



## WI LFPA Social Gathering Overview and Testimonials

Nineteen WI LFPA participants gathered for dinner at the Organic Farming Conference on the evening of February 22nd, 2024. This gathering was part of the WI LFPA Wholesale Readiness training at Marbleseed's Organic University, it included WI LFPA producers from across the state as well as program staff, and representatives from participating hunger relief organizations. After dinner, participants broke into small groups for lively discussions ranging from the ins and outs of organic beef farming, to hunger relief efforts in Illinois and Wisconsin.

This gathering kicked off the 2024 WI LFPA season's network development activities where program participants from across the state are given the opportunity to meet face to face to share expertise and resources. These activities are an important component of the WI LFPA as they aid in building the critical social networks required to have a strong local food system. As part of the evening's activities, participants were also asked to share their reasons for participating in the program. See their answers below:

Why are you participating in the WI LFPA Program?

- Offering fresh, local food to people in need that normally would have a challenge to receive it. It really brings joy to me and my farm. –Matt, MY Farm
- Because we source from local, environmentally sustainable farms and because a healthy local economy relies on the local small farms. –Yolibeth, REAP Food Group
- We like working with the WI LFPA because it connects us with a wider community base to help. –Greg and Mary, Foxtail Produce LLC
- To provide high quality food to tribal elders and our community. –Isaiah, Skenandor Farm LLC
- To locate more outlets and markets for our pork. –Jodi, White Bison Farm
- To provide fresh produce to our local community. –Ying and Xiong, GreenGold Gardens
- It's a great way to reach our mission to serve at-risk communities. –Dale, Grassfed Beef Farm LLC
- I want to get high quality beef to people who can't afford it. –Mike, Anathoth Community Farm
- The LFPA is providing a service to people in need of fresh, nutrient dense food. I spend most of my time growing nutrient dense food so they are the bridge between both worlds. I really appreciate having an income stream that is secure because of the WI LFPA. –Terry, Parisi Farm Produce

