

# VEGA

## Volunteers for Economic Growth Alliance

### *Judith Moses, 2011 VEGA Volunteer Impact Service Award Recipient*

Judith has been involved in several Farmer to Farmer USAID Projects, including Capacity Building with Farmer Cooperative in Dladie, Mali, Feeding and Management of Newborn Sheep and Goats in Bamako, Mali, Improved Small Ruminant Milk Production in Dladie, Mali and the AMHARA Goat and Sheep Assessment in Ethiopia.

Judith has organized and presented at numerous conferences, including four regional conferences on Marketing Meat Goats to over 400 producers. She has participated in the development of and presented at the Focus on Goats, the first of five annual conferences, with the Wisconsin Dairy Business Innovation Center. Judith also received a Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE) grant to do a comparison grazing study of meat goats on pasture and shared the results with the SARE advisory board.



Judith is the co-founder of Browse and Grass Growers Cooperative, a producer small ruminant production, processing and marketing group. She is also a co-founder and board member of Six Rivers, a producer produce, dairy and meat distribution and marketing cooperative with sales over \$300,000 2nd year since incorporation.

Judith was a Project Coordinator of a 3-year USDA Community Food grant (Halal and Tayyib: Healthy foods of the past step into certified foods of the future) for \$246,000 in collaboration with the Dunn County Economic Development Corporation and the WI Somali Community Corporation. This included the development of local infrastructure for halal certified slaughter, processing, USDA labeling and marketing of lamb and goat meat.

Active in the sheep and goat industry since 1989. Judith operates a 140 acre sheep and goat farm with 350 ewes and does on intensely grazed pasture. She direct markets USDA grass fed meat products with approved claims for pasture raised, never confined, no antibiotics, growth hormones or animal byproducts. The flock was started on 300 acres of marginal, leased land in 1988 with no buildings or capital investment using a pasture lambing model, Holistic Resource Management.

With help from the USAID-funded Farmer-to-Farmer (FtF) program managed by Winrock, Cooperative members now have tools and knowledge to make key changes that can help them increase productivity, sales and ultimately improve their quality of life. Upon her return to the U.S., Judy shared her experience with her family, friends, and colleagues at the Browse & Grass Farmers Association, which decided to make a donation of syringes and needles for animal vaccines and parasite medication that the Cooperative desperately needed. Judith has a Masters of Science Degrees: University of Wisconsin - Stout, Menomonie.



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