFSCD journal articles.

The CRIS USDA framework? <https://cris.nifa.usda.gov/> How does the work we are doing fit into CRIS?

**Action Items (these are listed at the top of the minutes also)**

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Minutes will be mailed out and people should review and revise. These notes will be available on the website so take a look and make revisions. Keiko will send out and give people 1 month for people to review.

Keiko needs to prepare reports – Please send Keiko accomplishment, impacts, outreach, and publications for the objective that you have signed on to by November 15, 2018. We only need it for people that are officially signed on to the project. Publications we will keep a running list. The accomplishment, impacts, and outreach should be done under the specific objective. Technically we are reporting on October 1, 2017 – September 30, 2018 activities. But when in doubt report all 2017 activities.

Website – David, Mary and Keiko with help from UW CIAS, Cris Carusi. Becca sent around a [Google Sheet](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/197zCxWmQGj0_-Rf3liczdaNvHWOWn14MFrLwRLkFOq8/edit?usp=sharing) for people to put their link to their websites and any other links that can be put on the website showing work of the project. Michelle also set up the Box

Follow-up on Book Discussion/Journal idea - Call for Abstract – Michelle, Lindsey, Gail, Kate are going to do a call and then propose a timeline for moving the process of decision making and action on the idea.

2020 meeting maybe in DC? Or should it be 2021. Who is going to keep the conversation going? The Policy Committee will keep this going (Kate, Christy, and Lauren). But perhaps tied into the publication conversation and the outreach and briefs. There has been some conversation in the past about having a special issue of a journal that is just on policy issues.

Organizing a Conference? Or could we do tracks at conferences that already happen. Perhaps a first step or more effective thing to do is to look at places that we are already at - Food Distribution Research Society, Ag and Human Values or other ones. Folks have done that in the past and had the opportunity to do presentations. Next year – Food Distribution Research Society - Oct 18-22, 2019 in Seattle

For next year on the Agenda. Please list - Open time for Committee meetings starting at noon day before and also after lunch the final day. This will allow for Committee meetings and allows people to plan travel and get approval to come in early and stay after for Committee meetings.

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Note to selves – If there are new people at the meeting – there is a lot of referring to people by first name only (meaning people that aren’t at the meeting but there is an assumption made that everyone knows everyone. Also lots of use of acronyms – again assuming that everyone knows these things. It can be create sense of exclusion.)

**Wrap-Up Conversation**

Mary Hendrickson sent out email prior to meeting asking – How are we looking at competition policy/Is looking at power and competition of use? Would fairness in contract law be of interest to AOTM? There is interest in the competition and power? Could she lead a work group?

Some updates from Kate on new work that should be on our radar screen:

Global Economic Forum has some very good work. Chase Keenan plus others. Deloitte Europe and Deloitte US. Very sophisticated. The future of food systems. Resilience.

<https://www2.deloitte.com/global/en/pages/consumer-industrial-products/articles/the-future-global-food-systems.html>

<http://www3.weforum.org/docs/IP/2016/NVA/WEF_FSA_FutureofGlobalFoodSystems.pdf>

CGIAR – Feeding Prometheus. John Vandermeer et al. 2018. <https://www.frontiersin.org/articles/10.3389/fsufs.2018.00039/full>

Resilience for the Future of Food

Megan Schipanski at Colorado State has some new work out that is helpful. <http://soilcrop.agsci.colostate.edu/faculty-2/schipanski-meagan/>

*Food Systems Approach* – This is the wording that is being used. This is applying systems concepts to food systems. Coming out of Wageningen. <https://www.wur.nl/en/newsarticle/Food-systems-approach-for-broader-view-on-food-security-policy.htm>

There is so much going on in Europe – how could we be in better touch with the work that is going on in Europe?