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Sam Brownback, Governor

Local Food and Farm Task Force
Friday, May 8
9 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
Kansas State Capitol, #142 South

9:00 a.m.	Welcome and introductions of Task Force	Chair Ron Brown
9:15 a.m.	Training and support for specialty crops	Katherine Kelly, Cultivate KC
9:40 a.m.	Technical support and training for schools	Dan McGinnis, Hummert International
10:05 a.m.	Specialty crops in school cafeterias	Barb Depew, KS Dept. of Education
10:30 a.m.	Support for specialty crop farmers/beginning farmers	Donn Teske/Mercedes Taylor-Puckett, Kansas Farmers Union
10:55 a.m.	Leopold Center for Sustainable Agriculture	Dr. Cary Rivard, KSU
11:20 a.m.	RC&D Overview	Lake Region RC&D
11:40 a.m.	South Hutchinson Food Policy Council	Sarah Key, South Hutchinson Food Policy Council
12:00 p.m.	Closing comments/adjournment	

Next meeting date:
June, tbd

Local Food and Farm Task Force
Friday, May 8, 2015
9 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
Kansas State Capitol, #142 South

Attendance

Task force members present: Ron Brown, Chair; David Coltrain, Dr. Cary Rivard, Senator Dan Kerschen, Representative Adam Lusker and Senator Tom Hawk (ex-officio).

KDA Staff: Julie Roller

Guests: Katherine Kelly, Sarah Green, Janette Womack, Misty Lechner, Donn Teske, Ashley Jones-Wisner, Barb Depew and Phyll Klima

Welcome and introductions: Chair Ron Brown called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. and asked members for introductions from the task force and audience.

Brown also shared that last week he gave his third public presentation about the task force and the audiences continue to be interested and excited about the task force's work.

David Coltrain moved to approve the April 2015 minutes. Dr. Cary Rivard seconded. Motion approved.

Training and support for specialty crops

Katherine Kelly, co-founder and executive director of Cultivate KC thanked the task force for the opportunity to present. She shared that Cultivate KC has a longstanding relationship with Kansas State University Research and Extension and often works with Dr. Rivard, who is also a board member for Cultivate KC. Kelly shared she grew up outside of El Dorado and was involved in local fruit and vegetable farms in the twin cities. She has owned and operated a vegetable farm in Kansas City since 1995 and looks at local foods from both the perspective of the farmer and the grower.

According to Kelly, local foods should be available at every setting when eating and at every stage of our lives. Kansas should be able to find local food from other parts of the country or world, no matter where they are eating. Kelly said Kansas-produced food should be every bit of an assumption at meals as coffee is at breakfast. In order to make this possible, Kelly said farmers must be able to make a decent living farming and can say to their kids, with confidence, that farming is a good way to make a living.

Kelly said Cultivate KC works to make that vision a reality in all they do. Cultivate KC operates its own certified organic vegetable farm that grosses \$130,000 per year. The farm has a full-time farm manager and year-round crewmembers. She said 40% of crewmembers go on to own their own farms.

Cultivate KC also operates Juniper Gardens near downtown Kansas City, Kansas and partners with Catholic Charities to help refugees. Refugees must apply to the program and then, over the next four years, they start their own farming business. She said they help refugees adapt their skills to meet local food needs and are currently working with farms to scale their operations to produce a larger value of food.

Kelly said that metro farms and food systems work. Cultivate KC's goal is to have a small farm in every neighborhood in Kansas City. For example, greenhouses can help people produce at a higher-level while in an urban setting.

Cultivate KC also partners with the Beans Greens program to assist Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) shoppers. Shoppers using SNAP cards are matched up to \$25 by local philanthropic charitable money. This enables shoppers to purchase more fruits and vegetables. According to Kelly, the program has moved \$1.3 million in federal and matched dollars into the pockets of farmers in the last five years.

Kelly shared that Cultivate KC works to address two central issues: the need for more farms producing food for local consumption and making local food affordable. According to Kelly, supply is the main barrier to building the local food system. The issue remains of having enough local food to meet the demand. She said production is the weak link; there are not enough farmers growing at a volume and with the knowledge of what it takes to operate a 10-15 acre vegetable farm. She said producers understand what it takes to operate a five-acre greenhouse operation, but there is not enough diversity to support current and potential demand. She said that when the task force is addressing this issue, she wants to encourage them to focus on farm development and training. Kelly asked the task force to prioritize and provide education about becoming food farmers.

Providing economic incentives to scale a farm are also important, as well as incentives to train the next generation or become advocates for local food. Other areas of importance would be providing economic incentives to increase farm size, training a future farm generation and developing advocates for local foods.

Kelly offered the following recommendations:

1. Incentivize on-the-farm training programs by creating entry-level farm jobs. Too many farmers are not comfortable hiring people and it remains a barrier. Setting up an agriculture core to provide funding to farmers to hire and train new farmers is important. Providing incentives to invest in new farms will also have a significant impact on production. The state could create a program to fund 100 new on-farm positions with multi-year contracts through a competitive application process. The program could cost \$2 million a year, but it would increase the amount of food grown and train future farmers. People would move to Kansas to get involved in agriculture. Japan has a program that gives \$10,000 to local farmers to hire people.

2. Expand the capacity of K-State Research and Extension. KSRE needs to be equipped and have room within their jobs to be more innovative and responsive.

According to Kelly, growing farmers is a long-term process and it is hard work. She said she receives 5-10 phone calls a year from people wanting to start a farmers' market, because it is easier to start a farmer's market than it is to grow a farmer. She said that farmers' market initiatives would not be successful until there is enough supply to meet demand.

Kelly said when founding Cultivate KC, the short-term goal was to get farmers started, trained and out on the farm. She said when looking 30-50 years down the road, the challenge is equipping the people starting now so they are viable, successful and eventually have money in the bank for retirement.

She told the task force the work they are doing has the opportunity to focus policy makers and leaders on the long-term vision for Kansas. While the political climate may be complicated, she said she wants to encourage the task force to be good advocate for this moment in history. Discussions about agriculture, food production, diet and the impact of how we produce food in our economy have never happened before. Today there is the capacity and openness to make changes.

In closing, Kelly offered encouragement and thanked the task force for stepping out and being advocate, pushing boundaries, purposing solutions (even if they do not happen) because their work will change the terms of the discussion.

Coltrain told Kelly he liked her recommendation of on-the-farm training and agreed that once people know how to grow, then we can figure out where they can sell.

Kelly commented that if there is product and we need a food hub to sell it, they would advocate for food hubs. She said it is a better dynamic if farmers are pushing for systems, rather than setting them up for products that are not yet there. She said there are established food hubs, but they do not always have enough food.

Coltrain said many communities want to have a farmers' market, but once they start one, there is not anything being grown to bring to it.

Senator Kerschen asked Kelly how she arrived at a \$10,000 incentive.

Kelly said when creating a new position, it is important for a farmer to have skin in the game. A \$10,000-\$20,000 subsidy to create a new job is enough to be worth someone's time, but also requires a farmer to make an investment.

Chair Brown commented education and research are important, there are many who want to produce specialty crops, but do not know how.

Kelly said part of the reason farmers do not continue their participation at farmers' markets is because not only are they untrained on marketing, but also farmers' do not understand the business venture they are entering. They do not understand business management, strategic planning and marketing.

Dr. Rivard shared he receives many requests to help individuals with specialty crop business plans, but there are not a lot of people who are able to help.

Kelly said business planning is helpful. Cultivate KC has helped with pieces of planning, but it is time intensive. She said it would be helpful to have someone dedicated to help the farmer through that process, but it also requires an investment. If more people were able to help with business planning, it would make a difference.

Dr. Rivard asked Kelly about subsidized apprenticeships and the importance of hands on learning.

Kelly said hands-on learning is incredibly important because farmers are relationship-based or hands-on learners. In the past, Kansas had a thriving fruit and vegetable industry and farmers learned their skills from their own families and the community. There was an established peer learning process. She said extension programs magnified the process; however, the challenge is there are few large specialty crop farms to serve as examples. According to Kelly, people replicate what they learn on, so they need hands-on experience at a large farm in order to learn the process of large-scale specialty crop farming.

Coltrain shared K-State does have business development expertise for helping larger farmers.

Donn Teske, Kansas Farmers Union, shared he worked at K-State in the 1990s and enjoyed working with organic farmers to develop cash flow projections. He said programs are in place to help, but they need staff to understand agriculture and enter the data.

Kelly said having someone know how to assist with cash flow projections for sixty products rather than five is valuable.

Dr. Rivard asked the task force to review the language of the statute establishing the task force and its charge.

Julie Roller asked the task force for direction regarding future meetings, which will aid in securing speakers. The future dates are as follows: Friday, June 5 (Topeka), Friday, July 10 (Olathe) and Friday, August 14 (Topeka).

Senator Hawk agreed with Dr. Rivard, the task force's recommendations need to fit into each of the categories.

Chair Brown stated the task force should ask the legislature for funding for research and extension.

Senator Hawk shared that they have worked very hard to restore funding to extension.

Teske added that for many years, Kansas had a beginning farmers program that used idle funds and perhaps a value-added agriculture could receive a percentage of idle funds.

Specialty crops in school cafeterias

Barb Depew, child nutrition consultant with the Kansas Department of Education, shared she works with 40 school districts and her project area is farm to school. She said she enjoys promoting local products in schools. *(See attached presentation)*

Depew said each school district determines what “local” is. Some think local as fruits or vegetables, but they are encouraged to look at the entire food tray. She said her hope is for schools to find products from Kansas to use in meal preparation.

In addition to lunch, Depew said local products are for snacks. She said that if kids get to try new things at school, they go home and ask their parents to buy them.

Depew shared meal ideas include using Kansas beef in chili, Kansas wheat in cinnamon rolls and locally sourced fruits and vegetables. She said the website www.kn-eat.org is a resource to help with purchasing and using products in schools. She encourages producers and schools to visit the website to find resources about bid documents and vendor letters.

Depew said the Farm to School grant assisted with hosting four regional networking and training workshop to help schools learn how to handle local products. The workshops also incorporated culinary demonstrations, information on Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) and information for farmers about how to connect with schools.

October is national Farm to School month. During this month, schools identify menu items to source locally. Depew said sourcing locally allows kids to win by eating nutritious high quality local food and by participating in farm to school activities. Farmers win through the financial opportunities and communities win because it stimulates the local economy, reduces the carbon footprint and creates a healthy environment.

Depew shared the program wants to support and work with partners to put local products into existing programs. They work to break down barriers, make connections and provide resources.

Chair Brown commented that there are many opportunities for producers and it takes a lot of organization and knowledge to coordinate.

Senator Kerschen asked if it is possible to collaborate with Kansas Farm Bureau and their ag in the classroom activities.

Depew said there is an opportunity to bring everyone together to coordinate activities. Everyone is working towards the same goal.

Representative Lusker asked Depew for a copy of her presentation and asked for additional information about her job.

Depew said she works with nutrition and wellness. She is one of nine child nutrition consultants in the Kansas. Kansas is unique because the consultants regionally work with schools. She works with 40-45 school districts and then has special project areas. Her area is farm to school. Consultants provide technical assistance, review financial information and federal reimbursements. In addition, they work with schools to learn where their food is coming from. Representative Lusker asked Depew about funding for reimbursable expenses.

Depew said in each program, there is a reimbursable component either at the federal or state level. For breakfast, the federal government gives \$0.80 for each school breakfast. Kansas is unique because it does not receive any commodities, so an extra \$0.21 is received for each of our school districts. Out of the money received for school lunch, the school itself has to find a way to stay within its budget. For example, 40% of the cost of a meal is for food, 40% for labor and 20% indirect. It cost \$1.75-\$1.85 to produce a school meal. The cost is dependent by bid and it is always a challenge to stay within a budget. Because of the Healthy Hunger-Free Kids Act, there are new challenges for schools, but it also means school meals become more colorful as there are more fruits and vegetables. For examples, schools are required to have a half cup of fruit or vegetable on trays, but they want kids to eat the food and not throw it away. Only 15% of school districts are self-supporting, so it is a challenge to get local products because there is no extra money to pay for them.

Representative Lusker commented there could be a way to incentivize schools to buy local.

Depew answers yes, schools need assistance to help them work with local foods.

Representative Lusker said that getting kids to eat healthy is a challenge, but if that is all they have, they will eventually eat it.

Dr. Rivard asked Depew about the how schools define local and the result.

Depew said the definition of local is for the bid process, the school determines a bid radius or range, but according to USDA, the 250 miles is the maximum radius.

Dr. Rivard asked about the ratio of cafeteria workers to students and if it is the same across the state. Would creating a fresh cut facility to distribute food to cafeterias be helpful?

Depew said yes, processing is important and the challenge is unless they process it in a facility, schools cannot accept it. For example, in Iowa, the schools have strawberry fields on the school

grounds and process them at the school. If schools focus on certain crops, they could make menus fit the crop, for example, sweet corn.

Dr. Rivard commented on the importance of reconnecting the population with agriculture and asked Depew if it is possible to get buy-in from kids without having a garden at the school.

Depew said having the experience on site is valuable, having students grow, handle, touch, and feel the foods they eat are important.

Chair Brown thanked Depew for presenting and said it is all good information for the task force to include in its report.

Support for specialty crop farmers/beginning farmers *(See attached presentation)*

Donn Teske, President, Kansas Farmers Union, shared that KFU's Beginning Farmer Institute collaborates with many other organizations, including the Kansas Rural Center, to teach interested people how to work with value added agriculture.

Teske said it is a chicken and an egg scenario, if you produce a product without somewhere to market it, it is financially disastrous, but if you want to buy local and it is not there, it is not good either. According to Teske, those who are successful are the ones who produce for a requested market, but there needs to be a coordinated entity to gather the needs of chefs, school districts, etc. and to put out a call to the producers about the needs. He said it would be in intricate system, but very valuable.

Teske shared he's observed over the years that value added producers are especially independent, they are good at growing, but not as good at marketing and selling. It takes different talents.

The Kansas Beginning Farmers Coalition toured GreenFin Gardens, which grows bananas, tilapia, pineapple and figs.

Teske added KFU hosted the National Farmers Union convention in Wichita in March and Kansas has not hosted the conference since 1936. More than 500 people attended the convention.

Teske also shared they have hosted an exploratory meeting to establish a Kansas Chapter of the Farmer Veteran Coalition. Moving forward, many of the vets they are working with do not want high stress agriculture, so value added agriculture is appealing.

Additionally, Teske shared Farmers Union owns restaurants in Washington, D.C. that source directly from farmers and the staff knows the source of all food on the menu.

Leopold Center for Sustainable Agriculture *(See attached presentation)*

Dr. Rivard shared Aldo Leopold was an ecologist and conservationist who was one of the first to recognize the beauty of the ecosystems in the Midwest.

According to Dr. Rivard, the 1987 Groundwater Protection Act allocates funding from nitrogen tax to fund the Leopold Center. A small portion of the pesticide registration fee also provides funding. The Leopold Center grants money to Iowa education and non-profit organizations, mainly ISU faculty and students but also farmers and extension agents.

In 2010, the Iowa legislature charged the Center with creating a report about local foods. Dr. Rivard shared the grants they award are diverse and support projects including animal science, row crops, food hubs, social work and advocacy work. They encompass many different topics and many different stakeholders.

In summary, Dr. Rivard shared the importance of keeping the mission broad, involving all stakeholders and focusing on transparency are keys to success. For example, taxing Peter to pay Paul can be problematic, so it is important for Peter and Paul to know and understand each other.

Dr. Rivard said he was not proposing Kansas build a Leopold Center, but they have an interesting funding model. He asked suggested the task force look at funding source related to local foods, for example, transportation. Shipping food from California causes carbon emissions, so perhaps taxing transportation could help fund local foods. Water is also important. Ag taxes on fertilizer and pesticides are one potential source of funding. Rivard suggested another option could be tax on non-local food purchases to incentivize people to buy local or tax non-local food at a different rate.

Senator Hawk asked how the Leopold Center at ISU is different from KSRE's work.

Dr. Rivard said it is different with a focused mission on sustainable agriculture and includes some faculty, but not all. One of the reasons faculty members like research positions is the academic freedom. The Leopold Center gives faculty a mandate that "this is what you're going to work on." How is it different from KSU? KSU does not have a central clearinghouse for interdisciplinary work and research is compartmentalized. Rivard said to be blunt, KSU does not work to help sustainable agriculture.

Coltrain commented K-State does have the Arthur Capper Cooperative Center, which is an endowed chair in Ag Economics, which receives funding from coop membership dues.

Representative Lusker asked if other states have passed bills similar to Iowa?

Dr. Rivard said yes, Arkansas has a center for rural sustainability as does Kentucky and Tennessee.

Representative Lusker proposed reaching out to the Iowa legislature to learn about their process.

Chair Brown reminded the task force that Kansas is accepting applications for the Leopold Conservation Award.

Kansas Resource Conservation and Development Councils *(See attached handouts)*

Don Stottlemire, Lake Region RC&D, said RC&D Councils were established 50 years ago through the farm bill. RC&D councils assist with small business development, recycling, tourism and recreation promotion; value added agriculture, housing development and preservation of heritage and culture. According to Stottlemire, the Lake Region RC&D serves six counties. One project the council worked on was establishing a meat-processing program for eastern Kansas.

Stottlemire shared one resource available to help entrepreneurs is Slow Money, which invested in agriculture produce companies and small individual farmers. Rosanna Baumann has received funding from Slow Money.

In the past, RC&D Councils have been involved in water and soil conservation, with the focus on food hubs coming to the forefront, Stottlemire said he hopes RC&D Councils will be able to assist.

Stottlemire thanked the task force for the work they are doing and said he hopes their recommendations result in action.

Senator Hawk asked Stottlemire why some counties are not served by an RC&D council. Stottlemire said funding cuts closed some offices. Their organization went from receiving \$126,000 a year to \$0. The upside is there is still a line item for RC&Ds, so it could potentially receive funding again.

Chair Brown added that RC&Ds have expertise in administering funding and programs. Their expertise or delivery system could be used in the future.

South Hutchinson Food Policy Council

Sarah Key, South Hutchinson Food Policy Council, works for the Reno County Health Department and the southwest portion of Reno County lacks access to food. The area is a food desert. Key said the council is looking at the entire food system because they want to grow the opportunity for local growers to sell locally. Currently there is no grocery store or farmers' market in the southwest portion of Reno County

Key said the council became a publicly appointed Food Policy Council under the City of South Hutchinson. The council received a grant from the Kansas Health Foundation and is working to establish itself and figure out its direction. For the last five years, they have worked to establish a grocery store in South Hutchinson. The median household income for the area is \$25,000 and the population is low.

Key shared they also want to work with school and 4-H clubs to partner on education. They have also worked with Dr. Proctor at K-State and its Rural Grocery Initiative.

She asked for the task force to not only look at growing more food, but also improving access to food because it is a challenge in many parts of the state.

Representative Lusker agreed that food deserts are a concern and needs addressed.

Chair Brown thanked everyone for attending the meeting and shared his appreciation for the legislators' dedication to the task force.

Attachments:

1. Growing Growers
2. KSDE Farm to School Initiatives
3. Kansas Farmers Union
4. Leopold Center for Sustainable Agriculture
5. Community Foundation of North East Kansas
6. Lake Region RC&D

Plant Propagation and Production Planning

Masters Community Church
 2548 S. 42nd Street, Kansas City, KS 66106
 March 16, 2015 from 4-7 pm (including tour)

This workshop covers the basics of planning field maps, scheduling plantings and making sure crops get off to a good start. Laura Christensen from Blue Door Farm will address transplant production options and basic seed starting. Ami Zumalt of Red Ridge Farm will review their production planning methods and strategies for producing crops through the course of the season, from seed to harvest. Gibbs Road Farm will host a tour of their greenhouse and farm. Gibbs Road Farm is located at 4223 Gibbs Road, KCK 66106.

- 4:00-5:00 **Laura Christensen**, *Blue Door Farm*, Growing Vegetable Transplants
- 5:00-5:45 **Ami Zumalt**, *Red Ridge Farm*, Production Planning
- 6:00-7:00 **Josh Smith**, *Gibbs Road Farm*, Farm Tour

This workshop is being brought to you by the Growing Growers program. Cost to attend this workshop is \$15. To register, fill out the form below and mail with payment by March 10. If you have questions, or for further information, contact Laura Christensen at growers@ksu.edu.

Name: _____	Company/Organization: _____
Address: _____	Phone: _____ Email: _____
City: _____	State: _____ Zip: _____ County: _____
Mail Registration Form and Payment (made out to Growing Growers) to: (Growing Growers, 35230 W. 135 th St., Olathe, KS 66061) Please submit registration by March 10 (Walk-ins are welcome, too)	



Looking for a way to learn what it takes to run
or work on a sustainable farm?

Growing Growers Kansas City

Is now accepting applications for the

2015 Farm Apprenticeship Program

Growing Growers Apprentices work on a local farm, attend workshops and farm tours, receive books and reference materials, and are trained by their host farmer/mentor. It's a great combination of hands-on experience and classroom training.

Many Growing Growers apprentices have gone on to start their own farms and/or local food-related businesses.

Host farms are available in Leavenworth, Wyandotte and Douglas counties in Kansas and Clay, Jackson, St. Clair and Lafayette counties in Missouri. Apprenticeships may be paid or volunteer positions. Apprentices must be able to travel to workshops and farm tours monthly and commit to a full season of fieldwork on their host farm.

Check out our website at

www.growinggrowers.org or call (816) 805-0362

Deadline to apply for a 2015 Growing Growers Apprenticeship is March 1st,
but *earlier application is strongly recommended!*

Cost to participate is \$500.00, which includes farm tours, free registration to 14 GG workshops, a selection of texts and resources, and a minimum of 8 hours dedicated "sit down" training with your host farmer that go beyond on-the-job training. This training covers topics such as, how your host farm manages soil quality, their yearly production schedule, how they manage their business, and much more. Limited scholarship funds are available.



K-STATE
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Kansas City



Farm to School Initiatives

Barb Depew
May 8, 2015

Kansas State Department of Education
Child Nutrition & Wellness



USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Kansas is Bringing the Farm to School

- 72% of KS schools participated in the 2012 USDA Farm to School Census
- 34% of Kansas schools are engaged in Farm to School
- 28% defined local as within a 50 mile range
- 54% indicated they are buying local vegetables; followed by 52% buying fruit
- Less than 20% were buying proteins and grains

Define Local

- Span the meal tray from fresh fruit and vegetables to flour in the grain component.



These local foods got the highest mark in the USDA census

- Tomatoes
- Watermelon
- Apples
- Cantaloupe
- Beef

We know there are many more local food options in our State. Help us grow!

Use of local foods in school meals and snacks

- School Breakfast Program
- National School Lunch Program
- After School Care Snack Program
- A la Carte Offerings
- Fresh Fruit & Vegetable Program
- Taste Tests

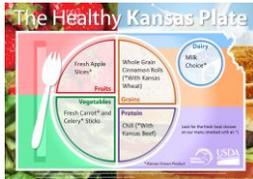
Approaches to Incorporate Farm to School

- Use of local foods in school meals and snacks
- Nutrition education
- School Gardens



School Breakfast & National School Lunch Programs

- Local offerings can span the entire menu (all 5 food groups)
- Promote local offerings on the menu!



After School Care Snack Program (ASCSP) & A la Carte Offerings

- ASCSP
 - Another opportunity for local items from all food groups
- A la Carte
 - Must meet the standards for All Foods Sold in School
 - Allow students to find and research potential items to sell



Fresh Fruit & Vegetable Program (FFVP) and Taste Tests

- FFVP
 - Reaches all students in participating schools
 - Great opportunity for nutrition education
- Taste Tests
 - Chance for children to try new things
 - Provides feedback on potential menu items
 - Students can take ownership of taste tests



Requirements for Using Local Foods in the School Meal Programs

- Purchasing Options
- Food Safety Requirements
- Visit www.kn-eat.org, Farm to School for more information and resources

Making Connections with Local Sources

- Farm to School website - www.kn-eat.org/F2S/F2S_Menus
- From the Land of Kansas Products - www.fromthelandofkansas.org
- Kansas Farmers' Markets - www.farmersmarketonline.com/fm/Kansas.htm
- Kansas State Research and Extension offices - www.ksre.edu

2015 Farm to School Regional Networking & Training Workshops

- Hutchinson – January 16
- Manhattan – January 23
- Oakley – February 6
- Girard – February 20



Workshop Objectives

- Expand local food procurement
- Connect local farmers and producers with school and day care food service
- Identify and explore the challenges and needs of those connections
- Learn creative preparation techniques and culinary skills
- Incorporate a nutrition education component
- Provide networking opportunities

HACCP & Food Safety

- The Center of Excellence for Food Safety Research, Kansas State University



Culinary Demonstrations

- Chef Rick Martin, Lawrence, Kansas



Local Lunch provided by USD 274 Oakley



USDA Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) & the Kansas Farm to School Program

- Daryl Meierhoff
Kansas Department of Agriculture
Division of Food Safety
Manhattan, Kansas

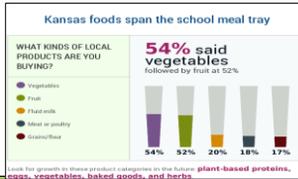


Eight Kansas schools awarded Farm to School Grants

- Centre USD 397 of Lost Springs, KS
- Doniphan West USD 111 of Highland, KS
- Ell-Saline USD 307 of Brookville, KS
- Eudora USD 491 of Eudora, KS
- Maize USD 266 of Maize, KS
- Pike Valley USD 426 of Scandia, KS
- Rawlins County USD 105 of Atwood, KS
- Saint Francis USD 297 of St. Francis, KS

Procuring Local Foods

- Lisa Farmer
USDA Certified Trainer for Local Procurement
Overland Park, Kansas



K-State Research & Extension Resources

- Family Gardening Curriculum
- Kids a Cookin' and Movin'
- Book in a Bag
- Student Handouts
- Displays



KS Farm to School Toolkit

http://www.kn-est.org/F2S/F2S_Menu/F2S_Resources.htm

2015 Farm to School Toolkit

Introduction	1
Procurement	4
Source of Local Foods	4
Additional Tools and Guides	5
Produce Tools and Guides	5
Making Connections	6
Producer and Farmer Resources	6
Resources for Determining What Grows Locally	7
Food Safety	10
Applying GAPs	10
Nutrition Education	13
Menu Planning	16
Promoting your Program	19
Other Toolkits and Farm to Practitioner Resources	20

Team Nutrition Resources

- Grow It, Try It, Like It!
- The Great Garden Detective Adventure
- Dig In! Standards-Based Nutrition Education from the Ground Up



Growing Healthy Kansas Kids

- Team Nutrition Gardening Initiative
Sub-grants for Schools and Childcare
- Awarded to 30 schools and 62 childcare centers to initiate a container gardening project
- Each receives \$300 for supplies, cont and materials



KSDE, CNW Farm to School Resources

- Farm to School Webpage:
 - www.kn-eat.org, Farm to School
- Farm to School Promotional Video:
 - http://www.kn-eat.org/F2S/F2S_Menu/F2S_Recognition_Educational_Video.htm
- Eat Smart Play Hard Video News
- RTC Classes
 - It's Time to Get Down and Dirty
 - Pick a Peck of Produce

Workshop Evaluations

- Did you gain any new knowledge about purchasing local foods for child nutrition meal programs? **96% said 'yes'**
- Would you recommend this training to a colleague? **94% said 'yes'**
- What topics would you like additional training on? **'Finding producers' was #1**



Post Survey

- Describe the most valuable aspects, topics, or activities included in this training. **Panelists, chef demo & nutrition education**
- Are there Farm to School/Pre-school efforts happening in your community? **Farmer's Markets, Extension classes**
- What are the key barriers to increasing Farm to School/Pre-school opportunities? **Understanding policies/procedures**



October is National Farm to School Month

- Identify menu items to source locally
- Make connections
- Plan a local meal event
- Determine training needs
- Bring a school garden planning team together
- Identify curriculum opportunities
- Connect the school with a chef
- Plan a farm field trip
- Host a local tasting event

USDA Farm to School Program

<http://www.fns.usda.gov/farmtoschool>

- Resources and Guidance
- Grant Opportunities
- Planning Toolkit
- Farm to School Fact Sheets
- Videos
- Webinars

Farm to School – Summary of Benefits

- Kids WIN
 - Nutritious, high quality local food
 - Farm to School activities
- Farmers WIN
 - Financial Opportunity
- Communities WIN
 - Reduce the carbon footprint
 - Stimulates local economy
 - Healthy environment

Donn Teske



Opportunities in

Locally produced and value-added agriculture













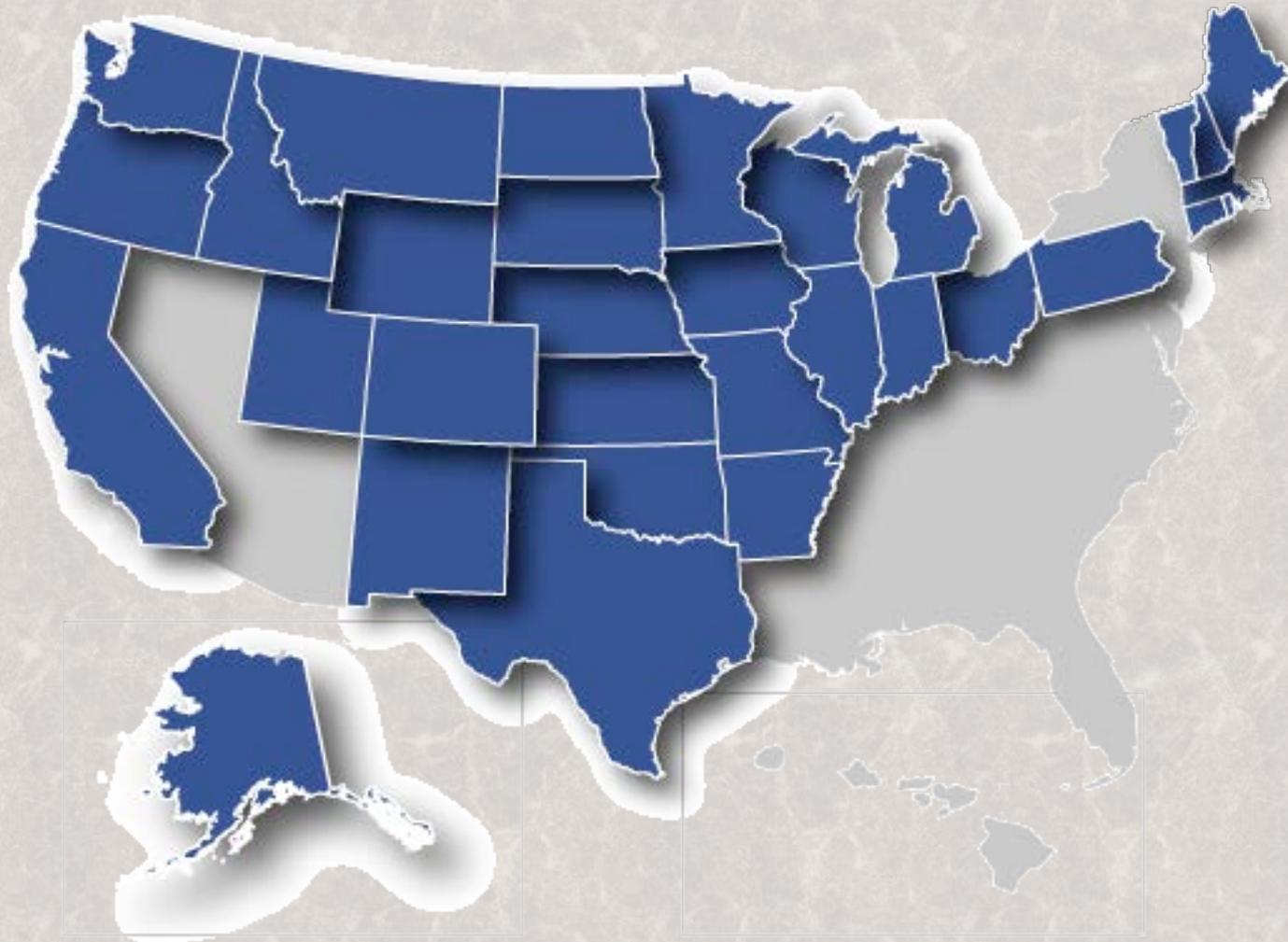




**National
Farmers
Union**

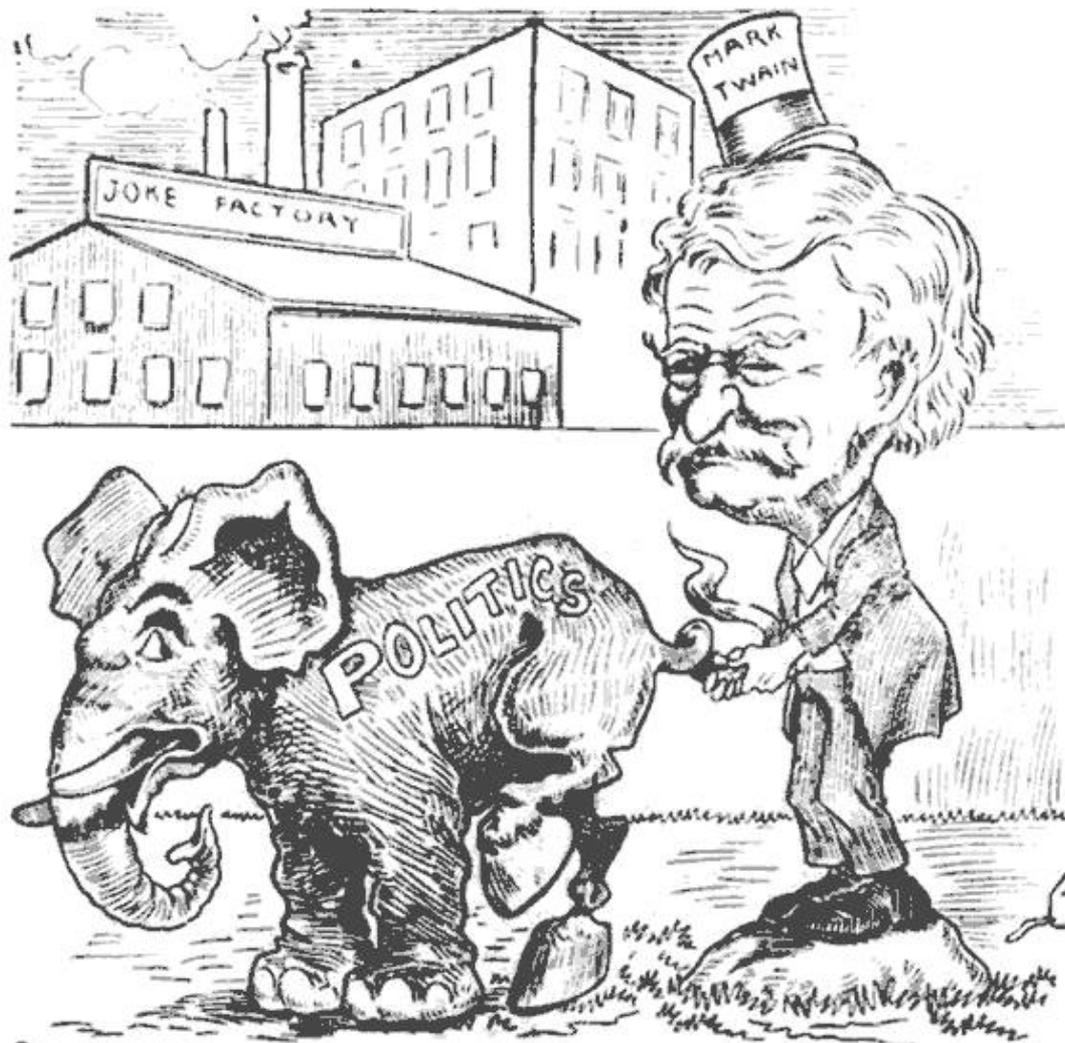
UNITED TO GROW FAMILY AGRICULTURE

26 Chapters covering 31 states





LIABLE TO GET HURT.



Better quit your foolin', Mark, and go back and work at your trade.





Founders, Sept 2nd, 1902 Point Tx.



The ten-man corporation credited with the founding of the Farmers Educational and Cooperative Union of America, (Standing left to right) W. O. Butram, not a founder but standing in for T. J. Donaldson who was, J. S. Turner, Jesse Adams, W. T. Cochran, T. J. Pound, (seated) W. S. Sisk, J. B. Morris, Dr. Lee Seamster, Newt Gresham, O. H. Rhodes.

Unorganized the Farmer Is a Dwarf—But Organized He Is a Giant!



For the first time we are presenting this week a cartoon by John Baer, ex-congressman, the famous farmer-cartoonist. His pictures carry a tremendous "punch," and the lessons conveyed are not easily forgotten.

In this picture John Baer clearly shows the power organization. Long a victim of organized groups who increase their wealth from year to year at his expense, he has only to organize to free himself from this dominance. Indeed, when the farmer chooses to do so he has it in his power to establish for himself a position of equality with all others, and a place of dominance in the marketing of his products.

There is nothing to which the farmer is rightly entitled he cannot secure through organization, and there is no organization which can better be the agency for organization than the Farmers Union. We can change from Dwarf to Giant if we will.

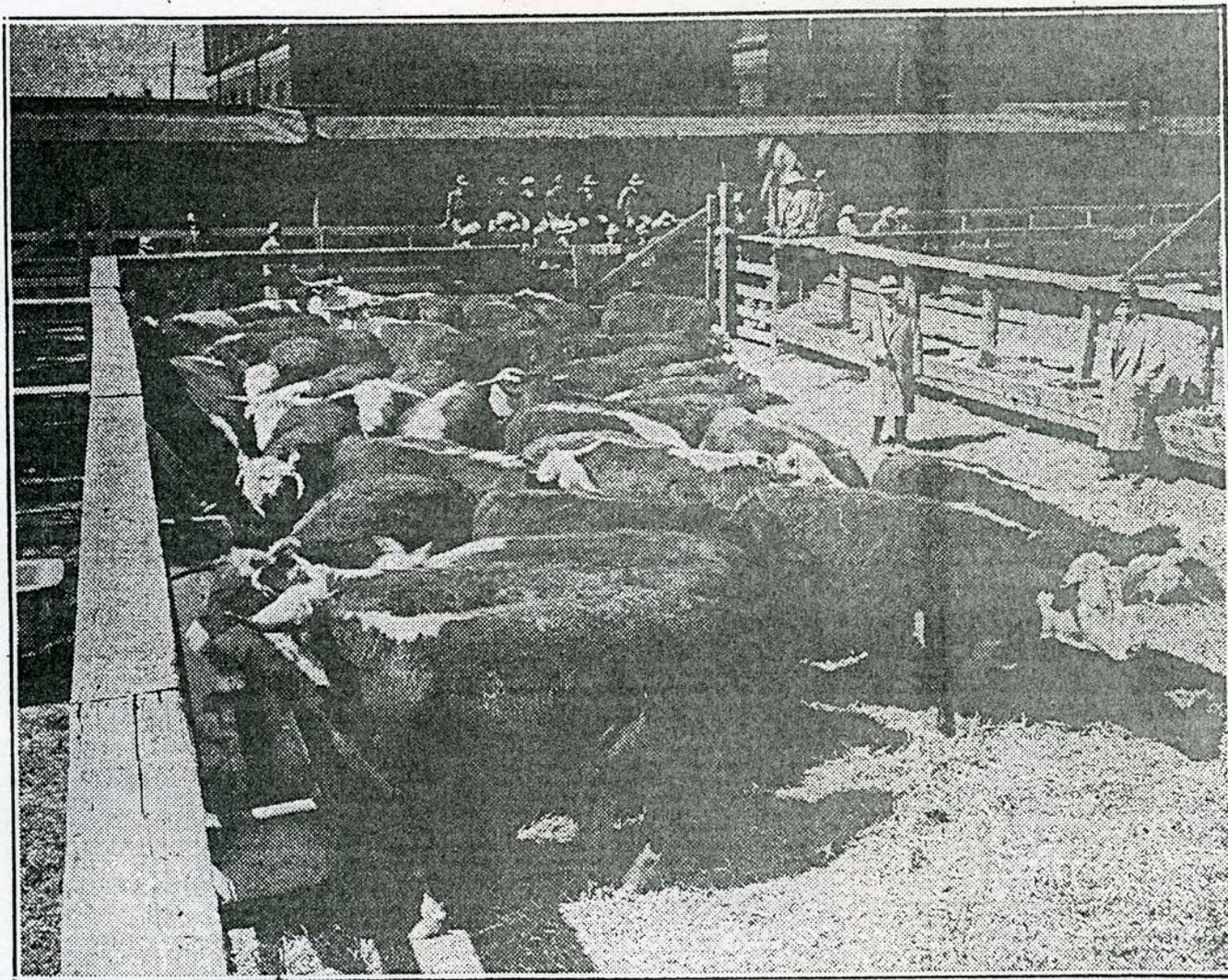
KFU Hybrids (Seed Corn)



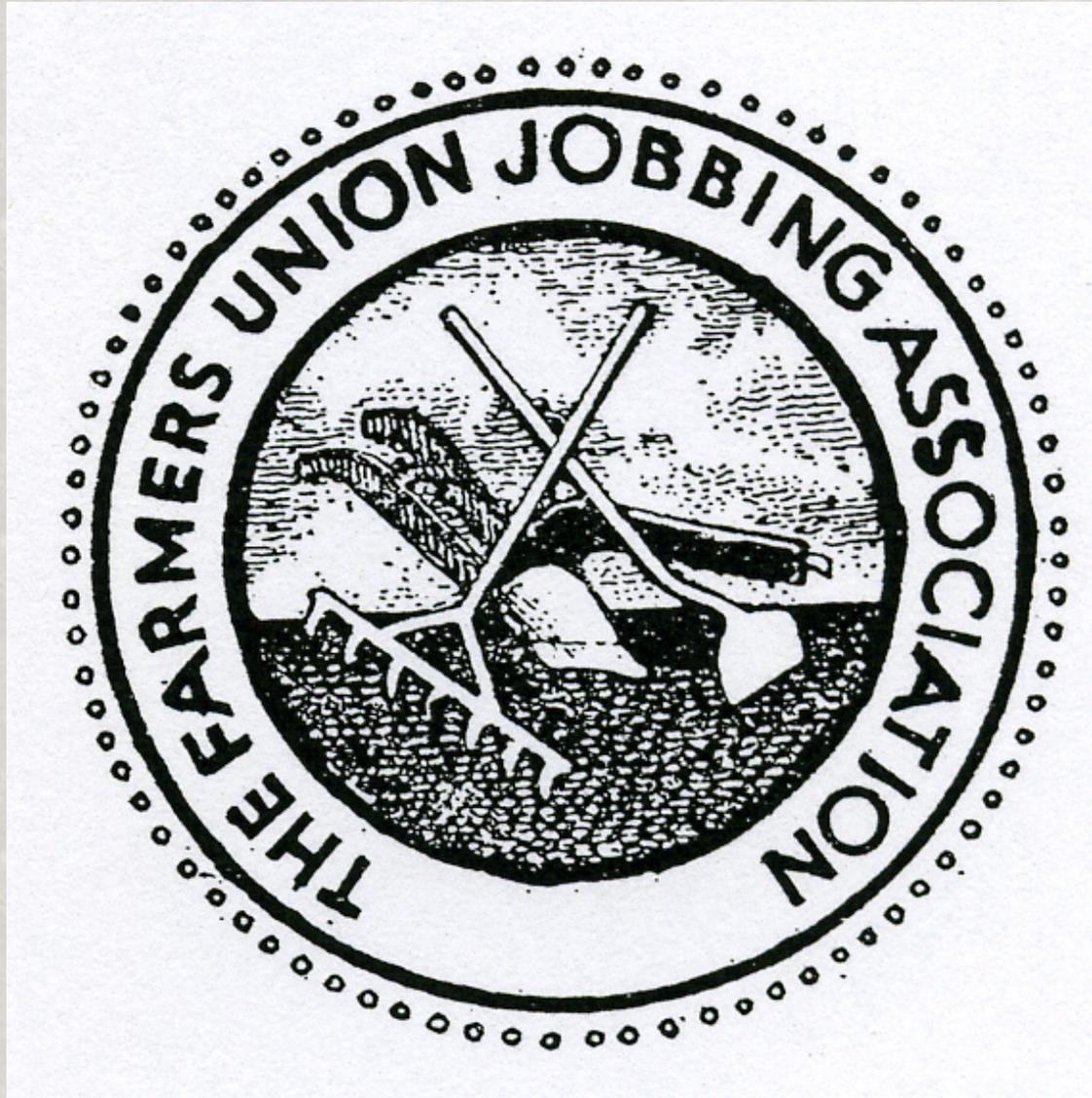
- In St. Mary's Ks.
- In existence from 1945 into the 1960's
- Marketed seed corn across the central U.S.
- Up to 1,400 acres of seed corn in the Kaw River valley.

APRIL 26, 1934

Farmers Union, St. Joseph, Sets New High Price For Cattle on South St. Joseph Market



Ks. Farmers Union Jobbing Assn.



Farmland Industries



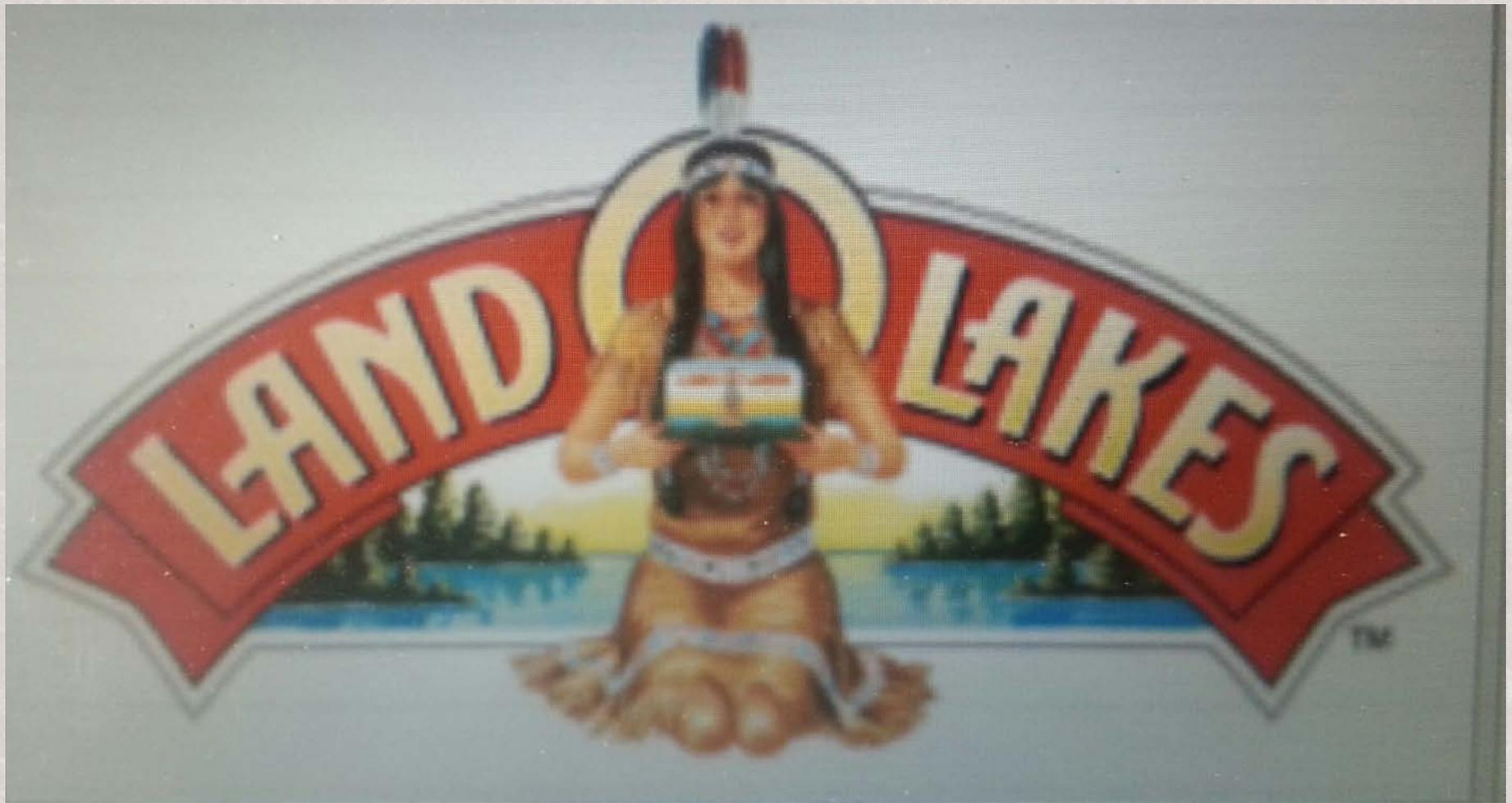


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Education



Beginning Farmer Institute





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UNITED TO GROW FAMILY AGRICULTURE

Farmer's Share of Retail Food Dollar

Did you know that farmers and ranchers receive only 15.8* cents of every food dollar that consumers spend on food at home and away from home?

According to USDA, off farm costs including marketing, processing, wholesaling, distribution and retailing account for more than 80 cents of every food dollar spent in the United States.

Bacon

1 Pound



Retail: \$3.99
Farmer: \$1.09

Top Sirloin Steak

1 Pound



Retail: \$8.79
Farmer: \$2.56

Bread

2 Pounds



Retail: \$2.29
Farmer: \$0.13

Fresh Carrots

5 Pounds



Retail: \$4.39
Farmer: \$1.31

Beer

6-Pack Cans



Retail: \$6.99
Farmer: \$0.05

Cereal

18 Ounce Box



Retail: \$2.99
Farmer: \$0.05

Tomatoes

1 Pound



Retail: \$1.99
Farmer: \$0.46

Eggs

1 Dozen



Retail: \$2.19
Farmer: \$1.14

Flour

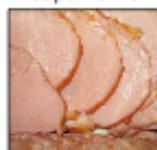
5 Pounds



Retail: \$1.88
Farmer: \$0.67

Boneless Ham

Price per Pound



Retail: \$4.39
Farmer: \$1.09

Lettuce

1 Head (2 Pounds)



Retail: \$2.19
Farmer: \$0.58

Milk

1 Gallon, Fat Free



Retail: \$3.49
Farmer: \$2.18

Potato Chips

Lays Classic, 10.5 oz



Retail: \$3.00
Farmer: \$0.20**

Fresh Potatoes

Russet, 5 Pounds



Retail: \$4.99
Farmer: \$0.42**

Soda

Two Liter Bottle



Retail: \$1.49
Farmer: \$0.05

Farmer's share derived from USDA, NASS "Agricultural Prices," 2014.

Retail based on Safeway (SE) brand except where noted.

*Figure according to U.S. Department of Agriculture Economic Research Service

**Reflects September 2014 price.

www.nfu.org

October 31, 2014

In Kansas



Amazing Grazing

Enhancing Management Opportunities for Kansas Graziers & Livestock Producers

a collaborative project of the Kansas Graziers Association and Kansas Farmers Union with funding from the North Central Risk Management Education Center & USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture

**Goat and Sheep Dairy
Enterprise Exploration:
Getting the Most
Out of Your Milk**
January 2015
Lawrence



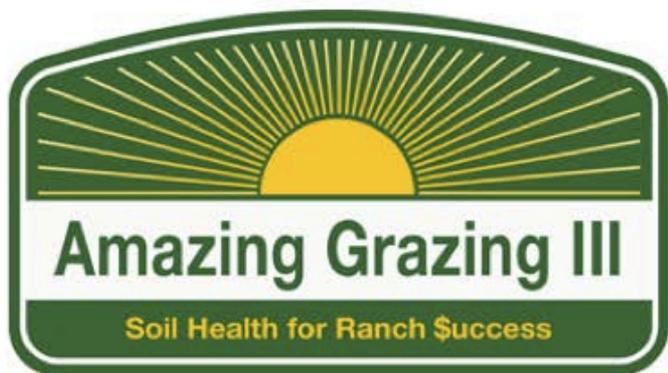
Meat Processing and Marketing for Optimal Sales

February 2015
Manhattan





"Soil Health for Ranch \$uccess" Educational Program Funded



Agroforestry Practices

Wednesday, May 20 - Thursday, May 21

Ramada Topeka Downtown Hotel and Convention

14 presenters from Kansas, Missouri & Nebraska



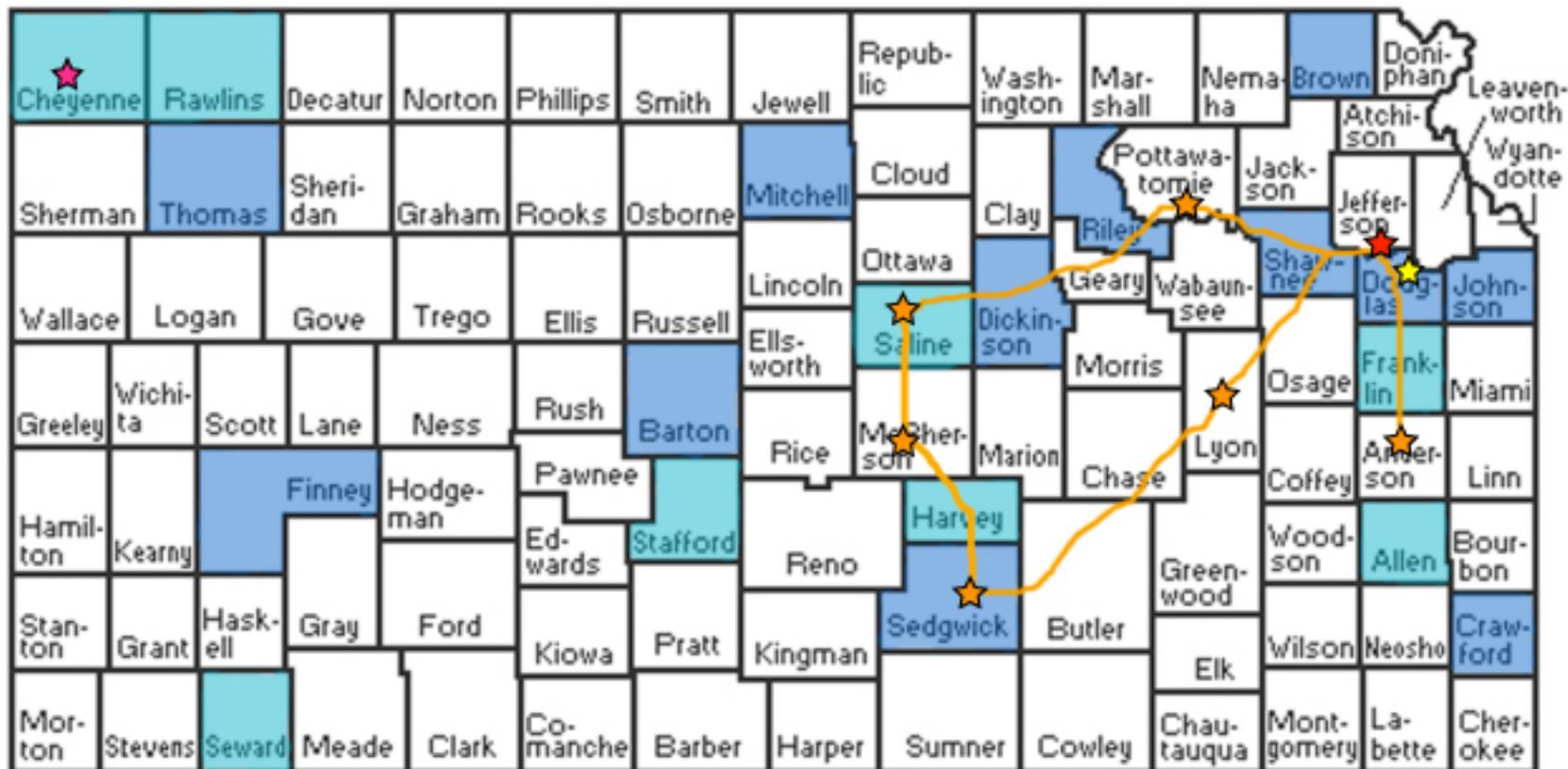


food hubs & co-ops

HOW LOCAL FAMILY FARMS CAN FEED OUR COMMUNITIES

Online Food Cooperatives
April 2013
HCC Klinefelter Barn





KHF Healthy Communities Initiative

Planning Grant Awardees

Allen County
 Cheyenne/Rawlins Counties
 Franklin County
 Harvey County
 Reno County
 Saline County
 Seward County
 Stafford County

Implementation Grant Awardees

Barton County
 Brown County
 Crawford County
 Dickinson County
 Douglas County
 Finney County
 Johnson County
 Mitchell County
 Riley County
 Sedgwick County
 Shawnee County
 Thomas County

High Plains Food Co-op Food Hub

★ Online food co-op delivering to Colorado's Front Range

Potential Douglas County Food Hub

★ Douglas County Food Policy Council: Feasibility Stage

Potential KFU Food Hub

★ Food Hub Site: Southern Jefferson County

— Route

★ Aggregation Sites



DECEMBER 4-6, 2014

THINKING OUTSIDE THE BOX

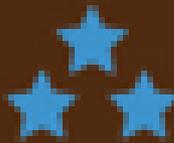


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KANSAS

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-

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Friday, November 7, 2014

Hardy Chicago with ripening fruit



Flight reservation (FMWFFB) | 08DEC14 | MCI

Bananas, Figs, Pinapples, and Tilapia









lofsky's post

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Develop new relationships between:

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- consumers

Increase sales of and marketing channels for local produce;

Heighten food buyer awareness of farmers and available products

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Crome's Market, Marysville



Local Produce Grocery Pilot



Local Produce Grocery Pilot



Hiawatha Thriftway, Hiawatha



High Plains Food Coop

We bring the family farm to you



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Welcome to the High Plains Food Coop

HPFC is a grassroots network of High Plains and Rocky Mountain Front Range producers and consumers uniting interests in locally grown food and other locally made products. The HPFC strives to be a business that is environmentally sustainable, economically viable, and socially just. To foster a local food community and promote a culture of stewardship by cultivating farmer-consumer relationships, promoting the enjoyment of healthful food, increasing food security through diversity, and enhancing overall rural sustainability.



[Login](#)

CALENDAR

December 2014

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

January 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17

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Oxfam America, and North Central Region
SARE**



The Swedish Pavilion Lindsborg, Kansas



Rocky Mountain Farmers Union

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Co-ops

The RMFU Cooperative and Economic Development Center provides technical assistance and funding to rural groups to create marketing, processing, or service cooperatives such as local food or energy programs.

RMFU partners with the USDA and other agencies to help producers start cooperatives.



December 2014

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			



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Check the Advocacy pages for [legislation, news, and opinion](#)

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- » [Local Food](#)
- » [Project List](#)
- » [What's New](#)
- » [Co-Ops Forum](#)

Current Projects

- » [Southwest Farm Fresh Co-op receives \\$70,000 USDA Grant](#)
- » [Re:Vision Refined](#)
- » [Register for the 2014 Community Wealth Building Conference!](#)

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Food from the Farm

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Vincent Mina, Hawaii

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Roger Noonan, Middlebranch Farm



Wisconsin Farmers Union



Darin Von Ruden



Wisconsin Food Hub



Founding Farmers Restaurants



And remember as you go about life:
A good wife can bring balance to your life!



Local Food and Farm Program Final Report to the Iowa Legislature June 2014



Leopold Center for Sustainable Agriculture

209 Curtiss Hall/Iowa State University

Ames, IA 50011-1050

www.leopold.iastate.edu



LEOPOLD CENTER

Iowa State University Extension and Outreach

IOWA STATE
UNIVERSITY

Extension and Outreach

About this report

This is the final report to the Iowa Legislature regarding the Local Food and Farm Program. It was established in August 2011 as part of the Local Food and Farm Initiative to work on four broad goals:

- Promoting the expansion of local food production, processing, distribution and marketing of Iowa food.
- Increasing consumer and institutional spending on Iowa foods.
- Increasing the profitability of farmers and businesses engaged in local food enterprises.
- Increasing the number of jobs associated with local foods.

The program is a collaborative effort among the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship, Iowa State University Extension and Outreach, ISU's College of Agriculture and Life Sciences and the Leopold Center for Sustainable Agriculture.

This report covers activity from July 2013 through June 2014.

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Executive summary

Demand for local food is moving to the mainstream markets, but much work remains to be done to provide access to food at an affordable price for all Iowans. Retail outlets selling local food continue to expand, both in number and types of products offered. Farmers Markets and Community Supported Agriculture enterprises (CSAs) are gaining ground along with institutional purchases from schools, hospitals and care centers, food distribution companies, hotels and restaurants. Providing enough quality products for all these Iowa outlets is a continuing (but welcome) challenge. Ultimately, local food sales are one way to combat the problem of money leaving the state to purchase food needed to meet the needs of Iowans.

The heightened interest in local food is driven by the:

- desire for using food production as community economic development,
- health crisis of obesity, especially in children,
- limited capacity of young farmers to successfully enter commodity farming, and
- growing severity of climate change and the need to implement sustainable farming practices such as extended rotations, minimum tillage, and the substitution of labor for fossil fuel.

Work supported by legislative funds from the Local Food and Farm Initiative (LFFI) is helping to meet the demand for local food and create a more vibrant and sustainable local food economy. Primary emphasis is being directed at ways the LFFI funds can be used to leverage research and programs/projects to focus on business development in the local food system.

This report contains an overview and work summary of three Iowa State University efforts focused on the advancement of Iowa's local food systems:

- Local Food and Farm Initiative (LFFI)
- Iowa Food System Working Group (IFSWG), and
- Marketing and Food Systems Initiative (MFSI) of the Leopold Center for Sustainable Agriculture

A variety of activities and educational programs are facilitated and funded by these organizations including:

- an annual conference,
- food hub/aggregation center studies,
- urban agriculture projects,
- Farm to School programming, and
- an increased number of regional local food coordinators hired across the state.

One of the primary goals of the Local Food and Farm Initiative this year was to help create, support and participate in coalition building around the local food system.

As shown in the Impact Snapshot [www.leopold.iastate.edu/LFFI-snapshot] of the Local Food and Farm Initiative, more than \$660,000 in leveraged funds were received as a result of the nearly \$37,000 invested from the Local Food and Farm Initiative funds.

The case for local foods in Iowa

In 2012, nearly 3,000 Iowa farms sold products worth \$17.5 million directly to consumers up from \$16.5 million in 2007. This increase in sales occurred despite the fact that the number of farms reporting direct sales remained steady, with 2,987 farms reporting direct sales in 2007 and 2,964 in 2012.¹

As one of the largest U.S. agricultural production states, Iowa possesses unique advantages and potential to expand the state's local food economy. Almost three-quarters of Iowa's land already is vested in agriculture; commercial and conventional farming infrastructure dominates the landscape. With the support of federal programs, complementary initiatives in neighboring states, and the clout and capacity of a strong network of committed farmers and community leaders, Iowa is well positioned to expand its leadership in agriculture through intentional investments that will grow the local food economy.

Iowans spend more than \$8 billion on food each year and it is estimated that only 14 percent of that food is grown within the state.² Research by Iowa State University (ISU) economist David Swenson showed that Iowa has 83 percent fewer acres devoted to vegetable production than the national average. In addition, Swenson found that Iowa has 94 percent fewer acres devoted to the production of non-citrus fruit. As a result, the majority of fresh fruits and vegetables consumed by Iowans must be imported from other states and countries.³ Swenson's research describes the current state of agriculture in Iowa and the steps needed to develop a vibrant and sustainable food economy. Increased production of fruit and vegetables coupled with a decrease in food imports could result in a corresponding increase in jobs and incomes for many Iowans. Despite the increase in local foods activities, there is still much work to be done. Swenson suggests that there needs to be an increase in direct-to-consumer sales as well as sales in the retail and institutional sectors. Furthermore, he stresses the value of adding more food system localization infrastructure, research and development and incentives.⁴

The interest in the local food sales is not limited to fruit and vegetable producers. Conventional farmers who raise corn, soybeans, cattle and hogs also may view local food markets as a way to diversify their operations or help a son or daughter begin his or her own agricultural enterprise. Greenhouse and high tunnel production have the potential to expand year-round fruit and vegetable production in Iowa. Increased local food production, marketing and processing means more jobs. A 2010, six-state research project examining the potential value of an expanded fruit and vegetable industry in six states (Iowa, Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota and Wisconsin) studied the potential benefits of increasing production of 28 fruit and vegetable crops and a projected increase in consumption of in-state produce. The analysis indicated that under this scenario farm-level sales would reach about \$61.4 million, with a potential retail value of \$230.1 million and would require creation of a total of 657 farm-level jobs, compared to the 131 jobs currently generated from this acreage under corn and soybean production.⁵

Swenson authored a report (March 2013) on Iowa's shrinking labor force, indicating that economic growth will be limited if the current downward trends in Iowa's workforce numbers are not reversed. Members of Iowa's workforce are leaving the state in increasingly high numbers in order to maintain an economically stable household. When a family leaves the state, the household leaders also take their children. This depletes the existing workforce as well as the store of potential members of the agricultural work force and knowledge base. This loss of young workers has social consequences because young people represent Iowa's future; they are the individuals who will later become

contributing community members, local government representatives or agricultural producers.⁶

Enthusiasm for local and sustainably produced foods in Iowa continues to grow. As of May 2011, there were more than 100 organizations and programs including state, federal, university and private groups engaged in helping build Iowa's local food economy.⁷ These efforts help address the concerns about workers moving out of the state and reveal multiple opportunities for Iowans to be involved in their local food system. ISU affiliated departments, including ISU Extension and Outreach (ISUEO) and the Leopold Center for Sustainable Agriculture (LCSA) work to share the multitude of resources currently available and develop various tools to help with the challenges and opportunities facing those interested in producing and procuring local food. Furthermore, ISU contributes a significant amount of funding and support to the Iowa Food System Working Group (IFSWG) and its work is heavily integrated with that of the Marketing and Food Systems Initiative (MFSI) of the Leopold Center. The work being done by these two organizations provides strong and complementary support to LFFI programming; notable outcomes and outputs will be described later in this report.

Iowa Local Food and Farm Initiative (LFFI)

Overview of the LFFI

Taking into account the increasing importance and potential benefits from developing local food systems, the Iowa legislature asked the Leopold Center for Sustainable Agriculture to develop an “actionable” plan to create a more vibrant local food economy. The Iowa Local Food and Farm Plan was developed in 2010 by gathering and assessing input from more than 1,000 individuals. The resulting document outlined 29 operational recommendations organized in six sections:

- Business Development and Financial Assistance
- Processing
- Food Safety
- Beginning, Minority and Transitioning Farmers
- Assessing Progress
- Local Food Incentives

The Iowa Local Food and Farm Plan was presented to the Iowa legislature in January 2011 and in July 2011 funds were approved in the state's agriculture and natural resources budget to establish the Local Food and Farm Initiative (SF-509). The purpose of this Initiative is to “empower farmers and food entrepreneurs to provide for strong local food economies that promote self-sufficiency and job growth in the agricultural sector and allied sectors of the economy.” Because many other partners are working successfully on Processing, Food Safety and Assessing Progress, the Local Food and Farm Initiative focused on Business Development and Financial Assistance; Beginning, Minority and Transitioning Farmers; and Local Food Incentives. While the Iowa Local Food and Farm Plan was not explicitly referred to in the legislation, the goals of the Initiative and the recommendations from the Plan were integrally related.⁸ This work began in 2011 and will continue with renewed support and funding approved in the 2014 legislative session.

Outputs and outcomes of the LFFI

The LFFI programming has yielded a variety of outputs and outcomes since its inception. In April 2014 the LFFI hosted the third local food conference: *It's Your Business: Expanding Opportunities in Iowa's*

Food System. More than 100 people attended and based on their responses to the program evaluations, they appreciated the event's focus and gained information they could apply in their workplace. Participants left the conference with greater understanding and ability to support businesses involved in the local food system. Ninety-one percent of respondents said they made new networking connections and 83 percent indicated that they intend to take specific actions as a result of learning or networking at the conference.

Featured speaker Lucy Amundsen, Marketing Manager for her family-owned business, Locally Laid, encouraged participants to turn their personal narrative into a successful brand. While most of the break-out sessions received high marks, this session was especially highly rated. Comments showed that respondents appreciated her candor and ideas she shared about marketing.

Participants could attend any of three workshop tracks: Food Hub Creation and Sustainability; Processing Centers and Value-Added Products; and Online and Institutional Marketing Strategies. Presentation information from most of the sessions is available on the Leopold Center's website (www.leopold.iastate.edu/2014-iowa-local-food-conference).

Updates on the LFFI project areas funded for 2013-14

As described in the overview of the LFFI, the Initiative chose to focus its efforts in 2013-14 on

- Business Development and Financial Assistance,
- Beginning, Minority and Transitioning Farmers, and
- Local Food Incentives (including Farm to School).

Project area 1: Business Development and Financial Assistance

Background, rationale and relevance

Food Hubs:

The Local Food and Farm Initiative has focused its work on investigating and studying business development models for the creation of *food hubs*. Commercial distributors and retailers require large quantities of produce from a limited number of reliable sources in order to simplify their business transactions. One way to meet the needs of distributors and retailers is to aggregate produce from multiple farms at a single location for packing, processing and shipment; these facilities, known as food hubs, act as brokers and aggregators between farmers, distributors, and retailers. In a May 2013 press release, Tom Vilsack, U. S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Secretary, noted the need for a comprehensive, multi-year *Food, Farm and Jobs Bill* that would provide the USDA with the program support needed in order to continue making investments in local and regional food systems.⁹ Current USDA estimates identify more than 300 active food hubs across the country. These groups have successfully leveraged state, federal and private investments, including USDA funds, to develop and expand their businesses. The USDA has developed an online portal dedicated to food hubs featuring news, cutting-edge research and publications related to food hubs and other innovative food distribution models (<http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal/usda/usdahome?contentid=2013/02/0036.xml>).

New food hubs already are opening fresh markets for Iowa growers, particularly small-scale farmers. Food hubs currently active in Iowa include Iowa Valley Food Cooperative, Iowa Food Cooperative, and

Iowa Food Hub, with several hubs under development. As they seek to maximize their potential, these hubs offer three key services. First, they aim to provide effective and efficient means of aggregating and distributing local products, by offering their own storage facilities and trucking services or by coordinating logistics and brokering distribution by third party entities. This allows farmers to access new consumer bases, and enables existing retailers, distributors, and food service buyers to source products locally and regionally. Second, food hubs will help small farmers meet industry requirements for product volume, quality, consistency (through production scheduling), food safety, packaging and labeling. These functions allow hubs to educate growers about Good Agricultural Practices (GAP), state food regulations, business opportunities, and consumer preferences. Third, food hubs have the ability to share information among growers, existing distributors, consumers, researchers and government officials. This includes promoting transparency about product origins, offering education and marketing tips about the superior quality of their Iowa products, and communicating with agencies about how to assist small farmers. Food hubs also offer researchers easy access to data that provides evidence of their contribution to the state's economy, along with information on production, marketing activities, labor needs and capacity.

Thanks to the leadership of ISUEO personnel, including Teresa Wiemerslage and Nick McCann, the Northeast Iowa Food and Fitness Initiative (NIFFI) has demonstrated best practices in local food supply chain development including the establishment of a food hub, piloting new approaches in selling to grocery stores, and working closely with local schools and institutional buyers. Their efforts illustrate how access to local food is impacting the local economy and job market. They estimate that in a six-county region (Allamakee, Chickasaw, Clayton, Fayette, Howard and Winneshiek):

- Local food sales to institutions have grown exponentially in recent years, including \$1.43 million in local food purchases by institutions in 2013. Luther College, with Sodexo's leadership, has reached the college's goal of buying over one-third of all food served on campus from local producers.
- Farmers are reporting increased sales. In 2013, 26 farms (or farm groups) reported \$8.6 million in sales.
- Between 2008 and 2013, 62 food system-related jobs were created and 63 new local food producers or food enterprises were started in the region.
- Sixteen schools purchased \$33,792 of food from northeast Iowa farmers in the 2013-14 school year. The NIFFI has facilitated more than \$100,000 in local food purchases by northeast Iowa schools since 2008.¹⁰

LFFI-funded ongoing projects

Scaling vendor-managed inventory systems to further leverage the competitive advantage of local foods - PI: Nick McCann; LFFI funding: \$9,400; Leverage: \$208,000

This project was designed to improve the strength and efficiency of the sales relationship between food hubs and local retailers. A software program was developed to track sales of local food products by collecting sales information at the checkout lane of the grocery store. The software creates a daily report for the local food producer that tells how much of each product sold that day. The producer uses this information to determine how much product to deliver to the store to restock the shelves. This saves the grocer from having to place an order and is called a "vendor-managed inventory system."

The system is paired with a consignment agreement. In exchange for giving the farmer a higher price for

the products that do sell, the farmer and grocer agree that the grocer will pay only for the products that are purchased by the “sell-by” date. This greatly reduces risk for the grocer, because he/she will not take a loss on the unsold product, while increasing profitability for the farmer because the system ensures that very little product goes bad on the shelf prior to its sell-by date.

The software was tested first by one grocer and a local dairy that makes yogurt. Starting in August 2014, the vendor-managed inventory system will be tested on a larger scale with an estimated 30 to 40 fruit and vegetable farmers and four grocery stores in northeast Iowa. The pilot will last until the end of the produce season. Food will be delivered daily to the grocers by the Iowa Food Hub, a nonprofit food hub in northeast Iowa, to test the system and suggest improvements. The goal of the project is eventually to make daily deliveries of local foods to grocery stores on a long-term basis, giving farmers consistent markets for their products and expanding access to local foods in the places where most people buy their food.

Project area 2: Beginning, Minority and Transitioning Farmers

The major challenges facing beginning farmers have changed little over the past several years. The rising costs of land, seed, inputs, equipment and the expense of paying for health insurance make it difficult to earn a living in agriculture. The needs of beginning, minority and transitioning farmers were identified as a target issue in the original Local Food and Farm Plan. ISU has taken a supportive role as opposed to a primary one in this area, because of the intensive work being done by our partners. However, when possible, support is provided (as shown by the project below) to initiatives that support economic development and job creation efforts related to new farmers.

LFFI funded ongoing projects

Small farm field and business apprenticeship - PI: Diane Wieland; LFFI funding: \$6,824; Leverage: \$8,000

The Wallace Centers of Iowa launched an apprenticeship program in 2013 using LFFI funding. Four apprentices were trained in organic fruit and vegetable production at the Henry A. Wallace Country Life Center near Orient. They learned about all aspects of farming, including production, packing, marketing and business planning. They also visited other area farms to see farming operations in action.

Prior to 2013, the Wallace Centers had an internship program, but LFFI support allowed them to bring the program to a new level. Says Diane Wieland, director of the center, “We’d had interns before, but this grant allowed us to expand on the idea [...] We saw they needed more than work experience, but education and exposure to other farms.”

In 2013 four apprentices completed the program. One graduate is now farming and three others are engaged in agriculture in other ways, such as community gardening and visiting farms overseas. The apprenticeship program has four 2014 apprentices currently working to complete the program. Wieland expects the program to continue in 2015 and become an annual offering.

Project area 3: Local Foods Incentive

LFFI currently has no ongoing funded projects related to local food incentives. We are partnering with

other organizations such as Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship on programs such as Farm to School.

Farm to school programs enable children to have access to nutritious food while also benefiting communities and local farmers. In addition to supplying nourishing, locally grown and produced foods in schools, farm to school programming encourages and supports nutrition and agriculture education. By being exposed to taste tests, school gardens, composting programs and farm tours, children learn where their food comes from and how their food choices affect their bodies, environment and community.¹¹

The Farm to School Network is a nationwide effort begun in the 1990s to connect schools and local farms with the goals of improving access to healthy food, providing educational opportunities and supporting local farmers. Tammy Stotts, Iowa's Farm to School Coordinator, is the person to contact if a school would like to establish a chapter through the Iowa Department of Agriculture.¹² Iowa Farm to School now has a Facebook page with regular features such as Garden Tips, Fun Fact Friday, photos showcasing IOWA, latest information on Farm to School initiatives, opportunities and contests (<http://www.iowaagriculture.gov/AgDiversification/farmToSchoolProgram.asp>).

According to Stotts, 27 Farm to School chapters have received more than \$116,000 in funding since 2007. Over 69,000 students in grades K-12 participated and during Farm to School month, the chapters spent \$15,100 for fresh/local fruits and vegetables. A school garden program called "A Garden is the Way to Grow" was started in 2012 and in three years, benefits have reached 93 schools and 16,677 students. A very popular initiative, "A" is for Apple, has grown from 13 schools and 1789 students in 2008 to 44 schools and over 5,000 students some years.

An excellent example of Iowa's farm to school efforts is the work being done by the Northeast Iowa Food and Fitness Initiative. School policies, customs, and practices have transformed dramatically as a result of policies on school gardens and the use of school garden produce in the school lunch program. More schools are beginning to incorporate local, healthy foods into school food menus. Furthermore, schools are supporting education, training, and networking to make safe, healthy, local food an important part of school food programs.¹³

LFFI Impact Snapshot

This evaluation of seven one-year food system projects, five completed and two ongoing, funded by the Local Food & Farm Initiative (LFFI) indicated that for every dollar of LFFI investment in these projects, another \$17.92 was leveraged by project leaders and their partners (see this publication on the website: www.leopold.iastate.edu/LFFI-snapshot).

Additionally, the evaluation revealed that an integrated network of farmers, local food service providers, schools, and businesses create economic opportunities for farmers and small businesses alike.

- Twelve new partnerships were created as a result of the LFFI projects.
- A total of 39 unique organizations participated in LFFI projects (including groups that received LFFI funding).
- On average, LFFI grant recipients worked with five other civic, private or public sector organizations to accomplish the goals of each project.
- Twelve new jobs were created as a result of LFFI investment
 - Three new full-time, year-round jobs were created and nine other jobs (either full-time temporary or part-time temporary).
- Six aspiring farmers received on-farm training in local food production.

- Six farmers in north central Iowa are collaborating to market their products through package deals sold directly to consumers and sales to a grocery store and school.
- Two chefs are buying more local food after participating in the food hub workshop.
- One Iowa dairy now guarantees its product with grocers – meaning the grocer doesn't pay for product that gets outdated – as a result of participating in local foods marketing research conducted through a vendor-managed inventory system project. The dairy is enjoying record sales and continued growth.

Iowa Food System Working Group (IFSWG)

Overview of the IFSWG

The Iowa Food System Working Group (IFSWG) was formed to aggregate and share existing resources on local and regional food system development within ISU Extension and Outreach (ISUEO). This includes development of all four program areas and geographic regions of ISUEO. Members of the working group include Extension and university faculty in food safety, horticulture, value added product marketing, human health, economics, and other areas relevant to local food systems development. IFSWG connects ISUEO to civic organizations throughout the state, such as the Healthiest State Initiative and the Regional Food Systems Working Group (RFSWG). The work being done by the IFSWG provides strong support for LFFI programming.

Outputs and outcomes of the IFSWG

The IFSWG is comprised of five separate committees with different goals and responsibilities. The information from these committees will be compiled on a website to be launched in late 2014. It will serve as a portal to share information with local food coordinators and ISUEO staff involved in food work and with the public. The website will include information and links that provide education and technical assistance gathered from all five committees: Curriculum, Grants, Partnership Development, Professional Development and Resources.

Marketing and Food Systems Initiative (MFSI) of the Leopold Center

Overview of the MFSI

The MFSI supports education, conducts research and facilitates partnerships to increase investment and support for local and regional food, fiber and energy enterprises. The MFSI competitive grant program issued close to \$1.1 million in grants between 2009 and 2013; much of this grant work directly or indirectly supported LFFI priorities.

The Regional Food Systems Working Group (RFSWG) was created by the Leopold Center in 2003. The goal of the working group is to provide a forum for the coordinators of Iowa's regional food groups to share information and learn from each other within the social context of local food systems. This type of collaborative work environment is referred to as a "community of practice." The MFSI has provided a majority of the funding for this group and it is included in the following discussion of outputs and outcomes of the MFSI. In addition, the MFSI has five new local food system projects targeting work in three areas: local food incentives through farm-to-school programs and sales to institutions, beginning farmers, and business development. The new projects within these areas complement the work already

taking place through ISUEO food systems programming.

Outputs and outcomes of the MFSI

Seven MFSI grants related to local food systems awarded between 2011 and 2013 have been completed. These grant-funded projects were conducted throughout Iowa and reached 3,145 participants. Outputs include nine publications and one website. Those reached include students (2,230), farmers/aspiring farmers (528), food service personnel (25) and others (362). A total of \$171,892 was invested in these seven projects.

Grant name	Principal investigator(s) and home organization	Location	LCSA MFSI investment
Research and development of an online local foods buying club cooperative	Jason Grimm, Iowa Valley Resource Conservation and Development, and Jesse Singerman, Prairie Ventures, LLC	Amana	\$48,490
Des Moines farm to school pilot project: Local sourcing for special events and summer feeding	Hannah Lewis, National Center for Appropriate Technology	Des Moines	\$7,475
Fostering healthy diets in children through vibrant school	Hannah Lewis and Ann Robinson, National Center for Appropriate Technology	Des Moines	\$15,435
Record keeping education and insurance benchmarking for Iowa fruit and vegetable producers	Sally Worley, Practical Farmers of Iowa	Ames	\$25,000
Procurement tools to develop sustainable local food purchasing models for farm to school chapters	Jason Grimm, Iowa Valley Resource Conservation and Development	Iowa City	\$36,000
Micro-farming: Reducing rural and urban food deserts through job training	Matt Mancuso, Iowa Western Community College	Council Bluffs	\$16,994
Innovative equipment solutions to reduce costs and improve productivity for small-scale fruit and vegetable growers	Georgeanne Artz, Iowa State University	Ames	\$22,498
Total investment			\$171,892

Research and development of an online local foods buying club cooperative

An online local foods buying club, the Iowa Valley Food Cooperative (IVFC), was created after much research and planning. This grant supported the planning and start-up phases of the cooperative, which included assembling a board of directors, finalizing the cooperative's legal status, creating business

plans, implementing the use of a software package to facilitate transactions handled by the cooperative, moving the cooperative into its own space, and recruiting consumer and producer members. As a result the co-op has gained over 400 consumer members and offers a variety of products including fresh produce, meat, baked goods, and health and beauty supplies. Lessons learned through the process of creating the co-op as well as tools for starting similar ventures are documented in the Leopold Center publication “Starting an Online Food Co-op.” In addition, IVFC organizers have offered guidance to others around Iowa who are working to facilitate the sales and purchases of local foods.

Leverage: \$40,000 from three sources

Des Moines farm to school pilot project: Local sourcing for special events and summer feeding

Due to the significant volume of food needed, it can be difficult to include local foods in lunch programs at large school districts. The National Center for Appropriate Technology and FoodCorps chose to use several small pilot programs to help integrate local foods into the Des Moines Public Schools (DMPS) food service plans. First, local foods were introduced and sampled weekly at three summer feeding sites. Second, a “special event” local food lunch was served once at four schools during Farm to School month (October 2012). Finally, the DMPS Central Campus Culinary Arts program had a one-day event in which they prepared a local food lunch special that was served at the Central Campus Café. These events provided valuable lessons that will allow adaptations as DMPS seeks to expand its Farm to School program in subsequent years. The grant led to further work, also funded by the Leopold Center, called Fostering Healthy Diets in Children through Vibrant School Gardens.

Leverage: \$16,600

Fostering healthy diets in children through vibrant school gardens

FoodCorps members worked in six Des Moines Public Schools (DMPS) to build gardens, incorporate the garden activities into classroom curricula, teach nutrition education, and include local foods into school lunch menus and snacks. These schools served as demonstration sites for other DMPS schools. FoodCorps members conducted more than 736 educational activities reaching at least 2,230 students. The number of teachers incorporating the school garden into classroom curricula grew from 17 to 50 during the project span. Eighty-seven community volunteers also were involved with the gardens and 400 pounds of produce were harvested and used at the school or donated. Two schools involved with the project received Healthier U.S. School Challenge awards, which recognize schools that are creating healthy school environments and have committed to continue doing so. In addition, an inter-school peer learning network was created to offer support to schools implementing school gardens.

Leverage: \$34,464 from five sources

Record keeping education and insurance benchmarking for Iowa fruit and vegetable producers

Crop insurance options suitable for fruit and vegetable farmers currently are limited. One reason is a lack of available fruit and vegetable production and sales records that potential insurers can use as a basis for their insurance offerings to Iowa’s fruit and vegetable producers. To bridge this gap, Practical Farmers of Iowa (PFI) partnered with several fruit and vegetable farms to assemble detailed farm records. A total 439 farmers were trained on how to keep records that would meet Farm Service Agency requirements for acquiring crop insurance. Thirteen farm operations from that group, including 21 farmers, shared their completed records with PFI. The information was then shared with insurance agents and others involved in offering crop insurance for Iowa fruit and vegetable producers. Field days, webinars and workshops were held to disseminate record-keeping information to interested farmers.

Leverage: \$75,000 from Federal Risk Management Agency

Procurement tools to develop sustainable local food purchasing models for farm to school chapters

Many schools would like to purchase and use local foods as a part of their school lunch programs, but face difficulties to identify and procure local food. This project conducted interviews with national farm to school leaders to identify the best resources available to school food service departments to facilitate local food procurement. These resources (including several new tools were created by project participants) were collected and made available through a website (www.ialocalfoodforschools.org). Among them were a regional school food safety checklist, a template for local food bid request form, a sample purchase agreement, and a sample farmer profile to be displayed in the school lunchroom. In addition, the project organizers worked with several local schools and farmers on outreach activities. This involved meetings to gain participant input, educational workshops on menu and crop planning reaching 44 farmers and 25 food service professionals, and farm tours. The project partnered with 11 individuals from seven schools, two food businesses or organizations, and eight farms. As a result, two schools began purchasing local foods and one started a school garden.

Leverage: \$12,000 total awarded to two schools by IDALS Farm to School Chapter grant

Micro-farming: Reducing rural and urban food deserts through job training

Lack of access to healthy food is a problem for rural residents of southwest Iowa. Iowa Western Community College (IWCC) addressed this issue while also filling a demand from aspiring farmers for more educational options. The Dream to Farm course was created and offered at IWCC to prepare students to produce food on small parcels of land for local markets. Of the 20 graduates, seven have launched their farm enterprises and seven others are preparing to do so. In addition, the curriculum was shared with three other community colleges, one of which already has offered a similar course. After receiving the Leopold Center grant, an additional grant was obtained so the course could be offered three more times in 2013 and 2014.

Leverage: \$16,050 from USDA RBEG

Innovative equipment solutions to reduce costs and improve productivity for small-scale fruit and vegetable growers

Small fruit and vegetable farms are often labor-intensive operations. As they seek to scale up production in order to reach larger markets, farmers must evaluate whether they can continue labor-intensive practices or save some labor through use of machinery. The project included two sets of case studies. In the first segment, research was conducted with five groups of farmers to explore how sharing farm machinery can help small-scale fruit and vegetable growers to ramp up their production at a reduced cost. Each group of farmers acquired one piece of machinery to be shared, and each group determined their own arrangement according to the group needs. Results are shared in the *Machinery Owning Manual for Fruit and Vegetable Growers* (www.leopold.iastate.edu/machinery-sharing-manual), which offers tools to help growers determine which arrangements are most appropriate and create a shared machinery use agreement. It includes worksheets for calculating each member's annual contribution to the cost of maintaining and operating the machine and for selecting the best organizational structure under which to share the equipment. The second set of case studies investigates how six farmers made decisions regarding machinery needs and acquisition. Results are shared in *Potential for Machinery: A Case Study of Fruit and Vegetable Growers in Iowa* (www.leopold.iastate.edu/machinery-case-study).

Publications developed July 2013-June 2014

Several publications on the different aspects of local food system work, not related to the MFSI competitive grant program, have been added to the Leopold Center for Sustainable Agriculture's website this past year. All can be found by title here: www.leopold.iastate.edu/pubs/alpha:

June 2014 - Production Planning for Aggregators

Savanna Lyons, LCSA; and Mary Oldham, Value Chain Cluster Initiative

June 2014 - Machinery Sharing Manual for Fruit and Vegetable Growers

Georganne Artz and Linda Naeve, ISU Department of Economics and ISE Extension and Outreach

April 2014 - Iowa CSA farms

Savanna Lyons and Geetha Iyer, LCSA

April 2014 - Diversity of Conventional Farming in Northeast Iowa: Why Do Farmers Farm the Way They Do?

Alice Topaloff, LCSA intern

February 2014 - Local Food & Farm Initiative Program Outcomes and Impacts, 2011-2014

Corry Bregendahl and Arlene Enderton, LCSA

January 2014 - Potential for Machinery: A Case Study of Fruit and Vegetable Growers in Iowa

Nicholas Pates and Georganne Artz, ISU Department of Economics

November 2013 - 2012 Economic Impacts of Iowa's Regional Food Systems Working Group

Corry Bregendahl and Arlene Enderton, LCSA

November 2013 - Impact Brief: 2012 Economic Impacts of Iowa's Regional Food Systems Working Group

Corry Bregendahl and Arlene Enderton, LCSA

November 2013 - Post Harvest Handling Decision Tool

Chris Blanchard

September 2013 - Local Food and Farm Program Final Report – 2013

Craig Chase, Lynn Heuss and Laura Kleiman, LCSA

July 2013 - Starting an Online Local Food Co-op

Jesse Singerman, Prairie Ventures, LLC

Plan of Work for 2014

Each time local food system supporters gather, such as at this year's "It's Your Business" conference, two primary concerns emerge. First, there is an ongoing need for a more comprehensive database for local foods resources. We are working to launch a website that will provide this information. The second issue is the benefit of bringing together a core group of fundamental partners to take local food

system development to the next level. Having a diverse group of partners working on the local, regional and state levels provides greater stimulus for sustainability and for developing a vision that includes many organizations whose missions align with each other.

The goal for this group of partners is to develop a plan for increased collaboration and integration of current and future efforts statewide. The result would be raised awareness about the different benefits and challenges surrounding a productive and valuable local food system along with the infrastructure necessary to sustain it. A new article by sociologists Mary Emery and Corry Bregendahl emphasizes the importance of this kind of partnership development: “The process of building relationships is critical to successful community and policy change work (p. 13).” They also say, quoting work from another study by Kania and Kramer, “The expectation that collaboration can occur without a supporting infrastructure is one of the most frequent reasons why it fails” (p. 2).¹⁴

The potential of this coalition is to chart a course over the next three to five years to implement changes and promote programs for our Iowa local food system. Among the potential benefits are job creation and positive financial outcomes that will in turn revitalize many of our rural communities. The main goals will be to 1) strengthen and deepen partnerships through coalition building, thus encouraging the creation of sustainable funding streams for local food coordinators, and 2) generate a business plan that incorporates food hubs as the centerpiece of local foods activity in Iowa.

Coalition Building to support local food coordinators

Coalition building initiatives have been initiated with ISUEO and partner groups in north central Iowa (Mason City area), northeast Iowa (University of Northern Iowa), Dubuque, and central Iowa (Ames, Boone, Marshall county area). Later in 2014, efforts will begin in southeast Iowa, southwest Iowa and northwest Iowa. These sessions, based on the example of the Northeast Iowa Food and Fitness Initiative and relying on many of the same principles used in that area, will eventually lead to public-private partnerships that will create sustainable funding streams for local food coordinators.

A Local Food Coordinator Factsheet is nearing completion highlighting the coordinators’ role and necessity. The factsheet will include examples of what current coordinators do around the state, a sample job description, reasons to hire a coordinator, and ways to fund these positions. The factsheet will be available on the MFSI page of the Leopold Center website when completed.

Food Hub business development tools

Food hub businesses springing up nationwide are closing the supply chain gap between small local farmers and previously untapped food buyers, such as restaurants, institutions, retailers and distributors. Few training resources exist specifically to serve this new business sector, so ISUEO and the Leopold Center are supporting the production of a series of research papers and practical toolkits on food hub management. The research methodology for these tools draws on local and national information sources, lending it local as well as national relevance. The Iowa Food Hub, located in Decorah, is serving as a “demonstration hub” (similar to a demonstration farm) that tests and demonstrates innovative practices for food hub supply chain development. The Iowa Food Hub was formed with the support of ISUEO and the Leopold Center, so it can take more risks than a typical food hub. This kind of backing allows the hub to exhibit a rare degree of transparency in its operations by documenting successes, failures, and lessons learned in order to benefit other emerging hubs. A series of Iowa Food Hub toolkits will be produced and shared with other emerging food hubs. This work is

complemented by two additional projects that investigate the growth trajectory of established hubs around the country, using data from phone interviews and research visits with 20 successful hubs to determine how their lessons may be applied in Iowa.

Food hub publications in progress will cover how to develop a pre-packed local food box program for employees to pick up at their work sites, farm to school sales for food hubs, best practices for food hub accounting, food hub decision-making structures, and financial planning for food hub growth. Much of the resulting work is being translated into workshop form for food hub managers, and the Leopold Center's partnership with the Wallace Center at Winrock International also provides a national forum for sharing these tools through webinars and conferences.

Incubator Kitchens

Thanks to the rising demand for local foods, raw products are more readily available in season. However, an unmet consumer demand exists for locally processed foods. Farmers become interested in processing for many reasons: to sell value-added products (additional income), extend the availability of products beyond harvest season (canning, freezing, etc.), and avoid waste (using imperfect products). Shared-use kitchens allow interested individuals to start a food processing business without the huge capital investment of acquiring their own facility. Caterers, specialty food producers, chefs, home gardeners, farmers, etc., can see the value in shared-use kitchen facilities. Shared-use kitchens (or incubator kitchens) are starting up all over the country. An Econsult study (http://www.econsultsolutions.com/wp-content/uploads/2013/08/ESI-SharedKitchenReport_2013.pdf) reported a dozen such facilities in 1999 and over 130 in 2013. There are no active shared kitchens in Iowa; however, several local organizations have shown interest in developing such facilities.

To address this gap in services for local food processing, ISUEO and the Leopold Center are creating a toolkit that provides information, resources, and a step-by-step guide to developing a shared kitchen. This toolkit will be available November 2014.

Planned evaluation

RFSWG Impact Snapshot

Regional Food System Working Group coordinators cooperated with Leopold Center evaluators to conduct the first evaluation of their work. The same set of questions was used to collect information from every region of Iowa. Surveys were administered to local food producers, institutions and intermediated markets (IIMs), such as grocers and restaurants that purchase local foods and who are participating in their local RFSWG group.

The evaluation process was repeated in spring 2014 to gather data from 2013. One hundred twenty farmers and 73 institutions or intermediated markets responded. Findings from the evaluation are expected to be released in October 2014.

Urban Agriculture Toolkit

The Agricultural Urbanism Toolkit is an ISU Community Design Lab project funded through a Leopold Center MFSI grant. The toolkit features a process that promotes public interest design through engagement with community leaders. It assists communities in identifying assets, limitations, community stakeholders and potential for local food system revitalization. This holistic design incorporates community values around food, and identifies potential design solutions and strategies

that incorporate residents' insights and knowledge about their communities. These design strategies incorporate tactics including: edible gardening, community and school gardens, urban farms, public and edible landscaping, community supported agriculture, local markets, food hubs, food enterprise centers, and other business development activities and projects.

Three steering committee meetings have been held with the partner communities of Cresco, Cedar Rapids and Des Moines. Each community is unique in scale, character, and local food system interests. Initial meetings involved discussion on how to capitalize on existing physical amenities and programming to further incorporate local food system development. Potential activities include food boxes and food hub development, community kitchens, community and school gardens and other connections to existing programs in schools, the city, etc. While each partner community is unique, common threads have been discovered that will enhance the toolkit process as a transferable model for understanding community goals, opportunities, limitations, and strategic design scenarios for future food systems. For example, each community can identify with the need for marketing of local food systems and creating a brand for the development strategy that is chosen.

Sustainable funding

Staff of the LFFI will continue to work toward long-term sustainability of funding, and legislative support is vital to the progress being made toward a resilient local food system. To this end, discussions began in fall 2013 with ISU and community foundations on how to develop a strategy to increase public investment in local food system development work. Once the marketing materials are developed, potential donors will be identified and approached to determine the effectiveness of the materials.

The Program Team

Craig Chase – Local Food and Farm Initiative state coordinator

Chase, in addition to being the state coordinator, is currently the program manager of the Marketing and Food Systems Initiative for the Leopold Center for Sustainable Agriculture. He also serves as the lead in the ISU Extension Iowa Food System Working Group, focusing on local food system development.

Lynn Heuss – Local Food and Farm Initiative assistant state coordinator

Heuss is the Local Food and Farm Program assistant coordinator, and a program coordinator at the Women, Food and Agriculture Network.

Corry Bregendahl and Arlene Enderton – Local Food and Farm Initiative evaluation team

Bregendahl is an associate scientist at the Leopold Center where she leads evaluation of local and regional food system initiatives and projects, Center-funded programs, and externally funded food- and agriculture-related efforts. She co-authored the Iowa Food and Farm Plan and currently is leading evaluation for the Northeast Iowa Food and Fitness Initiative, the Regional Food Systems Working Group and the Iowa Food System Working Group.

Enderton joined the Leopold Center as a program assistant in 2013. She assists in evaluation efforts by conducting interviews, creating surveys, analyzing data and writing reports. She is involved in evaluation of the Northeast Iowa Food and Fitness Initiative, the Regional Food Systems Working Group, the Iowa Food System Working Group, and Leopold Center grants programs.

Courtney Long – Design Fellow

Long is a Design Fellow with the Iowa State University Community Design Lab and the Leopold Center for Sustainable Agriculture. Her project involvement includes integrating local and regional food systems, community health and wellness, and sustainable infrastructure into community design.

Savanna Lyons – Graduate Research Assistant

Lyons is tasked with the Local Food and Farm Initiative. Her research focuses on best practices in aggregation and distribution of local foods, with an emphasis on food hub financial management and coordinated production planning among farmer groups.

Alice Topaloff – Marketing and Food System Initiative Program Assistant

Topaloff joined the Marketing and Food System Initiatives at the Leopold Center as a program assistant in 2014. Projects include value-added strategies, economic development, and beginning farmers - focusing on the development of toolkits and curriculums for disseminating knowledge on local food systems.

Local Food and Farm Program Council

A local food and farm program council was established by the Initiative legislation to “advise the local food and farm program coordinator carrying out the purpose and goals of the {Initiative}”. The council consists of six members representing different aspects of Iowa’s local food systems. The Council meets quarterly and includes:

- **Maury Wills**, Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship,
- **Tony Thompson**, Iowa Farmers Union,
- **Warren Johnson**, Iowa League of RC&Ds of the Natural Resources Conservation Service,
- **Teresa Wiemerslage**, Iowa State University Extension & Outreach and the Northeast Iowa Food and Farm Coalition,
- **Barb Ristau**, Iowa Farmers Market Association, and
- **Marcy Billings**, Loffredos.

The LFFI staff met with the Advisory Council quarterly this past fiscal year. Detailed discussions were conducted on past actions and strategies as well as future strategies. The Council is taking an active and prominent role in advising the staff specifically on how to move forward with the Program and the further development of the Iowa local food system in general.

¹ USDA. 2012 Census of Agriculture U.S. Summary and State Data (No. AC-12-A-51): www.agcensus.usda.gov.

² “1998 Survey of Buying Power.” 1998. Sales and Marketing Management.

³ Swenson, D. 2011. “Exploring Small-Scale Meat Processing Expansions in Iowa.” Leopold Center for Sustainable Agriculture: www.leopold.iastate.edu/small-scale-meat-processing

⁴ Swenson, D. 2011. “Measuring the Economic Impact of Fruit and Vegetable Production in Iowa Considering Metropolitan Demand.” Leopold Center for Sustainable Agriculture. Found at www.leopold.iastate.edu/measuring-impact-metro-demand

⁵ Swenson, D. 2010. “Selected Measures of the Economic Values of Increased Fruit and Vegetable Production and Consumption in the Upper Midwest.” Department of Economics, Iowa State University. Found at www.leopold.iastate.edu/selected-measures

⁶ Swenson, D. 2013. “Factors Constraining Iowa Labor Force Growth Through 2020.” Department of Economics, Iowa State University. Found at <http://www.econ.iastate.edu/sites/default/files/publications/papers/p16040-2013-03-13.pdf>

⁷ Pirog, R. 2011. "Learning about Local: A Resource Guide to Iowa Organizations and Programs Supporting Local and Regional Food Systems. Leopold Center for Sustainable Agriculture. Found at www.leopold.iastate.edu/learning-about-local

⁸ Local Food and Farm Program Preliminary Report to the Iowa Legislature. 2012. Leopold Center for Sustainable Agriculture. Found at www.leopold.iastate.edu/2012-LFFI

⁹ "Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack Highlights Economic Opportunity and Job Creation of Regional Food Hubs." 2013. United States Department of Agriculture. Found at <http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal/usda/usdahome?contentid=2013/05/0107.xml>

¹⁰ Personal communication, Teresa Wiemerslage, Iowa State University Extension and Outreach, August 28, 2013

¹¹ "Iowa Farm to School Chapter Initiative." 2013. Iowa Department of Land and Stewardship. Found at <http://www.agriculture.state.ia.us/agdiversification/farmtoschoolprogram.asp>

¹² National Farm to School Network. 2013. Found at <http://www.farmtoschool.org/>

¹³ Northeast Iowa Food and Fitness Initiative. 2013. Found at <http://www.iowafoodandfitness.org/site/school.html>
Accessed 26 Aug. 2013.

¹⁴ Emery, M. E. and C. Bregendahl. 2014. Relationship building: the art, craft, and context for mobilizing the social capital necessary for systems change, Community Development.

Community Foundation of North East Kansas



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5/5/2015

To: Local Food and Family Task Force

From: Community Foundation of North East Kansas - BCHFC, Stephen Smith, President

The Brown County Healthy Food Coalition, started in 2011, was initiated to create greater access to healthy foods in the community. As a result programs now exist, such as, farmers markets at Hiawatha, Horton, and the Iowa Tribal Complex. Examples for community gardens exist at these locations, as well as, the Kickapoo Nation in Kansas location. Formation of a community land bank committee to address blighted properties has potential to convert these properties to profitable, specialty crop production.

Although the diligent, hard work of many concerned community individuals has produced some results, it is apparent that anticipated change for improved health is a marathon rather than a sprint. Focused listening sessions held throughout the county identified many areas that need improvement or development of new programs to increase production and consumption of healthy foods in Brown County.

The following are priorities identified to support access to healthy life styles:

- ◆ Establish local certificate programs to assist small producers from start to finish with growing, packaging, and marketing of their products in conjunction with the community college technical programs.
- ◆ Develop community-coordinated, quality, engaging, educational programs for parents and youth of all ages on preparation, preservation and storage of fresh fruits and vegetables.
- ◆ Encourage local community health departments and KSU extension to create a clearinghouse review of state and federal programs based on local application, effective education, and economic viability, for the availability of schools, health departments, food pantries, and community organizations.
- ◆ Design matchup-mentorship programs utilizing experienced producers and a mentor bureau acknowledging producers that utilize current and potential technologies in designated specialty crop production.
- ◆ Establish regional food hubs and a network of supporting sub-hubs that can efficiently and effectively aggregate produce for use by local schools, restaurants, nursing homes, hospitals, jails, and other large users of produce.
- ◆ Incentivize mobile farmers markets that can reach out to the remote "food deserts" particularly where public transportation is an identified problem.

By accepting these challenges the Local Food and Family Task Force can encourage a more prevention-based atmosphere toward healthier life styles in Kansas.

RC&D in Kansas

Helping Local People Care for Their Natural Resources, Culture and Communities

Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) is a unique program established 50 years ago thru the United States Department of Agriculture to be governed by local grassroots councils. Volunteers from all walks of life share their time to help make positive things happen in their RC&D area. Councils provide technical and/or financial assistance to help people in their area care for their natural resources, culture and communities in a way that improves the local economy, environment and standard of living.

RC&D Assistance in Kansas includes, but not limited to:

- Small business development through training workshops, one-on-one coaching,
- Educational opportunities for farmers and ranchers to better manage their resources,
- Solid waste management through recycling, composting and household hazardous waste (HHW) disposal,
- Tourism and recreation promotion,
- Development of value-added agriculture and niche markets,
- Assistance with housing development,
- Preservation of our heritage, culture and historic structures.

State Association of Kansas Resource Conservation & Development Councils

Central Prairie RC&D

Office Located in Kinsley, Kansas
Council President - Richard Foster
Telephone: (620) 659-3242 Ext.3

Coronado Crossing RC&D

(Pending)

Council Contact: Lea Ann Seiler
Telephone: (620) 357-8831

Flint Hills RC&D

Office Located in Emporia, Kansas
Council President - Teresa Huffman
Telephone: (620) 343-3570

Glacial Hills RC&D

Office Located in Wetmore, Kansas
Council President - Carol Hughes
Telephone: (785) 608-8801

Kansas Crossroads RC&D

(Pending)

Council President: John Forshee *
Telephone: (785) 447-1291*

Lake Region RC&D

Office Located in Ottawa, Kansas
Council President - Don Stottlemire
Telephone: (785) 242-2073

See-Kan RC&D

Office Located in Chanute, Kansas
Council President - Ronnie Brown
Telephone: (620) 431-6180

Smoky Solomon

Resource Enhancement

Office located in Natoma, Kansas
Council Co-Presidents: Jean Stapel &
Kelle Goodman
Telephone: (785) 885-4160

Sunflower RC&D

Office Located in Harper, Kansas
Council President - Bill Hunter
Telephone: (620) 896-7378

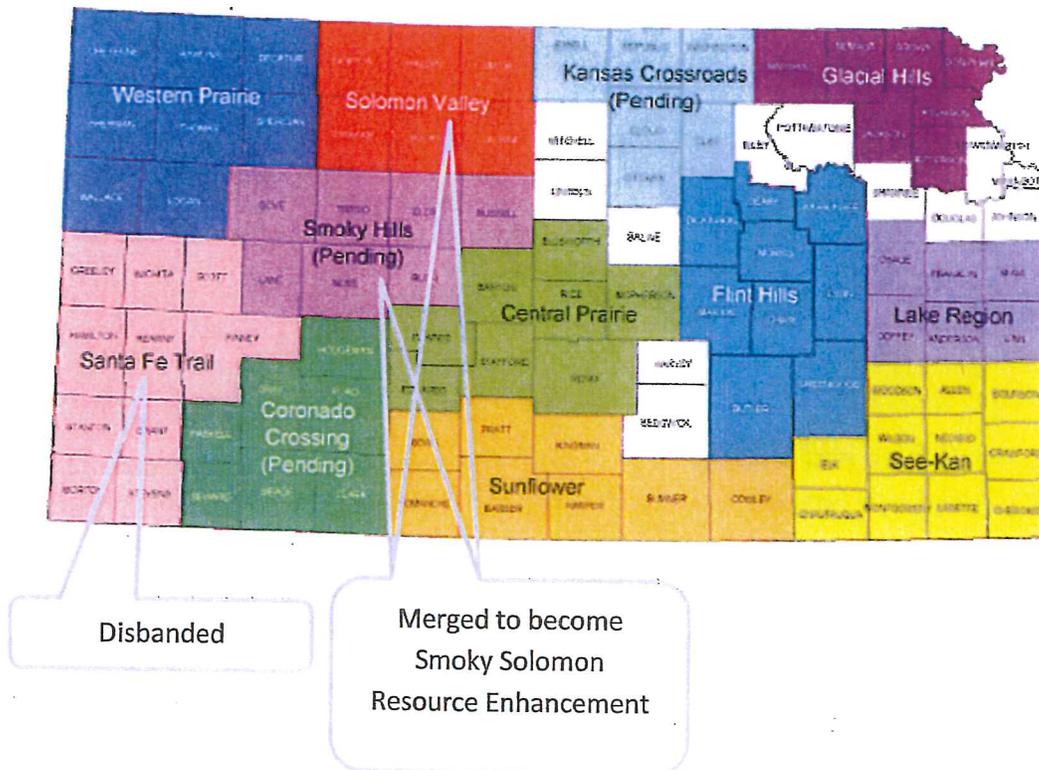
Western Prairie RC&D

Office Located in Goodland, Kansas
Council President - Sandra Rodgers
Telephone: (785) 821-2144

RC&D Making Things Happen!

State Association of Kansas RC&D Councils

Where We Are in 2012



SAKRC&DC Officers:

President: Don Stottlemire, P.O. Box 220, Ottawa, KS 66067 p) 785-242-2073 dstottlemire@mail.franklincoks.org

Vice President: Ken Thomas, 436 Road V, Hartford, KS 66854 p) 620-392-5869 ksthenas@lcwb.coop

Secretary: Sandy Rodgers, P.O. Box 366, Goodland, KS 67735 p) 785-899-3070 ext.35 sandy@st-tel.net

Treasurer: Nancy Shaffer, P.O. Box 325, Smith Center, KS 66967 p) 785-282-6755 nshaffer@ruraltel.net

Volunteer-based RC&D Councils "Make Things Happen" for Their Communities



Central Prairie RC&D

Resource Conservation and Development

Serving Barton, Edwards, Ellsworth, McPherson, Pawnee, Reno, Rice, and Stafford Counties in central Kansas

RC&D Office

Central Prairie RC&D Area, Inc.
120 E. 7th
Kinsley, Kansas 67547
Phone: 620-659-3242 Ext. 3
Fax: 620-659-3599

Council Chair: Richard Foster
Phone: 620-234-5300

Treasurer: Stacy Neilson
Phone: 620-659-3242 Ext. 3

Our Mission

Central Prairie RC&D will enhance the quality of life in harmony with our natural resources.

Overview

The Central Prairie RC&D is an organization comprised of a network of community volunteers sponsored by the conservation districts, county commissions, research & extension councils, and economic development. It is governed by a 16-member council who desire to solve local issues through a "grassroots" effort.

Program Emphasis

The Central Prairie RC&D believes that in order to improve the quality of life, you must first recognize the fact that many things interact with and upon each other to affect the quality of life. The RC&D promotes a program which recognizes this fact and strives to improve environmental, educational, economic, and community conditions for the benefit of all.

- ◆ **Natural Resource Protection and Enhancement**
 - ◆ Education
- ◆ **Water Quality and Quantity**
- ◆ **Community and Economic Development**
 - ◆ Wildlife Feeding The Hungry
 - ◆ Bikes For Kids
 - ◆ Master Fire Planning
 - ◆ Business Retention and Recruitment
 - ◆ Historic Preservation
- ◆ **Health Care and Protection**
 - ◆ Progressive Farmer Farm Safety Day
- ◆ **Solid Waste Management**
 - ◆ Bicycle Recycling and Placement
 - ◆ Community and Backyard Recycling
 - ◆ Household Hazardous Waste
 - ◆ Tire and Waste Oil Recycling
 - ◆ County-wide Recycling Program



Coronado Crossing RC&D

Resource Conservation and Development

Serving Clark, Ford, Gray, Haskell, Hodgeman, Meade, and Seward Counties

RC&D Council Contact

Coronado Crossing RC&D
Hodgman Co. Courthouse
P.O. Box 121
Jetmore, KS 67854
www.coronadocrossing.net

Officers:

C.J. Wettstein, President (620) 629-1342
Lea Ann Seiler, Vice President (620) 357-8831
Kim Wood, Secretary
Ed Elam, Treasurer

OUR MISSION

Coronado Crossing RC&D Inc. is a regional non-profit organization representing the counties of Clark, Ford, Gray, Haskell, Hodgeman, Meade, and Seward Counties. Serving our communities through improved resource management and development, in order to improve the quality of life and standard of living for current and future generations.

Overview

The Coronado Crossing RC&D Inc. is a 501 (c) 3 not-for-profit organization comprised of a network of community volunteer leaders from seven of the southwest Kansas counties. The Coronado Crossing RC&D Area is governed by a 21- 28 member council comprised of representatives from two sponsoring organizations (County Commission, County Conservation District and 1 to 2 members-at-large from each of the participating counties). The RC&D assists local people by helping provide the opportunity to work together for planning and implementation of projects which solve problems and improve the economy, environment, and standard of living.

Program Emphasis

Recreation & Tourism

- Promote and enhance community activities, recreational opportunities, nature based tourism, and historic preservation.

Housing & Development

- Facilitate adequate, affordable rental and owner occupied housing for all income and age brackets.
- Promote business retention, expansion, and recruitment with emphasis on long-term viability and economic growth.

Natural Resources

- Improve agricultural and related resource base incomes and markets to sustain and improve rural existence.
- Protection, conservation, and management of surface and groundwater resources to ensure sufficient quantities of water, which meet all federal and state quality standards, while allowing for community and business development to ensure quality of life.

Healthcare

- Develop a health care program, which meets long-term health care recruitment needs, promotes expansion of emergency services, and improves availability and accessibility of services in rural areas.

Public Communication

- Establish communications between the Coronado Crossing RC&D and the general public on the purposes and activities of the RC&D Area.
- Establish cooperative working relationships with local and regional organizations and government entities in the RC&D to work in a partnership toward common goals.

Flint Hills RC&D

Resource Conservation and Development

Serving Butler, Chase, Dickinson, Geary, Greenwood, Lyon, Marion, Morris, and Wabaunsee Counties
in east central Kansas.

RC&D Office

Flint Hills RC&D Area, Inc.

2501 W 18th, Suite a

Emporia, KS 66801

Phone: 620-343-3570

Website: www.flinthillsrcd.org

Staff

Shirley Crouch, Administrative Assistant

Our Vision

To be recognized as a leader in improving the quality of life in our communities and rural areas through grassroots initiatives.

Our Mission

Encourage utilization of our natural and human resources in a responsible manner to improve the quality of life in the area.

Overview

The Flint Hills RC&D Area, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization comprised of a network of community volunteers. It is governed by a council made up of men and women, representing the county commissions, conservation districts, and the county at-large who want to solve local problems.

Program Emphasis

◆ Natural Resources

Natural resource management has long been a high priority for the Flint Hills RC&D Council. The long-term economic and social condition of the area is based upon protecting and enhancing our natural resources. Soil, water, animals, plants, and air are the foundation for all we do in the area. The Council feels that we need to be able to utilize each of these natural resources to their fullest potential, while conserving and protecting them for future generations.

Our goal is to sustain or improve the condition, production, quality and value of our natural resources through good management, sustainable development and wise use. This will be accomplished through the following objectives.

- Improve water quality through development and implementation of watershed based water quality plans.

- Implement initiatives to educate and assist landowners, counties, and communities to conserve and manage their natural resources.
- Plan and implement strategies to improve and/or develop wildlife habitat.
- Seek opportunities to develop and increase renewable energy and biofuel sources.

◆ Community & Economic Development

Like many rural areas in America, the Flint Hills RC&D area has concerns with loss of businesses and jobs in rural communities, declining populations, adequate health care, technology and communication development, aging populations, housing, infrastructure and services, emergency services, and education.

The Flint Hills RC&D recognizes that addressing many of these concerns will require working in partnership with others at the local, state, and federal levels.

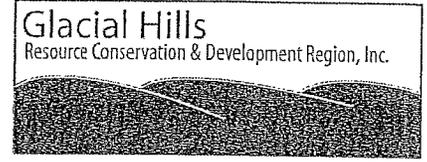
Our **Community Development** goal is to initiate strategies and educational programs that assist communities and organizations to increase their capacities through improvement and expansion of services, preservation and development of historical sites, enhancement of human resources, and development and improvement of recreational opportunities. This will be accomplished through the following objectives.

- Build the capacity of community leaders, citizens, students, entrepreneurs, and the general public through educational workshops, conferences, technical and financial assistance programs.
- Work with local units of government to implement fire protection strategies, address solid waste concerns, and other public services.
- Seek opportunities to expand and strengthen Flint Hills RC&D Council operations.

Our **Economic Development** goal is to facilitate partnerships to improve local economies through business development, expansion, training, communications and technology, tourism development, infrastructure, and financing. This will be accomplished through the following objectives.

- Implement a regional economic development strategy that provides assistance, resources and support to entrepreneurs and businesses.
- Assist in developing opportunities for agritourism, value-added agriculture, alternative land use and production, and development and marketing of agricultural products.
- Utilize, enhance, restore, and preserve natural and historic attractions and resources.

Glacial Hills



Resource Conservation and Development Region, Inc.

Serving the Communities and Counties in Northeast Kansas

Office

334 2nd St., P.O. Box 130
Wetmore, KS 66550
Phone: (785) 608-8801
www.glacialhillsrccd.com

Staff

Gary Satter, Executive Director and
Missouri River Basin WRAPS Coordinator
Denise Streeter, Financial Manager
Teresa McAnerney, Enterprise Facilitator
Mary Ann Riederer, Washburn SBDC Consultant
Marlene Bosworth, Delaware River WRAPS Coordinator
Barbara Donovan, Tuttle Creek WRAPS Coordinator

Overview

Since 1990, the Glacial Hills Resource Conservation & Development Region Inc. has been a 501-c-3 nonprofit, tax exempt rural development organization assisting with development of natural, economic and human resource partnerships that enhance the quality of life, expand opportunities for economic growth, and sustain community viability in northeast Kansas. It is a successful organization with six employees.

Our Mission

Implementing local and regional rural development projects and programs in northeast Kansas.

Vision

Be recognized as the leader in natural, economic, and human resource development in northeast Kansas.

Program Emphasis

Business Development

- Northeast Kansas Enterprise Facilitation Initiative
- Northeast Kansas Rural Business Development Program
- Glacial Hills Enterprise Center
- Glacial Hills Food Center
- Northeast Kansas Entrepreneurship Academy

Community & Regional Development

- Affordable Housing
- Northeast Kansas Coalition for Regional Economic Development
- Local Food/Healthy Eating
- Kansas Hunters Feeding the Hungry
- Lansing Correctional Facility Recycled Bicycle Program
- Glacial Hills Scenic Byway
- Missouri River Corridor (Missouri, Iowa, Nebraska, Kansas)

Natural Resource Conservation & Development

- Delaware River Watershed Restoration & Protection Strategy (WRAPS)
- Missouri River Basin WRAPS
- Tuttle Creek WRAPS
- Delaware River Streambank Stabilization Program
- Wolf River Streambank Stabilization Program
- Holton Stormwater Stabilization Project
- Northeast Kansas Upland Bird Partnership

Goals:

- Strengthen economic and business development that creates jobs and achieves improved economic prosperity and quality of life.
- Implement best management practices to enhance the management and conservation of land and water resources.
- Assist communities and organizations create affordable housing, and a healthy and safe environment with strong local leadership.
- Communicate the mission and vision of the Glacial Hills RC&D to individuals and communities in the region.

Kansas Crossroads

Resource Conservation and Development Area, Inc.

Serving Clay, Cloud, Jewell, Ottawa, Republic, and Washington Counties in North Central Kansas

President's Office

P.O. Box 501

Clay Center, KS 67432

Phone: 785-447-1291

Email: jforshee@ksu.edu

www.kansascrossroads.com

Officers

John Forshee, President

Calvin Schultz, Vice-President

Sara Olmsted, Secretary

Christina L'Ecuyer, Treasurer

Our Mission

Forming partnerships to connect people with the resources to provide jobs, create viable communities, and protect natural resources.

Overview

The Kansas Crossroads Resource Conservation and Development Area Inc. is a 501-c-3 nonprofit, tax exempt rural development organization. The primary purpose of the organization is to improve the quality of life within the six county area through: the conservation and enhancement of natural resources; the improvement of public facilities and infrastructure; and the strengthening of local economies.

The organization is governed by a volunteer council who identifies local problems and creates solutions for their communities. Our strength is in the commitment of people to solve their own problems and take advantage of potential opportunities.

Program Emphasis

Implement Community and Economic Development Initiatives That Allow Rural Communities to Grow and Prosper

- Provide and support effective programs that enhance community leadership capacity, support rural entrepreneurship, and improve rural community resources.

Develop and Implement Initiatives that Assist with Development and Utilization of Renewable Energy

- Support and promote the creation of markets for the use of renewable energy by-products
- Promote energy efficiency to save energy costs and reduce greenhouse gas emissions

Enhance the Management and Conservation of Water Resources in the area.

- Assist with the implementation of Milford Lake Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategy (WRAPS) projects
- Support education efforts to increase irrigation efficiency

Improve the Management and Conservation of Land Resources in the area.

- Develop and improve additional wildlife habitat acres for resource protection as well as community development through agritourism
- Provide programming that supports the implementation of no-till farming, buffer strips, and other conservation practices that promote soil conservation.



Lake Region RC&D

Resource Conservation and Development

Serving Anderson, Coffey, Franklin, Linn, Miami, and Osage Counties in east central Kansas.

RC&D Office

Lake Region RC&D Area, Inc.
PO Box 220
113 N Oak
Ottawa, KS 66067-9502
Phone: 785-242-2073
FAX: 785-242-5568

Officers

Don Stottlemire, President
Kimberly Skillman-Robrahn, Vice President
Skip Childress, Secretary
Harrison McCallop, Treasurer

Staff

Ryan Neises, Lake Region Forester
Mark Peper, Forestry Technician
Heather McPeck, Program Coordinator

Our Mission

"To plan and initiate leadership and education to assist communities to develop local goals and objectives for managing economic growth improving quality of land, water and life."

Our Vision

"Lake Region RC&D will continue to improve the quality of life by working across county lines to address local, region and economic development concerns in harmony with natural resources."

Overview

The Lake Region RC&D Area, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization that provides local leadership and establishes the framework required for developing and carrying out a plan of action for accelerating and improving the agricultural business economy by creating a better environment for attracting industry, increasing recreation opportunities, and beautifying the countryside.

Program Emphasis

◆ Water Quality

Middle Marais des Cygnes Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategy (WRAPS) Plan: The grant's target area is extends from Southern Douglas

County through Franklin County and into Anderson County, and includes sections of eastern Coffey, Osage and western Miami Counties. The goal of the Middle Marais des Cygnes WRAPS is to create a plan that discusses the high priority non-point pollution problems in the Middle Marais des Cygnes Watershed and identifies specific strategies to address the most significant issues in the Middle Marais des Cygnes plan area.

◆ Ecotone Forestry

Subsidiary of Lake Region RC&D: That provides a full service forestry program to the Marais des Cygnes Watershed landowner.

Services Provided: Timber Stand Improvement, Site Preparation, Tree/Shrub Planting, Direct Seeding (nut planting), Grass/Ground Cover Planting, Weed Control, Tree Pruning and Timber Marketing

◆ Community Development

Peak Energy Conservation and the Lake Region RC&D partnered on a grant application for R.E.A.P. Energy Audits. The grant would provide energy audits to small business. Neosho County Community College offers an Energy Audit Training Program, they are willing to work with the Lake Region RC&D to train new Energy Auditors.

Direct funding received from Coffey County for a water quality project. Working with Conservation District, Coffey County Commissioners and other locals partners on No-till and Water Quality Workshops.

◆ Website Development

The Lake Region RC&D's website highlights information on the RC&D. On the site is a map showing our location; a list of council members; projects we are working on; local sponsors and a calendar of events. The web address is <http://www.lakeregionrcd.org>



Serving Allen, Bourbon, Chautauqua, Cherokee, Crawford, Elk, Labette,
Montgomery, Neosho, Wilson, and Woodson Counties in southeast Kansas

RC&D Office

SEE-KAN RC&D Project, Inc.
871 S. Country Club Rd.
Chanute, KS 66720-9524
Phone: 620-431-6180
FAX: 620-431-6181
E-mail: tneely.seekanrcd@att.net
www.seekanrcd.org

Staff

Talia Neely - Business Manager/Executive Director
Kristen Lopez – Project Manager

Goals

The goals of the SEE-KAN RC&D are:

- ◆ Land Management – Reduce or mitigate the long-term effects of mineral mining.
- ◆ Land Conservation and Water Management – Reduce sedimentation, nutrient loading, and pesticides in area streams and lakes.
- ◆ Community Development – Increase Community Foundations and the grant writing processes.
- ◆ Community Development – Increase opportunities for employment to reduce the out migration to urban areas and increase economic stability.
- ◆ Community Development and Water Management – Improve infrastructure in rural communities.
- ◆ Community Development – Improve the public awareness of how SEE-KAN RC&D can help rural Southeast Kansas's communities
- ◆ Community Development – Maintain or increase the viability of farming in Southeast Kansas.

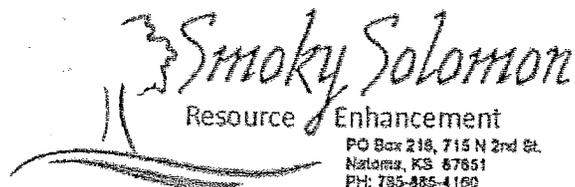
Current Projects

- ***Watershed Restoration & Protection Strategy – Spring River*** - The Spring River Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategy (WRAPS) of Cherokee County Kansas is a citizen's based group whose focus is on protecting and improving the quality of water in the Spring River watershed of Kansas. The group meets on a monthly basis to discuss issues facing the watershed.
- ***See-Kan Micro Loan Program*** - The Microloan Program provides small, short-term loans to small business concerns. SEE-KAN RC&D currently has 8 Microloan programs.
- ***FHFH Fund Raiser*** – SEE-KAN RC&D is proud to help FHFH with their mission to feed the hungry venison. This unique program is nationwide. FHFH allows hunters to donate their game to the hungry. The hunter will deliver the game to a local participating certified locker. The locker then processes the meat and delivers it to local food banks. Then local programs and organizations deliver the meat to hungry families.

- ***SEE-KAN Regional Foundation- SE Kansas Regional Foundation Regional Mining Reclamation Fund***- This is part of the Appalachian Clean Streams Program to undertake local acid mine drainage reclamation. SEE-KAN RC&D is working with KDHE Office of Surface Mining, Ricci Mining, Cherokee County, Kansas Dept. of Wildlife and Parks (KDWP) and Office of Surface Mining Reclamation & Enforcement, US Dept of Interior and Watco, Inc.
- ***Weed Management Area***- Formed partnerships to raise awareness through education, and to identify, contain and control the spread of noxious and invasive plants in the Southeast Kansas Weed Management Area.
- ***Affordable Housing***- SEE-KAN Cooperative Development, Inc., (SEE-KAN CDI) is a not-for-profit Community Development Organization certified by the Kansas Housing Resources Corporation (KHRC). We are organized to meet the housing needs of all people, particularly lower and moderate income families & individuals within our area of service; meeting those needs by developing, rehabilitating and acting as a facilitator for the production of affordable housing.
- ***Howard Business Incubator***-Promote small business growth
- ***Community Tax Credit- SE Kansas Prosperity Foundation*** - The Southeast Kansas Prosperity Foundation assists in providing funding throughout the region to address issues identified at the local level. This assistance includes gap financing to small businesses, financing small community downtown building revitalization, leadership and entrepreneurial development.
- ***Support State Technical Committee***
- ***Wind Energy Promotion***
- ***Community Facilities Project***

Our Mission

Enhancing the quality of life in Southeast Kansas by providing leadership, education, and communication to help find solutions and resources for community needs; uniting urban and rural concerns through natural resource conservation and economic development.



Serving Ellis, Gove, Graham, Lane, Ness, Norton, Osborne, Phillips, Rooks,
Rush, Russell, Smith and Trego Counties in Central Kansas

RC&D Council Contact

715 N 2nd, PO Box 216
Natoma, KS 67651
Office ph: 785-885-4160
Teresa's cell: 785-885-8162
Teresa's alt.: 785-885-4663

Officers

Jean Stapel – Co-President
Phone: 785-543-2518
Kelle Goodman – Co-President
Phone: 785-798-2246
Nathella Humburg – Co-Vice President
Jeff Hofaker – Co-Vice President
Kathy Stice – Co-Secretary
Stephanie Royer – Co-Secretary
Robert J. Binder – Co-Treasurer
Tonya Bonjorno – Co-Treasurer

Staff

Teresa Chrisler – Executive Director
And WRAPS Coordinator

Overview

The Smoky Solomon Resource Enhancement (SSRE) is a Kansas RC&D Council and a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization created to help groups and individuals in the thirteen north central counties of Kansas develop and improve the social, economic and environmental conditions in their communities.

The SSRE was formed through the merger of two RC&D Councils, the Smoky Hills RC&D and the Solomon Valley RC&D. This was the perfect fit for these two Councils as they were already sharing staff, projects, and office space.

Projects

Waconda Lake WRAPS – This project is in the Implementation Phase and provides funding to the area above Waconda Lake to implement Best Management Practices that will help the area reach their load reduction goals for the lake.

Cedar Bluff Lake WRAPS – This project is in the Implementation Phase and provides funding to the area above Cedar Bluff Lake to implement Best Management Practices that will help the area reach their load reduction goals for the lake.

Kirwin Lake WRAPS – This project was initiated through efforts of the Waconda Lake WRAPS Stakeholder Leadership Team. This project is in the assessment and planning phase. Leadership Team members are in the final steps of completing the Kirwin Lake WRAPS 9 Element Plan.

Wilcox School Historic Restoration – Through a Kansas State Historical Society's Heritage Trust Fund grant as well as generous private donations, this Trego County native limestone, one-room school has a restored limestone exterior and will have a new roof by the end of 2012. Another HTF grant has been submitted to restore the windows, door and interior of this landmark.

Nopal Cactus Project – The Nopal Cactus project in Scott City is to test a method of raising freeze sensitive, edible cactus using a high tunnel. It is funded with a NRCS Conservation Innovation Grant (CIG) and Art Gomez is the coordinator.

Sunflower RC&D

Resource Conservation and Development Area, Inc.

Serving Barber, Comanche, Cowley, Harper, Kingman, Kiowa, Pratt, & Sumner Counties in south central Kansas

Office

705 E. Main

Harper, KS 67058-1725

Phone: 620-896-7378

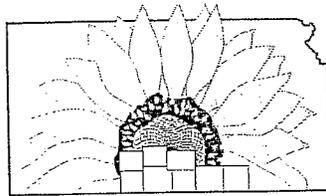
Fax: 620-896-7673

www.sunflowerrcd.org

E-mail: dollie@sunflowerrcd.com

sunflowerrcd@gmail.com

teresarc@yahoo.com



Staff:

Dollie Mathes, Office Assistant

Teresa Mandevill, RC&D Assistant

Our Mission

To serve as a grassroots team, coordinating efforts which conserve and develop our natural, economic and human resources, while improving quality of life for the eight county area.

Overview

The Sunflower RC&D Area, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization comprised of a network of community volunteer leaders from eight south central Kansas counties. The Sunflower RC&D Area is governed by a 40-member council comprised of representatives from the three sponsoring organizations (county commissions, conservation districts, and extension councils) as well as two members at large from each of the 8 counties.

The RC&D Council assists local people by helping provide the opportunity to work together for planning and implementation of projects which solve problems, and improve the areas of economy, environment and standard of living.

Program Emphasis

◆ Information and Education

The Council believes that an informed and educated public is a critical element of successfully solving local problems. The Council sponsors and/or assists with a variety of informational activities and education efforts each year.

- Board Development and Leadership Training
- Environmental Education Training Workshops (Project Learning Tree, Wild, Aquatic/Wet)
- Conservation & Environmental Ed. Programs
- Grant Writing Workshops
- Outdoor Classrooms
- Renewable Energy Education Support

The council understands the benefits and importance of Recreational Services and attractions for improving the economic condition of the area. In addition to serving as an active member of the South Central Tourism Region, the council provides leadership assistance for a variety of recreational and tourism development projects.

- Wildflower Tours/Trail Rides
- Explore Sunflower Area Brochure
- Scenic Byways (Gypsum Hills)
- Historic Preservation
- Local, Regional & Ag. Tourism Dev.

◆ Community and Economic Development

A major priority of the council is to provide technical and/or financial assistance to organizations and units of government interested in community improvement or economic development initiatives.

- Sunflower Regional Enterprise Facilitation
- Small Business Development Program
- Grant Reference Library
- Strategic Planning & Group Facilitation
- Water and Waste Water
- Recycling, Composting, Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) & E-Waste
- Nature Trails and Multi-purpose Paths
- RC&D Area Foundation Development
- Rural Fire Protection & Dry Hydrants
- Kansas Hunters Feeding the Hungry
- Bikes for Youth
- Renewable Energy Initiatives

◆ Natural Resources & Forestry

The RC&D Council recognizes the value and need for conserving and improving our natural resource base for future generations. The council works in cooperation with landowners and businesses as well as local, state and federal conservation entities to plan and implement programs that will help to sustain soil, water, air, and plant and animal resources.

- South Central Kansas Residue Alliance
- Riparian and Wetland Area Protection
- Non-point Source Pollution Program
- Riggs & Bartlett Arboretum Restoration
- Timber Bridges
- Conservation & Community Tree Promotion
- Watershed Planning and Protection
- Wildlife Habitat Improvement

Western Prairie RC&D

Resource Conservation and Development

Serving Cheyenne, Decatur, Logan, Rawlins, Sheridan, Sherman, Thomas, and
Wallace Counties in Northwest Kansas.

Western Prairie RC&D

Western Prairie RC&D Area, Inc.
Box 366
Goodland, KS 67735
785-821-2144 or 785-899-4166
Website: www.wprcd.org

Sandra Rodgers, President
Greg Nemechek, Vice President
Diana Solko, Secretary/Treasurer

Western Prairie RC&D Council has taken the
“keep it small, affordable and yet very effective”
approach to sustaining ourselves through these
difficult times.

- *We meet once a month
- *All Council Members are very committed when it comes to attendance and participation
- *There is no Executive Committee – decisions are made by the entire Council
- *We have hired an accounting firm to work under the direction of our treasurer which is very effective.
- * We have an audit done
- *Each Council Member heads up a project and keeps the group up to speed on it
- * We downsized our project list
- * Our Annual Work Plan is completed
- *We have no office space or staff.....we work out of our homes
- *One of major success stories is working with the Kansas Department Wildlife and Parks to administer the Upland Game Habitat Program for the State of Kansas.
- *We have two very good loans that have been made through our Micro Enterprise Project
- *We are active in the Republican River Restoration Project.

- *We serve as a fiscal agent (flow through) as a 501(c) (3) for organizations to complete needed projects.
- * We support the Northwest Kansas Conservation and Environmental Alliance as a sub- committee of WPRCD. The Alliance provides educational opportunities to students and adults through the Kids Conservation Roundup and the Women In Denim Conference.
- *WPRCD supports and assists the Northwest Kansas Regional Recycling Center.
- * We are currently working with the Great American Cattle Drive Assoc. to place markers along the historical cattle trail
- *We continue to support and stay active in the State and National Association.
- *We were awarded our recertification of “Circle Of Diamonds” this year.

PROUD TO SERVE NORTHWEST KANSAS

Our Mission

To be the vehicle to establish an environment of cooperation that will promote economic growth, stability, and enhanced quality of life within the counties of northwest Kansas.



State Association of Kansas RC&D Councils

President: Don Stottlemire phone: 785-242-2073

e-mail: dstottlemire@mail.franklincoks.org

cc: lakeregion@lakeregionrcd.org

The RC&D Program Needs Your Continued Support!

Since 1969, 12 RC&D areas have grown to include **93** Kansas counties!
20 counties in **3** RC&D areas await authorization!

Today, after Federal funding was cut in April, 2011, 10 RC&D Areas remain and continue to enhance the Quality of Life in Rural Kansas but they need financial assistance to meet the needs of their communities and counties.

*The State Association of Kansas RC&D Councils
supports and recommends
100 percent program funding for authorized RC&D areas
and
recommends authorization and full funding support
for pending RC&D areas!*

Help RC&D Councils maintain our KANSAS "Quality of Life!"

“Making Things Happen” in Rural Kansas



Lake Region Resource Conservation and Development Council, Inc.

Improving quality of land, water and life

A WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT

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As President of the Lake Region Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) Council I am pleased to present the update for the fiscal year 2013. We began the year by reviewing the Lake Region RC&D bylaws, work plan and budget.

Ron Brown, the State Conservation District President and I have been working on strategy to improve the communication between the State RC&D Council and the Soil Conservation Districts.

Some of the grants the Lake Region RC&D applied for or worked on in 2013:

- Finalizing the WRAPS 9 Element Plan for the Middle Marais des Cygnes Watershed.
- Marais des Cygnes Watershed Riparian Forestry Initiative Part B
- Wal-Mart Facility Grant
- Union Pacific Grant to Fund a Regional Drought Mitigation Plan
- Conoco Phillips Grant for the Adopt-A-bike Program
- Safe Kids of Kansas Grant to Supply Bike Helmets to the Adopt-A-Bike Program

The Lake Region RC&D continues as the grant administrator for the Miami County "Explore the O.W.L.S" program. The O.W.L.S. (Outdoor Wildlife Learning Site) is located in Paola, KS near the elementary schools and is managed by volunteers..

The Lake Region RC&D mission continues to be, enhance the quality of life in Eastern Kansas by providing leadership, education and communication, to help find solutions and resources for community needs uniting urban and rural concerns through natural resource conservation and economic development.

I want to thank our Coordinator of the Lake Region RC&D Heather McPeek, for the hard work and dedication in the office and on the projects. I would also like to thank our Watershed Forester Ryan Neises, for his work on the Marais des Cygnes Watershed Riparian Forestry Initiative Part B.

In the past few years the Lake Region RC&D has gone through many changes. The current economic situation has put a lot of pressure on the Lake Region RC&D and our survival. We are sincerely thankful to the County Commissioner's and the Conservation Districts for their continued support of the Lake Region RC&D program. We continue to pursue projects and grants that will benefit the region and provide sustainability to the Lake Region RC&D.

Also I would like to thank the Lake Region RC&D Council members for their continued support and especially the Executive Board for the time they have invested participating in special meetings, often on short notice.

Sincerely,

Don Stottlermire
President, Lake Region RC&D

DROUGHT MITIGATION MEETING

The Lake Region RC&D along with representatives from the National Drought Mitigation Center located at the University of Nebraska in Lincoln held a meeting to discuss Drought Planning. Water quality has been the focus of many Lake Region RC&D Projects and the drought has affected.

Plans to hold meetings in all the counties served by the Lake Region RC&D are in the works.



National Drought Mitigation Center
University of Nebraska—Lincoln
819 Hardin Hall
3310 Holdrege Street
PO Box 830988
Lincoln, NE 68583
Phone: (402) 472-6707
Fax: (402) 472-2976
Email: ndmc@unl.edu
<http://drought.unl.edu/>

MEAT PROCESSING SUMMIT



On June 17th the Lake Region RC&D and Kansas Rural Center held a Meat Processing Summit in at the Franklin County Annex located in Ottawa, KS. The meeting was to provide information about local food markets, opportunities for meats business entities and planning, and potential funding sources for processing and storage facilities.

The meeting was well attended by producers, processors, as well as representatives from USDA, Kansas Securities and Exchange Commission, Network Kansas and other agencies. Attendees found the meeting very informative and are looking forward to future meetings to focus on specific topics.

The date of the next meeting has not yet been announced. For more information please contact:

Heather McPeek, Program Coordinator, Lake Region RC&D
Heather.mcpeek@lakeregionrcd.org

NATIONAL RC&D CONFERENCE IN MOBILE, AL

The National RC&D Conference was held in Mobile, AL June 1-4. Don Stottlemire, President of the Lake Region RC&D attended along with Ron Brown of See-Kan RC&D. Exceeding the Vision was the theme of the conference, USDA NRCS Chief, Jason Weller was one of the keynote speakers. The picture to the right shows Don and Ron meeting with Olga Walter, President of the National RC&D and Andrew Gordon, Executive Director of the National RC&D.

Don thought the meeting was very informative and well attended with over 300 people representing RC&D nationwide. The USDA NRCS is finding ways to help promote the RC&D Councils through declaring a RC&D week in September and trying to pass a bill that includes wording to include the RC&D councils as preferred vendors with the USDA.





The Lake Region RC&D completed the sale of Ecotone Forestry to Ryan Neises. Ryan had worked at the Watershed Forester for the RC&D and was very involved in the development and running of the forestry division. The Lake Region RC&D would like to thank Ryan all of the time and effort he contributed to developing the forestry program and we wish him continued success with Ecotone Forestry.

If you wish to Contact Ryan:

Ecotone Forestry

PO Box 339

Ottawa, KS 66067

785-241-9007

ryan@ecotoneforestry.com

Www.ecotoneforestry.com

ADOPT-A-BIKE PROGRAM

The Lake Region RC&D continues to collect used and broken bikes to be refurbished at the Ellsworth Correctional Facility and then adopted by deserving children and adults in the six counties within the service area.

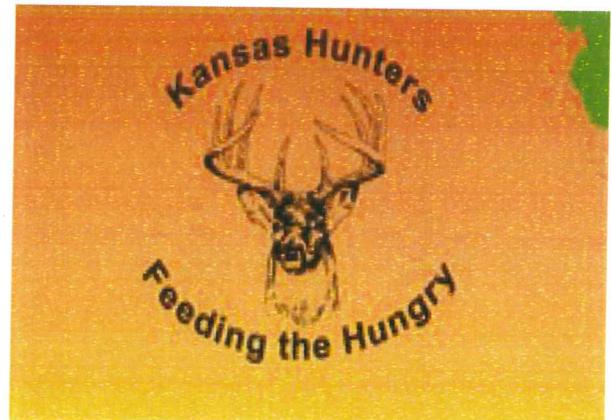
One of our board members from Miami County worked to spread the word about the Adopt-A-Bike program and collect used and broken bikes in Miami County. All of his hard work paid off, to the right is a picture of all the bikes he collected.

Thank you Mark for all of your hard work!



KANSAS HUNTERS FEEDING THE HUNGRY

Kansas Hunters Feeding the Hungry (KHFH) will continue to work with the Lake Region RC&D and local meat processors to process donated deer to be distributed to food pantries within the six county region. The Lake Region RC&D has worked with KHFH to distribute the deer meat to since 2007. Financial donations along with donations of time from the Lake Region RC&D board members have made it possible to continue the distribution of deer meat to food pantries. During the 2013-2014 season volunteers distributed over 3,000 pounds of meat to a number of food pantries in six counties served by the Lake Region RC&D



MIAMI COUNTY - EXPLORE THE OWLS PROJECT



The Miami County Explore the O.W.L.S (outdoor Wildlife Learning Site) located in Paola, Kansas is a two acres outdoor education area for both youth and adults to learn the principals of native ecology, study various habitats and encourage an understanding of the need to protect our natural resources. The learning site is utilized by the Paola Schools, scout groups, 4-H units, church groups, families and the general public. A contest was held in the elementary and middle schools to select a name for the site and "Explore the OWLS" was the winner.

The site is in within walking distance of all public schools in Paola, and offers first hand the to observe native ecology. Students will study the life cycles of amphibians and observe various classes of animals.



Working on path



Finding critters and their tracks



Sunflower Elementary Class





Lake Region Resource Conservation and Development Council, Inc.

Improving quality of land, water and life

Contact Information

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THANK YOU TO ALL OUR SPONSORS

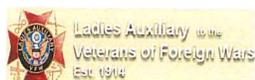


HEPNER APPRAISAL SERVICE



Green, Finch

Covington





History of the Lake Region Resource Conservation & Development (RC&D)

The Lake Region RC&D Area, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization serving Anderson, Coffey, Franklin, Linn, Miami and Osage counties in Kansas since 1976. Providing local leadership and establishing the framework required for developing and carrying out a plan of action for accelerating and improving the agricultural business economy. The organization is creating a better environment for attracting industry, increasing recreation opportunities, and beautifying the countryside within the Lake Region.

In 1972 the Lake Region RC&D began with a series of informal meetings, organization efforts began on April 26, 1973, with an application submitted to the Secretary of Agriculture. Planning assistance was authorized on December 13, 1976.

The council is made up of volunteer representatives from each of the six counties served by the Lake Region RC&D. Citizens in the Lake Region are proud of the accomplishments and contributions the RC&D has made in resource development. The organization enables people within the six county region to improve the quality of life by working together.

The Lake Region RC&D has accomplished many valuable projects for the citizens of the six county region during the past thirty five years and will continue to serve the region for many years to come.

Below is a partial list of Lake Region RC&D projects:

- Lake Region Solid Waste Authority
- Six County Comprehensive Master Fire Plan with the Kansas Forest Service
- Marais des Cygnes WRAPS
- Hillsdale Water Quality Project
- Adopt-A-Bike
- Kansas Hunters Feeding the Hungry
- Marais des Cygnes Riparian Forestry Initiative
- Ecotone Forestry
- Middle Marais des Cygnes WRAPS
- Kan-MO Targeted Watershed Grant

