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**THE NATIONAL COALITION FOR
FOOD & AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH**

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L u n c h ~ N ~ L e a r n S E M I N A R



**THE NATIONAL COALITION FOR
FOOD & AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH**

Program:

**LOCAL FOODS ACROSS THE COUNTRY
AND CLOSE TO HOME**

The Economics of Local Foods Supply Chains

June 21, 2010

PROGRAM

Welcome and Introduction

M. STEPHANIE PATRICK
NATIONAL C-FAR REPRESENTATIVE

Introduction of Speaker

DR. MARY BOHMAN
USDA, ERS

Distinguished Speaker

DR. ROBERT KING
University of Minnesota

Open Forum

Co-Author Resource Panel

DR. SHERMAIN HARDISTY
University of California-Davis
DR. KATHERINE L. (KATE) CLANCY
Minnesota Institute for Sustainable Agriculture

Closing

M. STEPHANIE PATRICK

NATIONAL C-FAR IS a nonprofit, nonpartisan, consensus-based and customer-led coalition that brings food, agriculture, nutrition, conservation and natural resource stakeholders together with the food and agriculture research and extension community, serving as a forum and a unified voice in support of sustaining and increasing public investment at the national level in food and agricultural research, extension and education. For additional information, go to www.ncfar.org; or contact Tom Van Arsdall, Executive Director at tom@vanarsdall.com.

ABSTRACT

Local foods are increasingly available to consumers through a variety of outlets. A series of case studies describes how local foods reach consumers, and compares local food supply chains with mainstream food supply chains. These studies indicate how the structure and size of local food supply chains is related to key measures of performance, such as local economic impacts and transportation fuel use. Results suggest that local food supply chains currently account for a small percentage of consumer demand, but that local products move through a variety of local and mainstream supply chains. Almost all economic activity in the local supply chains accrues locally, but mainstream food supply chains also make significant contributions to local economies. Product aggregation that reduces per unit costs is an important determinant of transportation fuel efficiency, and can outweigh differences in proximity to consumers. This research points to the importance of available processing capacity for entrepreneurial farms producing animal products, and to the growing importance of third-party certification of agricultural practices for fruit and vegetable producers.

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHY

Robert King, Ph.D., is Professor at University of Minnesota Department of Applied Economics. Rob joined the faculty at the University of Minnesota in 1983. He held the E. Fred Koller Chair in Agricultural Management Information Systems from 1983 to 2004. He was Head of the Department from July 2004 through June 2008. Current areas of research include: local food systems, organic agriculture, supply chain management, organization design, and food safety. He has had recent publications appear in American Journal of Agricultural Economics, European Review of Agricultural Economics, Agribusiness: An International Journal, Agricultural Systems, and Journal of Cooperatives.

Shermain Hardisty, Ph.D., is a Cooperative Extension Specialist and Director of the Small Farm Program, Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics, UC-Davis.

Katherine (Kate) L. Clancy, Ph.D., is a Senior Fellow at the Minnesota Institute for Sustainable Agriculture.