

# 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