

LocalFiber, was created for the purpose of bringing together the small-flock fiber producing community of the Finger Lakes and CNY Regions with the specific goals of strengthening community, sharing knowledge, and collectively identifying and addressing shared challenges.



FIND US HERE

Instagram: @localfiber.ny

Facebook: LocalFiber

Email: localfiber.ny@gmail.com

Website: <https://www.localfiber.org>



LocalFiber

EST 2017
From Farmer to Maker

Sponsored in part by SARE grant ONE18-321



OUR STORY

In the Spring of 2018 we were awarded a SARE partnership grant with the mission of creating a community-driven initiative-based organization that brings together regional fiber producers. The ultimate goal was to create a replicative organization that is successful at identifying and addressing shared challenges..

this is our story



APRIL 2018
Awarded SARE partnership grant.

Collect list of fiber community needs through primary and secondary research.

JULY 2018
Review and brainstorm shared needs

Send out needs ranking survey, & collect list of possible solutions using primary and secondary research.

OCTOBER 2018
Choose from highest ranked needs & brainstorm solutions.

Send out solutions weighted ranking survey.

JANUARY 2019
Vote on solution-to-initiative and select committees.

Committee work and monthly check-ins.

APRIL 2019
Check-in and reiterate as needed.



A FEW LESSONS...

Survey heavy

There was a respondent rate of 25% for the first questionnaire and 33% for the second. Both of these respondent rates are considered good. The increased rate the second round is likely due to reminder emails sent out periodically emphasizing the value of their response.

Regardless, this was a survey heavy approach, but with such a large region and not everyone able to attend inperson meetings, email questionnaires were the best way to get a good representative sample of the community.

Committee is another commitment

One of the greatest challenges LocalFiber faces, as many volunteer-based organizations do, is getting people to commit time and energy to see initiatives through.

Our most successful committee was the Conference Committee which put together a successful conference in 4 months (~90 attendees, 1 keynote, 3 talks, 6 demonstrations).

Here are a few components that made this committee successful:

- having a well defined goal
- requiring a commitment early on.
- being held accountable by external parties

GET INVOLVED

Are you a NYS fiber producer, manufacturer, or fiber artist living in NYS (Finger Lakes & beyond)? Get on our producer listserve by contacting us at localfiber.ny@gmail.com

Members of our listserve hear about all of the opportunities to get involved with LocalFiber, from volunteer opportunities to special events, quarterly meeting notices, and more