

## Measuring Social Sustainability – List Brainstormed at 2013 EPIC Workshop

### Farm Succession

- What other outcomes (besides my family) would be acceptable?
- Does my son/daughter have any interest in farming?
- Will son/daughter be able to succeed after cost of transfer, etc.?
- Do I feel confident (comfortable) about the future of my farm?
- What is my child's aptitude for running a farm successfully?
- Can my child (or young farmer/s from outside the family) access training and other professional development to help ensure their success?
- Is it affordable to keep this farm running?
- Is there a viable land link-type resource to help with transfer?
- Do you think your farm will be in operation 50 years from now?
- Do you plan to retire?
- Do you have a will?

### Quality of Life

- I spend [how much] of my time doing things I truly enjoy? Is there time in my life to do things I truly enjoy?
- Number of community groups I am a member of.
- Are we affecting the change we want?
- Trust – who do you call for help.
- Number of hours spent volunteering.
- Participation in or reluctance to take advantage of health /safety programs.
- Do I take the time to recharge (vacation / sleep / family time / alone time)?
- I feel happy farming.
- Stressful work environment.
- Am burnt out from volunteering?

### Equity

- I know where to find resources needed to grow my business.
- Can I reach the families who don't appear to need help?
- Do I feel comfortable asking for help from x, y, and z?
- Are local / state / federal resources available to me, as they are to my neighbors?
- Is there a system in place that allow me to get prompt, accurate answers to technical questions?
- Do I feel communication systems are in place so that I am included?
- Is anyone really listening to me?
- Do I have access to assistance with developing viable, new ideas?
- Scholarships for technical assistance / conferences?

## **Entrepreneurship**

- How much time do I spend thinking about new ideas?
- Can I afford to support my family?
- Do I have a realistic understanding of a) what I want to do, b) what is needed, c) how to know I am succeeding.
- [Management is different—do we a different category?] DMH says: It may lie outside / with profitability area...
- Do I have access to the capital I need to move my farm forward?
- Am I creating a positive workplace (where people want to be)?
- Do I want to be in debt for a period of start-up?
- Do I have an appetite for risk and uncertainty?
- Do I really know what people want/need will pay for at what price?
- Do you have access to innovative ideas from your peers through an established or informed network?

## **Social Integration**

- Do you feel able to use/ more welcome at the farmers' market / coop?
- Trust building (people to call on for help).
- Do you have common goals / values / interests with farmers? Food activists?
- Farm trucks on rural roads and neighbors.
- Does my town support my farming activities with flexible or farm-friendly zoning, etc.?
- Giving back to my community/
- Do people / neighbors call me a "hippy" or "hillbilly"?
- Are you supported in your farm business by an established network of peers that share information and/or other resources such as equipment, supplies, labor, etc.?
- Can local kids connect meaningfully with local food system?
- Networking at workshops; farmer-to-farmer.