



## **ISU Will Buy Homegrown Foods John Murray**

April 24, 2007

AMES-- Iowa State University Dining Services announced today it is partnering with Iowa Farmers Union and others to increase the amount of Iowa-grown, sustainably raised products served to students and other clients on ISU's campus.

ISU's Food-to-Institution Coordinator Regina Lloyd said "ISU is providing a unique opportunity to farmers to profitably market their products and increase their revenues."

More than 50 farmers attended a meeting held at the Storm-Knapp Center in Ames on April 11, to network with ISU Dining Services staff and talk with Dining Services Director Nancy Levandowski and others such as John Tews with RVI Insurance, Bob Olson with Food Alliance, and Sue DeBlieck, ISU's food-to-institution coordinator.

Levandowski and her staff feel that purchasing food from sustainable and/or organic producers helps ISU to encourage better stewardship of land, air and water resources. Local food systems also help with economic development.

ISU has set a goal of purchasing 35 percent of its food from organic, sustainable and local producers over the next five years. The collaboration with off-campus organizations such as the Iowa Farmers Union will strengthen ties between the community and ISU in an effort to provide a healthy regional environment.

Questions about ISU's program or the food-to-institution project may be directed to Gina Lloyd at 800-775-5227 or 641-757-2116.