



THE NEWS Guard

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Forging a food partnership *Local project results in declaration signing*

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A sunny afternoon in Connie Hansen Gardens provided a fitting backdrop for the signing of a declaration of cooperation on local food production Wednesday, May 20.

The declaration is the result of a six-month-long local food project, which brought local farmers together with food buyers, including local restaurants and grocery stores.

"This was the perfect project," Lincoln City Mayor Lori Hollingsworth said. "It was short, it was sweet, it was to the point."

The project received state funding to examine how to get more people growing and eating local foods and how to strengthen the Lincoln City Farmers Market, which opened at its new location next to the Lincoln City Community Center on Saturday, May 23.

The declaration sets out what each party is expected to do to achieve these goals.

The City has pledged to promote the farmers' market wherever possible, with Hollingsworth, City Manager David Hawker, Visitor & Convention Bureau Executive Director Sandy Pfaff and Sharon Wiest, executive chef at the culinary center in Lincoln City, all signing up to assist market manager Carol Moore in various ways.

Actions will include publicizing the market, rustling up volunteers and helping find a suitable, long-term home for the event.

Meanwhile, Oregon State University Extension Agent Sam Angima has pledged to continue developing a Web site that aims to put farmers in contact with potential buyers.

The site, [www.lincolngo](http://www.lincolngofoods.org)

[foods.org](http://www.lincolngofoods.org), lists 88 food producers from across the county as well as 16 restaurants, cafés, bakeries and institutions interested in buying local food in bulk.

Dave Schaffer of Barking Dog Farm is tasked with using his farmers' market connections to recruit more food producers for the site, while Rob Pounding of the Blackfish Café has been asked to recruit restaurants interested in buying local ingredients.

As manager of Lincoln City's community garden program, JoDana Bright Taylor will encourage local gardeners to sell any extra produce at the farmers' market or sign up to sell it through the local food Web site.

She will also put gardeners interested in donating extra produce in contact with Lincoln County Food Share, which provides food to people in need.

Food Share Manager Joyce Thompson Graham will look for funding to allow the service to make pre-planting agreements with farmers and guarantee purchase of a certain quantity of produce.

Tilly Miller, manager of the Lincoln City Food Pantry, has agreed to use the local food Web site to find local produce for distribution to needy families, possibly supplemented by leftover goods from farmers' market vendors.

Dave Martin, executive director of the Westwind Stewardship Group, has pledged to increase the amount of local food used at Camp Westwind, the YWCA facility set in 500 acres of wilderness just north of Lincoln City.

Martin has also agreed to consider ways of using the Westwind land to incubate new farmers.

Finally, Mike Forrest of Price 'N Pride agreed to increase the store's purchase of local foods and to act as an ambassador at the farmers' market's first Saturday in its new location.

"I have no problem walking around in a straw hat," he said.

Rosemarie Cordello, the Oregon Solutions project manager who facilitated the group, said one store increasing its local produce will likely result in others doing the same.

"It's a ripple effect, basically," she said.

The group agreed to reconvene in November to review progress toward its goals.

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