



42nd Meeting of the Cass Clay Food Commission

January 11, 2023 10:30 am – 12:00 pm

Location: Fargo City Commission Chambers

- | | |
|----------|---|
| 10:30 am | 1. Welcome |
| | a. Approve Order & Contents of the Overall Agenda |
| | b. Review & Action on Minutes from September 14 & November 9, 2022
(Attachment 1a & 1b) |
| | c. Welcome to New Food Commission Members: Heather Nesemeier, City of Moorhead; Dave Steichen, City of Dilworth; Jace Hellman, City of Horace (proxy); Tony Grindberg, Cass County; & Paul Krabbenhoft, Clay County |
| 10:35 am | 2. Approve Appointments of At-Large Members – Adam Altenburg (Attachment 2) |
| | a. New Appointment: Carin Engler |
| | b. Reappointment: Jeff York |
| 10:40 am | 3. Cass Clay Food Commission Onboarding & Orientation – Adam Altenburg |
| 10:50 am | 4. At-Large Commissioner Spotlight – Jeffrey Miller |
| 10:55 am | 5. Steering Committee Updates – Michelle Draxten |
| | a. Community of Practice for Regional Food Policy Councils |
| | b. New Cass Clay Food Partners Videos |
| | i. The Impact of Pollinators on our Food System |
| | ii. Eating Fresh and Local on a Budget |
| | iii. Backyard Chicken Keeping |
| 11:10 am | 6. Great Plains Food Bank Pop-Ups Presentation – Zoe Absey |
| 11:20 am | 7. Letter of Support for Multicultural Urban Food & Ecology Initiative – Noelle Harden (Attachment 3) |
| 11:30 am | 8. Commission Priorities & Processes in 2023 – Noelle Harden (Attachment 4) |
| 11:40 am | 9. Kudos & Community Recognition – Michelle Draxten (Attachment 5) |
| 11:45 am | 10. Public Comment Opportunity – Chair Preston (Attachment 6) |
| 11:50 am | 11. Commission & Steering Committee Roundtable: Community Updates & Meeting Reflections – Chair Preston |
| 11:55 am | 12. Future Meetings & Commission Action Steps |
| | a. Next First Fridays – February 3, 2023 |
| | b. Commission Meeting Schedule for 2023 (Attachment 7) |
| | c. Next Commission Meeting – March 8, 2023 |
| 12:00 pm | 13. Adjournment |

Cass Clay Food Commission meetings are taped and rebroadcast on cable channel TV Fargo 56 each Friday at 11:00 am. People with disabilities who plan to attend this meeting and need special accommodations should contact Savanna Leach at Metro COG at 701.532.5100. Please contact us at least 48 hours before the meeting to give our staff adequate time to make arrangements. Meeting minutes are available on the Cass Clay Food Partners website at www.cassclayfoodpartners.org and Metro COG's website at www.fmmetrocog.org.

Attachment 1a

40th Meeting of the Cass Clay Food Commission September 14, 2022 Virtual Meeting

Members Present:

Jim Aasness, Dilworth City Council, Chair
Arlette Preston, Fargo City Commission
Deb White, City of Moorhead
Duane Breitling, Cass County Commission
Mandy George, West Fargo City Commission
Jeremiah Utecht, At-Large Member
Jeff York, At-Large Member
Anna Johnson, At-Large Member
Joan Kopperud, At-Large Member
Jeffrey Miller, At-Large Member

Members Absent:

Jenna Kahly, Clay County Commission

Others Present:

Michelle Draxten, Fargo Cass Public Health
Rory Beil, Clay County Public Health
Rita Ussatis, NDSU Extension
Noelle Harden, U of M Extension
Janice Tweet, Great Plains Food Bank
Erika Franck, Clay County Planning and Zoning
Deb Haugen, Cass Clay Food Partners
Anita Hofsommer, Growing Together Community Gardens
Don Kinzler, NDSU Extension, Cass County
Jill Sokness, NDSU Extension, Cass County
Susie West, U of M Extension, Clay County
Mindy Grant, U of M Extension, Clay County
Hali Durand, Kesselring Vineyards
Don B., Public Citizen
Adam Altenburg, Fargo-Moorhead Metropolitan Council of Governments

Chair Aasness called the meeting to order at 10:30 AM.

1a. Approve Order and Contents of the Overall Agenda

A motion to approve the order and contents of the overall agenda was made by Ms. George and seconded by Mr. Breitling. The motion was voted on and unanimously approved.

1b. Review and Action on Minutes from May 11, 2022

A motion to approve the minutes for May was made by Ms. George and seconded by Mr. Utecht. The motion was voted on and unanimously approved.

2. Commission Introductions

Chair Aasness lead Commission and steering committee members in a brief round of introductions.

3. At-Large Commissioner Spotlight

Ms. Johnson spoke about her work with Lakes and Prairies Community Action Partnership (CAPLP) as nutrition manager for the Head Start Program. She explained her role in preparing children for school and kindergarten by providing health, nutrition, and education services, as well as parent engagement. She stated that she manages food service operations for approximately 160 children at their on-site facility and tracks growth assessments and BMIs of children over two years of age.

4. Hunger Action Month Update

Ms. Tweet informed the Commission that September is Hunger Action Month in North Dakota. She explained that throughout the month, people are encouraged to wear orange to help raise hunger awareness. She also talked about a daily calendar that is published each year which has different ideas on how people in the community can help alleviate hunger. She also noted that the Great Plains Food Bank would be holding a virtual food drive in collaboration with Corwin Automotive and Valley News Live. She concluded with ways people could help with Hunger Action Month including hosting virtual food drives, signing up to volunteer at food bank locations in Fargo or Bismarck, making financial contributions, or signing up to become a Hunger Advocate.

5a. Panel at the Health and Hunger Summit

Ms. Harden explained that the Food Partners had submitted a proposal to have a panel discussion at the Health and Hunger Summit on October 20. She stated that it would be a 45-minute session and that she was hoping to have three former or current Commissioners to be featured. She noted that Ms. Preston had already agreed to serve on the panel. Ms. White stated that she would potentially have interest in being part of the panel discussion.

5b. 2023 Commission Schedule

Ms. Harden brought forward several potential ideas about amending the Commission schedule, including whether to meet quarterly or to keep the number of Commission meetings at five. She also brought forward ideas about potentially adding one or two community listening sessions per year or adding “office hours” in which members of the public could reach out to Steering Committee members to discuss issues or ideas.

Several Commissioners provided general remarks, including positive comments on including community listening sessions and the desire for meetings to be in-person rather than virtual if they were to be quarterly. Ms. Harden stated that the Steering Committee would discuss these proposals further at their next committee meeting.

6. Cass Clay Food Partners Video Project Update

Ms. Draxten informed the Commission about several promotional videos being developed in collaboration with Fargo Cass Public Health and the City of Fargo. She noted that the videos would include an informational video about food systems and the Cass Clay Food Partners, the importance of local foods, pollinators, backyard chickens, and gleaning. She stated that three of the videos had already been filmed, with a fourth video scheduled for later in September.

7. Food Tank Opportunity

Ms. Kopperud provided the Commission information on Food Tank, a 501(c)3 non-profit organization that highlights environmentally, socially, and economically sustainable ways of alleviating hunger, obesity, and poverty. She noted that Concordia College is represented in one of the academic working groups associated with the organization. She highlighted several articles, podcasts, and summits from the organization's website, including an article about food insecurity on college campuses. She also showcased an article on urban gardens and the soft skill training they can provide as well as a food summit that was held at the University of Minnesota in May 2022. She noted that Food Tank also had a free newsletter that people could subscribe to.

8. Growing Together Community Gardens Update

Anita Hofsommer from Growing Together Community Gardens provided an update on its activities over the past several years. She noted that the Covid-19 pandemic likely had an impact on the number of volunteers at each of the garden sites, especially New American volunteers. But she stated that Growing Together was on track to produce over 40,000 pounds of fresh produce in 2022, an increase of over 60 percent from the year prior.

9. Veggies for the Pantry Update

Don Kinzler from NDSU Extension in Cass County provided the Commission information on the Veggies for the Pantry program. He stated that the program allows citizens to donate any garden surplus that they may have at several different drop-off locations, which is then brought to one of the food banks in the area. He noted that master gardener volunteers have donated over 9,000 pounds of produce in 2022 so far, which translates into approximately 36,000 servings for those in need.

10. MN Department of Agriculture Public Input Opportunity

Mr. Altenburg noted that the Minnesota Department of Agriculture was gathering ideas for the state's next biennial budget and had put out a call for input from farmers, food businesses, and others affected by food and agriculture systems. He stated that ideas could be related to food policies, funding, and program suggestions that would benefit individuals and communities throughout the state.

Mr. Altenburg explained that two virtual public input sessions occurred on September 7 and September 8 but that there was still time to submit comments directly to the Department of Agriculture on ideas on how the Minnesota Legislature might appropriate funds for agricultural activities. He provided web links where people could submit comments as well as a link to the Minnesota Department of Agriculture agency website.

11. Kudos and Community Recognition

Ms. Harden highlighted several people and organizations for their work in the community including:

- Area youth that was involved in showing livestock at the Cass and Clay county fairs
- New Minnesota agricultural license plate which supports the Future Farmers of America program and 4-H

12. Public Comment Opportunity

Chair Aasness informed the Commission that time would be allotted for public comments. He noted that members of the community can submit comments via a comment link when Commission packets are emailed out.

Hali Durand with Kesselring Vineyards stated their vineyards have had a bumper crop in 2022 and that they were looking for volunteers to help harvest native wild grapes in the Sheyenne River Valley. She stated that Kesselring Vineyards would provide breakfast bites and lunch at the winery and that volunteers would be compensated based on the pounds of grapes that they picked.

13. Commission and Steering Committee Roundtable: Community Updates and Meeting Reflections

Chair Aasness asked for the Commission and the steering committee to share any additional updates or meeting reflections.

14. Commission Action Steps

Chair Aasness stated that the next Commission meeting would be held on November 9, 2022. He also mentioned that the next First Fridays event would be held at 701 Eateries in Fargo on October 7 at 8:00 AM.

Chair Aasness adjourned the meeting at 11:44 AM.

Attachment 1b

41st Meeting of the Cass Clay Food Commission November 9, 2022 Virtual Meeting

Members Present:

Jim Aasness, Dilworth City Council, Chair
Arlette Preston, Fargo City Commission
Mandy George, West Fargo City Commission
Jeff York, At-Large Member
Anna Johnson, At-Large Member
Joan Kopperud, At-Large Member

Members Absent:

Deb White, City of Moorhead
Duane Breitling, Cass County Commission
Jenna Kahly, Clay County Commission
Jeremiah Utecht, At-Large Member
Jeffrey Miller, At-Large Member

Others Present:

Michelle Draxten, Fargo Cass Public Health
Rory Beil, Clay County Public Health
Noelle Harden, U of M Extension
Janice Tweet, Great Plains Food Bank
Erika Franck, Clay County Planning and Zoning
Deb Haugen, Cass Clay Food Partners
Kayla Cook, Public Citizen
Dean Hulse, Public Citizen
Don B., Public Citizen
Adam Altenburg, Fargo-Moorhead Metropolitan Council of Governments

A quorum was not present at the meeting. Non-actionable items were presented as information to the Commission and no action was taken on any items.

1a. Approve Order and Contents of the Overall Agenda

A motion to approve the order and contents of the overall agenda was made by Ms. George and seconded by Mr. York. The motion was voted on and unanimously approved.

1b. Review and Action on Minutes from September 14, 2022

No action was taken.

2. Commission Introductions

Chair Aasness lead Commission and steering committee members in a brief round of introductions.

3. At-Large Commissioner Spotlight

Mr. York provided the meeting's commissioner spotlight and offered insights during his time as an at-large member of the Commission.

4. Steering Committee Updates

Ms. Draxten provided information to the Commission regarding best practices from other food policy councils as well as an update on the Food Partners video project. She noted that the first of five informational videos had been finalized and was available to preview on the City of Fargo's YouTube channel, highlighting the work of the Cass Clay Food Partners and local food systems.

5. Report from Hunger and Health Summit

Ms. Tweet shared information from the Hunger and Health Summit which occurred on October 20 and was organized by the Cass Clay Hunger Coalition. Of the summit's conference sessions, she highlighted one of the breakout sessions which included a panel discussion regarding the advocacy and policy work of the Cass Clay Food Partners.

6. Review of Mission and Recent Work

Ms. Harden provided the Commission with a brief review of the Commission's mission and recent work. She noted that priorities addressed in 2020 and 2021 included integrating food systems into comprehensive planning efforts in Moorhead and Clay County, continuing the Food Partner's Covid response efforts including by participating in the national food resilience community of practice toolkit and elevating frontline organizations such as FirstLink, and forming stronger connections with the Cass Clay Hunger Coalition.

7. Conversation and Shape of Future Work

Ms. Harden let the Commission and steering committee members in a Jamboard exercise to discuss several different areas including: topics to address in 2023, what Commissioners want to learn from or support, individuals or organizations to reach out to, and future community engagement needs. She noted that results from the conversations would be discussed at the Commission meeting in January 2023.

8. Food Commission Meetings in 2023

Ms. Harden spoke briefly about a discussion at the Commission meeting in September regarding the future meeting schedule. She had asked for opinions on whether to go to quarterly meetings or to keep the current schedule and go to in-person meetings beginning in January 2023. She stated that, based on feedback from Commissioners and discussions with the steering committee, the Commission would continue with bi-monthly meetings.

9. Kudos and Community Recognition

Ms. Draxten highlighted several people and organizations for their work in the community including:

- Growing Together Community Gardens saw fantastic growth at its six community garden sites in 2022, doubling what it produced the year prior. Volunteers at the communal gardens produced and shared a combined total of 50,568 pounds of fresh produce in 2022, compared to 25,139 pounds of produce in 2021.
- West Fargo Eats, a mobile food pantry and the first food share alliance program in the community, celebrated its first anniversary on October 27. West Fargo Eats is a collaboration between Lutheran Church of the Cross, Gate City Bank, YWCA Cass Clay, and Great Plains Food Bank. Food available through the mobile food pantry includes fresh fruits and vegetables, baked goods, dairy, meat, and shelf-stable items. In August, West Fargo Eats shared 12,616 pounds of food with more than 358 families.

- The Emergency Food Pantry celebrated its 50th anniversary in September. The Emergency Food Pantry provides a week's worth of nutritional food every other month, up to six times a year. Food baskets include bread, meat, eggs, dairy, and a variety of non-perishables: cereal, canned soup, canned fruit and vegetables, sugar, pasta, and peanut butter. In 2021, the pantry connected with 4,800 families and provided over 9,300 food baskets.
- In 2022, Veggies for the Pantry donated nearly 19,000 pounds of fresh fruits and vegetables to area food pantries in Fargo and Moorhead.
- The steering committee thanked Chair Jim Aasness and Commissioner Jeremiah Utecht for their time, commitment, and service to the Commission. Chair Aasness has served on the Commission since its inception in March 2015. Commissioner Utecht has served as an at-large member since January 2019.

10. Public Comment Opportunity

Chair Aasness informed the Commission that time would be allotted for public comments. He noted that members of the community can submit comments via a comment link when Commission packets are emailed out.

Dean Hulse, a retired educator with the NDSU College of Agriculture, Food Systems, and Natural Resources, asked the Commission whether there would be any possibility to explore an urban gleaning program. He offered several suggestions on how such a program might work to glean produce from fruit-bearing trees in the Fargo-Moorhead area. The Commission and steering committee informed him that they would look to see if there were examples in other regions in the United States.

11. Commission and Steering Committee Roundtable: Community Updates and Meeting Reflections

Chair Aasness asked for the Commission and the steering committee to share any additional updates or meeting reflections.

12. Commission Action Steps

Chair Aasness stated that the next Commission meeting would be held on January 11, 2023. He also mentioned that the next First Fridays event would be held at 701 Eateries in Fargo on December 2 at 8:00 AM.

Chair Aasness adjourned the meeting at 11:54 AM.



To: Cass Clay Food Commission
From: Adam Altenburg, Metro COG
Date: January 3, 2023
Re: *Approve Appointments of At-Large Commission Members*


In addition to members from each of the seven jurisdictions in the Fargo-Moorhead metropolitan area, there is provision for an additional five at-large members to serve on the Food Commission. It is the intent that at-large members bring additional and varied expertise to the Commission. At-large members are initially vetted by the Steering Committee before being brought to a vote by current Commission members. Each at-large member serves a two-year term.

With Jeremiah Utecht having concluded his term at the end of 2022, the Steering Committee sought applicants for one new at-large member in late November and early December. With the completion of this process, the Steering Committee recommends the appointment of Carin Engler as a new at-large member of the Food Commission.

The Steering Committee also recommends the reappointment of Jeff York to an additional two-year term on the Commission.

Requested Action:

Approve the appointment of Carin Engler, and reappointment of Jeff York to the Food Commission

APPLICATION FOR CASS CLAY FOOD COMMISSION		
APPLICANT INFORMATION		
Name: Carin Engler		
Phone: 701-200-9845		
Email: Carin.Engler@ndsu.edu		
Preferred mailing address: 2814 Second St N		
City: Fargo	State: ND	ZIP Code: 58102
EMPLOYMENT INFORMATION		
Current employer: NDSU		
Employer address: 1340 Administration Ave		
Phone: 701-231-7701	E-mail: carin.engler@ndsu.edu	Fax:
City: Fargo	State: ND	Zip: 58102
Position: Assistant in Student Affairs & Enrollment Management		
WHAT SKILLS, TRAINING, OR EXPERIENCE DO YOU HAVE RELATED TO THE WORK OF THE COMMISSION?		
<p>I have worked for NDSU since 2009 (Admission, Residence Life, and now in the office of the Vice Provost for Student Affairs and Dean of Students area). I also serve as co-chair of the NDSU Food Insecurity Task Force and started a food pantry on campus (Goods for the Herd).</p>		
REASON FOR YOUR INTEREST TO SERVE ON THIS COMMISSION:		
<p>Our task force partners with Great Plains and others in the community. I'd like to get to know more community members and initiatives that are working on food insecurity.</p>		
PLEASE PROVIDE A BRIEF BIO (200 WORDS OR LESS): NOTE: THIS MAY BE USED FOR PUBLICATION TO DESCRIBE THE COMMISSION.		
<p>Carin Engler has been an NDSU employee since 2009. She has served on NDSU Staff Senate since 2012. Carin created an ad-hoc Staff Senate committee to look at food insecurity on campus. The Food Insecurity Task Force was created in 2020 partnering with the NDSU Foundation and Great Plains Food Bank to start the Goods for the Herd food pantry on campus and a Little Free Pantry. Carin is married and has twins that will soon graduate from NDSU. She enjoys spending time with family, reading, walking her dog, and is often on the bike trails in the F/M area.</p>		
Signature: 	Date: 12/14/2022	
<p>Please return this form to Michelle Draxten – MDraxten@FargoND.gov</p> <p>Or mail to:</p> <p>Fargo Cass Public Health Attn: Michelle Draxten 1240 25th Street South Fargo, ND 58103-2367</p>		



To: Cass Clay Food Commission
From: Noelle Harden, University of Minnesota Extension
Date: January 6, 2023
Re: *Letter of Support for Multicultural Urban Food and Ecology Initiative*

The Agricultural Growth, Research, and Innovation (AGRI) Urban Agriculture Grant Program is designed to promote urban youth agricultural education and urban agriculture community development within the city limits of urban or peri-urban areas in Minnesota. It funds projects that help non-profit organizations, for-profit businesses, schools, Native American Tribal communities, and local government entities obtain the materials and services necessary to successfully promote urban youth agricultural education and urban agriculture community development.

In early January 2023, the Steering Committee was asked to develop a letter of support for the Multicultural Urban Food and Ecology Initiative by the Prairie Rose Agricultural Institute for Research, Innovation, and Education (PRAIRIE). PRAIRIE is a non-profit that demonstrates regenerative and organic agricultural practices with hands-on education in Clay County. The initiative brought forth by PRAIRIE would work to provide increased access to fresh food in the area, promote efforts that better enable young people and members of the BIPOC community entry into farming, develop demonstration gardens and test sites that utilize season extenders and other best practices, and create pathways for food and ecology careers in the community.

The Steering Committee believes that the Multicultural Urban Food and Ecology Initiative would support the Commission's mission and core values by increasing access to healthy food and urban agriculture opportunities, as well as fostering synergies across the food system and educational sectors in the community.

The Steering Committee has developed a letter of support for the Commission's review and approval.

Requested Action:

Sign the letter of support for the Multicultural Urban Food and Ecology Initiative as part of its application for the Minnesota AGRI Urban Grant Program.



January 5, 2023

Emily Mehr
AGRI Urban Agriculture Grant Program Advisory Board
625 Robert Street N
Saint Paul, MN 55155

RE: Multicultural Urban Food and Ecology Initiative

The Cass Clay Food Commission serves as the food policy council for Clay County, Minnesota and Cass County, North Dakota. This Commission includes elected officials from seven area jurisdictions as well as five at-large members with expertise or strong background knowledge in food systems. The Commission is administered in part by the Fargo-Moorhead Metropolitan Council of Governments, a metropolitan planning organization which promotes intergovernmental cooperation amongst its members on important regional issues, and engages in planning efforts on a multijurisdictional basis.

The mission of the Cass Clay Food Commission is to advise policy makers, elected officials, and city and county staff on efforts that ensure that all community members have access to safe, nutritious, affordable, and culturally-based food. Supporting the Commission's mission are five value statements which include our belief in:

- An inclusive, integrated, and equitable food system;
- A food system that is economically and ecologically resilient;
- A food system where all cultures are respected;
- A food system that supports and enhances quality of life for all citizens; and
- A food system that fosters successful entrepreneurship and sustainable innovation.

In January 2023, our Commission and steering committee was presented information on the Multicultural Urban Food and Ecology Initiative by the Prairie Rose Agricultural Institute for Research, Innovation, and Education (PRAIRIE). PRAIRIE is a non-profit which demonstrates regenerative and organic agricultural practices with hands-on education in Clay County. The initiative brought forth by PRAIRIE would work to provide increased access to fresh food in the area, promote efforts that better enable young people and members of our BIPOC community entry into farming, develop demonstration gardens and test sites that utilize season extenders and other best practices, and create pathways for food and ecology careers in our community.

We on the Cass Clay Food Commission believe this initiative supports not only our mission, but would advance each of our core values by increasing access to healthy food and urban agriculture opportunities, as well as fostering synergies across the food system and educational sectors in our community.

The Cass Clay Food Commission asks that the AGRI Urban Agriculture Grant Program Advisory Board consider funding for the proposed Multicultural Urban Food and Ecology Initiative and its efforts to promote urban youth agricultural education and urban agriculture community development. Our Commission also promises to use its network and connections with the local food community to support this initiative and provide opportunities for our youth and communities.

Sincerely,

Arlette Preston, Chair
Cass Clay Food Commission

Noelle Harden
Cass Clay Food Partners Steering Committee



To: Cass Clay Food Commission
From: Noelle Harden, University of Minnesota Extension
Date: January 4, 2023
Re: *Commission Priorities and Processes in 2023*

During the Cass Clay Food Commission meeting on November 9, 2022, attendees discussed what our work should focus on in the next year. Jamboard notes from the conversation can be viewed [here](#).

The Steering Committee met on November 28 and December 19 to review and further prioritize ideas to focus our work. The Steering Committee would like to propose the following as our top three priorities for food commission topics to address in 2023:

- Addressing food needs and opportunities with New American community members
- Taking action to change the food system by understanding social determinants of health
- Examining strategies for community food system development in underserved neighborhoods, in alignment with the FM Wellness Coalition

In addition to these priorities, we also recommend the implementation of new group processes to strengthen our work and connection with the broader community:

- Host "Coffee with the Food Commission" in each of the five municipalities in 2023
- Invite commissioners to attend one of our monthly steering committee meetings, held the fourth Monday of each month, 1:00 to 2:30 PM, at Fargo Cass Public Health
- Host one or more additional community events using the stipend from the regional food policy council community of practice.

Requested Action:

Approve the Steering Committee's recommendations for priorities and group processes in 2023.



To: Cass Clay Food Commission
From: Michelle Draxten, Fargo Cass Public Health
Date: December 22, 2022
Re: *Kudos and Community Recognition*

Since May 2022, the Cass Clay Food Commission has highlighted individuals and organizations for their work in the Fargo-Moorhead metropolitan area and the broader community. This includes awards and recognitions as well as state and local initiatives that support food systems and the values of the Commission.

In January 2023, the Steering Committee would like to recognize the following:

1. Moorhead Human Rights Award

Rick Hall and Verna Kragnes were the recipients of the 2022 Human Rights Award in the Education and Non-Profit category. The award recognizes significant contributions to human rights in our community and was presented by the Moorhead Human Rights Commission at the Moorhead City Council Meeting on Monday, December 12, 2022. The award for the Human Rights Award was created by local artist Brad Bachmeier.

Rick and Verna started the New Roots organization to help new farmers become successful and independent. Rick and Verna have made sure these farmers have land, access to water, and the tools needed to bring the crops to market. Through years of making connections between individuals and organizations, Rick and Verna have made Moorhead a stronger community.

2. 10-Year Anniversary of Gowri Pillai: "Food Drive Girl"

Gowri Pillai hosted her first food drive 10 years ago at the age of four as a result of seeing a woman sitting outside in the cold. That year, the food collection was less than 200 pounds. Every year since the goal has expanded, and last year she was just shy of 2,000 pounds of food collected for the Great Plains Food Bank. In addition to food, Gowri also collects financial donations. In total, Gowri has collected 5,227 pounds of food and \$4,387 over the last 10 years. Gowri was named one of the 2021 Hunger Relief Champions of North Dakota and plans to continue her efforts every year around her birthday, December 23.

<https://www.grandforksherald.com/news/north-dakota/north-dakota-food-drive-girl-marks-10th-year-of-fighting-hunger-for-her-birthday>

Requested Action:
None.



CASS CLAY
FOOD
PARTNERS

To: Cass Clay Food Commission
From: Arlette Preston, Chair
Date: January 3, 2023
Re: *Public Comment Opportunity*

The public comment opportunity is an open forum for the public to provide comments about specific items on this meeting's agenda, as well as any other issues that may pertain to food systems policies or programs. Members of the public may also submit comments online through the comment form link sent out with the meeting's agenda and packet.

Comments to the Cass Clay Food Commission will be limited to one minute per individual or at the discretion of the Commission Chair.

Requested Action:
None



CASS CLAY
FOOD
PARTNERS

To: Cass Clay Food Commission
From: Arlette Preston, Chair
Date: January 3, 2023
Re: *Commission Meeting Schedule for 2023*

The following is the bi-monthly meeting schedule for the Cass Clay Food Commission in 2023. Meetings occur on the second Wednesday from 10:30 AM to 12:00 PM in the Fargo City Commission Chambers.

- **January 11**
- **March 8**
- **May 10**
- ***Summer Break***
- **September 13**
- **November 8**

Requested Action:
None