

Alamance Food Collaborative Candidates' Forum

Coffee & Discussion

Agenda

Thursday, October 27, 2016

8:30-10:30 a.m.

The Eddy Pub, 1715 Saxapahaw Church Road, Saxapahaw, NC 27340

Objectives

- Learn about important strategies to support agriculture and access to local food in Alamance County
 - Discuss opportunities and challenges relating to Alamance County's food system with local experts
 - Hear perspectives on food related issues from elected officials and candidates for public office
-

8:30 – 9:00 am

Open Networking and Coffee

Meet and greet with elected officials, candidates, and Alamance Food Collaborative members

9:00 – 9:10 am

Welcome and Acknowledgements

Alamance Food Collaborative
Community Food Strategies
Plate of the Union

9:10 – 9:20 am

Introduction of Alamance Food Collaborative's Strategic Plan

Ann Meletzke introduces goals to support a sustainable local food system

9:20 – 10:20 am

Q&A with Elected Officials and Candidates

Moderated by David Blair. Questions will be directed to groups of officials based on the scope of their office. Each respondent will be allowed 90 seconds per question for their response

Questions:

1. (Everyone): After looking through the Strategic Plan, if elected or in your current office, what would you do to support the strategies the Collaborative has identified?
2. (Everyone): Alamance County has the highest number of restaurants per capita of any county in North Carolina, which does not necessarily equate to a large number of healthy options. Healthy food should be available to everyone, especially low-income families who are more likely to suffer the ill-effects of poor nutrition. How would you go about making access to healthy food more equitable and improving nutrition in our community?
3. (School Board): With approximately 27.4% of children living in food insecure households in ABSS schools, schools provide many students with the majority of their nutrition on a given day. This offers the school an important opportunity to promote healthy eating and educate students about agriculture through the use of school gardens. How can we increase

Alamance Food Collaborative Candidates' Forum

the number of vibrant and sustainable school gardens at our schools? How can the Collaborative support the school system in working on these issues?

4. (County Commissioners): City and county comprehensive plans provide a long-term vision for how a community should grow and develop. The county's most recent strategic plan identified agriculture as one of its 5 pillars. Tell us why that was selected and what that will mean for Alamance County.
5. (Everyone): There are many good examples of programs that states and communities are adopting from local purchasing programs to incentives for small businesses to subsidizing organic and food safety certifications. What policies or programs would you like to adopt to support the increase of local food production, processing, and retailing to address the growing consumer demand for local food?
6. (State Senate and Soil & Water Conservation): Across the state we are seeing huge threats to our environment and public health due to the overuse of antibiotics and nitrogen-based fertilizers on farms, leading to nutrient runoff and pollution of our watersheds. What do you think we need to do to protect our water, while also supporting farmers in complying with these new rules?

10:20 – 10:30 am

Closing Remarks

Alamance Food Collaborative