



Local Food Initiatives: 2018 Annual Report

Prepared for the Lawrence City Commission

January 29, 2019



www.douglascountyks.org/fpc

About This Report

- This report has been prepared for the City of Lawrence Commission by Helen Schnoes, Douglas County Sustainability & Food Systems Planner, on behalf of the [Douglas County Food Policy Council](#).
- A full or condensed presentation of this report or any of the programs or policy initiatives highlighted herein is available to the full Commission or interested Commissioner upon request.
- Contact: Helen Schnoes at hschnoes@douglascountyks.org or (785) 832-5157



2018 Overview

- Food System Plan implementation across 5 goal areas
- Building capacity
- Strong foundation set for 2019 progress
- Strategic renewal
 - Food Policy Council
 - Sustainability Office



DOUGLAS COUNTY, KS FOOD SYSTEM PLAN

Adopted June 28, and July 11, 2017



DEVELOPED BY



The Douglas County Food Policy Council

- Established by the County Commission in 2010
- Convened as a joint City-County Council in 2013
- Identifies the benefits, challenges and opportunities for a successful food system
- Recommends local policies to support food system
- Represents a wide range of stakeholders in food system

www.douglascountyks.org/fpc



Staff support from Lawrence-Douglas Co. Sustainability Office

- 1st full time staff, 2010
 - ❖ Sustainability Director
- 2nd full time staff (not grant funded), 2017
 - ❖ Sustainability & Food Systems Planner

Benefits

Economic vitality

- Profitable agricultural businesses
- Successful food entrepreneurs
- Good jobs and career opportunities

Wellness

- Access to nourishing foods
- Food and gardening skills
- Great tasting local produce

Equity

- Good food for all
- Celebration of diversity
- Empowerment and inclusion

Ecological resilience

- Healthy and abundant soils and waters
- Ability to endure extreme weather events
- Waste reduction and reuse



Food System Plan (Adopted 2017)

10-year guiding document; incorporated by reference into forthcoming Plan 2040

Goal 1: Thriving Regional Food Economy

Goal 2: Conservation & Resilience

Goal 3: Healthy Food Access

Goal 4: Equitable Food System

Goal 5: Food Waste Elimination



<https://www.douglascountyks.org/fpc/food-system-plan>

Plan Implementation

FPC Working Groups

Goal 1: Thriving Regional Food Economy

Aggies

Goal 2: Community Food Security

Goal 3: Healthy Food Access

Health Equity

Goal 4: Food System Resilience

Goal 5: Food Waste Elimination

ForWaRD

Food Recovery, Waste Reduction, & Diversion

Role of FPC and staff:

- Prioritize initiatives
- Clarify responsibility
- Assess progress
- Maintain community engagement
- Ensure accountability



<https://www.douglascountyks.org/fpc/food-system-plan>

Goal 1: Thriving Regional Food Economy



The FPC led organizing of this state-wide event in May 2018.

Scan of farmers market permanence, public-private partnerships

- 2019 Downtown Lawrence Master Plan engagement

Inspired by the Farmers Market Scan developed by Sustainability Office intern Bryson Risley, a class of 2nd year KU Architecture students developed conceptual designs for a downtown permanent farmers market structure.



New publication in development to explain our agritourism regulations, encourage business development

Community Partnerships

OBJECTIVE #2:
Promote local food, farms, and agricultural heritage tourism



Harvesting Opportunity in Kansas Sponsors



FOOD SYSTEMS
COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY



K-STATE
Research and Extension

Douglas County

K-STATE
Research and Extension
Johnson County

JOHNSON COUNTY
KANSAS

In partnership together

THIS BUSINESS
POWERED BY:



A NETWORK KANSAS
Entrepreneurship
Community
DOUGLAS CO.



Sunflower Foundation
HEALTH CARE FOR KANSANS

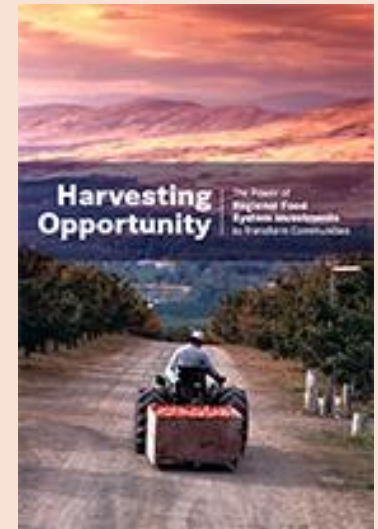
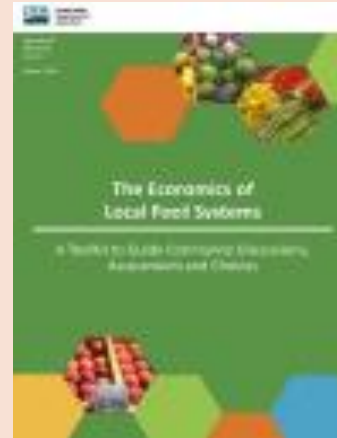


Agricultural
Marketing
Service

DOUGLAS COUNTY FARM BUREAU
The Voice of Agriculture*



Growing Growers
Kansas City



Event inspired by two national publications:
[Harvesting Opportunity](#) by Federal Reserve of St. Louis
and [Economics of Local Food Toolkit](#) from USDA.

Harvesting Opportunity in Kansas

→ New KS tools developed to share

- [Video to inspire](#)
- [StoryMap with event resources](#)
 - Won KS Asso. of Mappers award for best web app!
- [For Food Councils and community coalitions](#)
- [For KS eco devo professionals](#)









2019: Continuing the Conversation

- Contract with [Kansas Rural Center](#) to incorporate into statewide convenings
- Information sessions with state legislative committees

**Community Food Systems:
A Tool for Building Wealth in
Kansas Communities**

In recent years, consumers have become increasingly interested in where their food comes from and how their food dollars can support local businesses and farmers. Innovative farmers across Kansas are introducing diverse products and opening new market channels.

This comes at a critical time for the U.S. farm economy and for many rural Kansas communities. With the current volatility in commodity markets, producers are struggling and looking for new opportunities. The small and mid-sized farms that often produce food for local markets are disappearing, and with the average Kansas farmer now older than 58, the need to encourage farming as a career choice has never been greater.

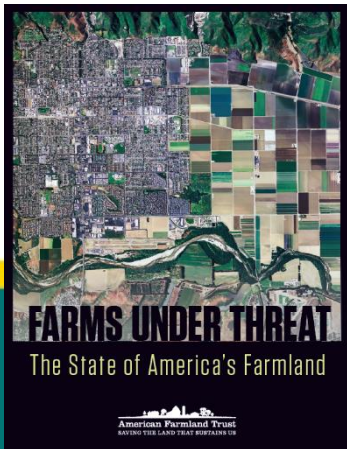
			
			

Goal 2: Conservation & Resilience

- Planning under way for first Kansas [Growing Good Neighbors](#) event in April with state agriculture and environmental partners to discuss pesticide drift



- Farmland and land use change analysis with [American Farmland Trust](#)
 - June 2018 presentation
 - Spring 2019 visit in development



Goal 3: Healthy Food Access

- Lawrence Transit partnership on Public Service Announcement pilot project



DOUBLE UP
FOOD BUCKS™



- [Community Health Improvement Plan](#) support
- Community garden program evaluation



Common Ground

- ✓ Started in 2012, with 9 sites
- ✓ Utilizes vacant city owned properties
- ✓ FREE lease to community gardeners

Plots: **116 + 4 cooperative areas**

Gardeners/farmers + volunteers: **272**

Community events & classes: **35**

Pounds of produce donated: **1539 lbs.**

➤ Plus 2 sites open to community harvest!

Mini-grants awarded: **4 for \$1835***



Community Partners

- KU Big Event
- Sunrise Youth
- KU Permaculture and community-based classes
- Just Food
- Sunrise Project
- Area foster homes
- Bishop Seabury
- Office of Multicultural Affairs (KU)
- KU Campus Cupboard
- KU Center for Community Outreach
- Kaw Valley Seed Fair
- Lawrence Public Library
- GreenWish Lawrence*
- Oread Friends
- K-State Research & Extension
- Douglas County Conservation District
- Lawrence-Douglas County Health Department
- KLWN
- KU Super Service Saturday
- Wichita's KKGU College Access Advisor

2017-2018 Urban Ag Grant with Douglas. Co Conservation District



K-STATE
Research and Extension

- Garden Management Guide
- Program Evaluation
- Fall Garden Tour + Stakeholder Visioning



See Full Annual Report at:

www.lawrenceks.org/common_ground



Goal 4: Equitable Food System

- Kansas Alliance for Wellness grant awarded for 2019 healthy food access collaboration with ethnic food retailers, ID policy barriers and opportunities



Builds on story collection by Connie Fitzpatrick as Sunrise Project community coordinator in 2016

- FPC proposed changes in Council structure to increase opportunities for participation (overview on next slides)
- Kansas Health Foundation awards Sunrise grant for community-based Food System Plan implementation in 2019



Goal 5: Food Waste Elimination

- Another year of state funding for food waste efforts



Pollution Prevention Institute

Kansas State University

- Relationship building with community partners



At the Hamm Recycling Facility

- [Community Health Improvement Plan](#) support

Restructuring the FPC

- Why?

- Bylaw review in Food System Plan's Implementation Framework
- Work has evolved for Council, staff – successes allow for renewed focus
- Large size (23) and narrow appointment criteria has presented challenges
 - May create barriers for some community members
 - Administratively heavy – need to make sustainable

- Process

- Working group formed July, met several times with staff to review bylaws, research other Food Councils, local advisory boards
- Facilitated conversation in October
- Council review of key ideas, proposals -- approved framework in December



Major changes proposed

- Membership simplification
 - Reduce size from 23 to 16
 - Loosen defined membership “roles”
 - Ensure diversity, agricultural producer engagement
 - Retain liaison relationships
- Purpose, goals, duties revision
 - Refocus on policy
 - Revise due to increased staff capacity
 - Recognize Food System Plan



Council original purposes

→ Proposed changes as duties

Strengthen Council's Role

- Advisory board on food systems policy, economic development
- County-wide food policy (plan!)

Clarify Council's Role

- Serve as community forum, clarify to “convene” not “coordinate”

Shift to Staff Role

- Establish benchmarks
- Clearinghouse / coordinator of objective data
- Infrastructure to support local food distribution
- Contribute to local food buying guide
- Contribute to informational website

Shift to Staff Role

- Establish benchmarks
- Clearinghouse / coordinator of objective data
- Infrastructure to support local food distribution (+ *within Food System Plan*)
- Contribute to local food buying guide
- Contribute to informational website

FPC Past Success

- Food System Assessments (2011, 2017)
- University of Kansas research, course collaborations
- Food Hub Feasibility Study (2014) and implementation
- Farmers Market Assessment and Recommendations (2015-2017)
- Local Food Wholesale Directories (2015, 2017)
- Various local food promotion events, campaigns, resources



Clarify Council's Role

- Serve as community forum, clarify to “convene” not “coordinate”

FPC Past Success

- Incubation of programs, events
 - Market Match (Double Up Food Bucks)
 - Chefs Challenge at County Fair
- Host / launch community conversations
 - Downtown food desert (2014)
 - Agricultural land preservation (2011)
 - Local food procurement, distribution
 - Harvesting Opportunity in Kansas Symposium (2018)
- Engagement with KS Legislature's Local Food and Farm Taskforce (2014-2016)
- Healthy Communities Initiative with Health Dept. (2014-2017)



Strengthen Council's Role

- Advisory board on food systems policy, economic development
- County-wide food policy (plan!)

FPC Past Success

- Douglas County Food System Plan (2017)
 - Comprehensive Plan input
- Policy changes + communications
 - Lawrence, urban agriculture (2016)
 - Douglas County, agritourism (2013)
 - New public brochure, 2018- 2019
 - Douglas County, incubator kitchen
 - Culinary Commons, 2013, 2016)
- Policymaker tours, trips
- Creation of Common Ground community garden public program
- Annual reports to Commissioners
- Proclamations



New Purpose

The Food Policy Council seeks to support a successful, sustainable local food system in Lawrence and Douglas County. To this end, the purpose of the Food Policy Council is

- To advise elected officials on food-system related policy issues and
- To provide a community forum for local food system development.



- Align Council goals with Food System Plan goals
- Reference principles to guide the work

Duties of the FPC

Convene and engage diverse perspectives

- Urban-rural balance
- Equitable representation

Identify, address issues, challenges, and policy opportunities

- Assess / understand local conditions
- Models of best practice, local relevance
- Implementation and implications: timelines, financial, community impact, unintended consequences

Support Food System Plan implementation

- Prioritize initiative, Clarify responsibility, Assess progress and identify indicators, Maintain community engagement, Ensure accountability

Maintain regular communication

- County Commission, City Commission, City and county staff



Douglas Co. Food Policy Council

23 appointed members – current structure

County-appointed (14)	City-appointed (9)
At-Large	At-Large
At-Large	At-Large
At-Large	Agricultural Producer
Agricultural Producer	Retail Food Outlet
Agricultural Producer	Retail Food Outlet
Agricultural Producer (Farm Bureau)	Sustainability Advisory Board
Retail Food Outlet	Food Security
Institutional Food Purchaser	Farmers Market in Douglas County
Education	Business Community
Extension Service	
NGO- Health/Nutrition/MD	
NGO- Local Food Systems/Sustainable Ag.	
Youth Representative	
Senior Food & Nutrition Programs	



Douglas Co. Food Policy Council

16 appointed members – suggested structure

County-appointed (9)	City-appointed (7)
Agricultural Producer (Farm Bureau)	Sustainability Advisory Board
Chamber of Commerce in Douglas County	Professional / personal experience
Extension Service	Professional / personal experience
NGO - Local Food Systems/Sustainable Ag.	Professional / personal experience
Health Department or public health org.	Professional / personal experience
Professional / personal experience	Professional / personal experience
Professional / personal experience	Professional / personal experience
Professional / personal experience	Professional / personal experience
Professional / personal experience	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="131 882 1721 989">➤ Minimum 4 active agricultural producers from different sectors, production systems, and marketing channels. <li data-bbox="131 1001 1657 1046">➤ Bylaws encourage balance across food system issues, sectors 	



Proposed New FPC Structure

Food System Plan Goal Area <small>(minimum, not designated seat for appointment)</small>	County-Appointed	City-Appointed	Total
Goal 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kansas Farm Bureau • Misc. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chamber • Misc. (retail) 	4
Goal 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustainable ag / Local food system non-profit • Misc. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustainability Advisory Board 	3
Goal 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Misc. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Misc. 	2
Goal 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Misc. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Misc. 	2
Goal 5		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Misc. 	1
General	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • K-State Research & Extension • Lawrence-Douglas County Health Department or public health org. • Misc. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Misc. 	4
Total	9	7	16

Food System Plan Goal Area	County-Appointed	City-Appointed	Total
Goal 1	<p>➤ Minimum 4 active agricultural producers from different sectors, production systems, and marketing channels.</p> <p>➤ Welcome professional and experiential/lay expertise.</p> <p>➤ Allow for “designee” with liaisons</p> <p>➤ Add explicit language about intentional inclusion.</p> <p>➤ Appointments not tied to specific goal area; used as minimums</p>		4
Goal 2			3
Goal 3			2
Goal 4			2
Goal 5			1
General	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lawrence-Douglas County Health Department • Misc. 		4

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Staff Recommendation:

Consider approval of new Joint Resolution-Ordinance to reestablish Food Policy Council and update its bylaws

Douglas County Commission to consider on January 30, 2019

Lawrence City Commission to consider on February 5, 2019

Building Capacity

Douglas County received a Leadership Transformation Grant from KLC. Will provided for 2019 member trainings



KANSAS LEADERSHIP CENTER

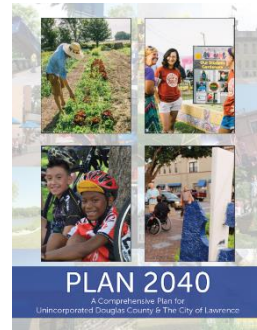


Grant from KAW awarded for FPC:

- Leadership development
- Policy issue training
- New communications pieces to engage partners



Continued engagement with Comprehensive Plan update



FPC and Lawrence residents featured in [Mother Earth News national magazine](#) story about policy change for 2016 Urban Ag code updates.

Presentations in 2018 included:

- National Planning Conference
- Urban Food Systems Symposium
- KS-MO Bi-State Planning Conference
- Heartland Health Equity Conference
- Kansas Farmers Union Conference
- KS From the Land of Kansas Conference

Stay Connected

- ✓ All Council meetings are open to the public:
 - Full Council: Third Monday, monthly
 - 6:30pm to 8:30pm
 - *Location varies*
 - Working group meeting times vary
- ✓ Agendas, minutes, reports online:
 - <https://www.douglascountyks.org/fpc>
- ✓ Subscribe for emails:
 - Agenda announcements:
 - <http://lawrenceks.org/subscriptions>
 - Food System Plan updates:
 - <https://www.douglascountyks.org/fpc/food-system-plan>



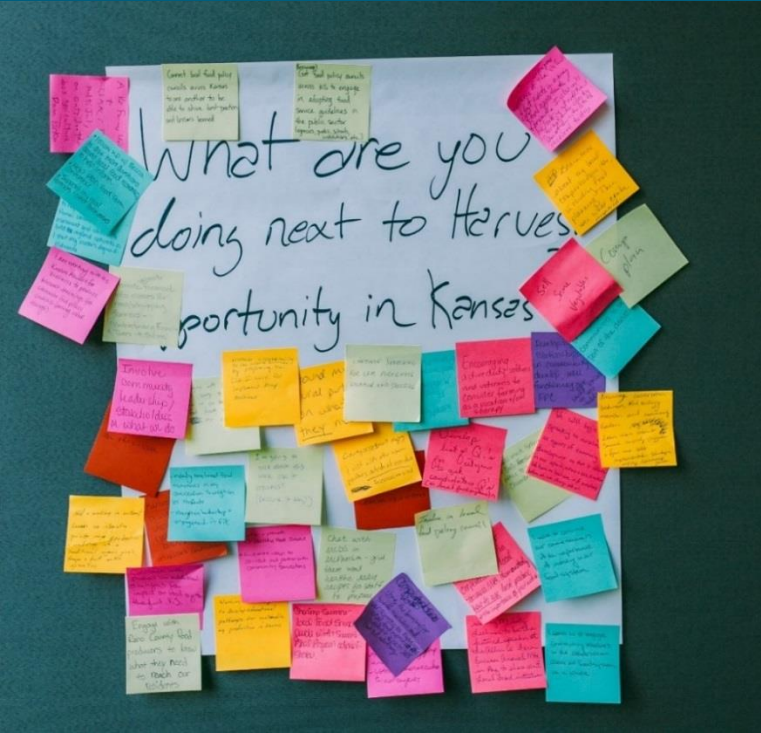
FPC meetings in 2018 included a tour of Just Food by Executive Director Elizabeth Keever, and a potluck at the Flory Meeting Hall, with FPC member speed dating to learn more about each other!



Commissioner
engagement
welcomed!



The FPC asked these three questions at the end of the Harvesting Opportunity in Kansas Symposium.



Commissioner engagement about community goals and food systems opportunities welcomed in 2019!

- Food Policy Council
- Lawrence-Douglas County Sustainability Office
- Community partners

Thank you!

Food Policy Council Chair

Kim Criner

Food Policy Council Vice Chair

Jennifer Kongs

Helen Schnoes, AICP

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