Community Action Program of East Central Oregon (ARRA)

Community Profile

Population 87,700
Location Pendleton

Position Description

Sponsor Community Action Program of East Central Oregon
Supervisor Karen Wagner, Community Resource Developer

Assignment Through a grant from the American Recovery & Reinvestment Act, the Oregon Food Bank is sponsoring five food systems projects led by RARE participants in five counties throughout the state. While each community has identified different needs, all five food systems planning positions include the following: a two-part community foods assessment, coordination and facilitation of a community food system event, and the participant will act as a liaison between the Regional Food Bank and the local community promoting “seed to table” style discussions.

The RARE participant is immersed in all aspects of a local and regional food system development, from conceptual and developmental to practical on-the-ground research and project implementation. Specifically, the participant is performing a regional community food inventory which includes conducting community outreach, applied research, analysis, and report development. The participant is also expanding and developing direct ties to existing low-income food focused activities and outreach.

RARE Participant

Katie Weaver is beginning her second year with the RARE program. Katie grew up in Missoula, Montana and graduated from Western Montana College with a BS in Elementary Education. Recently, she earned a Master’s degree in Geography from the University of Idaho focusing on economic development in post-industrial communities. Katie’s previous experience includes working as a middle school teacher, a graduate researcher, and a community supported agriculture (CSA) farm administrator. She also ran an independent backcountry kitchen.