2019 Program Guide

Friday Keynote: Ellen Kehr, Blue Zones Project - Albert Lea

Blue Zones Project Albert Lea – Making the Healthy Choice the Easy Choice

Blue Zones Project is a community-wide well-being improvement initiative to help make healthy choices easier for everyone in our community.

Blue Zones Project encourages changes in our community that lead to healthier options. When our entire community participates – from our worksites and schools to our restaurants and grocery stores – the small changes contribute to huge benefits for all of us: lowered healthcare costs, improved productivity, and ultimately, a higher quality of life.

Ellen Kehr, Organization Lead, Blue Zones Project - Albert Lea

Ellen Kehr is the Organization Lead for the Blue Zones Project Albert Lea and the Project Manager of the National Vitality Center. She has served as the Freeborn County SHIP (Statewide Health Improvement Partnership) Coordinator and the Organization Lead for the Blue Zones Project Mason City.

Ellen is passionate about education, community wellbeing, public service and economic development. Throughout the years she has served on a wide variety of community and non-profit boards. Recently, she served on the Albert Lea City Council from 2009-13, for 12 years as a commissioner and past president of the Albert Lea Economic Development Agency and currently is a board member and past president of the Riverland Community College Foundation.

Saturday Keynote: Kathy Zeman, Minnesota Farmers Market Association

2019 UPDATE: Food Licensing, Exemptions and Exclusions

Are you curious to learn more about Minnesota food licensing requirements? With this overview from Kathy Zeman, who works closely with organizations throughout the state, you will walk away with an understanding of the ins and outs of selling at a farmers’ market, at a craft or flea market, or from an online website or social media outlet.

Kathy Zeman, Executive Director, MFMA

Kathy has worked as the Operations Manager for the Minnesota Farmers Market Association since Sept. 2012. She also owns Simple Harvest Farm Organics in Nerstrand, MN and is an occasional vendor at Riverwalk Market Fair in Northfield.
JAN JOANNIDES, RENEWING THE COUNTRYSIDE
At our 1st Annual Conference we had Sara George as a presenter who shared with us her journey of creating a Farmers’ Market Aggregation program at her market. In 2018, a pilot program was held based off Sara’s experiences and we will have the opportunity to learn more about the results of this program.

REGATHER FOR PANEL Q & A WITH TODAYS SPEAKERS/EXHIBITORS
LED BY CHRISTINE SEPPANEN, CHEMISTRY & FOOD SCIENCE INSTRUCTOR, RIVERLAND
• Pick up a panel question card to jot down a question for one of our speakers/exhibitors.
• Please return to the Growing Acres table before 3:30pm (Friday).

SUZANNE DRIESSEN, UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA EXTENSION
Limited – 25 attendees [SPACE MAY BE AVAILABLE-CHECK FOR AVAILABILITY FRIDAY MORNING AT REGISTRATION!]
Do you make and sell baked goods, home-canned pickles, salsa, jam or jellies? Meet the training requirements to register as a Minnesota cottage food producer with University of Minnesota Extension Food Safety Training.
Learn food safety practices required for all processes covered under the cottage food law including baked, confections, dried, fruit preserves and, and acid and acidified fruit and vegetables. You will learn how to produce, package and label a safe food product. Wonder if your product tests as an allowable non-potentially hazardous food? Bring it along and have the food tested. (Bring prepared food!)
University of Minnesota, Cottage Foods Law https://www.mda.state.mn.us/food-feed/cottage-food-producer-registration

DON SMITH, THERESE MANGGAARD, KAREN SUNDAL-BARTZ, MOWER COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS
Limited – 25 attendees [SPACE MAY BE AVAILABLE-CHECK FOR AVAILABILITY SATURDAY MORNING AT REGISTRATION!]
Learn about gardening from seeds to harvest in this community workshop with Mower County Master Gardeners.

KATHY ZEMAN, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, MINNESOTA FARMERS MARKET ASSOCIATION
Get help selling food in Minnesota. The Blazing Trails project can help you navigate the regulations. Who should attend?
- Anyone with a passion for their local farms and local food ...
- Who sees potential for local food systems where they live ...
- But is confused or intimidated by food regulations.
You can learn more about the following subjects at a Blazing Trails workshop:
Approved Source Farm to Childcare Produce Safety
Community-Supported Agriculture Farm to Institution Product of the Farm
Cottage Food Food Demonstration & Sampling Retail
Farmers’ Markets Food Processing Wholesale
Farm to School

NETWORKING
ICEBREAKERS:
(SIT BY SOMEONE NEW AND GET TO KNOW THEM 😊)
How did you learn about the 2nd Annual Growing Acres Conference?
How do you connect to local foods and niche markets?
What session are you most excited for?
What do you hope to learn at the event?
What’s your favorite part about what you do?

CHECKLIST:
(GET THE MOST OUT OF YOUR TIME SPENT WITH US 😊)
☐ Talk with at least 1 exhibitor.
☐ Talk with a speaker from a session you attend.
☐ Visit the Conversation Hub and make a new friend.
☐ Get added to the Growing Acres Network.
☐ Sit by someone new in a session you attend.
How can we help your community grow?

We have been investing in the innovative people of southern Minnesota since 1986 in Economic Development, Early Childhood and Community Vitality. Tell us how we can help your community, business or idea grow.

507.455.3215  |  smifoundation.org

Regional Sustainable Development Partnership: A Potential Tool for Projects like Growing Acres

OKECHUKWU UKAGA, MBA, PH, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND EXTENSION PROFESSOR, UMN EXTENSION, SE RSDP

The University of Minnesota Regional Sustainable Development Partnerships are a citizen-driven, sustainability-focused part of the University of Minnesota Extension. The program is led by region-specific boards composed of local citizen leaders and university faculty. The regional boards identify and support research, education and outreach projects aimed at improving economic, social and environmental sustainability of greater Minnesota in the areas of agriculture and food systems, natural resources, energy, tourism and resilient communities. The projects are then linked to university faculty, students and other resources with a view to using university resources to meet community identified needs. Seed funding may also be invested in selected projects. This presentation will give an overview of the program and highlight how it can help facilitate projects like Growing Acres.

Developing a Business Plan

KYLE HUNEKE, FARM BUSINESS MANAGEMENT INSTRUCTOR, RIVERLAND COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Where are you in the business planning stage? This business planning session will give you tools, answer questions and give you a framework to start and complete your business plan! We will work together developing a business plan that will best fit your operations philosophies and goals.

Niche Markets on the Farm

JON JOVAAG, LOCAL NICHE MARKET FARMER

Jon Jovaag is a local farmer who has been transforming to organic growing practices and who is also using cover crops for grazing.
UMN Extension Southeast Region - Projects Promotion

THELMA GARCIA, SNAP-EDUCATOR, UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA EXTENSION
SUSAN DRAVES, UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA EXTENSION

A look at the many collaborative projects U of MN Extension and SNAP-Ed has participated in and the various ways that Extension connects to community gardens, farmers markets, school gardens, vegetable prescription programs and more.

Understanding MN Tax Laws Relating to Niche Markets

AMBER HUBBARD AND MARK KRAUSE, MN DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE

We would like to provide an explanation of the Minnesota tax laws that affect organizers and vendors at various niche events (e.g. farmer’s markets, craft shows, and flea markets). Our primary focus for this event will be to explain Minnesota Sales and Use Tax laws and requirements but we will also touch on Minnesota Income Tax requirements. We will also provide references and contact information to help you find answers to your questions in the future. www.revenue.state.mn.us

Agricultural Utilization Research Institute (AURI)

LOLLY OCCHINO, MICHAEL SPARBY AND JASON ROBINSON, AURI

The mission of AURI is to foster long-term economic benefit for Minnesota through value-added agricultural products. It accomplishes this by offering agricultural producers, entrepreneurs and agribusinesses a unique mix of services, including applied research, product development assistance, innovation networks and commercialization services. All of which have the goal of helping clients succeed, but none more than the commercialization services program.

The purpose of the commercialization services program is to help entrepreneurs and small-to-medium-sized businesses prepare their product or service for mass-market consumption. For many AURI clients, this often includes access to laboratories and scientists—important elements of development that would otherwise be prohibitively expensive. It also includes economic or feasibility assessments and providing counsel on how to best formulate product mixes for scaling up production.

AURI project development and technical staff provide clients with numerous services, including:

Project Development:
- Referrals
- Feasibility assistance
- Networking assistance and sourcing
- Business development consultation
- Product marketing assistance
- Identification of funding sources or other resources
- Network connections with potential corporate partners
- Business accelerator and incubator options

Technical:
- Product formulation
- Process guidelines
- Food safety, stability and shelf life issues
- Nutrition facts and claims
- Ingredients and ingredient sourcing
- General packaging guidance

For additional details on AURI’s staff, services, and programs, please visit the AURI website at auri.org.

Forging a Path toward Food for All

JAN LIBBEY, TAHYMYRAH LYTLE AND SARAH ENKE, HEALTHY HARVEST OF NORTH IOWA

Join a conversation about developing strategies for local food systems that are both geographically and economically accessible.

Healthy Harvest of North Iowa’s mission is to connect and educate in support of the local food system. Jan Libbey, Exec. Dir., will share the many strategies that are under way around North Iowa to support local food system development and the new conversations emerging around food access for folks on tight food budgets.

Tahmyrah Lytle, Office Manager, First Church, United Church of Christ, Mason City will highlight how members of the church identified food projects as a priority. Specific details about the Mobile Trailer and Food Bunkers will be shared.

Sarah Enke, of Community Health Center of Mason City (To be confirmed), will unpack the situation and challenges of buying and eating local and healthy diets for consumers on limited budgets, highlighting strategies the Community Health Center is starting to implement to help lower income families and individuals eat healthy diets.

Live Event Photo Wall

ARE YOU TAKING EVENT PHOTOS AND VIDEOS? USE #GROWINGACRES2019 ON FACEBOOK AND TWITTER OR TEXT PHOTOS OR VIDEOS TO 507.279.2787 TO SHARE ON OUR LIVE EVENT PHOTO WALL!
3 Essential Questions You Need to Ask to Lead a Successful Business

MARY HOLTORF, LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT RESOURCES

Leading a business or a new venture is a brave endeavor. Answering these questions about what you do will lead to success in your business and help you navigate the road ahead. There will be a list of helpful resources shared to help you to realize your dream and help bring it to reality. http://ldr-ship.com

Marketing Whole Animals: Decoding Cut Sheets

EMMA SCHROEDER

This is a presentation for farmers who direct market meat to their customers. Whether through a CSA or a farmers’ market, there is always a processor that you need to work with. The processor asks you, “what you would like done with the carcass”. It’s time to fill out the cut sheet and the options looks vague like you should be able to read within the lines. To have confidence in this part makes the difference in knowing which parts to send to the grinder and ask for anything extra.

This presentation will educate, clarify and decode the cut sheets commonly used by processors for small farmers. We will cover basic anatomy, the marketability of beef, goat, lamb and pork cuts and recommended questions for processors. Through a brief lesson, educational handouts and plenty of time for questions and discussion, participants will leave with the confidence and additional knowledge they need to fill out a whichever cut sheet they come across.

Growing Mushrooms with Fiddlehead Knob

KALVIN STERN, FIDDLEHEAD KNOB, LEROY, MN

Fiddlehead Knob is located on a fourth-generation family farmstead in LeRoy MN. We specialize in growing various types of gourmet mushrooms with an emphasis on shiitake mushrooms grown on hardwood logs. Kalvin is also an avid wild mushroom hunter and is certified by the Minnesota Mycological Society to sell various types of wild mushrooms.

During our presentation we will be focusing on how and why we got into growing mushrooms, and the details and process of growing different types of mushrooms indoors and outdoors. We will cover how mushrooms can benefit your health and the environment. We will talk about how we make different types of mushroom medicines. We will also cover how we have incorporated wild mushrooms into our operation as well.

What It Takes to Transition to Organic Certification

MATT LEAVITT, ORGANIC AGRONOMIST LEAD, ALBERT LEA SEED

What it takes to transition to Organic Certification including: Organic Transition is a viable option for your farm, Basics of Organic Transition and Basics of Organic Crop Production. Matt is a passionate supporter of Organic agriculture and has served farmers, both big & small, all across the Upper-Midwest. He received his masters in Agronomy from the University of Minnesota, studying the effect of no-tillage & cover crops in organic systems.

Garvin Heights Vineyards with the Seppanen’s

CHRISTINE SEPPANEN, CHEMISTRY & FOOD SCIENCE INSTRUCTOR

Join a conversation about the Garvin Heights Vineyard with Riverland Instructor Christine Seppanen & Family. www.ghwine.com

The Southern Agricultural Center of Excellence will align students with the resources of academic institutions and industry to develop and sustain the workforce needs of agriculture in Southern Minnesota.
TIPHANIE PH COPELAND, GOOD FOOD ACCESS PROGRAM

Approximately 235,000 Minnesotans live more than 10 miles away from a large grocery store or supermarket. More than 340,000 Minnesotans face both distance and income as a barrier to obtaining healthy, affordable food. That’s a little more than the population of Saint Paul! And the problem is getting worse: 53 of 87 Minnesota counties saw a loss in the number grocery stores per 1,000 residents between 2007 and 2012.

The Good Food Access Fund was created in 2016 to provide resources and support to small food retailers working to increase access to healthy, affordable foods. These retailers are nearly anyplace you can buy foods – think everything from grocery stores to corner stores, farmers’ markets and more.

DA’NELA HIGGINS, DH CONSULTING

This session is for Facebook beginners who are interested in growing their business with social media. I won’t use any fancy language or talk about algorithms—we’ll cover the basics of using Facebook for small business including tips, resources for creating posts, how and when to check your numbers and prepare a simple social media plan that will make content creation a breeze!

Growing Acres—Inspiring Local Foods and Niche Markets in the Region (North Entrance) growingacres.org
Sign-in and Registration. Pick up extra question cards for the Regather for Panel Q & A happening at 4:15. Stop by if you have questions about the conference or future projects.

Agricultural Utilization Research Institute (AURI) auri.org
Visit with Lolly Occhino, Scientist of Food and Nutrition and Michael Sparby, Senior Project Strategist from AURI. Discover what AURI does and how it can help producers, entrepreneurs and agribusinesses with a unique mix of services, including applied research, product development assistance, innovation networks and commercialization services.

Albert Lea Seed alseed.com
We will have a display and information pertaining to garden seed and farm seed. We will also provide helpful information on how to grow vegetables and popular end uses for certain specialty grains and specialty markets.

Austin Area Minority Business Project, Immigrant Law Center of MN ilcm.org
Providing information about our services which include free immigration legal services and technical business support for minority entrepreneurs.

Good Food Access Fund (Friday and Saturday) mnfoodcharter.com
The Good Food Access Fund was created in 2016 to provide resources and support to small food retailers working to increase access to healthy, affordable foods. These retailers are nearly anyplace you can buy foods – think everything from grocery stores to corner stores, farmers’ markets and more.

Minnesota Corrugated Box, Inc. mcbox.com
We are a corrugated company that produces protective packaging, retail packaging, point of purchase displays and any additional corrugated needs. We plan to bring examples of work that we currently run for our agriculture/food type customers to show our capabilities and what is available to them.

Minnesota Dept. of Agriculture—Dairy and Meat Inspection mda.state.mn.us
Speak with Lisa Wetzel and Nicole Droher, representatives from the Minnesota Department of Agriculture’s Dairy and Meat Inspection Division to learn about meat inspection, compliance activities, legal ways to market animals and any regulatory questions that may arise.

Minnesota Department of Revenue revenue.state.mn.us
Amber Hubbard, CPA, Revenue Tax Specialist, Senior and Mark Krause, Tax Professional Outreach Coordinator in the Income Tax & Withholding Division will be available to answer questions and discuss Minnesota sales and use tax.

Minnesota Farmers’ Market Association (Saturday) mfmag.org
MFMA provides services, programs and leadership that support and promote farmers’ markets across Minnesota. Drop by our table to learn more!

Mower County Master Gardeners www3.extension.umn.edu/local/mower
Learn more about the Mower County Master Gardeners from Karen, Don and Therese!
BUSINESS PLAN REVIEWS WITH KYLE HUNEKE

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 15TH | 11:30AM TO 2:00PM | ROOM A109
Meet with Kyle to for a 1:1 session to review a current business plan or get answers to questions and help build a framework to start and complete your business plan! Work together developing a plan that will best fit your operations philosophies and goals.

OPEN OFFICE HOUR WITH AURI

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 15TH | 2:30PM TO 3:30PM | ROOM A109
Meet with Lolly Occhino and Jason Robinson from AURI for a 30-minute session on a singular problem you would like help in solving. Some examples of what Lolly and Jason can help you discover:

- *I sell fresh meat but am interested in doing a shelf stable jerky, how do I start?*
- *How do I get my product into a grocery store/retail?*
- *How do I determine the shelf life of my product?*
- *My jam is runny, what can I do?*
- *Does my pesto need to be refrigerated?*
- *How do I get my product certified organic?*

The AURI team can also help with resources for business plans, financing, etc.

GROWING A NETWORK & STUDENT LED VIDEO PROJECT INTERVIEWS

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 15TH - 8:00AM TO 5:00PM - CAFETERIA
Visit Norma Hongerholt at DH Consulting to enter your information into the new Growing Acres Network!

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 15TH - 2:25AM TO 3:30PM - GROWING ACRES TABLE (NORTH ENTRANCE)
Exhibitor Video Interviews with students.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 16TH - 11:00AM TO 4:00PM - VIDEO INTERVIEWS IN THE CAFETERIA
Coordinated by Cynder H. as part of the Austin High School Art Club, students will be taking short videos of attendees sharing how they connect to local foods as well as short interviews with those who want to share a more in-depth look at the work they do. Videos will be posted in the network and in social media spaces to help promote and grow a healthy local foods & niche market culture.

INTERVIEW QUESTIONS:
How do you connect to local foods and niche markets? What products do you make or grow?
What services do you provide? What do you love most about what you do?
Where can customers find you?

NETWORK GOALS:
Create an online directory that can connect community with entrepreneurs and small businesses within our region that relate to the vision of Growing Acres. To provide a space for entrepreneurs and small businesses to network with each other and locate services that can impact their growth and economic benefits.

EXHIBITORS

**Mower Refreshed** mowerrefreshed.org
ENGAGING in efforts making healthy choices easier in Mower County, EQUIPPING communities to grow sustainable wellness solutions, EMPOWERING people to create a culture of wellness where they live, work, play and learn

**Mower Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD)** mowerswcd.org
We wish to provide information on cover crop technology on ag land, vegetable and general gardening. This will include informational brochures, packets of cover crop seed mixes (for purchase), and links for additional info. We also will provide information on the CREP program, the MDA Ag Certainty program, other conservation cost share programs for landowners. We also will provide information on our spring tree sale.

**Old 218** old218.com
Old 218 is a local in-house embroidery, silk screen and digital print provider that also offers custom clothing and promotional products via outside vendors.

**Regional Sustainable Development Partnership (RSDP)** extension.umn.edu/regional-partnerships
The Regional Sustainable Development Partnerships (RSDP) connect Greater Minnesota communities to the UMN to support local sustainability projects and opportunities. RSDP brings together community ideas and expertise with UMN knowledge and resources to drive sustainability in four areas: Sustainable agriculture and food systems, Sustainable tourism and resilient communities, Natural resources, Clean energy
Renewing the Countryside renewingthecountryside.org
Learn about how RTC strengthens rural areas by championing and supporting rural communities, farmers, artists, entrepreneurs, educators, activists and others who are renewing the countryside through sustainable and innovative initiatives, businesses, and projects. Of great interest today is the Farmers Market Aggregation project, local sourcing, Feast opportunities and farmland access.

Riverland Food Pantry
Growing Acres is promoting donations to the Riverland Food Pantry, be that as an add-on to ticket purchases or at the event with food items. Meet some of the faculty and students that have worked hard to bring this important resource to both the East and West buildings of the Austin Campus.

Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation smifoundation.org
We will have available information related to our lending programs and the work we do related to economic development, including our local foods work through FEAST! Local Food Network.

Statewide Health Improvement Program-Mower County (SHIP) www.health.state.mn.us/ship
Learn about Mini Grants, Local Foods Resources and Healthy Eating Resources. The Statewide Health Improvement Program is designed to improve health by reducing risk factors that contribute to chronic disease, resulting in reduced health care costs.

University of Minnesota Extension, Cottage Foods mda.state.mn.us/licenses
Drop by Suzanne Driessen’s table for resources on Cottage Foods, Safe Food Sampling and more! Suzanne will be presenting the Cottage Foods training on Friday.

University of Minnesota Extension, Health And Nutrition Programs extension.umn.edu/food-health-and-nutrition
A look at the many collaborative projects U of MN Extension and SNAP-Ed has participated in and the various ways that Extension connects to community gardens, farmers markets, school gardens, vegetable prescription programs and more.

Wintergreen Natural Foods https://wintergreenalbertl.wixsite.com/website/about
Joining us from Albert Lea, Wintergreen Natural Foods is a member owned business that strives to create community, provide healthy sustainable foods and products, and educational opportunities.

COMING UP NEXT...

3rd Annual Growing Acres Conference: Friday, February 21st & Saturday, February 22nd
A huge THANK YOU to our volunteer photographers - Cynder H., Kesley W. & Johnson N. & the Austin High School Art Club! 

Friends of Growing Acres: Share your events with us via connect@growingacres.org and we will help promote them!

Seed Team Wanted!
Growing Acres needs a point person in the Austin area, Owatonna/Faribault area and Clear Lake/Mason City area that can work closely with the consulting coordinator on local foods and niche market initiatives and conference planning. Contact Da’Nela at connect@growingacres.org if you are interested!

LSP Farm to School Meeting
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 20TH
6:30pm to 7:45pm
Austin Public Library
RSVP to 612-760-3129 or banderson@landstewardshipproject

Community Meal
SUNDAY, MARCH 17TH
Join Growing Acres and the Good Food Access Coalition for a Community Meal—details to be released soon!

Post Conference Celebration
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 27TH
4:30pm to 6:00pm
Pizza Party and Discussion – Please RSVP to connect@growingacres.org for location and pizza count

1919 Riverland AG Summit
TUESDAY, MARCH 19TH
8:30am to 2:30pm
Holiday Inn Conference Center, Austin, MN
Embracing Ag, Food, Science and Energy
RSVP at riverland.edu/agsummit

Hunger Day on the Hill
THURSDAY, MARCH 14TH
Join the Good Food Access Coalition for Hunger Day on the Hill! Details to be released soon!

Harvest Fest - Austin
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 21ST
Harvesting healthy foods for Mower County Food Shelves, this fun family friendly event includes a 5K Walk/Run and other activities. www.harvestfestaustin.com

Growing Acres - Connect to Explore - Advisory Committee & Friends
4TH WEDNESDAY OF THE MONTH
3:30pm to 4:30pm – Riverland Community College, Ag Center (RM #A115) unless announced otherwise

Jump in to the 3rd Annual Growing Acres Conference planning and other initiative work!
Here’s a rough outline of agenda topics for the remainder of this year:

March Conference: Financial Calendar Planning | Initiative: Spring Education Event-Albert Lea
April Conference: Sponsor/Partnership Exploration
  Initiative: Harvest Fest Event Sept. 21st-Farm to Table Discussion
May Conference: A Deeper Dive into Conference Feedback, Program Review
  Initiative: Summer Education Event-Owatonna
June Conference: Exhibitor Mapping | Initiative: Growing Acres as an Exhibitor—What does this look like?
July Conference: Mapping out A Marketing Plan | Initiative: Fall Education Event
August Conference: Speaker Exploration, Keynotes
  Initiative: Tapping in to the Region, where haven’t we connected?
September Conference: Food Exploration
October Conference: Gift-Aways Exploration
November Conference: Community Workshop Exploration
December Conference: Program Outline
WHAT'S AN IDEA(S) FROM THE DAY THAT INSPIRED YOU?

WHAT'S YOUR TOP TAKE-A-WAY(S) TODAY?

HOW WILL YOUR WORK/LIFE BE IMPACTED BY WHAT YOU LEARNED, OBSERVED AND EXPERIENCED TODAY?

WHAT ADDITIONAL RESOURCES, SPEAKERS AND/OR TOPICS ARE RELEVANT TO YOU FOR FUTURE EVENTS IN THE REGION?

FROM YOUR PERSPECTIVE DID THE EVENT ALIGN WITH OUR WHY?