

**Cumberland County Food Security Council**  
**Full Council Meeting Notes**

Thursday, November 8th, 2018, 9:30-11:30 am

Cumberland County Extension office, 75 Clearwater Drive, Falmouth, ME

**Attendance:** Jim Hanna (Executive Director of the CCFSC), Richard Rudolph (Former Farmer / Acting President of the CCFSC), Colleen Donlan (Local Foods Coordinator of CCFSC), Ruby Nelson (owner of Pine Root Farm), Alison Livingston (community member, home gardener), Don Kauber (gardener, food access work), Judy Gatchell (community member, background in public health nutrition, federal nutrition programs), Bob Deakin (vice chair of MS86 School Board, board member), Dawud Ummah (farmer, works with Somali Bantu, board member), Pamela Hargest (Horticulture Professional of UMCE), Abby Farnham (Maine Farmland Trust), Amy Carrington (Internship Coordinator USM, board member).

**Closing the Hunger Gap with Local Food**

- [Closing the Hunger Gap Report](#)
  - CCFSC will continue to update the data
- Four strategies
  - Farming and gardening access (ex: New American farming, community gardens)
  - Farm to institution (ex: farm to school)
  - Farm to limited resource consumer (ex: SNAP/WIC at Farmers Markets)
  - Farm to charitable food system (ex: gleaning, farm to pantry)

**Farm's Food Access Strategies: Ruby Nelson, Pine Root Farm**

- [Food access strategies for farmers](#)
  - Trying to build food access models into the farm business model (not relying on outside resources and grants)
  - Farmers have extra resources (even if there's not enough of a crew, there's more land)
  - Biggest need: volunteers for distribution and pantry connections
- Strategies and connections for next steps:
  - Connections to schools: field trips, food service, working in the winter with school greenhouses, seedling businesses
  - Statewide grant program - coolbot for smaller pantries
    - Get more farms to be okay with sharing their cooler space
  - Expanding Prescriptions for Produce
    - Pilot in York County
  - Educating other farmers on these strategies
    - Sharing with Listservs
    - Presentation at programs like the [Ag Trade Show](#)
    - Maine Federation of Farmers Markets

## **Anticipated Policy Initiatives in 2019**

- Opportunities for change after elections
- Must remember the local level in addition to DC / Augusta
- Maine Farmland Trust: developed an outreach effort to farmers, including conversation on policy
  - 6 in person sessions with farmers
  - What farmers needs and priorities are
  - Process is from November - January
- Victories in Maine but still no policies who protect those disenfranchised
  - Public policy to constantly deny and neglect African Americans
  - Limited access to land, infrastructure
- Farmers should take responsibility for their impacts - environmental and social
- Can prioritize certain groups of people for land access
- Continue creating access to courses, expertise, institutional programming (ex: Extension's offering)

## **2019 Universities Fighting World Hunger Summit at USM** - March 15th and 16th

- A conference designed to bring college students together to discuss issues of hunger
- Looks more at root causes of hunger and poverty (instead of bandaid solutions)
  - Jim will facilitate the Racial Wealth Gap
- [Call for proposals](#) open - presentation or panels

## **Racial Wealth Gap Learning Simulation Update**

- Working with Food Corps to do another simulation - it will be open to others as well
- Will most likely present the simulation at USM Hunger Summit
- Jim is willing to facilitate for groups who are interested

## **Upcoming Dates:**

- Leadership Team/Board of Directors: December 13th, 2018
- Full Council: January 10th, 2019
- [Universities Fighting World Hunger Conference](#) (Hosted by USM): March 15th & 16th, 2019
  - [Call for proposals](#) is open on USM website