



KANE COUNTY

KENYON, Kious, Davoust, Koppie, Molina, Starrett, Wegman

AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 20, 2018

County Board Room

Agenda

10:00 AM

Kane County Government Center, 719 S. Batavia Ave., Bldg. A, Geneva, IL 60134

1. **Call to Order**
2. **Approval of Minutes: October 18, 2018**
3. **Public Comment**
4. **Partners**
 - A. Kane County Farm Bureau Updates (Steve Arnold, Manager)
 - B. Northern Illinois Food Bank Updates (Teresa Schryver, Communications Specialist)
 - C. Kane County's Role in Growing Chicagoland's Small Business Farm Sector (Bob Heuer, Public Policy and Marketing Consultant)
5. **Presentations/Announcements**
 - A. Kane County Agriculture Committee: Five Years in Review (Janice Hill, Executive Planner)
 - B. USDA Farm to School Program Updates (Matt Tansley, Land Use Planner)
6. **New Business**
7. **Reports Placed On File**
8. **Executive Session (If Needed)**
9. **Adjournment**



The Chicago Local Food System Study

An Analysis of Opportunity for Local Foods

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Chicago Local Food System Study: Executive Summary

A collaboration between Openlands, Fresh Taste, Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning, Liberty Prairie Foundation, and Michigan State University

September 2017



Liberty Prairie Foundation 



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

PROJECT OVERSIGHT TEAM

Lenore Beyer, *Openlands*
Karen Lehman, *Fresh Taste*
Brad Leibov, *Liberty Prairie Foundation*
Jason Navota, *Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning*

AUTHORS

Chicago Local Foods System: An Economic Assessment
Dr. Steven Miller, Dr. John Mann, *Michigan State University*,
Product Center, Center for Economic Analysis

Creating a Resilient Food System for the Metropolitan
Chicago Region
Ryan Anderson, David LeZaks, Ryan Smith, *Delta Institute*

CONTRIBUTORS

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collaboration between Kinship Foundation and The Chicago
Community Trust and funded through the Searle Funds at The
Chicago Community Trust.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Karen Lehman, [Fresh Taste](#)

OVERVIEW

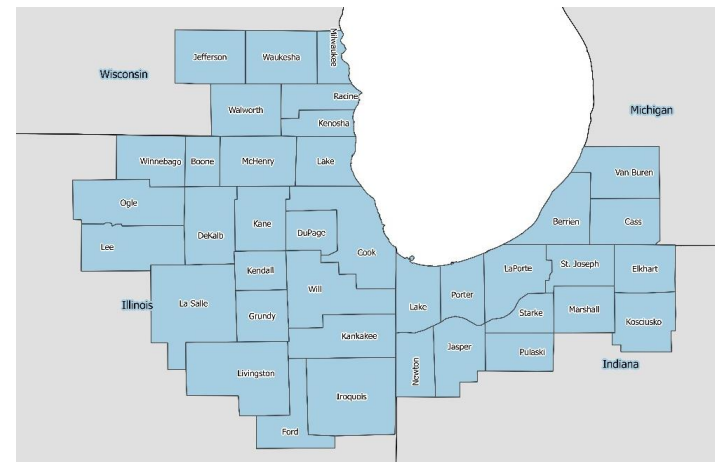
The sponsoring team guiding this examination of Chicago’s local food system—[Openlands](#), [Fresh Taste](#), [Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning](#), and the [Liberty Prairie Foundation](#)—have focused on local food issues for over a decade through examinations of food-related public policy at the state, regional, and local levels; farmland preservation programs; urban agriculture and community gardens; new business and entrepreneurship opportunities; local-first campaigns; new academic curricula; and new farmer training programs.

Through the process that resulted in the [GO TO 2040](#) plan undertaken by the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning, the team knew that data sources for local foods were not yet sufficiently advanced to get a true picture of the sector’s impact on the regional economy. Fresh Taste co-sponsored an early [examination](#) of local food systems using input/output modeling in 2010, with some promising results. For six Upper Midwest states, (Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota and Wisconsin), 270,025 cropland acres would be needed to produce the partial-year demands of 28 fresh fruits and vegetables in the six-state region. That is roughly equivalent to the average amount of cropland in one of Iowa’s 99 counties.¹ [The Lake County Sustainable Local Food System Report](#), of which this report may be considered an extension, developed twelve recommendations to promote local food systems in the county.

For this study, the team engaged multiple partners to develop a baseline of the capacity for the Chicago region to satisfy the demand for local food, review the policies that support or inhibit the local food system, understand the potential for local food systems to provide ecosystem services, and scan the literature related to local food systems research.

The team chose a 38-county study area contiguous to the City of Chicago, henceforth called the Study Region. At its widest, the area spans roughly 300 miles across a four-state area, but all points are within about 160 miles of the central city in Cook County.

The Study Region



[The Chicago Local Food System Study: An Analysis of Opportunity for Local Foods](#) encompasses five parts: an economic analysis; a policy and program scan; ecosystem services research; a literature review; and a set of conclusions and recommendations. It is intended to advance the field of local food systems research and point to promising approaches to increase local food supply while identifying ongoing challenges in local foods research.

¹ Swenson, et al. “Selected Measures of the Economic Values of Increased Fruit and Vegetable Production and Consumption in the Upper Midwest,” March 2010, Department of Economics, Iowa State University, Ames, Iowa p. *i*

PART 1: ECONOMIC ANALYSIS

For Part 1, the team chose Dr. Steven Miller and Dr. John Mann of Michigan State University's Product Center, Center for Economic Analysis, to develop an input/output model to provide a baseline of the capacity of the inner ring of the Chicago foodshed to supply the Chicago market with sustainably produced local produce and grains, while providing economic benefits.

The study had three goals:

1. Develop cost-effective, credible, and replicable economic measures of Chicago's local food system.
2. Understand the economic implications of production and consumption patterns of the Study Region's local foods and the potential impacts of changes on the local food system.
3. Identify policies to help the local food system evolve.

The study examined a market basket of fifteen vegetables and fruits commonly sold locally in the Study Region, as well as two grains. The simulations followed moderate and aggressive growth scenarios, where moderate growth assumed a 10% increase in local food purchases, and aggressive growth assumed a 25% increase.

[Read Chicago Local Food System: An Economic Assessment](#)

[Read the Study Summary](#)



FRUITS, VEGETABLES, AND GRAIN INCLUDED IN THE ECONOMIC ANALYSIS SCENARIO MARKET BASKET

Apples	Asparagus	Peas	Corn (Grain)
Blueberries	Beans	Potatoes	Wheat
Cherries	Cabbage	Radishes	
Grapes	Corn (Sweet)	Squash	
Peaches	Cucumbers	Tomatoes	

PART 2: POLICY & PROGRAM SCAN

For Part 2, Fresh Taste and Openlands conducted an initial, not exhaustive, scan of the policies and programs promoting or discouraging local food systems in the Study Region. The Policy Scan provides a high-level overview of current laws, regulations and policies as well as programs across the Study Region, providing a snapshot of state and county level regulations and incentive programs that currently drive and deter the local food movement. Policies related to agricultural land use and preservation; economic and workforce development; community building; as well as research, tools, and reports; were cataloged for the 38 counties in the Study Region, including counties in Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, and Wisconsin. The scan offers descriptions of a range of policies and programs but does not provide extensive analysis or determine implications for the food system.

[Read the Policy & Program Scan](#)

PART 3: ECOSYSTEM SERVICES RESEARCH

For Part 3, the team hired Delta Institute to develop a strategy to measure the ecosystem services provided by on-farm practices in the local food system. Ecosystem services are the non-monetary values provided by agricultural systems that work with nature. They include soil health building; nitrogen fixation and nutrient cycling; water infiltration and water holding capacity; pest and disease suppression; pollination; healthy food provision; water quality provision; climate regulation; and biodiversity. While ecosystem services are not intrinsic to local food systems, the higher prices local foods command allow for greater implementation of practices that promote improved land, water and human health.

“Creating a Resilient Food System for the Metropolitan Chicago Region” presents a framework to manage local food and farming systems for improved delivery of ecosystem services. The framework also identifies a set of indicators that can be used to track changes in ecosystem services at the field, farm and landscape scale. The framework provides the tools and the systems to collect data to inform changes in land management to provide greater ecosystem benefits.

[Read Creating a Resilient Food System for the Metropolitan Chicago Region](#)



PART 4: LITERATURE REVIEW

Part 4 incorporates a literature review which includes the collection and review of a variety of studies, articles and resource guides. The annotated bibliography is a list and description of these resources on food system planning and policy with both a national and a regional focus.

[Explore Part 4, Resources](#)



PART 5: CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Taken together, the economic analysis, policy scan, ecosystem services framework, and literature search produce ample opportunities for the sponsoring team to offer conclusions and recommendations for future study and action. The research points to promising approaches to increase local food supply while highlighting challenges in local foods research. In Part 5, sponsoring team members assess the research and contribute their own knowledge of the field to generate a set of Conclusions and Recommendations.

[Read Conclusions and Recommendations](#)