Annual Report: 2013
Presented to the Board of County Commissioners of Douglas County

- DOUGLAS COUNTY -

FOOD POLICY COUNCIL

http://www.douglas-county.com/sites/fpc
THE DOUGLAS COUNTY FOOD POLICY COUNCIL

• Established by the County Commission in 2010.
• Convened as a joint City-County Council in 2013.
• Identifies the benefits, challenges and opportunities for a successful food system.
• Recommends local policies to support food system.
• Represents a wide range of stakeholders in food system.
Food Policy Council Goals

- **Economy**: Economic development and entrepreneurial opportunities in local food production = jobs.
- **Wellness**: Improved health outcomes with access to wholesome foods.
- **Environment**: Improved environmental quality.
- **Equity**: Increased access to healthy food for all residents, regardless of income.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Food System Sector:</th>
<th>Representing:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>At-Large</td>
<td>Appointed by Jim Flory</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>At-Large</td>
<td>Appointed by Mike Gaughan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>At-Large</td>
<td>Appointed by Nancy Thellman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agricultural Producer</td>
<td>Davenport Winery</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agricultural Producer</td>
<td>Douglas County Farm Bureau</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agricultural Producer</td>
<td>Moon on the Meadow Farm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Retail Food Outlet</td>
<td>Limestone Restaurant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Institutional Food Purchaser</td>
<td>USD 497</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>Johnson County Community College</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Extension Service</td>
<td>Douglas County Extension</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NGO- Health/Nutrition/MD</td>
<td>Dietitian</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NGO- Local Food Systems/Sustainable Ag.</td>
<td>The Kansas Rural Center</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Youth Representative</td>
<td>Blissful Bite Food Truck</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NEW: Senior Food &amp; Nutrition Programs</td>
<td>Douglas County Senior Services</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NEW: At-Large (appointed by City)</td>
<td>Sunflower Foundation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NEW: At-Large (appointed by City)</td>
<td>Lawrence Douglas County Health Dept.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NEW: Agricultural Producer</td>
<td>Flory Farms</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Retail Food Outlet</td>
<td>The Merc Community Market &amp; Deli</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Retail Food Outlet</td>
<td>Hy-Vee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>City of Lawrence Sustainability Advisory Board</td>
<td>City of Lawrence</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Food Security</td>
<td>DCCDA, Farm to Preschool</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Established Farmer's Market in Douglas County</td>
<td>Downtown Lawrence Farmers Mkt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Business Community</td>
<td>Lawrence Chamber of Commerce</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
COUNCIL SUBCOMMITTEES

Community
- Ordinances for urban agriculture
- Community gardens
- Food deserts

County
- Farmers’ Markets
- Local purchasing policy - Jail
- MPO office: planning & zoning

Cities
- Preservation of soils, spraying limits

State/Federal
- USDA grants: (RBEG, Spec. Crop)
- KSU Extension
- Farm-to-School: USDA fruit & veg. and school lunch programs
- KS Dept of Ag.

Community Health Plan
- LiveWell
- KU
- 4-H
2011: COMMUNITY FOOD SYSTEM ASSESSMENT

BUILDING A DEEP-ROOTED LOCAL FOOD SYSTEM

A Food System Analysis for Douglas County, Jefferson County, & Leavenworth County in Kansas

Prepared for the Douglas County Food Policy Council
March 2011

Table of Contents

I. Introduction ........................................................................................................1
II. Historic Trends ..................................................................................................4
III. Natural Resources ..........................................................................................8
IV. Production .......................................................................................................20
V. Consumption ....................................................................................................29
VI. Production & Consumption Synthesis .............................................................39
VII. Processing and Distribution .........................................................................41
VIII. Food Security ...............................................................................................48
IX. Economics .......................................................................................................57
X. References ........................................................................................................66
XI. Appendix .........................................................................................................68
COMMUNITY FOOD SYSTEM ASSESSMENT RESULTS

Production (in acres) by Crop

- Major crops (soy beans, corn, wheat, sorghum): 228,531
- Forage: 118,826
- Vegetables & Fruit: 544

- 54% overweight/obesity rate
- 10,000+ residents with limited access to grocery stores & healthy food choices
- $392 M amount spent by tricounty residents on food purchases each year
- <0.1% farmland in our tricounty area devoted to vegetable production
2012: COMMON GROUND PROGRAM

COMMON GROUND PROGRAM

• Utilizes vacant, under-utilized city owned properties.
• FREE lease to community gardeners, market farmers.
• WIN-WIN for gardeners and farmers who need land and City staff tired of mowing vacant lots.

www.lawrenceks.org/common_ground
Vacant lot: 1313 Pennsylvania
Penn. St. Community Garden
Vacant lot:  830 Garfield
Lawrence Community Orchard
Garden Incubator at John Taylor Park
Vacant lot:  815 Oak
JCCC Student Farm
Vacant Lot: 1304 Pennsylvania
PermaCommons Garden
Vacant Lot: 639 Illinois St.
Pearl Clark Community Garden
24/40 Hwy (adjacent KDOT & Maple Grove Cemetery)
TeePee Junction Incubator Farm
Common Ground 2013 Program
Accomplishments:

Number of gardens/farms: 9
Acres in food production: 5.6
Number of gardeners/farmers: 120
Number of classes/community work days: 54
Number of volunteers/community participants: 463
Pounds of produce grown (estimate): 40,000
Market value of produce (estimate): $80,000
Pounds of donated produce (reported): 2,000
Common Ground
Community Benefit Plan Partners:

Just Food
The Ballard Center
LINK
Trinity Episcopal Church
Lawrence Food Garden tour
Kaw Valley Seed Fair
Kaw Valley Permaculture Tour
Central Middle School
COMMUNITY FOOD SYSTEM ASSESSMENT RESULTS

Missing infrastructure:
- Processing
- Canning
- Freezing
- Packaging
- Distribution

54% OVERWEIGHT/OBESITY RATE

10,000+
RESIDENTS WITH LIMITED ACCESS TO GROCERY STORES & HEALTHY FOOD CHOICES

$392 M
AMOUNT SPENT BY TRICOUNTY RESIDENTS ON FOOD PURCHASES EACH YEAR

<0.1%
FARMLAND IN OUR TRICOUNTY AREA DEVOTED TO VEGETABLE PRODUCTION
2013: FOOD HUB FEASIBILITY STUDY

**Timeline:** Final report June 2014

**Proposed product:** Feasibility study for a northeast Kansas regional food hub + collaboration with KC Regional Study

**Methods:** Producer surveys, institutional and wholesale purchaser surveys (throughout fall-winter 2013)

**Funding:** USDA Rural Development and Kansas Health
OTHER KEY COUNCIL ACCOMPLISHMENTS in 2013

- Improved Douglas County Incubator Kitchen Policies to improve access to food processing resources for entrepreneurs.
- Hosted 3rd annual Chefs Challenge at the Douglas County Fair.
- Engaged in County Agritourism Regulation revisions process.
- Supported the Health Department’s Community Health Plan subcommittees and Livewell Lawrence.
- Worked with KDA on Farmers Market Conference, Farm to School grant from USDA, From the Land of Kansas launch, and food safety regulations that impact farmers markets.
- Supported Just Food cooking classes and the Downtown Lawrence Farmers Market.
OTHER KEY COUNCIL ACCOMPLISHMENTS in 2013

✓ Co-hosted a food hub workshop with the Kansas Health Foundation, USDA Rural Development, and Kansas Farmers Union.
✓ Co-designed food hub feasibility study with the Greater KC Food Policy Coalition.
✓ Collaborated with two KU MBA classes and one KU Urban Planning Class to research: economic impact of local food purchases, food hub models, and transportation/access to healthy food.
✓ Hosted Farm to School Day in Lawrence with KS Dept. of Education.
✓ Sent three elected officials to Memphis to represent Douglas County at a food systems and policy workshop.
QUESTIONS?

ehorn@douglas-county.com

http://www.douglas-county.com/sites/fpc