

**Rural Revival special gathering**  
to discuss where we see the future of our community

**October 29, 2023**

We divided up into small groups to discuss **four basic questions**. These are the results:

**1. What are your goals/hopes/dreams for the Freeman area?**

- Dream to be able to raise chickens in the Freeman area
- land treatment and sustainable farming (soil conservation, crop rotation, no till, cover crops, etc)
- local job availability so locals would not have to leave the area for employment
- strong economy
- dynamic multi-cultural community
- transfer of knowledge and land to future generations
- no empty acreages/ uninhabited
- awareness of quality, healthy food
- collective/collaboration with farmers outside of familial ties; pooled resources
- culture of being vulnerable/open/honest with Q's
- Better opportunities for those starting out
- sustainable with land available
- expanded crops/animals for opportunities and processing
- butcher shop
- young interested in staying locally and/or returning to area

**2. What are your concerns about these goals being attainable?**

- Start up costs (farming, butchers, processors, etc)
- time /energy
- current projects need time/energy/\$\$ as well
- Ethnocentrism
- climate change
- ag policies/ private/corporations interests/power/govt
- land purchased by those outside of locals is difficult to get back
- ignorance or fear of change/apathy
- access to reliable/local news
- building relationships takes time and energy
- fear of judgment
- lack of access to childcare
- animal confinement and its negative effects
- available labor
- increasing costs
- government subsidies and insurance

**3. What are the positives that will help achieve these goals?**

- Continuing community education
- youth involved with FFA and 4-H
- advantage of the privileges we have
- volunteers
- models for alternative agriculture
- creation care is a growing shift in theology
- lots of family farms still exist
- consumer awareness is growing
- numerous other strong businesses are a draw
- local stores support local products
- local festivals provide other educational opportunities and strengthens community
- WE CARE!!!
- \$\$\$is available for projects/events
- we are a community that helps/works together
- Sioux Falls provides a larger market for food items
- land will be coming available

**4. Where do we go from here? Put into practice**

- Mentoring
- churches involvement (location/community for discussion)
- Connecting new farmers with retiring farmers
- affirm the good that is happening
- promote a culture of learning
- engage other parties involved in agriculture ( FCDC, FFA, 4-H, CHS, Helena, Banks, Ralph's, Vets, Sioux Implement, C&B, Rural, Vermeer, AMPI and more)

Next meeting November 27, 2023 regarding further discussions