

What Can Be Regional Food Systems Video Summary

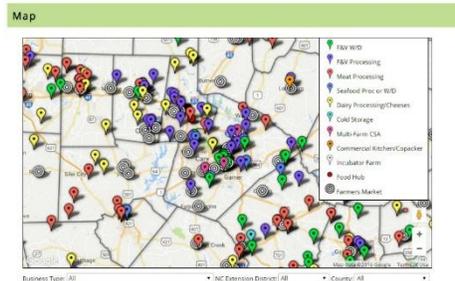
This short video can be shared, embedded online, and/or used in community screenings. The video outlines the economic redevelopment project of Working Landscapes in Warrenton, North Carolina, telling the story of two rural leaders who moved home to Warren County to contribute to their local economy by building a small greens processing center. The video focuses on this project as an example of the larger regional context of food system development, and brings in experts from UNC’s School of Government to discuss the economic impacts of building regional food systems. *What Can Be* was developed with the support of the NC 10% Campaign and USDA SARE.

The video is available online at www.localfoodeconomies.org.

Planning a Video Viewing

This video can be used to initiate discussions of local food infrastructure and economic development with councils of government, food policy councils, and other county decision makers in your community or in the workplace. The *What Can Be* video can be used as a catalyst and tool to inspire meaningful regional food systems conversations.

In addition to the video and question guide, consider using the [local food system supply chain infrastructure map](#) and CEFS’ [county & council of government infographics](#) as additional resources. Both provide specific supply chain information and agriculture census data for communities around the state.



The NC 10% campaign has developed a detailed guide to hosting a video viewing. This guide is helpful when planning a community event. While many of the questions may not apply to *What Can Be*, the guide offers valuable guidance for event planning. We also recommend using the other food system videos to add to the discussion: <http://www.nc10percent.com/film-screening-toolkit>.

Local Food Economies Resources

Local Food Economies (LFE) is an initiative of the Center for Environmental Farming Systems (CEFS) [NC Growing Together](#) (NCGT) project. NCGT is a five-year, USDA-funded project that aims to bring more locally-produced foods into mainstream markets, strengthening the economics of small to mid-sized farm and fishing operations and their communities. In addition to research, academic,

and extension components, NCGT also aims to create an enabling environment for farms and food businesses, and provides government & community development resources specific to food system development.

Direct resource links are available at <https://www.cefs.ncsu.edu/statewide-infrastructure-map.html> and <https://cefs.ncsu.edu/food-system-initiatives/local-food-economies/infographicscounty-ag-profiles/>.

What Can Be Viewing Questions for Discussion

Before holding a group meeting or other convening to consider local food system development, generate a set of questions to provide a starting point for discussion.

Some useful “**starting point**” questions might be:

- What are similarities between your community and Warren County?
- Do the stakeholders in the room bring on-the-ground knowledge about regional food systems and opportunities? Or do we need others in the room who have more in-depth knowledge?
- How can we include agricultural stakeholders in strategic planning to explore our local and regional supply chain opportunities?
- Are there opportunities for regional entities (Councils of Government, EDC, AG boards,) to provide institutional support for an initiative that could help assess areas of growth?
- What does the supply chain map show us about our community?
- Has our local school system been approached about sourcing from local farmers? What are the requirements, opportunities?
- What food distributors are already traveling through our community/ region? Are there opportunities for back-hauling, or using regional distribution centers?
- Local Food councils can address supply chain opportunities as part of their planning. Is there a local food council in the region?
- What are the major commodities in our community or region? Is there a desire to grow that market or is there interest in diversifying production?
- Councils of Government are increasingly addressing food systems as part of their long-range planning goals, has our COG done so?

For more information and resources, please contact:

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