

## **Minutes: Production Committee - Jan. 30, 2008**

Illinois Local and Organic, Food and Farm Task Force

**Present:** Tom Spaulding, Johari Cole, Dean Craine, Allan Sexton, Donna Lehrer, Debbie Hillman. **Absent:** Bill Olthoff

Tom Spaulding and Debbie Hillman agreed to be co-chairs. Debbie volunteered to take notes.

Responding to the handout for all committees, we started to answer **Section IV: Today's Committee Work:**

### **1. How do we gather necessary information?**

- a. Statistics can be found various places, e.g., U. of Illinois Extension
- b. Using existing farmer networks/meetings
  - Tom: "Farm Beginnings" (sponsored by Angelic Organics Learning Center and The Land Connection)
  - Donna: Farm Bureau's Niche Marketing group
- c. Various list-servs
- d. Large-scale wholesalers
- e. Formal research
  - Other states (Michigan has a "diverse food" map)
  - Food Deserts -- Mari Gallagher
  - Rural food deserts -- [www.ruralsociology.org](http://www.ruralsociology.org)
  - Red Tomato Report

### **3. How do we invite greater community participation in this Committee?**

- a. Education Committee
- b. Media queries: Farm Week, Crop Growers (quarterly journal), list-servs, U. of Ill. extension

### **5. Plan next meeting, timelines, communications, etc.**

We decided to meet via conference call on Thursday, Feb. 21 (3 - 5 PM). Dean said he would investigate arranging the conference call through AgriEnergy. Prior to that call, everyone should answer the Section III individually (Long-Term Committee Work).