



Regional Research Teams: Indicators for Impact

Bios

Copper Alvarez [Gulf Coast Region] is Executive Director of the Big River Economic and Agricultural Development Alliance, most commonly referred to as BREADA, is a non-profit organization with headquarters in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. BREADA is the parent organization of the Red Stick Farmers Market and the Main Street Market. She is a member of the Board of Directors for the Farmers Market Coalition.

Susan Clark [North Central Appalachia] is Associate Professor and Director of Civic Agriculture and Food Systems for Virginia Tech's Department of Horticulture within the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences. Her teaching, outreach, and research scholarship relates to civic and sustainable agriculture, food systems, and community development practice specifically focusing on resilient, accessible, affordable, and healthy place-based food systems in Appalachian communities. Clark is the project director for the NIFA funded Appalachian Foodshed Project (AFP) which is a tri-state/multi-institutional project is investigating how to build place-based community food systems that are resilient, accessible, affordable, and healthy for Appalachian communities. The AFP is using a foodshed concept to address issues of community food security in West Virginia and the Appalachian regions of North Carolina and Virginia. Clark aims to facilitate a network of organizations and individuals working in the areas of community development, economic viability, health, nutrition, food access, social justice, and agriculture. By collaborating, she hopes to build on the human and natural resources in the region to cultivate resilient food systems and vibrant, healthy communities.

Amy Crone [Chesapeake Bay Region] is the Executive Director of the Maryland Farmers Market Association. She is a local food and farming advocate working to improve food systems and increase access to healthy farm-fresh food for all. Prior to her current position, Ms. Crone managed the Farmers Market Nutrition Program at the Maryland Department of Agriculture. She holds a master's degree in International Development from American University in addition to a Bachelor's degree in Government and Latin American Relations from Cornell University.

Leanne DeBois [Chesapeake Bay Region] is the Program Manager for the Division of Marketing & Development at the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services. Her experience includes developing and implementing integrated marketing and outreach programs to facilitate the growth of direct marketing opportunities for Virginia agricultural producers. Areas of focus include entrepreneurial development, agritourism, farmers markets, farm stands, pick your own, community supported agriculture (CSA), specialty crop and organic production. Her duties also include managing the Virginia Grown marketing campaign and serving as the state coordinator for the Virginia Farm to School program.

Daniel Doyle [Gulf Coast Region] has a background in both education and agriculture. After years teaching full-time, he left the classroom to co-found and manage one of Mississippi's first CSA farms, Yokna Bottoms, in Oxford, MS. Committed to sustainable, natural and ecologically responsible food production, Yokna Bottoms grew to serve over 100 families in the two years under his management. He later co-founded Mississippi Ecological Design, a permaculture design business, which developed school gardens and natural play-scapes in Lafayette County as well as several soil and water management projects in North Mississippi. During this time, he designed and directed the Mississippi Mobile Farm on Wheels project.

Doyle has done field work for the USDA Soil and Sedimentation Lab, worked as a fellow with the Earthwatch Institute and as a park ranger for the National Park Service. He most recently served as the Executive Director for the Gaining Ground Sustainability Institute of MS and as Editor of their annual journal of sustainable living *The Southern Good Life*.

Doyle does field work as an Environmental Scientist for Cardno ENTRIX, an international environmental consulting company specializing in water resource assessment, environmental liability and natural resource management. He currently works as an English instructor with the Mississippi Virtual Public Schools as well as with the UM Independent Study High School and is the Executive Director of the Mississippi Sustainable Agriculture Network.

Bill Evans [Gulf Coast Region] is Associate Research Professor for the Truck Crops Branch Experiment Station at the University of Mississippi's Central Mississippi Research and Extension Center.

Kathryn (Kiki) Fontenot [Gulf Coast Region] is Assistant Professor and Extension Specialist for the School of Plant, Environmental and Soil Sciences Department at LSU AgCenter. Her areas of specialization include the school vegetable program, coordination and development of activities for the model children's garden, teacher/ agent workshops, writing for the statewide school garden newsletter, and development of school garden publications on growing and maintaining gardens. Fontenot serves as the LSU AgCenter State SARE PDP Leader.

Christie Welch [North Central Appalachia] has been with the OSU South Centers Business Development Network since 2003. In this role she has worked with a variety of small businesses to provide information and education in the 3 main areas of business; money, marketing, and management. Welch currently serves as Farmers' Market Specialist within the business team to

provide business training to farmers' markets and their vendors/producers. In addition, she is a Program Manager with the Ohio Cooperative Development Center at the OSU South Centers where she works to assist with the creation of new cooperatives and strengthen existing cooperatives. Welch has a strong interest in the economic development of rural Ohio and is especially interested in family farms and agribusinesses within this region.

Welch and her husband own and operate a small fruit farm in Ross County and are actively involved in the Chillicothe Farmers' Market Association where she has served on the board for the past eight years. In addition to the farmers' market they also have pick your own and retail sales on the farm.