

The True Citizen

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FARM TO SCHOOL

Producers learn about selling harvests to schools

From Staff Reports



The workshop gave farmers information about selling produce to the local school system. Twenty farmers may be growing new niches for their fresh fruits and vegetables.

They recently attended a PROCUREMENT TRAINING to learn more about providing produce to feed students in the Burke County Public School System. The Georgia Clients Council (GCC) helped coordinate the training through a USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT GRANT.

According to organizers, interested farmers came from Screven, Treutlen, Richmond and Lowndes counties in addition to Burke.

School district Wellness Dietitian Brianna Dumas taught them more about the Farm to School program process and the steps of bidding, purchasing new foods, contracts, insurance, delivery and packaging.

For some time, School Nutrition Director Donna Martin has been meeting with officials at GCC and Boggs Rural Life Center (BRLC) Inc. to develop a plan to reach out to local farmers and purchase organic and non-organic produce.

The two latter organizations are in the process of building an “agri-business hub” which would provide potential producers with workshops, networking, training and local venues to sell their harvests.

“Our goal is to have Boggs as a one stop learning and resource base,” director Jackie Bosby said, noting the availability of acreage around the large center. “The agri-business is easy because of the land and the potential of revamping the buildings to be anything anyone needs them it to be.”

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