

Mendocino County Health and Human Services Agency

Healthy People, Healthy Communities

Press Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Mendocino County Local Food Summit 2010: Increasing Economic Prosperity and Improving Public Health

What if there were a simple step that local institutions, businesses and communities could take that would strengthen our local economy, preserve and protect agricultural land, add to the tax base, lower instances of disease like obesity and diabetes, and contribute to a stronger sense of community right here in Mendocino County? These outcomes are not only possible, but highly achievable when we make producing and purchasing locally grown food a priority.

The public is invited to the **2010 Mendocino County Local Food Summit: Increasing Economic Prosperity and Improving Public Health**, Wednesday May 19th from 1:00 – 5:00 pm at the Redwood Empire Fairgrounds Fine Arts Building in Ukiah. A networking and hors d'oeuvres reception will follow.

Local food economy expert Ken Meter of the Crossroads Resource Center in Minneapolis, Minnesota, will provide a custom-tailored analysis of the Mendocino County agricultural economy. Meter's presentation provides evidence of the benefits to the county economy and public health that would result from increased investments in local foods, and gives specific examples of projects that have been successful in growing the local food economy in regions across the country.

Food Summit participants will learn the history and current work being done to develop our local food system, connect with others doing the work, and act to strengthen local food production, purchasing, processing and sales.

Please join us May 19th to strengthen our local food economy, improve public health, and create greater community resiliency.

This is a free event. Donations accepted. For more information contact Katherine Fengler at Community Health Services: 472-2646 or fenglerk@co.mendocino.ca.us

The Summit is sponsored by North Coast Opportunities, The California Endowment, Mendocino County Community Health Services, Round Valley Sustainability Project, the Cities of Ukiah, Willits and Fort Bragg, Susan Sher, Geraldine Rose, Ann Moorman, Glass Beach Inn, Redwood Empire Fairgrounds, and Mendocino Organic Network. The reception is sponsored by Parducci Wine Cellars and Ukiah Natural Foods.

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