Can Entrepreneurship and Innovation Solve Food Insecurity?

Dr. Kathleen Liang

Kellogg Distinguished Professor of Sustainable Agriculture
Director, Center for Environmental Farming Systems
North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University
cliang@ncat.edu 336 285 4683







World's largest vertical farm grows without soil, sunlight or water in Newark

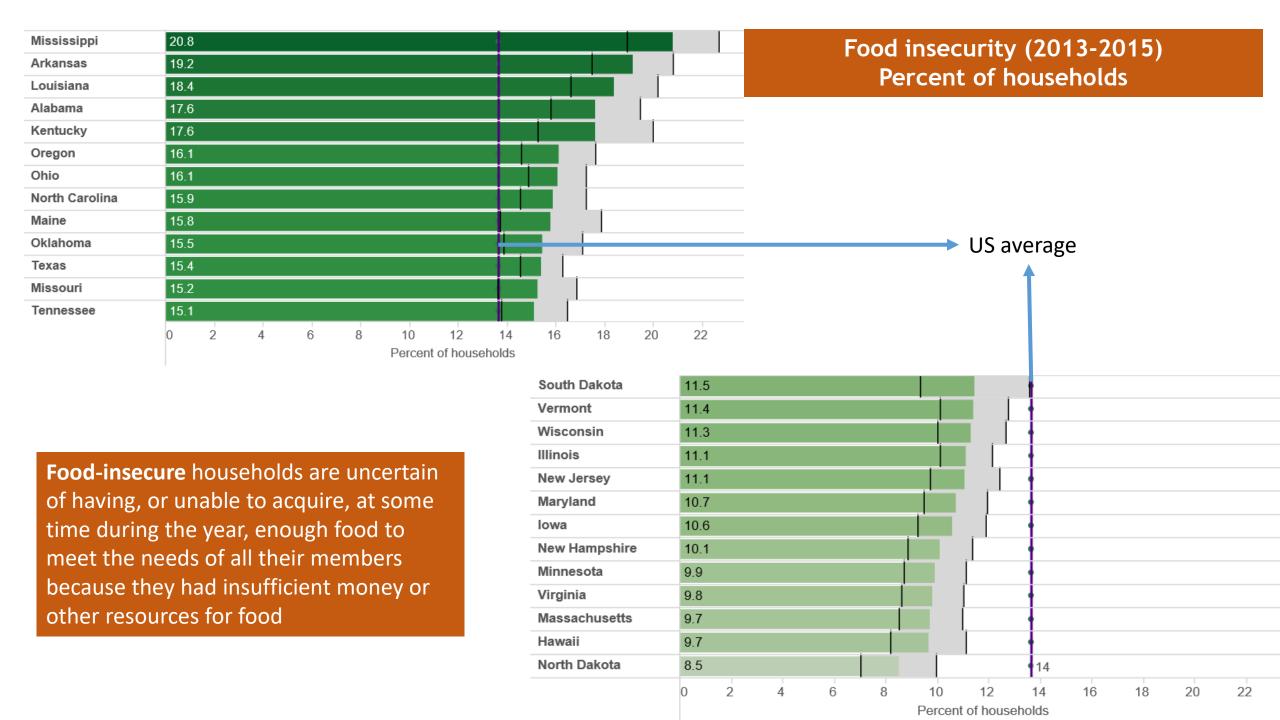
AeroFarms has put \$30m into a green revolution that seeks to produce more crops in less space, but whether it's economically viable is an open question

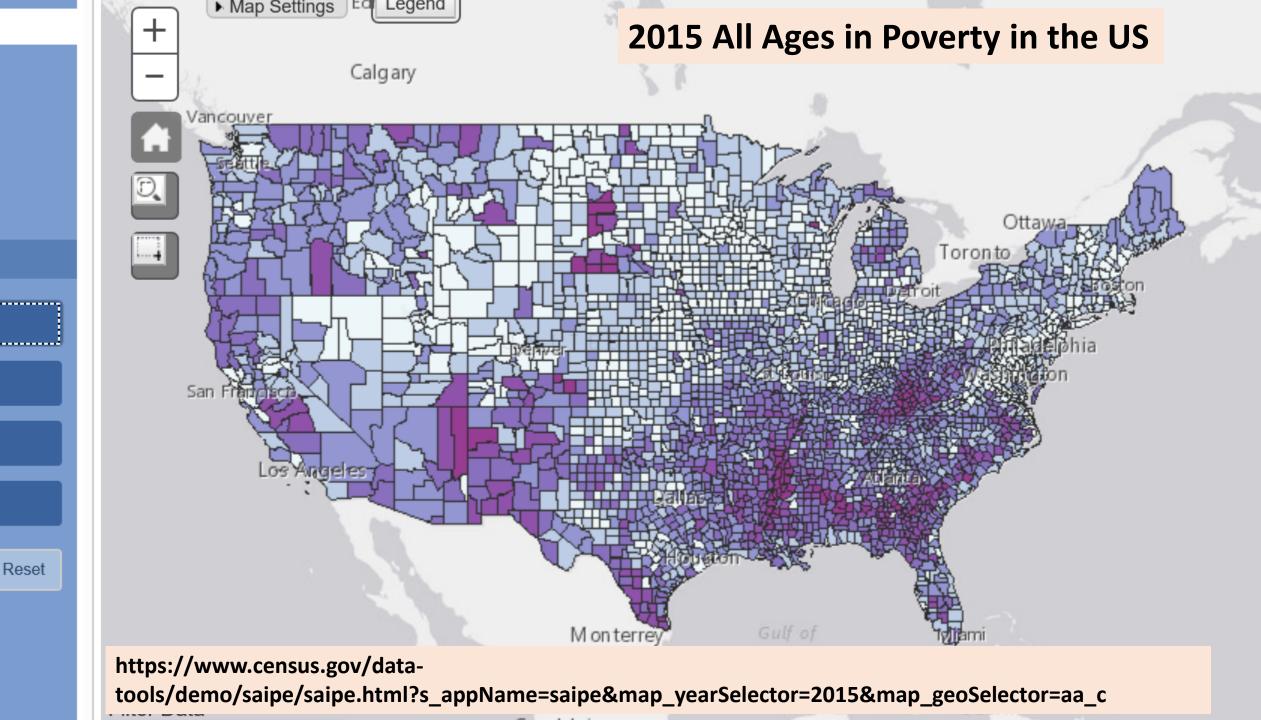


Food Security/Insecurity and Poverty Definition and Reports

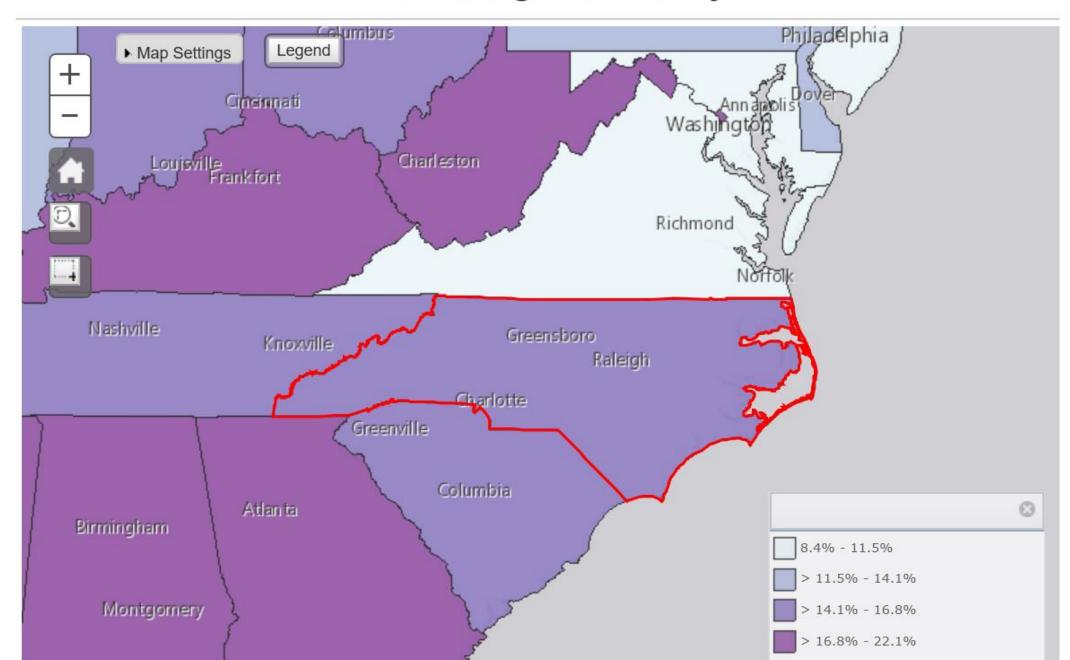
 https://www.ers.usda.gov/topics/food-nutrition-assistance/foodsecurity-in-the-us/interactive-charts-and-highlights/

 https://www.census.gov/datatools/demo/saipe/saipe.html?s_appName=saipe&map_yearSelecto
 r=2015&map_geoSelector=aa_c

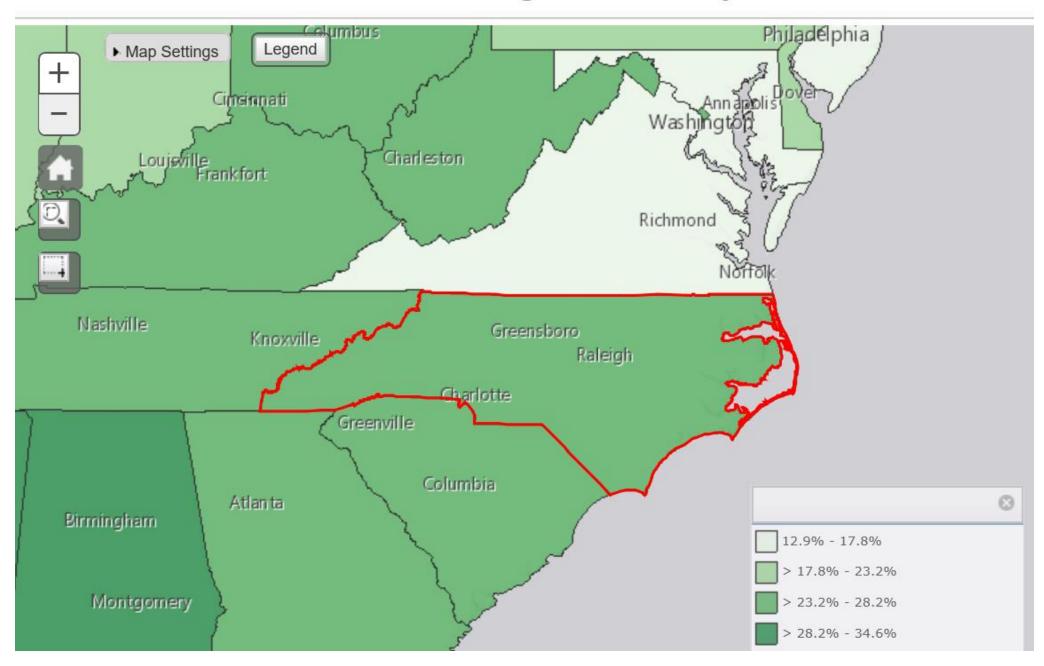




2015 All Ages in Poverty

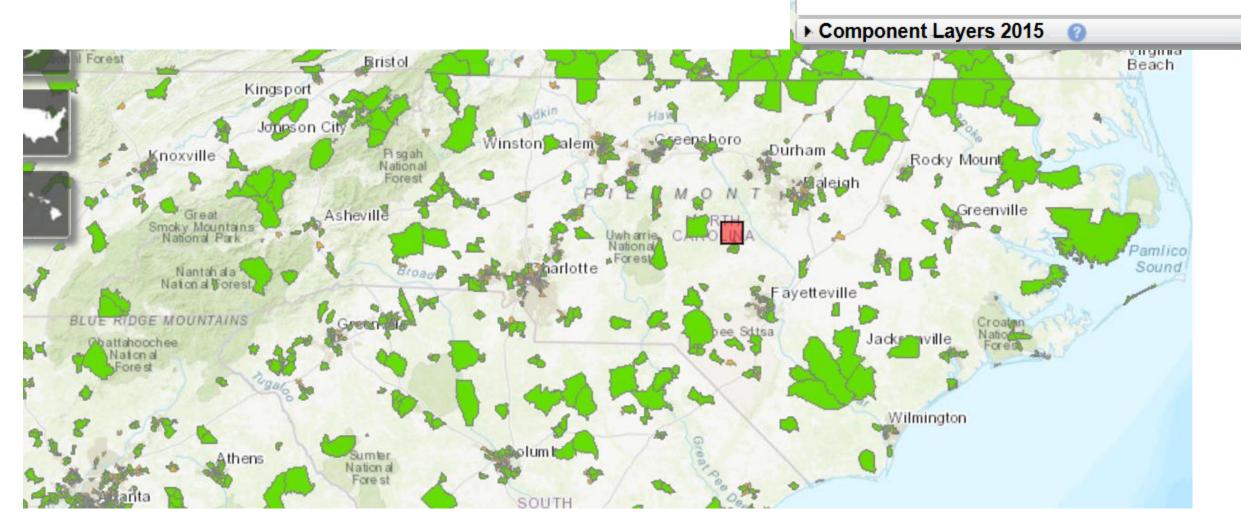


2015 Under Age 5 in Poverty



Food Desert

https://www.ers.usda.gov/data/fooddesert/



▼ Low Income & Low Access Layers 2015

LI and LA at 1 and 10 miles

LI and LA at 1/2 and 10 miles

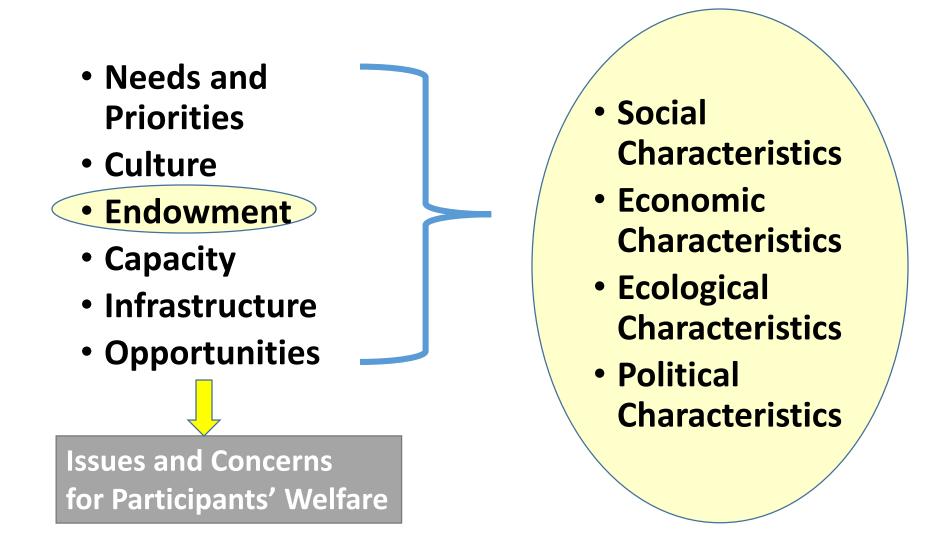
LI and LA at 1 and 20 miles

LI and LA using vehicle access (

Process of Entrepreneurship

- Creating and seeking opportunities for individuals and/or teams
- Transforming ideas into opportunities with or without resources
 - Expanding markets for existing products/services
 - Creating new products/services
- Integrating value added across industries
- Developing entrepreneurial characteristics
 - Independent
 - Risk taking
 - Taking control
 - Realistic optimism

A Framework to Stimulate Innovation, Creativity, and Entrepreneurship



Ranked #1 in the US







Ranked #2 in the US

Ranked #5 in the US







https://cefs.ncsu.edu/



Farming Systems Research Unit



Pasture-Based Dairy Unit



Pasture-Based Beef Unit



Organic Research Unit



Small Farm Unit



Alternative Swine Unit

My Vision

To become a leader in using innovative strategies to design, develop, implement, and convey research-based solutions that will

- conserve natural resources
- improve environmental quality
- promote job and wealth creation
- enhance community health

My Work in Food and Farming Systems Re-build, re-energize, re-connect

- Stakeholders of NC in all counties and Community Listening Sessions
- Small Farm Unit in Goldsboro, NC
 - multifunctional farm enterprise financial analysis
 - organic/conventional comparative studies
 - specialty crops
- Creative Farming and Healthy Eating program in rural communities
- Dollar Enterprise Entrepreneurship programs at A&T and communities
- From academia to reality integrated research, teaching, and outreach activities – faculty, staff, students at A&T!





















Dollar Enterprise - 22630 - ABM 250 - 001 Tuesday 4:30pm to 7:20pm Proctor Hall 160 (open to all majors and all classifications)

Dollar Enterprise has been recognized as one of the best entrepreneurship courses in America.

We are seeking confident, energetic, enthusiastic, selfmotivated, team oriented, and serious entrepreneur want-to-be to join us in learning about the entrepreneurship process and how it impacts our life and society.

The objectives of this course are:

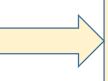
- 1. To create a real business on campus and practice business skills, professional communication, and teamwork.
- 2. To support students to develop critical thinking as successful entrepreneurs.
- 3. To create future entrepreneurial leaders across industries and labor force.

Can entrepreneurship and innovation solve food insecurity issues?

Issues in food systems

- Availability production, intermediary
- Affordability price, preparation
- Accessibility transportation, time of traveling
- Accountability food safety, health

Grow knowledge, information, networks, opportunity



Enrich People Imagine Place Cultivate Prosperity

Open Discussion and Thank you!

Dr. Kathleen Liang

Kellogg Distinguished Professor of Sustainable Agriculture
Director, Center for Environmental Farming Systems
North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University
cliang@ncat.edu 336 285 4683