

Bluegrass Local Food System Summit

John-Mark Hack
Marksbury Farm Market
7907 Nicholasville Road
Lancaster, Kentucky 40444
(859) 559-8804
jmhack@marksburyfarm.com

John-Mark Hack is a husband of 21 years to Rev. Carol Devine, and father of three beautiful people, Benjamin, Elijah and Sarah Hack. He is also a founding partner of Marksbury Farm Market, a new USDA-inspected processor and distributor of locally produced, naturally and humanely raised, pastured poultry, pork and beef. Marksbury was conceived as a hub for growing Kentucky's local food economy by offering a full range of pasture-based fresh and cooked products to individual consumers, as well as the grocery, restaurant and institutional food-service markets. Marksbury also offers professional processing services to farmers engaged in direct marketing of their own meat products.

What sets Marksbury apart from other processors are its full commercial kitchen, smoking and curing facilities, opening up new value-added opportunities for local meat that have been out of reach until now. Marksbury also has an uncompromising commitment to superior customer service. Opened in August 2010, the 12,000-square foot processing facility is located in northern Garrard County on the new four-lane U.S. 27, just 25 miles south of Lexington. The Marksbury Farm Market retail shop is located just a half-mile from the processing facility, just off KY 34 on Fisher Ford Road.

In collaboration with multiple partners, Mr. Hack will launch the Local Food Producers Association, a new national trade association for food producers placing products in local markets. Officially launching this summer, the LFPA will provide governmental advocacy services, continuing education opportunities, conferences and networking events for local food producers and their supporters. The group will also strive to bring strong coordination to the various organizations engaged in promoting sustainable and alternative agriculture to ensure that they are as well represented as possible during the development of the 2012 Farm Bill, our nation's preeminent food and farm policy.

From 1997 – 2003, Mr. Hack served in the administration of Governor Paul Patton. During his tenure, Mr. Hack founded the Governor's Office of Agricultural Policy, established the Governor's Commission on Family Farms, and served as the first President of the Kentucky Tobacco Settlement Trust Corporation, a position responsible for the distribution of more than \$600 million to Kentucky farm families as part of the national tobacco settlement. Mr. Hack also served as the first Chief Executive Officer of the Kentucky Agricultural Development Fund, leading the development and implementation of the policies and programs of the largest state-financed agricultural diversification effort in the history of the United States.

Since 2001, Mr. Hack has served on a PAPSAC, a food policy advisory committee based in the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University. He also teaches “Contemporary Problems in Agriculture” at the University Of Kentucky College Of Agriculture. In this course, Mr. Hack leads his students through the history of the modern agriculture system by examining global population growth, land use policies, technology, capitalization, energy and environment, and food safety.

Mr. Hack also served as a County Extension Agent in Nicholas County for the UK Cooperative Extension Service, 1994 - 1997. He and his wife also worked on agricultural education projects while they served as Peace Corps Volunteers in Costa Rica (1992-1994).

Mr. Hack and Rev. Devine have recently been researching issues of food and faith, with plans to publish and speak on this and related topics. (Rev. Devine is serving as a facilitator of the Faith and Food Working group during the summit.) Mr. Hack and Rev. Devine live with their three children in southern Woodford County. They are proud members of a raw milk herd-share program, the Good Foods Co-op, and have strived to instill in their children the values related to local food and local economy through their buying habits, family dinners and various associations.