Maine Farm to Institution

Maine Sustainability and Water Conference
Maine’s Changing Foodscape
Augusta Civic Center
March 30, 2017
Maine Farm to Institution  MEFTI

- Born from Maine Farm to School Network
- Cross-sector (K-12, Colleges, Hospitals)
- Work smarter together; develop collaborations for resource and best practice sharing to facilitate local purchasing by institutions
- MFSN awarded support for 3 years from Elmina B. Sewall Foundation to convene the sectors and establish priorities
MEFTI 7-member Leadership Team

- Ron Adams: Maine Farm and Sea Cooperative
- Katie Freedman: Healthy Acadia
- Emily Kain: MaineHealth
- Ken Morse: Maine Network of Community Food Councils
- Riley Neugebauer: Farm to Institution New England
- Lauren Kaskey: Health Care Without Harm
- Renee Page: Healthy Communities of the Capital Area
MEFTI Year 1 Successes

Convened Three Regional Gatherings:

- **Northern Aroostook (Fort Kent)**
  - Sharing success stories and innovative ideas
  - Brainstorming needs, challenges, opportunities to increase purchasing

- **Western (St. Joseph’s College)**
  - Local Foods Marketing/Harvest of the Month
  - Aggregation & Distribution
  - Jumping Hurdles: Food Safety, Pricing

- **Downeast (Ellsworth)**
  - Meet the Buyers - food service & farmers sharing interests/capacities
  - Topics: Food waste reduction, success stories, HOM
MEFTI year 1 successes

- Conducted prioritization process and strategic planning to determine short and long-term focus areas
- Created MEFTI website – housed on Farm to Institution New England site
  http://www.farmtoinstitution.org/maine-farm-institution-network
- Integrated Farm to Institution topics into the 4th (2015) and 5th (2016) annual Maine Farm to School Conferences
MEFTI YEAR 2 PRIORITIES

- Harvest of the Month identified as viable cross-sector project that can harness collective buying power & promote local foods consumption - seeking funding in partnership with UMaine Cooperative Extension, FINE, and others

- Organize additional networking opportunities across the state and engage more cross-sector representatives

- Continue to build communication structures

- Support Mainers’ attendance at the Farm to Institution New England Summit in April 2017 in Leominster, MA
Moving Forward

- Build on energy from FINE Summit
- Develop Harvest of the Month plan and seek funding
- Engage emerging institutional sectors
  - Correctional Facilities
  - Early Care and Education sites
- Metrics, Indicators, Measures, Policy
- Engage with Maine’s Network of Networks
  - Maine Network of Community Food Councils
  - Maine Gleaning Network
  - Maine Food Strategy
  - Maine Farm to School Network
  - ...and more
Thank you questions

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