Southeast Foodshed Planning Initiative (SEFPI)

a project of University of Minnesota Extension
SE Regional Sustainable Development Partnership—The Experiment in Rural Cooperation

⇒ is informed by over a decade of food systems partnerships and projects in SE MN
⇒ brings the analytical strength of the U of M to our region’s efforts to build a regional food infrastructure
⇒ is a multidisciplinary, multi-year research initiative focused on SE MN

THE GOALS of the SEFPI were formulated by a diverse base of citizens who, via numerous events and meetings, articulated a set of priorities to create some level of regional self-reliance in our food system. Meaningful, broad-based research is one way to start ‘connecting the dots’ of over ten years of small-scale, localized projects that have not, as yet, shifted our overall food environment.

Research Components:

- Methods & approaches to food system change—program review
- Production & processing baseline—data collection
- Survey about current & ideal food systems—communications tool
- Increasing participation in regional foods—ethnic consumer focus groups
- Foodshed analysis—land use & production planning tool
- Consumer expenditure analysis—model development for predicting food consumption
- Spatial analysis & mapping

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