

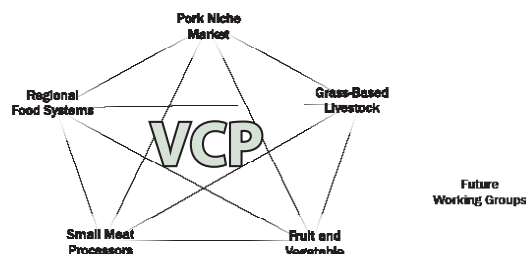
# Value Chain



## Partnerships

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

Value Chain Partnerships is an Iowa-based network for food and agriculture working groups that brings together producers, businesses, and state and federal organizations. We work to deliver social, environmental, and economic benefits to our clients and communities. Our community of working groups does this via four core functions: acting as information hubs, catalysts for cooperation, magnets, and scouts. VCP's core functions set it apart from other food and agricultural networks.



VCP's community of working groups drives its collaborative process.

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

<b>Information Hubs</b>	<b>Catalysts for Cooperation</b>	<b>Magnets</b>	<b>Scouts</b>
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>
Benefits provided to farmers, other businesses, and state and federal organizations within a collaborative multi-organizational environment			
<i>Pork Niche Market + Regional Food Systems + Small Meat Processors + Fruit &amp; Vegetable + Grass-Based Livestock</i>			

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

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

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

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

#### **Small Meat Processors Working Group (initiated 2006)**

This working group is comprised of small meat processors, state agencies, and producer groups. Its aim is to improve the vitality of small-scale meat processing plants in Iowa.

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

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

#### **Grass-Based Livestock Working Group (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. Its aim is to promote viable grass-based livestock production, diverse market opportunities, and environmental services in Iowa.