



Committed to the future of rural communities.

Iowa — *Rural Housing Service*

Local & Regional Food Systems

Helping Connect Local Growers to Consumers in Southwest Iowa

Outline Of Need:

There continues to be unmet demand for fresh, healthy local foods in southwest Iowa and southeast Nebraska. Therefore, a sustainable systems needs to be developed to encourage local food production and consumption for communities in those areas. Golden Hill Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) and Western Hills Resources (WHR) will play key roles in connecting growers to consumers.

How Rural Development Helped:

Earlier this year USDA Rural Development provided the Golden Hills RC&D with an \$83,485 Rural Community Development Initiative Grant to expand the work they are doing for regional local food system development in southwest Iowa. This three-year grant will provide funds for Golden Hills RC&D to continue providing a full-time local food coordinator position, as well as provide capacity building services partner organization Western Hills Resources.

The Results:

The local food producers and consumers in the communi-



Golden Hills Resource Conservation and Development (RCD) helps connect producers to customers wanting to purchase locally grown products.

ties of southwest Iowa and southeast Nebraska will be the ultimate beneficiaries of the RCDI funded project.

The overarching intent of the project is to improve WHR's capacity to support local food producers. WHR expects to provide technical assistance to support increased local food production that encourages local economic development, better nutrition for consumers, and better pay for farmers; so the unmet regional demand for fresh, healthy local food can be fulfilled.

Golden Hills RC&D and WHR will be working closely together on this project to increase the amount of support for local food producers and to develop sustainable systems that encourage local food production and consumption for the communities of southwest Iowa and southeast Nebraska.

WHR has begun implementing the project by hiring a project manager with more than 10 years of local food system expertise.

December 2011

Fast Facts

Program: Rural Community Development Initiative

Investment: \$83,485 Grant

Partners: Golden Hills RC&D

Congressional District: IA-5

Demographics

- Southwest Iowa

Impact:

- Enhancing production and distribution of local foods in southwest Iowa