

Healthy Foods and Communities Initiative for the 2007 Farm Bill:

Invitation to Participate

Thomas Forster, *Community Food Security Coalition*

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Ed Cooney, *Congressional Hunger Center*

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By way of this email, we invite you to participate in a Healthy Foods and Communities work group, part of a collaborative agriculture and food policy project funded in part by the W.K. Kellogg Foundation. This broad-based policy collaborative is defined in terms of four initiatives, each with a work group that will develop federal policy options for the 2007 farm bill. In addition to Healthy Foods and Communities, the other initiatives/work groups are New Markets, Family Farm Revitalization, and Farm and Ranch Stewardship.

Thomas Forster from the Community Food Security Coalition

(www.foodsecurity.org) and Ed Cooney from the Congressional Hunger

Center (www.hungercenter.org) have been asked to convene the Healthy

Foods and Communities work group. In the coming months, participants will

select a chair or co-chairs. The initial launch of this work group was held in

Washington DC on July 27. Summary notes

The purpose of the Healthy Foods and Communities initiative is to identify and develop policies that will ensure fair access to healthy and affordable food for all Americans, especially the poor, children, and elderly; that promote new opportunities for farmers to sell their goods to schools, universities, hospitals, corporations, and all public institutions; that protect the land, environment, and other food producing natural resources; and that rebuild and restore regional food and agriculture systems to enhance the economic livelihoods of family farms and rural communities. The working group will research, analyze, develop and prioritize policy options in close

cooperation with the other three working groups.

Your opinions and contributions will guide and focus a “policy blueprint” on Healthy Foods and Communities. This document, along with complementary pieces for the other three initiatives, is scheduled to be completed by March 2006. The efforts leading up to this keystone document will likely include monthly conference calls as well as research, brainstorming, and drafting work on particular topics. The next conference call will be in mid September for as many who are interested and can participate. There will also be panels, workshops and listening sessions related to this and the other three working groups at the Atlanta Community Food Security Coalition Conference.

We hope that you will join us in this effort. Please indicate your level of interest and your availability for first monthly conference call. It would also be helpful to us if you could suggest priority topics or issues you think you be addressed by the Healthy Foods and Communities initiative prior to September 19.

Please respond by email to thomas@foodsecurity.org (Thomas Forster) and indicate:

Level of Interest:

___ **Core Contributor** – be in the work group and participate regularly

___ **“In the Loop”** – receive regular email updates

___ **Recommend someone else** -- name, org,
email: _____

___ **Participate in another work group** – indicate:

___ **Not interested**

___ **Need more information**

Additional Comments _____

Possible Conference Call Dates and Times:

- ___ September 19 Monday, 4 pm EDT
- ___ September 20 Tuesday, 4 pm EDT
- ___ September 21 Wednesday, 4 pm EDT
- ___ September 22 Wednesday, 4 pm EDT
- ___ September 23 Wednesday, 4 pm EDT
- ___ September 24 Wednesday, 4 pm EDT

Possible Topics/Issues for the Healthy Foods and Communities Initiative

- 1) _____
- 2) _____
- 3) _____

Please send responses, comments, or questions to thomas@foodsecurity.org.

Thanks!

Thomas

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