

Extending Knowledge - Changing Lives

The Power of Food for Local Communities

ISSUE

The Importance of Making Food and Agriculture Systems more Robust and Resilient through Diversity and Inclusion, Delaware Urban Farm and Food Coalition, Urban Agriculture Session, Delaware Agriculture Week 2018 Issue: There is a continued need to provide agriculture education to urban communities to improve accessibility to local foods and assist communities who desire to grow and market their own food.

RESPONSE

The Delaware Urban Farm and Food Coalition (DEUFFC) led by the Delaware Center for Horticulture (DCH), University of Delaware Cooperative Extension (UDCE) and New Castle Conservation District (NCCD) organized the urban agriculture session. After networking and refreshments prepared by the Delaware Local Food Exchange, Karen Washington, Farmer/Owner of Rise and Root Farm, provided inspiration and professional development. The session reached 65 farmers, gardeners, educators, health professionals and representatives from government, business and/or non-profits.

IMPACT

Of the 27 participants who completed the program survey, an overwhelming majority were residents of New Castle County, Delaware, with a few from neighboring, Pennsylvania, and almost half attending Delaware Agriculture Week for the first time. A summary of the surveys revealed participants most appreciated the speaker, networking and good food, gathering information, connecting with community resources, and better understanding local urban agriculture projects and how to get involved. New things learned included:

- The importance of collaborating at the local level and between existing organizations
- The support available to Wilmington farmers and how to connect with these resources
- How a farm can work to bridge the gap between low income people and high quality food choices
- The breadth of programs and initiatives in urban agriculture
- The importance of creating intersectional and collaborative movements in order to empower marginalized communities to take ownership of food systems in their communities

Thank you to the Sustainable Coastal Communities Initiative who provided funding for this session.