

Agenda Item: Healthy Food Systems, Healthy People Update

Presenters: Clarence Watson

Background:

In July 2014, as a result of the recommendations from the Joint COPs meeting, the PBD established the Healthy Food Systems, Healthy People Steering Committee. The purpose of the committee, operating with leadership from BAA and BoHS, is to develop a broad-based initiative for which funding will be sought, possibly in 2017 or 2018. The Committee is chaired by Richard Linton, Dean, College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, NCSU, and Christine Ladisch, Dean, College of Health and Human Sciences, Purdue. During an initial conference call in October discussion resulted in a decision to focus on the integration and interaction of food nutrition, agricultural systems, and environment and their impact on chronic disease prevention and general human health.

Complementary to the Healthy Food Systems, Healthy People initiative, ECOP and ESCOP has initiated specific action teams related to human health and wellness focused on youth, families, and communities. Nominations were sought for Extension and research faculty for each of five priority action teams; Health Literacy, Health Insurance Literacy, Chronic Disease Prevention and Management, Positive Youth Development for Health, and Health Policy Issues Education. The responsibilities of the action teams over a three-year period will be to select and invite additional external partners, identify and develop systematic programs and curriculum, engage colleagues in professional development, and initiate system wide program impact evaluation.

The Healthy Food Systems, Healthy People Steering Committee is now in the process of establishing a research-oriented committee to answer the question "How can we effectively integrate agriculture and food/nutrition systems with healthcare systems to benefit human health - and to lessen the burden of chronic disease?" This committee, composed of 10-12 "experts in the field", will identify research priorities to address this question. The anticipated timeline is to start later this spring and last for up to 6 months, with a short phone meeting each month.

The Healthy Food Systems, Healthy People Steering Committee will have its first face-to-face meeting in Atlanta on May 6 prior to the National Health Outreach Conference.

Action Requested: Information only.