

Building a Sustainable Local Food Economy in Kentucky

VISION: Kentucky has a strong local economy where all Kentuckians regularly consume fresh and healthy foods that are grown, raised, processed, distributed, and marketed ecologically and sustainably by local growers, producers, and businesses.

CONTEXT (Why?)

- Loss of agricultural land and horse farms
- Obesity, chronic diseases, and health care expenditures
- Job loss, community environment decline
- Current food system is unhealthy and unsustainable

ASSETS

- Consumer demand
- Kentucky Proud and local first initiatives
- Community and institutional engagement
- Proximity between rural and urban areas

INPUTS (What?)

- Local, regional, and statewide policy and regulatory changes
 - Community planning and coordination
 - Capital investments from governing bodies
 - Localized education and skills training
- Continued marketing and publicizing of Kentucky Proud and other initiatives

STRATEGIES (How?)

- Engage all community stakeholders and assess community values
- Develop local working groups and teams to create action plans to improve food system
- Revise local planning policies and put moratorium on commercial development of farms
 - Encourage creation of courses in K-12 and higher education on agricultural systems
 - Cultivate and sustain community gardens
 - Implement farm to fork initiatives within public and private sectors
 - Engage and empower youth
- Support food systems infrastructure and agricultural business development

OUTPUTS (Interim Results)

- Local, regional, and statewide food policy councils
- Coordinated local food system policies and regulations
 - Viable business models and public/private partnerships to provide local food infrastructure and market access
- Statewide networks that expand reach and effectiveness of community-based initiatives
- Food system focused education and training programs for all stakeholders

OUTCOMES (Short-term impacts)

- More farmers
- More fresh, healthy, local food sold to institutional and retail markets
- More infrastructure and new businesses and partnerships established
- More demand for ecologically and sustainably grown food

OUTCOMES (Long-term impacts)

- Increased jobs within food economy
- Healthier people and reduced state and individual health care expenditures
 - Increased food dollars spent locally in rural and urban communities
- Reduced environmental impact and reliance on fossil fuels