Local Food and Farm Task Force  
Thursday, October 15  
9 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.  
Kansas Department of Agriculture  
1320 Research Park Drive, Manhattan, KS

10:00 a.m. Welcome and introductions  
Chair Ron Brown

10:15 a.m. Review/approve August 2015 minutes

10:20 a.m. Work session – review and discuss recommendations

Noon Lunch

1:00 p.m. Continue work session

3:00 p.m. Adjournment
Attendance
Task force members: Ron Brown, Chair; David Coltrain, Representative Adam Lusker and Senator Tom Hawk (ex-officio).

KDA staff: Julie Roller and Kerry Wefald

Kansas Legislative Research Department staff: Heather O’Hara

Guests: Nancy Brown, Kathy Damron, Sarah Green and Joanna Voigt

Welcome and introductions: Chair Ron Brown called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. and asked for introductions from the task force and audience.

Review and approve August 2015 minutes: Representative Adam Lusker moved to approve the August 2015 task force minutes. David Coltrain seconded. Motion passed.

Work session – review and discuss recommendations:

Below is a draft of recommendations discussed by task force members:

Conclusions and Recommendations:

The task force makes the following conclusions and recommendations based on the four directives listed in statute.

- Identification of financial incentives, technical support, and training necessary to assist farmers to transition to local and specialty crop production by minimizing financial losses incurred during the transition period.

  1. Education
     o Compile resources about financial incentives, technical support and training to help educate specialty crop producers and enhance local food systems.
  2. K-State Research and Extension
     o Continued budget support for K-State Research and Extension to fund specialty crop positions.
  3. Position at KDA
     o Create a position within the Kansas Department of Agriculture to focus on enhancing the specialty crop industry and local food systems in Kansas.
  4. Training
     o Continue to offer training for farmers’ market vendors and explore opportunities to connect with specialty crop producers.

- Identification of strategies and funding needs to make fresh and affordable locally grown foods more accessible.

  1. Continue task force
     o Pre-file a bill to for the continuation of the task force to further explore opportunities to enhance local food systems in Kansas.
  2. Support KDA funding enhancement
     o Support KDA’s funding enhancement, which will provide additional support for the specialty crop industry and local food systems.
  3. Encourage community gardens
     o Identify opportunities and models to support and create community gardens.
  4. Be proactive about GAP and Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA)
     o Provide assistance and information to producers about Good Agriculture Practices (GAP) and the Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA).
• Identification of existing local food infrastructures for processing, storing and distributing food, and recommendations for potential expansion.

1. **Food hubs**
   - Identify existing food hubs and opportunities for expansion and creation of new food hubs.

2. **Feasibility study**
   - Conduct a feasibility study to evaluate opportunities to enhance local food systems.

3. **Produce auctions and mobile processing**
   - Identify opportunities and models for produce auctions and mobile processing units.

4. **New technology (software)**
   - Utilize online platforms to communicate information and opportunities to enhance local food systems.

5. **Economics and growth potential of specialty crops in the state**
   - Complete specialty crop survey and identify areas for growth.

6. **Expand on existing federal specialty crop block grant, include a state cost-share**
   - Utilize completed specialty crop survey to advocate for additional USDA Specialty Crop Block Grant funds.

• Strategies for encouragement of farmers’ markets, roadside markets, and local grocery stores in unserved and underserved areas.

1. Eliminate sales tax on local food at farmers’ markets
2. Lower food sales tax to 5.3%

The task force discussed future meeting dates. The next meeting is a work session and will be Thursday, November 19 from 12:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. The task force will continue to review and discuss recommendations.