

# Alabama Sustainable Agriculture Network and the GSO Project

## GSO Project Gathering, May 2011





## Capacity Building

- ❖ Evaluation support from T. Watson
- ❖ Strategic planning support from Thomas Watson and Heifer
- ❖ Support in board capacity building, financial management, diversified fundraising

**Results:** Despite some setbacks, we are a more focused organization with a better organizational structure and a stronger, more engaged board. We are in a better position to support others.





## Peer-to-Peer Support

- ❖ Stackhouses visit to Jubilee Project, also Rural Action and Community Farm Alliance – learning about organizational development and marketing
- ❖ Ongoing work with Cottage House and meeting with McSEED
- ❖ Region-wide gatherings with other GSOs

**Results:** Garnered ideas and support from other organizations, especially regarding strategic focus; strengthened in-state partnerships



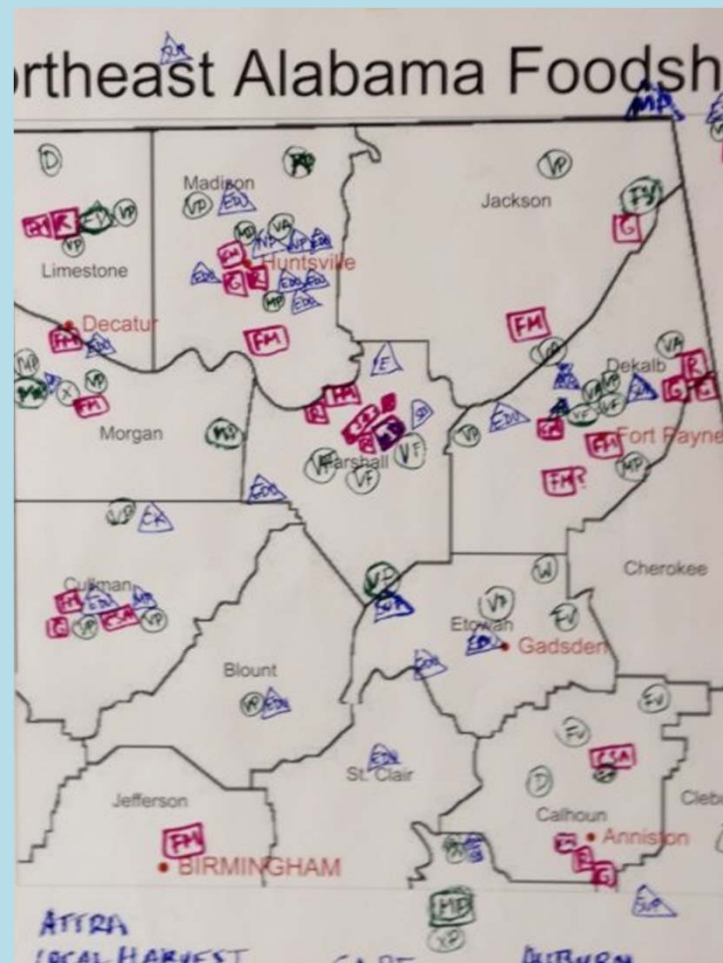
# Technical Assistance

- ❖ Annual Food and Farm Forum
- ❖ Work with Food Bank of North Alabama – exploring cooperative grocery, institutional purchasing of local food, engaging key city stakeholders and leaders in Huntsville



## Mini-Projects

- ❖ Formation of North Alabama Food Policy Council
- ❖ SURREF – Assisting with 501c3 status



## Best use of funds?

- ❖ Getting our own house in order first (capacity building, peer-to-peer)
- ❖ Strengthening AL Food and Farm Forum – groups gathering together
- ❖ In-depth work with partners – mostly focused on Food Bank of North Alabama partnership



# Needs and goals going forward?



❖ After period of internal work, focus back outward again – our work with partners, engaging broader public. Field days, Forum, food guides.

- ❖ Need to continue improving organizational structures, engage new board members, diversify funding sources
- ❖ Build gradually back into paid administrative position

