



2013 THRIVE PHASE II ROUNDTABLES

SUMMARY OF AGRICULTURE COMMENTS

KEY MESSAGES

- ❖ *Clearer articulation of authorities and policies about agriculture are needed in Thrive.*
- ❖ *Agriculture is a productive industry with specific needs, not a holding strategy for future urbanization.*
- ❖ *Large-scale and small-scale agriculture are distinct sub-industries.*

Ideas & Themes

- *Look at more ways to encourage farmland preservation.*
- *Local food production and distribution can be an economic, health and resiliency strategies.*
- *Seek a balance between local control and regional action to protect and nurture agriculture.*
- *Need for better analysis of uses that compete with agriculture for land - positives and negatives.*

Quotes & Observations

- *"Farm land should be protected the same as natural resources – once it is gone, it is gone!"*
- *"Keep development within existing MUSA boundaries FIRST. Preserve existing rural land as a natural resource that contributes to a healthy local food supply.."*
- *"A vibrant local food system is food security...we, as people, cannot live without food. We can live without parks, roads, etc.."*
- *"Met Council should help locals decide which way to go—ag preserve or pro city/development."*

Unique /Innovative Approaches Suggested

- *Create a farm advisory committee in the Met Council—just like transportation advisory committee, etc.*
- *Local food systems support the economy and quality-of-life in both rural agricultural areas and urban centers through co-ops, farmers markets, CSAs, and other .*
- *Add "food systems" as a Met Council authority similar to transportation or parks.*
- *"Basic health care: food! Locally grown in season."*
- *Local food production to feed the metro area. Plan for this as part of planning for growth.*