

Senator Dale Schultz

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“HOME GROWN JOBS” EVENT OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Madison...“Home grown jobs” is the focus on August 9th for a regional agricultural development event open to the public.

State Senator Dale Schultz organized the three-part event with stops at the Wisconsin Innovation Kitchen in Mineral Point, a luncheon in Belmont with Mike Powers as guest speaker, and the Lafayette County General Store in Belmont. Schultz warmly invites anyone to participate in one, two, or all three parts of the event. The only cost is for lunch and participants need to provide their own transportation.

Part one of the event is from 10:00 to 11:00 a.m. at the Wisconsin Innovation Kitchen in Mineral Point. Rick Terrien, Executive Director of Iowa County Economic Development Corporation will describe how WIK is helping grow jobs. WIK Operations Manager Annette Pierce will provide a tour. WIK is a division of The Hodan Center in Mineral Point and WIK is providing employment for several adults with disabilities. WIK is processing, packaging and even marketing a variety of foods for several entrepreneurs. WIK is at a site of a former Dairy Queen at 851 Dodge Street, Mineral Point, 53565. For more information, go to <http://www.wi.innovationkitchen.org/>.

Part two of the event is a luncheon from 11:30 to 1:00 p.m. at McCarville’s My Turn Pub, www.myturnpub.com, located at 101 W. Commerce Street, Belmont, 53511. Mike Powers, the Administrator of the Division of Agricultural Development at DATCP, the state’s agriculture agency, will speak on “Southwest Wisconsin: The Food and Energy Region”. Cost for the luncheon is \$10.00, including tip, for a buffet with barbeque pork chops and smothered chicken with all the fixin’s and soda or coffee, plus a cookie for dessert. If you plan to participate, please rsvp to sen.schultz@legis.wi.gov by Friday, August 5 at 5:00 p.m. If you don’t rsvp, you’re still welcome and asked to let owner Lee McCarville or manager Sandy Ritter know you’re coming by calling the Pub at 608.762.6191.

Part three of the event, from 1:30 to 2:15, is a stop at the Lafayette County General Store, 327 Stone Hill Avenue, Belmont, 53510. Ken Harwood, Executive Director of Lafayette Development Corp will host a tour and explain how the Store sells food and other products made in the region to the rest of the world. Store hours are 10 am to 7 pm Monday – Sunday. For information, go to www.futurelafayette.com/store or contact Harwood at ken@futurelafayette.com or 608.776.8080. Reach the store at 608.616.0532 or store@futurelafayette.com.

Mike Powers and his staff at DATCP help entrepreneurs start and grow businesses involving food production and processing. Before joining DATCP Powers worked with landowners, farmers and ranchers, in six states, with residential development and renewable energy projects, managing real estate, overseeing marketing and assisting with business development. Other positions Powers has held include serving five terms as a State Representative, Green County Conservationist. Powers also worked in Kansas, restoring abandoned coal mines to pasture and agricultural productivity. In California, Powers was an estimator for highway projects, residential developments, and business -technology parks planning. Powers earned a bachelor’s degree in land reclamation from the University of Wisconsin-Platteville. Powers and his wife Reneé have operated several part-time agricultural businesses including custom growing seedlings, produce, and plants. Powers served on the Green County Board of Supervisors, Town Advisory Committees, as a volunteer firefighter.

Schultz welcomes your ideas for future regional events at sen.schultz@legis.wi.gov.

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