About This Report

• This report has been prepared for the City of Lawrence Commission by Helen Schnoes, Douglas County Sustainability & Food Systems Planner, on behalf of the Douglas County Food Policy Council.

• A full or condensed presentation of this report or any of the programs highlighted herein is available to the Commission upon request.

• Contact: Helen Schnoes at hschnoes@douglascountyks.org or (785) 832-5157
The Douglas County Food Policy Council

- Established by the County Commission in 2010
- Convened as a joint City-County Advisory Board 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
Benefits

**Economic vitality**
- Profitable agricultural businesses
- Successful food entrepreneurs
- Good jobs and career opportunities

**Wellness**
- Access to nourishing foods
- Food and gardening skills
- Great tasting local produce

**Equity**
- Good food for all
- Celebration of diversity
- Empowerment and inclusion

**Ecological resilience**
- Healthy and abundant soils and waters
- Ability to endure extreme weather events
- Waste reduction and reuse
### Douglas Co. Food Policy Council

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>County-appointed</th>
<th>City-appointed</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>At-Large (No-till + cattle producer)</td>
<td>At-Large (Health Department)</td>
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<td>At-Large (Haskell professor)</td>
<td>At-Large (State Foundation)</td>
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<td>At-Large (State policy advocate)</td>
<td>Agricultural Producer (Produce, flowers)</td>
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<td>Agricultural Producer (Poultry)</td>
<td>Retail Food Outlet (Restaurant)</td>
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<td>Agricultural Producer (OPEN)</td>
<td>Retail Food Outlet (Food entrepreneur)</td>
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<td>Agricultural Producer (Farm Bureau)</td>
<td>Sustainability Advisory Board</td>
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<td>Retail Food Outlet (Grocer)</td>
<td>Food Security (Just Food)</td>
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<td>Institutional Food Purchaser (Lawrence Shelter)</td>
<td>Farmers Market in Douglas County (LFM)</td>
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<td>Education (University of Kansas)</td>
<td>Business Community (The Chamber, Lawrence KS)</td>
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<td>Extension Service</td>
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<td>NGO- Health/Nutrition/MD</td>
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<td>NGO- Local Food Systems/Sustainable Ag.</td>
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<td>Youth Representative</td>
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<td>Senior Food &amp; Nutrition Programs (JAAA)</td>
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Major 2017 Accomplishments

- Food System Plan Adoption
- Program & Project Transitions
- Launching Plan Implementation
- Recognition
Major Grants Wrap-up

CDC Partnership to Improve Community Health
(2014-2017; $1.3 million to LDCHD)

- Schools create local food procurement guidelines
  - USDA F2S Planning Grant
  - Continued TA from staff
- New directory adds restaurants, schools
- Collaboration with Sunrise Project instrumental
  - Health Equity workshop
  - KHF HCI funding supporting model for Community Health Plan

Hunger, food insecurity, & access to healthy foods again identified as community priority.
Major Grants Wrap-up

USDA Farmers Market Promotion Program
(2015-2017; $56,650)

- **Final reports** released January 2018 with workshop
- Collaborative campaign
  - National Farmers Market Week: #ShopEatRepeat
  - Farmers Markets of Kaw Valley: [www.fmkawvalley.org](http://www.fmkawvalley.org)
- New DCFPC Priority (1.3.1)
  - Help resolve “the location issue” for downtown Lawrence Farmers Market, support promotion
Major Grants Wrap-up

Double Up Food Bucks
(2016-2019; $5.8 million bi-state collaboration led by MARC)

- Douglas County management of Eastern Kansas region transitioned to national non-profit Fair Food Network
- County and FPC continue to engage as partner for outreach
  - Support in Food System Plan
- Three local markets still participate in program
SNAP matching is a win-win-win!

- **low-income families** can purchase and eat more healthy foods,
- **local farmers** access new customers and new sources of revenue,
- and more dollars stay in **local Kansas communities**.

**100% say DUFB helped them afford more FF&V**
- **87% consumed more FF&V**
- **67% decreased consumption of junk food**

**Vendors saw an increase of over $50,000 in revenue across all markets because of SNAP matching**

**Every $1 spent at a farmers market can generate up to $2.80 for the local economy.**
Common Ground

✓ 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.

Community Partners

- KU Big Event
- KU Super Service Saturday
- Sunrise Youth
- KU Hillel
- Just Food
- Sunrise Project
- KU Super Service Saturday
- KU Center for Community Outreach/Engineers without Borders
- Lawrence Food Garden Tour
- Centenary United Methodist Conservation District Church
- Lawrence Public Library
- Douglas County Community Foundation
- Growing Food, Growing Health (The Merc)
- GreenWish Lawrence
- Grassland Heritage Foundation
- Oread Friends
- K-State Research & Extension
- Douglas County Conservation District

www.lawrenceks.org/common_ground
Common Ground

Accomplishments:

• New, simplified application for easier, web-based enrollment

• Incubator Farm success! Mellowfields Urban Farm “graduates” to Douglas Co. farmland

By the Numbers:

• Gardens/farms: 10
• Gardeners/farmers: 136
• Community events & classes: 56
• Event participants: 598
• Market value of produce: $2,300
• Pounds of produce donated: 888

www.lawrenceks.org/common-ground
Conservation District Grant  
(2017-2018; $50,000)

- Research contractor hired for full Common Ground program review  
  Creating new Toolkit for program participants
- Urban Agriculture Education Center at Fairgrounds in partnership with K-State Research & Extension  
  Install high tunnels  
  (see middle images)
- Collaborative Professional Development

Focus group with City / County staff who support Common Ground

Grant partners travel to Columbia, MO for urban agriculture tour
2016: FPC TASKED TO WRITE FOOD PLAN

“a strategic plan should be developed by and maintained with the Local Food Policy Council to...ensure the master plan is fitting the true needs of the community.” --Comprehensive Plan Update Steering Committee

Process Recap

Food System Assessment

13 Focus Groups

Lawrence Listens Survey (+450 responses)

5 Public Forums

Goals

Objectives

Policies

Identify themes

Winter-spring 2016

Summer-fall 2016

Fall-winter 2016

Winter-spring 2017

January Public Draft Release

March City Commission

External TA Review

Adopted July 2017!
Food System Plan

Goal 1: Thriving Regional Food Economy
Goal 2: Conservation & Resilience
Goal 3: Healthy Food Access
Goal 4: Equitable Food System
Goal 5: Eliminate Food Waste

https://www.douglascountyks.org/fpc/food-system-plan
Food System Plan Implementation

• Role of DCFPC Going forward:
  • Prioritize
  • Clarify responsibility
  • Assess progress
  • Maintain community engagement
  • Ensure accountability
New Subcommittees – by Goal

Goal 1: Thriving Regional Food Economy
Goal 2: Conservation & Resilience
Goal 3: Healthy Food Access
Goal 4: Equitable Food System
Goal 5: Eliminate Food Waste

Aggies

Health Equity

FoRWaRD
Food Recovery, Waste Reduction, & Diversion

https://www.douglascountyks.org/fpc/food-system-plan
Snapshot: Some 2018 Priorities

Aggies

Health Equity

FoRWaRD

- Regional Food Systems, Economic Devp. Summit
  - USDA, American Farmland Trust, Federal Reserve Bank
  - Late May 2018!

- Food Access Communications
  - Lawrence Transit, partner agencies

- Support Food Waste Audits at USD497 and KU
  - LDC Health Department funding through KDHE CDRR grant

Research Collaboration Opportunities

Work Group on Food Studies
FPC provided input on draft comp plan

Our Community Vision

The City of Lawrence and rural Douglas County is one of the most desirable places in the United States to call home. A well-educated community with a unique free state spirit, we are diverse, publicly engaged, and boldly innovative. We are prosperous, with full employment and a broad tax base.

Our development is human-scale and our vibrant and liveable neighborhoods allow people to age in place. We have ample choices for safe, efficient transportation including bicycling, walking and transit. The City’s lively and historic downtown attracts residents and visitors for commerce and culture. Our citizens value preserving and enhancing the natural environment for our enjoyment and for future generations. The proximity of rural and agricultural land to the city provides beauty and respite, and we enjoy the economic and health benefits of a robust local food system.

We make Lawrence and rural Douglas County a place where creativity thrives, sustainability is a way of life, and community pride is contagious.
Recognition

- KS State of Wellness Community Health Champion Award
  - Watch this video!
- KS-APA Pioneer Award for Food System Plan
- 2017 Sustainable Success Story “10th Anniversary Honoree” by the Mid-American Regional Council
- Webinars, conferences, & news articles

https://newfoodeconomy.org/local-changes-to-system-food-policy-councils/
Sustainability Office Changes

New Sustainability Director

- Jasmin Moore, AICP
- Former member of Johnson Co. KS Food Policy Council

Sustainability & Food Systems Planner

- Helen Schnoes, AICP
- Remains primary staff liaison for Council

https://www.facebook.com/LawrenceandDouglasCountySustainability

The Council and its accomplishments are indebted to the public service leadership of Eileen Horn as Sustainability Director from 2010-2017.
Stay Connected

✓ All Council meetings are open to the public—and our City Commissioners:
   ➢ Full Council: Third Monday each month
     ➢ 6:30pm to 8:30pm
     • Location varies throughout our county food system
   ➢ Subcommittees meet monthly

✓ Agendas, minutes, reports, and additional info online:
   • https://www.douglascountyks.org/fpc

✓ Subscribe for monthly agenda announcements:
   • http://lawrenceks.org/subscriptions

DCFPC meetings in 2017 included the KU Biological Field Station and member Lee Broyles’s home & cattle ranch
Recent updates in the statewide potential for food councils and local food systems development — recognition of the impact of this work!


https://kansasallianceforwellness.com/
Thank you!

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785-832-5157  

FPC member and past-Chair Jill Elmers traveled to the 2017 Lean Farm Summit with support from the Council’s budget to learn about innovative production practices and tools for more efficient growing.