



FoodHub in the News

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By Steve Brown

Merrigan: Food hubs a success

SEATTLE – Food hubs are one of the success stories of the Know Your Farmer, Know Your Food initiative, USDA Deputy Secretary Kathleen Merrigan said.

"This is a hub of activity for farmers to aggregate products to get a quantity of products for institutional buyers. ... It can also have processing opportunities for value-added."

She described a food hub at the University of Virginia that sells to the university, the food-service company Sysco and to other large buyers.

The USDA's Rural Development Program has grants available to help fund development of such hubs, which can be organized by food co-ops, nonprofits and agricultural agencies.

"It's not formulaic," she said. "It depends on the community. It depends on the commodity."

Another example is EcoTrust's FoodHub, which the Portland nonprofit started in 2009. It has more than 600 members in the Northwest and continues to grow.

Author contact: sbrown@capitalpress.com

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