



Presenter Bios: Figuring Out Food Hubs

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James Barham: Jim Barham is an Agricultural Economist for the Marketing Services Division of USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service. Jim obtained a MA in Cultural Anthropology and a PhD in Interdisciplinary Ecology from the University of Florida. Before joining the USDA, Jim worked extensively in the Middle East, Africa and the Caribbean with a number of nonprofit organizations and government agencies on agricultural development projects targeting smallholder producers. Since joining the USDA five years ago, Jim works to improve marketing opportunities for small and mid-size producers through a combination of research, technical assistance, and grant support. Jim has presented research and published a number of articles on regional food hubs, food value chains, food service procurement, and target marketing for farmers markets. He is also currently leading an interagency taskforce on regional food hubs under USDA's "Know Your Farmer, Know Your Food" Initiative.

Margaret Lund: Margaret Lund is an independent consultant specializing in the areas of community development finance and shared ownership strategies. Prior to launching her consulting practice in 2008, Ms. Lund spent 16 years as the Executive Director of a Community Development Financial Institution (CDFI) lending to cooperatives of all sectors with a special emphasis on consumer food cooperatives and other enterprises in the sustainable food system. Ms. Lund is a past member of the board of Opportunity Finance Network and of the National Cooperative Business Association, where she chaired a national task force on cooperative capital formation. For the past nine years she also served on the board of Health Partners, the largest consumer-governed healthcare organization in the United States and a leader in healthcare quality measures. Margaret is a nationally recognized expert in the field of cooperative development finance, and has been featured as a speaker, trainer and panelist for a wide range of organizations including the National Cooperative Business Association, the Consumer Cooperative Managers Association, the Association of Cooperative Educators and was awarded the Howard K. Bowers Cooperative Service award by the Consumer Cooperative Managers Association in 2008. She recently presented a paper on the use of multi-stakeholder cooperatives in the U.S. sustainable food system at a meeting of the International Cooperative Alliance research committee and is currently preparing the paper for publication.