



Issues • Innovation • Impact

A Part of the Cooperative Extension System

**Community, Local
and Regional
Food Systems**

OPEN FORUM

**STRATEGIES TO HELP AG
PRODUCERS PLAN DURING
THE COVID-19 CRISIS**

Community, Local & Regional Food Systems National Extension Project

Dr. Kathleen Liang

W.K. Kellogg Distinguished Professor of Sustainable Agriculture
Director, Center for Environmental Farming Systems
College of Agriculture and Environmental Sciences
North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University

Katie Himes

CLRFS Media Outreach and Administrative Support



foodsystems.extension.org



We help Cooperative Extension Professionals find innovative ways to generate greater local impact.

Through the Impact Collaborative, we work with member institutions on building skills in innovation, and bringing new capacity to the system. eXtension and the Impact Collaborative are the Cooperative Extension System's investment for local impact.

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Community, Local & Regional Food Systems National Extension Project

Examples of

- Program
- Curriculum
- Case study and practice
- Evaluation and assessment
- Article, reports, new releases

Discussions

- Issues, challenges and risks
- Success stories and strategies
- Solutions and impacts

Connections

- Projects
- Collaborations
- Support

Community, Local & Regional Food Systems National Extension Project Working Groups

- Economic Impacts of Community, Local and Regional Food Systems
- Food System Certification Project with NAFSN
- Urban Agriculture
- Racial Equity in the Food System



COMMUNITY, LOCAL & REGIONAL FOOD SYSTEMS

eXtension Community of Practice

About Us Get Involved Posts

About Us



About CLRFS

Community, local and regional food systems are increasingly important to individuals, families and communities for a number of social, economic and environmental reasons. Interest in issues related to community, local and regional food systems has exploded of late, and government agencies, universities, Extension services, nonprofit organizations and entrepreneurial groups are generating new information, as well as seeking information, on the wide range of topics encompassed within this community, local and regional food systems umbrella.

This resource is hosted by the Community, Local and Regional Food Systems (CLRFS) Community of Practice. It is designed to provide information and networking

Community, Local & Regional Food Systems National Extension Project

Website Listserv

Facebook:

Search: "Community, Local & Regional Food Systems"

Fan page: <https://www.facebook.com/ExtensionsCommunityLocalRegionalFoodSystems>

Group Page: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/188628827945517/>

Contact Us

Please join us! If you have experience and expertise in community, local and regional food systems and would like to join our community, contact us by joining eXtension and indicating your interest in joining CLFRS: <https://people.extension.org>

If you do NOT have an email with .gov or .edu, contact Katie Wright to join: kgwright73@gmail.com



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CLRFS Open Forum Presenters

Sarah Hanson

County Extension Director & Educator | Ag & Natural Resources
Purdue University, Johnson County, Indiana

Catherine Nardi

Programs Manager
Montgomery County Food Council, Maryland

Yvette Goodiel

Extension Educator | Commercial Horticulture, Sustainable Agriculture, Small Farms
University of Florida, Martin County

Tim Woods

Extension Professor | Agricultural Economics
University of Kentucky

A GUIDE FOR U-PICK PRODUCERS / AGRITOURISM SITES DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

Sarah Hanson

Ag/Natural Resources Educator

Johnson County, Indiana



PURDUE
UNIVERSITY®

Extension

1/19/2021 |

Complying with current county/state rules

Info for Agritourism/ U-Pick operations

- Contact local health dept
- Consider how you'll minimize crowds and practice social distancing
 - Allow customers to register in advance for time blocks
 - Increase staff to enforce enhanced sanitation
 - Create hand-washing or sanitizer stations
- Encourage credit card payments to avoid money handling



Customer interactions

Maintain regular contact with customers.

- Use social media, your business website, and other normal means
- Reiterate that no one should visit if they feel ill or have tested positive for Covid-19 (or had close contact with someone tested positive)
- Recommend that all customers follow CDC guidelines
 - This can be done with signage



PURDUE UNIVERSITY Extension

ATTENTION!

GUIDELINES FOR U-PICK GUESTS

Please take the following precautions:

- **Do not enter the grounds if**
 - you feel ill or anyone in your house feels ill
 - you or anyone in your house had known contact with a **COVID-19**-positive person in the past 2 weeks
- **Enter and exit** the grounds only at designated points
- **Wear a cloth face covering** and don't touch your face
- **Practice physical distancing** of at least 6 feet between individuals not in your household
 - Households, including children, must stay close together
- **Do not bring pets** (except certified service animals)
- **Wash your hands** before and after your visit
- **Use only farm-provided containers** for picking
- **Pick cleanly** and only in your assigned area
- **Follow all additional instructions** of farm personnel

For more information, contact your local Extension office or visit: www.extension.purdue.edu

An Equal Access / Equal Opportunity University

So many questions

- How do we setup online ordering and schedule pickups?
- Can we have a musician come if that might mean a crowd gathers?
- How do we enforce CDC rules?
- Should I contact my liability insurance?
- If we can't handle this influx of customers to our farm safely, do we have to continue?



Does your state have something like this?

IndianaGrown.org

- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
- U.S. Food & Drug Administration Food Safety and the Coronavirus
- World Health Organization
- Federal Resources for U.S. Small Businesses
- Agricultural and Farm Loan Collateral Security and the SBA Economic Injury Disaster Loan Program (EIDL) FAQ
- COVID-19 Assistance for Farmers and Producers (downloadable one-pager)
- Local Food Systems Response to COVID
- Indiana Family and Social Services Administration Food Assistance Availability Map
- Agricultural Employer Checklist for Creating a COVID-19 Assessment and Control Plan
- The COVID-19 Federal Rural Resource Guide
- Indiana Small Business Development Center Resources
- Purdue University – A guide for local producers to navigate the COVID-19 outbreak
- Purdue University – A consumer guide to buying from local farmers during the COVID-19 outbreak
- Purdue University – FOOD: A Guide for Farmers' Markets to Navigate the COVID-19 Outbreak
- Purdue University – AGRICULTURE: A Guide to Alternative Delivery Systems for Local Producers During the COVID-19 Pandemic
- Purdue University: Food safety best practices and resources during COVID-19
- Purdue University: Best Practices and Precautions for Produce Auctions
- Indiana University Sustainable Food Systems Science – Food System Resources During COVID-19
- Indiana Uplands Food Network COVID-19 Webinar Series
- Indiana Economic Development Corporation (IEDC) COVID-19 Small Business Resource Guide
- The Produce Marketing Association (PMA) Important Coronavirus (COVID-19) Updates &

THANK YOU

Now is the time to plan for how best practices will be implemented so that agribusinesses can safely operate and minimize the community spread of Covid-19.

Montgomery County's Farm to Food Bank Program



A program of the Montgomery County Food Security Task Force, Montgomery County Food Council, Manna Food Center, and the Montgomery County Office of Agriculture

Background

- ❖ ~100,000 Montgomery County residents experiencing food insecurity due to economic impacts of COVID-19 (up from 60k pre-COVID)
- ❖ As of mid-June, 86% of food assistance providers reported a need for more fresh produce, despite access to USDA Coronavirus Food Assistance Program boxes
- ❖ Local farms and food businesses' sales impacted by the crisis
 - Food producing farms anticipated having excess product during the 2020 growing season
- ❖ Efforts to simultaneously addressing food insecurity, reducing food waste, and supporting the local food economy



Farm to Food Bank Program Goals



- ❖ Provide fresh, sufficient, nutritious, and diverse produce to food assistance providers in Montgomery County.
- ❖ Reduce food waste by procuring products based on shelf-life and establishing a secondary sales market for these local products.
- ❖ Support Montgomery County farmers through new market opportunities and purchasing partnerships and building farms' production capacity to ensure a sustained and resilient food supply for 2020-2021 and beyond.

MONTGOMERY COUNTY FARM TO FOOD BANK PROGRAM

Phase I Report: July - December 2020



59,428

Pounds of food distributed
through the program, from **11**
different farms.

Farm partners that participated in Phase I
of the program include:

- Sandy Spring Gardens
- Lewis Orchards
- Eat the Rainbow Farm
- The Farm at Our House
- Chicken of the Woods
- Red Wiggler Community Farm
- Butlers Orchard
- One Acre Farm
- Alden Farms
- Purple Mountain Organics
- Metro Microgreens

Manna Food Center, the program
administrator, shared product with

20+

food assistance
partners, including:

- Rainbow Community Development Center
- So What Else
- Meals on Wheels of Takoma Park
- Yad Yehuda of Greater Washington
- Silver Spring Christian Reformed Church
- Shepherd's Table
- Guru Gobind Singh Foundation
- Clifton Park Baptist Church
- Church of the Redeemer
- Oak Chapel UMC Hub
- First AME Church of Gaithersburg
- MCCH
- Islamic Center of MD
- WUMCO Help
- Gaithersburg Help
- Mid-County United Ministries
- Women Who Care Ministries
- Transforming Lives
- AJJ Inc.
- Rockville Senior Center
- AfriThrive Inc.
- St. Martins Cloak
- Black Rock Hub
- Family Services, Inc.

Capacity Building Grant Program awarded

\$236,804 to 22 farms

in October of 2020 to support capacity building projects
that will increase the availability of locally grown and
produced food for contribution to the program in 2021.



Funding

- ❖ Phase I and II of the program have been supported by County government funding, federal CARES Act dollars, Manna Food Center community funds, and the Greater Washington Community Foundation.



**UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA IFAS
EXTENSION**

Food System Supports

Presentation by Yvette Goodiel and Carol Roberts

Presentation Outline

Resources for Support

Know Your Outlets for Excess Produce

Connect with Consumers

Get Listed in Food System Directories

Opportunities for Extension to Help



Nearby Food Banks/Pantries

Reach out to your local/regional food banks and pantries to ask if they take excess produce. Some will glean produce, some will purchase produce, and some will pick up produce! In our area, some are even starting to offer processing/packing for producers.

Statewide Food Recovery

In Florida, our Department of Agriculture shares information on food recovery, such as tax incentives and liability protections for growers. They help organize gleaning events and offer a directory of food recovery entities.



Connect with consumers

Tell your story,
share your values





Get Listed! It's Free!

FOOD SYSTEM NGO'S

[LocalHarvest](#), [FeedingFlorida.org](#)

INDUSTRY ORGANIZATIONS

In our state, Farm Bureau and the FL Fruit & Vegetable Association have helped growers to market, through online directories and marketing. FL Agritourism Association also lists events online.

STATE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

The Florida Farm to You portal allows growers to list available produce and connect with transportation. The list is searchable by consumers and other buyers.

How Extension can Help



GOOD FOOD CONNECTIONS

UF IFAS Extension
UNIVERSITY of FLORIDA

INVENTORY LOCAL FOOD SYSTEM

In 2019, we created an inventory of food system resources (retail sites, processing facilities, food banks, etc.). We also interviewed food system participants about their needs.

SHARE RESOURCES

Share your inventory and needs assessment with food system participants, including policy-makers. Let growers know about directories, donating/selling to food banks, ways they can connect with consumers, federal/state assistance, etc.

HOST NETWORKING MEETINGS

Since the start of the fall growing season in our region, we have been offering "Good Food Connections" free virtual networking events.

Want to discuss more?

Contact Us



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