About Our Sponsors

The Food Connection exists to serve farmers, food producers, students, and consumers through creative strategies for a vibrant, healthy, sustainable food economy. On- and off-campus, we support innovative and interdisciplinary instruction, high-impact service, and outreach with cutting-edge research on foods and food systems.

Tracy Farmer Institute for Sustainability and the Environment is a cross-college entity at the University of Kentucky whose goal is to facilitate interdisciplinary efforts of faculty on campus to create transformative, new approaches to various environmental and sustainability issues that relate to today’s grand challenge: providing the food, energy, and water necessary to support an expanding global population in a sustainable manner in the face of a changing climate.

The UK Sustainability Challenge Grant Program was developed through the collaborative effort of the President’s Sustainability Advisory Committee, Tracy Farmer Institute for Sustainability and the Environment, and the Office of Sustainability. The program was designed to engage multidisciplinary teams from the University community in the creation and implementation of ideas that will promote sustainability by simultaneously advancing economic vitality, ecological integrity, and social equity, now and into the future. The 2014 program, which funded this effort, was supported by contributions from the Office of the Vice President for Research, the Executive Vice President for Financial Administration, and the Student Sustainability Council.

Symposium on Food Systems Studies
A special event for scholars, students, and community members

April 7th
Symposium & Reception
E.S. Good Barn
3:30 to 6:30 PM

A public event to share current food scholarship, build collaborations, identify opportunities, stimulate research, and envision an interdisciplinary foods program.

Co-sponsored by the Sustainability Challenge Grant, Food Connection, and Tracy Farmer Institute for Sustainability and the Environment
PROGRAM

The goals of the symposium and workshop are to share our ideas for a campus-wide, multi-stakeholder initiative/program on sustainability and food systems studies; articulate a common vision for the initiative/program at the University of Kentucky; and develop a plan to realize our vision in the next 2-3 years.

3:30 pm  Introductory Remarks by Sarah Lyon
Department of Anthropology, University of Kentucky

3:45 pm  Building a Campus-wide, Multi-stakeholder Initiative/Program on Sustainability and Food Systems Studies: Learning from Our Leaders in the Field

Invited Speakers:
Peggy Barlett, Goodrich C. White Professor, Department of Anthropology; Faculty Liaison to the Office of Sustainability Initiatives, Emory University;
Tom Kelly, Founding Executive Director, Sustainability Institute, University of New Hampshire; and
Jane Kolodinsky, Former Chair, University Food System Initiative Steering Committee; and Chair, Department of Community Development and Applied Economics, University of Vermont.

Q&A – 30 minutes following presentations

Moderator
Keiko Tanaka, Department of Sociology/Community and Leadership Development, University of Kentucky

5:30 pm  Reception, E.S. Good Barn Culton Suite

6:30 pm  Adjourn

INVITED SPEAKERS

Peggy F. Barlett
Goodrich C. White Professor, Department of Anthropology; Faculty Liaison to the Office of Sustainability Initiatives, Emory University

Dr. Barlett focuses her research on sustainability in higher education as a tangible arena in which to understand and enact sustainable development more generally. She has written and edited several books, including "Urban Place: Reconnections with the Natural World".

Tom Kelly
Founding Executive Director, Sustainability Institute, University of New Hampshire

Dr. Tom Kelly is the founding executive director of the UNH Sustainability Institute and the Chief Sustainability Officer. Dr. Kelly collaborates with faculty, staff, students and community members in the development of policies, programs and practices related to the Sustainability Institute’s four educational initiatives: biodiversity, climate, culture, and food.

Jane Kolodinsky
Former Chair, University Food System Initiative Steering Committee and Chair, Department of Community Development and Applied Economics, University of Vermont

Jane is passionate about applied economics - application of the concepts of demand, consumer behavior, and marketing principles to improve wellbeing. As Department Chair, she oversees a breadth of majors, minors, and degree programs including community entrepreneurship, applied design, green building and community design, and community development and applied economics.