

Education Committee's Preliminary Outline for Final Report

1. Introduction
 - a. Current situation
 - i. Data on local farmers and food
 - ii. Greater demand than supply of local food
 - iii.
 - b. The need for education
 - i. Farmer training
 - ii. Consumer awareness
 - iii. Infrastructure needs and development
 - iv.
2. Food and Farms
 - a. Current training opportunities are limited
 - b. Types of training needed
 - i. Classroom
 - ii. Consulting/advising
 - iii. Web and print resources
 - iv. Farmer to farmer mentoring
 - v.
 - c. Topics
 - i. Growing practices
 - ii. Marketing
 - iii. Regulatory issues
 - iv.
3. Educating Consumers
 - a. The benefits of local food
 - i. Economic
 - ii. Environmental
 - iii. Health
 - iv. Community
 - v. Family Farms
 - vi.
 - b. Finding/Identifying local food
 - i. Sources
 - ii. Labels
 - iii.
4. Recommendations
 - a. Expansion of successful farmer education programs in Illinois (i.e. Farm Beginnings)
 - b. Expanded University of Illinois Extension capacity including a local foods specialist, organic farming specialists, etc.
 - c. Research and fund successful models from other States.

- d. Develop a marketing campaign to educate consumers on the benefits of local and organic food.
- e. Determine and educate the impact of local food on the local and State economies.
- f. Research and educate on the infrastructure needs of a local food system.

We may want to consider including sidebar “real life” stories to emphasize points throughout the report.