

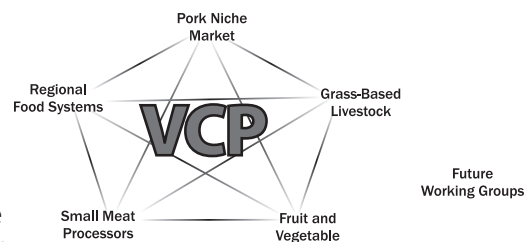
# Value Chain Partnerships



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, and environmental 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). 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.



## 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> |

### 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.

### Small Meat Processors Working Group (SMPWG): initiated 2006

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