

REDI (Rural Economic Development Initiative)

Overview

REDI -- Statewide economic opportunity in a Local Food Movement!

Louisiana is known for great food and great people. Louisiana consumers are becoming increasingly concerned about how and where their food is produced. Louisiana farmers (especially smaller ones) are placed under increasing economic and environmental pressures. Louisiana workers realize that new job opportunities are few and far between, especially in rural communities. A grassroots effort in Louisiana has been underway for the last few years to address these concerns. A group of citizens have worked hard to merge these concerns into a comprehensive initiative intended to maximize Louisiana's great human and natural resource potential.

REDI – Rural Economic Development Initiative – is a local farm-to-table scheme that will spur economic activity across the economic spectrum. REDI seeks to enhance and develop local, regional, and state-based practical production-to-consumption systems for locally produced agricultural products. Goods and services purchased on a local economic scale benefit the producers, community co-ops, packers, distributors, retailers, and consumers.

The program would function as a vehicle through which substantial investments will be made into the rural and urban communities and economies of all 64 parishes.

REDI funds will be disbursed to individuals and entities (such as co-ops) who are producers, processors, blenders, packers, distributors, and retailers of Louisiana products. Funds can help producers improve or expand existing operations, or develop value-added production capacity. Funds may also be used to start new businesses in service, marketing and retail industries. Louisiana consumers can take pride in supporting their neighbors who will be providing premium sustainable goods and services. All will be contributing to the protection of their natural and cultural heritage.

REDI is a common sense concept that places emphasis on both the economic and environmental viability of locally produce, processed, distributed and consumed food. REDI will allow the entrepreneurial spirit of the Louisiana population to prosper while providing permanent meaningful economic development. REDI will provide great benefits and appeal to all that have Louisiana's best interest at heart!