

# Value Chain

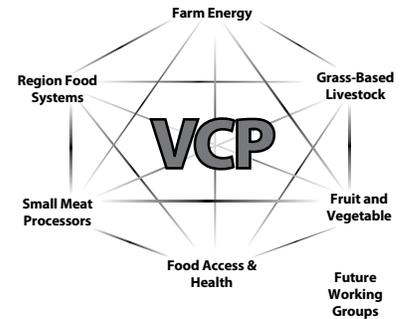


## Partnerships

*An Iowa-Based Network for Food and Agriculture Working Groups*

Value Chain Partnerships is an Iowa-based network of food and agriculture working groups. These groups bring together a diverse ensemble of producers, processors, and private, non-profit, and government organizations across a variety of market-driven food and agriculture issues to deliver social, economic, environmental and health benefits to clients and communities.

The working groups in Value Chain Partnerships provide four core functions: acting as information hubs, catalysts for cooperation, magnets for funding, and scouts for new opportunities (see below diagram).



### **Value Chain Partnerships Core Functions**

Information Hubs	Catalysts for Cooperation	Magnets	Scouts
Provide an information clearinghouse	Create solutions collaboratively	Attract funding	Identify food and agriculture challenges
Benefits include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Access to larger portfolio of knowledge and expertise</li> <li>• Greater awareness of available programs/expertise</li> <li>• Research opportunities available</li> </ul>	Benefits include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Operate more effectively</li> <li>• Coordinated use of resources</li> <li>• Deconstruction of organizational boundaries</li> <li>• Access to a support network</li> </ul>	Benefits include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ability to leverage resources within the private and public sectors</li> <li>• Increased probability of funding because network is established</li> </ul>	Benefits include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Better grasp of emerging challenges</li> <li>• Improved decision making to modify strategies</li> <li>• Ability to bring in new partners and champions</li> </ul>

In addition, the Value Chain Partnerships leadership team relies on its broad experience with a wide range of food and agriculture working groups to educate others who are interested in utilizing this model.

#### **Pork Niche Market Working Group (PNMWG): initiated 2001**

This working group is comprised of niche pork companies and supporting groups. The group works to create and maintain more competitive and viable operations for smaller-scale players in the pork sector.

#### **Regional Food Systems Working Group (RFSWG): initiated 2003**

This working group is comprised of practitioners and community leaders organized by geographic location. The group works to increase the investment in and support for local and regional food businesses in Iowa.

#### **Fruit and Vegetable Working Group (FVWG): initiated 2007**

This working group is comprised of fruit and vegetable growers and buyers and their assistance providers. The group works to build the production, handling, and marketing capacity of Iowa's fruit and vegetable industries.

#### **Grass-Based Livestock Working Group (GBLWG): initiated 2008 – a Leopold Center cross-initiative group**

This working group is comprised of people from grass-based farm and food businesses and the outreach professionals who support them. The group works to promote viable grass-based livestock production, diverse market opportunities, and environmental services in Iowa.

#### **Food Access and Health Working Group (FAHWG): initiated 2010**

This working group is a statewide network of food and nutrition assistance program providers focused on establishing a regionally-based food system that ameliorates hunger and improves the health of Iowans by increasing access to fresh and nutritious food.

#### **Farm Energy Working Group (FEWG): initiated 2011**

This working group is a statewide working group that supports research, education and the implementation of a variety of energy conservation, efficiency and renewable energy practices to meet the needs of Iowa's small and mid-sized farms. Relying on inherent internal renewable resources of the farm is a core principle of sustainable agriculture.