



Dexter Regional Development Corporation

Dexter Community Farmers Project

www.DexterFarmProject.com

Dexter Community Farmers Project
October 2009

Dear Agricultural and Goods Producers:

The Dexter Regional Development Corporation (DRDC), in coordination with the Town of Dexter, is in the process of developing a year round general store (to be known as the Fossa General Store), located at 4 Main Street, to sell locally grown, locally produced foods and other goods. We are in hopes to also have a small certified kitchen on premise for a variety of uses.

The group recently received a CDBG grant to renovate the Fossa Building which is currently vacant and owned by DRDC. DRDC is a 5013C non-profit organization. Once renovated, the building will be ready to open by August of 2010 in hopes to sell Central Maine foods grown & produced within a 25 ± mile radius of the Dexter area.

In the mean time, we are seeking your input, the local farmers and goods producers in how to develop a consumer friendly general store and also to generate a list of farmers interested in selling their goods and find out what goods are available. We envision that most of our Maine store stock will come from the 25 +/- mile radius.

Currently we are forming a Farmers Advisor Board which will include farmers, DRDC representatives, and a cross section of expertise in the various sectors related to this initiative from the Penobscot, Piscataquis & Somerset communities. We expect this Board will oversee the quality of the products, the addition of new products, make suggestions on the general business operations and such. We will be employing staff needed to run & manage the store, inventory and other operations.

DRDC is seeking a USDA Value Added Producers Grant to help cover the operating costs for the first year or two and this is only one of many grants we are looking into and applying for.

The year round General Store is just Phase I of the larger project we envision that will include an online ordering system with possible delivery, the development of a local creamery, warehousing for storage, a café, and developing a large scale shared greenhouse. The possibilities are endless!

The survey that we are providing will help develop a working relationship between the providers, the sellers and the consumers. We hope that you take the time to fill it out. Please note that you can remain anonymous, but we would like your name for our records if you are comfortable with that.

We would like to invite you to the 1st Farmer/Producer meeting on Tuesday, November 17th at 7 pm to have an “farmers input” session.

Our regular monthly meetings, which you are always invited to, are the 1st Tuesday of every month. The next Farm Project meeting will be on Tuesday, November 3rd. The informal meetings are held at the Dexter Town Council Chambers on Main Street in Dexter.

For more information, please contact Project Coordinator Judy Wilbur Craig at 924.3067 or email at judy@DexterFarmProject.com.