

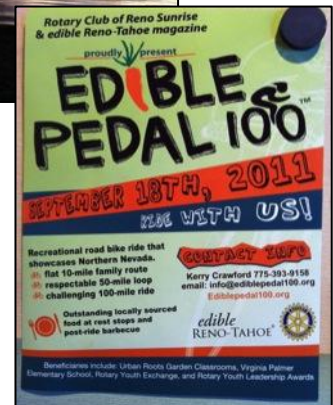


# Alpine Urban Agriculture

Panel Discussion  
Presented Thursday, May 24<sup>th</sup> 2012  
at the  
Tahoe Science Conference

# Overview

- Panelist Introductions
- What is Alpine Urban Agriculture (AUA)?
- Framing the discussion
  - Pressures for urban agriculture
  - Pressures against urban agriculture
  - Special considerations for AUA in an Alpine Environment (like the Lake Tahoe Basin)
- Panelist presentations
  - Graham Johnson - Aquaponics
  - Barbara Scott – Food safety and nutrition
  - Gary Weigel – Regulatory environment
- Questions and Discussion
- Tour of an Aquaponics system by Graham Johnson



# Alpine Urban Agriculture

- Alpine Urban Agriculture is Urban Agriculture in an alpine environment
- Urban agriculture is the practice of cultivating, processing and distributing food in, or around, a village, town or city.
- Urban agriculture contributes to food security and food safety in two ways:
  - It increases the amount of food available to people living in cities, and,
  - It allows fresh vegetables and fruits and meat products to be made available to urban consumers.
- Because urban agriculture promotes energy-saving local food production, it is generally seen as sustainable.



(definition adapted from Wikipedia)



# Pressures for Urban Agriculture

- Locavore Movement
  - Obtaining food from less than
    - 400 miles (FDA)
    - 100 miles (Locavore Movement)
  - Desire to know the person who raised/grew your food
- Environmental Concerns
  - Petroleum consumption and dependence
  - Intensive, Factory Farming (animal welfare also)
  - Air quality
  - Water quality
- Food Safety and Quality Concerns
  - Tasteless strawberries!
  - Salmonella and Listeria outbreaks affecting hundreds/thousands of people
- Community Resilience
  - Three day food supply in most cities



# Pressures Against Urban Agriculture

- Efficiency and profitability
  - Affordable food (US spends less on food than most any other Nation in the world)
  - Resistance from corporate entities
- Seasonality
  - Demand for “out of season” fruits and vegetables all year round
  - Bananas
- Environmental Concerns
  - Zoning and permitted activities
  - Pesticide/herbicide use
  - Increased water use and run-offs
- Food Safety and Quality Concerns
  - Knowledge and education of safe food handling and husbandry
  - Suitable components and knowledge to produce nutritious and wholesome food
- Community Acceptance
  - Urban disturbances – Not In My Backyard!
    - Roosters!
  - Smells and unsightliness
  - Commercial operations in neighborhoods



# Special Considerations for AUA

- Recreational Environment versus Urban Environment
  - Second/third home owners and tourism
  - Year round residents
- Regulatory Restrictions
  - Zoning
  - Visual impact
  - Run-off - Keep Tahoe Blue
- Restricted growing season
- Water usage
- Bears and other wildlife
- Costs of inputs
  - Water
  - Land/space
  - Utilities
- Utilization of more sustainable energy and water practices?



# Panelist Presentations and Discussions

- Please hold questions and discussions until after the presentations
- Please take the tour of the Aquaponics System
- Thank you very much for attending!

