

PROCESSOR



Small-Scale Food Processors Association of New York, Inc.

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NEWS FROM NYSAWG

The New York Small Scale Food Processors Association gets support from a Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education grant (SARE). The purpose of the two year grant is to support the development of the association. The grant has focused on four areas of development.

The past two NYSSFPA conferences were partially funded and organized by SARE grant funds. The conferences were held in conjunction with other organizations that support entrepreneurial relationships. Collaborating with such institutions as SUNY Morrisville builds strength and capacity for small scale processing efforts.

The SARE grant also supports a mentor program that links experienced processors with beginning processors. The one-on-one relationships serve to examine the individual business potential and develop a more personalized plan for success.

The Regional Chapters of the NYSSFPA also receive support from the SARE grant. Organizing these chapters to increase collaborative marketing and build links between local farm products, processors, restaurants, and retailers will build a profitable regional food system infrastructure in NYS.

Collaboration is a key word that NYSSFPA uses frequently. The SARE grant supports collaboration with funding towards an effort to provide inservice to gather ideas and build long-term sustainability of the NYSSFPA. The focus of the grant is to create linkages between service providers in NYS that would raise awareness of small scale processors and their products. The people in Cornell Cooperative Extension, tourism bureaus, and economic development offices are all key to making connections with and for the NYSSFPA.

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THE SMALL FARMS DIGEST

The Small Farm's Digest is a free quarterly publication from the USDA which features small farm operator profiles as well as growing and marketing resources and events from around the United States that are relevant to the small farm sector. To subscribe or contribute contact: Stephanie Olson; 202-401-6544; solson@reeusda.gov. It is also available on the web at <http://www.reeusda.gov/agsys/smallfarm/sfd/index.htm>. Check out the Small Farms Web site! <http://www.cals.cornell.edu/agfoodcommunity/smallfarms.cfm>