Louisiana SARE Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

December 5th, 2018

In attendance: Will Afton, Mila Berhane, Chris Coreil, John Dean, Lisa Gray, Allison Guidroz, Angelina Harrison, Emily King, Zack McMath, Sydney Melhado, Dawn Mellion-Patin, Emily Mickley-Doyle, Carl Motsenbocker

Re-establishing Communication:

- Role of the SARE Professional Development Program
 - o Maintain the state SARE website with sustainable agriculture materials and resources, and links to related state organizations.
 - Conduct workshops on sustainable agriculture for extension and agriculture professionals.
 - o Conduct bi-annual state advisory board meetings with the purpose of revising and modifying the strategic plan.
 - o Identify annual training objectives with the input from the Louisiana Sustainable Agriculture Advisory Board.
 - Encourage extension and agricultural professionals to continue to attend sustainable agriculture meetings such as the Southern Sustainable Agriculture Working Group annual meeting.
 - Continue participation in workshops, meetings, and field days that highlight sustainable agriculture practices.
 - o Promote the SARE program results, resources, and grant opportunities in Louisiana.
- Role of the SARE advisory council
 - The Louisiana Sustainable Agriculture Advisory Board meets biannually and reviews the past year's activities and strategic plan as well as the next year's activities and plan.
 - o Input, outreach, feedback, facilitation

Upcoming SARE-related events:

- Farm Profitability Workshop LASAREFarmProfits2018.eventbrite.com
 - o Monday, December 10th, 2018 St. Martinville, LA (see flyer attached)
 - Ellen Polishuk Plant to Profit will educate attendees on the uses of record-keeping to create an efficient and profitable operation; Veggie Compass training.
- SSAWG Conference surveymonkey.com/r/SSAWG2019App
 - o Little Rock, Arkansas January 23-26, 2019 (see flyer attached)
 - o Applications open for SARE scholarships! 16 max. Apply ASAP & share with farmers!
- Grow LA Beginning Farmer Training Program surveymonkey.com/r/ApplyGrowLA2019
 - o Begins January 15, 2019 in New Orleans, 2020 in Lafayette, 2021 in NOLA
 - o 15 participants max. Over 35 applications already! (see flyer attached)
- Small Farmers Conference suagcenter.com/form/louisiana-small-farmer-conference
 - o Southern University March 14-16, 2018 Save the Date!

Other trainings and opportunities:

- Position Opening Grow Louisiana Program Director (see job description attached) https://lsu.wd1.myworkdayjobs.com/LSU
- Position Opening Farmers Market Manager CLEDA (see job description attached)
 mailto:atohme@cenla.org
- Workshop Series Cultivating Small Farm Success CLEDA cleda.wufoo.com/forms/r1xwha2qoihq8dj/
- Have or know of other trainings being held around the state? Please send to Sydney so that any relevant events or trainings can be posted and sent out to others.
 - o Dec 18 PSA Growers Training New Orleans
 - o Feb 6-7 PSA Growers Training Amite/Hammond

- o Feb 13-14 PSA Growers Training Crowley/Lake Charles
- o Feb 20-21 PSA Growers Training Shreveport/Red River
- o Mar 21-22 Women in Agriculture Conference Alexandria
- o May (TBD) Back to Your Roots Sustainable Agriculture Conference Ruston
- o May (TBD) St. Helena Field Day
- Summer (TBD) Field Days with Grow Louisiana Beginning Farmer Training
- o Nov 26 Fall Garden Workshop Baton Rouge
- We need suggestions for other future trainings What events do you want to see SARE put on or involved in?
 - Growing Organic Acadian Brown Cotton Farmer training and inform the public on farm to fashion, sustainable fabrics
 - o Agriculture Professional Services farmers need more knowledge and connections to resources for financial advice and assistance- CPA's, Legal, Insurance
 - o Farm Bus Tour Urban farm tour, small farm tour, permaculture tour, etc
 - Local Food & Certifications and open class on the differing food safety certifications, their meanings, costs, how to get them - for farmers and consumers
 - Value-added products training

Contact:

- Louisiana SARE Facebook has 450 followers, reaching 4,500+ individuals
- Louisiana SARE listserv contains 240+ contacts statewide. Send contacts to smelhado@agcenter.lsu.edu or sign up through Facebook. https://www.facebook.com/LouisianaSARE/app/100265896690345/

Feedback:

- Please share one want/need from LA SARE program
- Help us identify shortcomings and successes
 - We need better communication across all fronts, especially from the LSU AgCenter in general. LA SARE will put in an effort to increase event visibility as well as promoting non-AgCenter events.
 - All partners are encouraged to send flyers, blurbs, and emails about sustainable agriculture and local food system-related events, trainings, lectures, opportunities to Sydney. Advertisement includes posts on facebook, emails to LA SARE listserv, emails to university extension (hort agents, anr agents, regional directors), added to Southern SARE event calendar.

New Business:

- Acadiana Food Hub has a virtual grocery store they would like to publicize more details to be advertised soon
- Quarterly email of SARE-related events likely to start soon. Events will be uploaded to SARE website and shared to LA SARE listsery.

Thank you all for your participation, feedback, and ideas. This looks to be an exciting year in sustainable agriculture and local food systems! As always, please feel free to contact me at smelhado@agcenter.lsu.edu or 225-578-1037 with ideas, questions, issues, and feedback.

Please share the information given above with your networks. We need your help not only to come up with great events, but to spread the word to bring in the best crowd!