Building a Grassroots Driven Food Policy Network in Kentucky

Final Report
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CFA
COMMUNITY FARM ALLIANCE

WILDFLOWER
CONSULTING
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Introduction
By listening to the people of Kentucky who are most influenced by policy and taking stock of existing assets and efforts to improve our food system we have laid a solid foundation for a grassroots-driven food policy collaborative and developed an intentional process for low-income individuals and farmers to influence programs and policies.

Background

The connections between poverty, nutrition, and community economics are becoming increasingly apparent and recognized as such on the local state and federal levels. Sustainable agriculture and local food systems can be a gateway for economic vitality, better health, and the creation of community wealth.

Community Farm Alliance has been working since 1985 on local and regional food system development in rural, urban and mountain communities. Through direct action and research, CFA members have proven that local food systems can have substantial long-term impact for creating jobs, improving health through better nutritional, and alleviating poverty. Community Farm Alliance’s 2003 report, Bringing Kentucky’s Food and Farm Economy Home, highlights that a local food system has an employment multiplier of 1.4 and income multiplier of almost double.

Agriculture policy and the food system also have a direct relationship to public health. According to America’s Health Rankings report, Kentucky ranks 45th in the U.S. for overall health (dropping from 43rd in 2011) with 67% of adults overweight and obese and 10% of the population living with diabetes. There is a general consensus that these food/nutrition related problems are directly related to the industrialization of America’s food system since the Second World War – a system that has sacrificed wholesomeness for economy.

Despite Kentucky being a top agricultural state, for a staggering number of Kentuckians across the Commonwealth hunger is a reality. Over 750,000 Kentuckian, or 1 in 6 (17% of the state’s population), do not always know where their next meal will come from. Close to 1 in 4 of Kentucky’s children lack consistent
access to enough food for a healthy, active lifestyle. Too many parents have to choose between paying for food and paying for utilities and many of our senior citizens are having to make trade-offs between food and medicine; in fact, 35% of food bank clients report facing these tough decisions.

The problems of poor health, hunger, under education, limited economic opportunities and political marginalization are nowhere greater than in Appalachian. The region contains 23 of the poorest 100 counties in the country measured by median household income. The region’s health measurements are equally discouraging with 34.6% of adults are obese and 13.3% have diabetes. Three Eastern Kentucky counties where CFA has particularly focused efforts, Floyd, Letcher and Perry, rank 85 and 111 and 115th among Kentucky’s 120 counties for health outcomes. In Perry County 36% of adults are obese, 13% of adults have diabetes, 35% of children live in poverty, and 55% of children are eligible for a free lunch.

Unfortunately, public health concerns are not limited to rural areas; residents of West Louisville share many similar disparate health outcomes with obesity rates as high as 39% and diabetes rates of 17%. These poor health outcomes are likely influenced by diet, with only 18% of Kentuckians consuming less than the recommended five fruits and vegetables per day. Cassia Heron, past Community Farm Alliance Board Chair, has succinctly summarized it: “For Kentuckians, the conditions in the ‘hoods and the hollers aren’t much different.”

Connecting Communities to State Policy

From almost 30 years of experience, Community Farm Alliance members know that making real and democratic change is hard work and takes time and patience. As an organization, CFA works with its members, their communities and allies to create real examples of change; identify and support key public policies; and build the new leaders to expand these conversations.

In other words: change begins with constructive grassroots dialogue, is built on successful models, and secured with good public policy. CFA members successfully applied this approach in helping create a process, supportive policies and programs for tobacco communities under Kentucky House Bill 611.

For the past decade, there have been several efforts to develop the above process to address the systematic inequalities in our food system. Community leaders in West Louisville worked with CFA and partners to
release the *Bridging the Divide* Community Food System Assessment report in 2007 that specifically brought attention to the stark differences in access to healthy foods in Louisville’s predominantly African-American neighborhood. Then, a 2008 study in Lexington revealed similar disparities in access. We have outlined efforts to address these issues through policy since 2008 (*Table 1*). The development of a state food policy council for Kentucky has been possible due to the momentum gained over the past ten years.

*Table 1. Previous Food Policy Council Efforts in Kentucky*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Activity</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td><strong>Mark Winne</strong> visits the Food Security Task Force in Louisville to speak about FPCs</td>
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<tr>
<td>2008-2012</td>
<td>Bluegrass Food Summits hosted by <strong>Sustainable Communities Network</strong></td>
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<td>2009</td>
<td>Louisville Food Summit hosted by CFA and the Food in Neighborhoods Community Coalition</td>
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<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>Louisville Food Policy Advisory Council (LFPAC) created</td>
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<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>Louisville Food Policy Forum</td>
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<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>LFPAC dissolved-transitioned to community-led Food in Neighborhoods Community Coalition</td>
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In May of 2012 CFA began its research into how Kentucky participates in and administers federally funded food and nutrition programs for opportunities to increase access to fresh, local food for low-income populations and supporting Kentucky farmers. For example, of Kentucky’s 14 *federally funded food and nutrition programs*, the biggest is the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), with a collective purchasing power of $1.3 billion. However, only .0014% of SNAP benefits are spent at farmers’ markets largely due to infrastructure and access barriers.

A grassroots, systems-oriented approach to food policies and programs could turn challenges such as this into opportunities for increased farm revenue and better food access.

**The Kentucky Food Policy Network**

The USDA National Institute for Food and Agriculture (NIFA) Community Food Project grant provided an opportunity to further develop a grassroots-based collaborative approach to state food policy. CFA and its partners successfully submitted a proposal for *Building a Grassroots-driven Food Collaborative in Kentucky* with the goal to build capacity for grassroots' democratic participation in determining local food system needs and developing sustainable solutions through:
1. Increasing collaboration among stakeholders in the food system, specifically including low-income residents and small farmers in determining local food priorities;

2. Determining the best approach and structure for cross-sector collaboration through Kentucky Food Policy Network (KFPN);

3. Increasing awareness among partners of local food, farm and nutrition issues; and

4. Conducting an assets-based assessment of existing food policies and programs.

Until the USDA-NIFA Community Food Projects Planning Grant, Kentucky had no clear democratic channel for collective input from consumers, farmers, public health professionals, anti-hunger advocates and others to reach the level of decision-makers.

What began as a steering committee has evolved into an active network representing at least 15 different local and regional food policy collaboratives and including state/local government agents, elected officials, farmers, low-income individuals, universities, healthcare providers, philanthropic and non-profit organizations that truly reflect the diversity of Kentucky and our food system assets.

Going into the planning process, it was important to let our community partners lead, which is why the steering committee was integral for facilitation, decision-making and serving as a hub by which we connected with communities across sectors, geographies, and social groups. The steering committee was ultimately our mechanism to meet people where they were. Communication and outreach arose as a primary theme for framing our efforts and human capital through the committee, our interns, our staff and our community partners made it possible. Identifying and leveraging strategic partnerships allowed us to gain critical insight through 4 listening sessions, 2 network-wide meetings, over 200 surveys, and 8 key stakeholder interviews. They also helped us to raise awareness about food and nutrition issues throughout the state by connecting their clients, partners, and communities to the network.

Facilitating collaboration across diverse food system sectors was yet another goal of the Kentucky Food Policy Network and we have seen tremendous success as new partnerships, programs, processes, funders, research, and political interest have developed in less than a year. The momentum has grown exponentially since our first meeting in September and we hope to use the findings of this report to recruit new network members, inspire action and provide a road map for a sustainable
food system in Kentucky. Through this planning process, we were given the unique opportunity to allow Kentuckians to shape the structure, activities, and mission of their state level food policy collaborative. We have learned a lot about what it should do, how it communicates, and the ways that it should engage our diverse populations and how it can be most effective. This project has set the stage for long-term systematic changes in how Kentucky simultaneously addresses the issues of sustainable agriculture, feeding our people, improving health, and spurring economic development.
Process & Methodology
When we set out to explore the feasibility of a statewide food policy collaborative, we asked the question “What do the stakeholders, gatekeepers, farmers, and community residents of Kentucky want from a Food Policy Network?”

Community Farm Alliance has a long history of learning what food and farm issues are most pressing by talking with and listening to diverse representatives of the food system. In undertaking the planning process for this project, we chose a largely qualitative approach for a deeper and broader perspective of the regional, economic, political, and personal aspects of the food system that are most important to Kentucky residents. A common theme to our process could be described as “meeting people where they are.” Effective and engaging communication with Kentucky’s diverse residents and food system sectors was a pressing concern. What emerged was the need to rely on existing leadership to define how the project was communicated and where we focused outreach efforts.

Convening Stakeholders

Just as it is important for relationships between family and friends to convene around the dinner table, it is equally as important to provide intentional spaces where people can learn and develop new ideas together. Being afforded the time to plan and build the foundation for the Kentucky Food Policy Network, it was integral that we provided as many unique opportunities for convening diverse network members as possible. Our goal was to hear a multitude of perspectives across regions that represented unique perspectives and history within our food system. Our biggest challenges were 1) how to organize these meetings, and 2) how to communicate the project to variable groups. In the short amount of time given, we were able to focus energy on three main convenings.

The most significant convening throughout the project was the steering committee. Since late September, partners met once a month via conference call and in-person rotating locations. The largest participation was at the Kentucky Horticulture Society’s Annual Fruit and Vegetable Conference, due to the fact that most members were already in attendance at the conference and that
the project had been developing for over 5 months. Steering committee meetings served as a space where diverse stakeholders and partners could meet to announce innovative projects in their regions, critically evaluate this planning project’s progress, and reflect on key questions: Why do we need a state food policy council? What will it do? How can we increase influence of low-income residents and small farmers? And, what is the best structure and communication plan to do this? The steering committee became the hub of the Kentucky Food Policy Network, helping to guide our engagement strategies and provide leadership by reaching into existing networks to encourage participation in data collection activities and larger convenings, such as the webinar and food policy summit.

In November 2013, CFA hosted the “Connecting Kentucky’s Food System” webinar as a way to test distance technologies to reach across multiple regions at once. The objectives of the webinar were to introduce the concept of food systems and food policy councils and then provide in-state examples of existing efforts as well as offer an example of a state food policy council (Alabama) as a potential model and to share lessons learned from their formative process. To ensure that we reached new food system networks and to make the webinar interactive, we organized “host sites” at local county extension offices and area development districts. Using this method, we organized 7 hosts in different regions. Most groups included between 5-10

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<th>Table 2. Stakeholder gatherings under KFPN</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Number of attendees</strong></td>
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<td>-------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Food Policy Webinar on 11/22/14</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>6 Steering Committee Meetings</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Kentucky Food Policy Summit</strong></td>
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participants. One of the host groups in Letcher County reported a new relationship was built with their local school district nutrition director that has now resulted in the first Kentucky USDA Summer Feeding site at a farmers’ market.

Finally, we convened the First Annual Kentucky Food Policy Summit to present the preliminary results of the planning grant, provide a space for cross-sector networking, highlight food system assets from across the state, discuss potential roles and structure for the network and present personal food stories from both small farmers and low-income individuals. Over 50 people across Kentucky attended the Summit, with two State Representatives from both the Health and Welfare and Agriculture Committees. Legislators were inspired to take action after hearing personal food stories delivered at the summit opening, which taught us that legislators must be involved in gatherings during a specific time frame and interactions should model the structure of constituent testimony found in committee hearings.

**Regional Listening Sessions**

A total of 4 listening sessions were held in each of the major regions of the state. The purpose of the listening sessions was to provide an opportunity for diverse participation and dialogue around the potential of a statewide food policy network. The majority of attendees were low-income residents and small farmers, although we had participation from experienced leaders in the food movement such as the University of Kentucky Extension Office and Eastern KY Food Systems Collaborative. Holding these sessions in local areas increased the likelihood of participation for individuals with limited access to the Internet (to join webinars and complete surveys) and

**Key Informant Interviews**

Wildflower Consulting conducted 10 key informant interviews to collect information from key leaders in the food system. The participants included 2 legislators, 1 farmer, 4 state government administrators, and other community leaders. 8 interviews were performed via telephone and 2 were conducted in person at the offices of two elected officials. These interviews were an opportunity to get an inside perspective of the current food system in Kentucky. Participants were asked about the feasibility of a Food Policy Council in Kentucky, current leadership in the food system, and strategies for successful community engagement and outreach, especially among low-income residents and small farmers. The results were coded and analyzed using Atlas software.
transportation (to attend centrally located meetings). During the listening sessions, residents were able to participate in a deeper conversation regarding the potential of a Food Policy Council in Kentucky serving their community needs and expanding on existing assets.

Who took the survey?

Gender:
62% Female, 38% Male

Race:
84% Caucasian,
14% Black/African-American,
1% Asian or Pacific Islander,
3% Hispanic/Latino,
1% “Other”

Following the advice from steering committee members, the survey was administered in multiple locations. The primary methodological goal was to meet people where they are. Therefore, CFA used existing networks and connections of our steering committee members to develop a list of upcoming events and communal spaces where we could administer the survey to gain input from Kentucky residents who reflect our state demographics and who also reflect the diverse players in our food system. For example, our survey was first administered at the Kentucky State University Small and Limited Resource Farmer Conference to ensure that this demographic was represented. In addition, we were able to administer the survey after various public health related conferences electronically by leveraging our steering committee members’ leadership within the host

Regional Listening Sessions

Eastern Kentucky
Location: Bath County
30 participants

Central Kentucky
Location: Lexington, KY
10 participants

South Central Kentucky
Location: Glasgow, KY
20 participants

Western Kentucky
Location: Eddyville, KY
9 participants

Feasibility Survey

Wildflower Consulting and CFA developed, pilot-tested and administered a Food Policy Council feasibility survey to solicit feedback from stakeholders and residents engaged in the planning process. There were 208 individual responses from 87 unique zip codes.
organizations. We were also able to collect farmer participant surveys in person while attending the Kentucky Horticulture Society Fruit and Vegetable Conference. In the short amount of time given to gather input at the state level, it was essential to rely on the leadership of our steering committee. This is an important lesson moving forward and one that we hope others will model with similar projects in the future. In short, active and diverse leadership is fundamental for effective community engagement.

Survey participants are involved in a variety of activities related to the local food system. They indicated whether they had communicated with local or state policymakers about food or farm issues, volunteered for a food or farm organization (e.g., food pantry, soup kitchen, nonprofit organization, etc.), participated in a community garden, volunteered or shopped at a farmer’s market, are a member of a food or farm organization (e.g. Community Farm Alliance, Eastern Kentucky Food Systems Collaborative, etc.), or volunteered at a school garden. It should be noted here that survey participants are more likely to participate in activities related to the food system because of the populations that the regional listening sessions, webinars, and key informant interviews were attracted to. For example, we distributed surveys at a Food In Neighborhoods meeting and found that respondents are already participating in a food organization through their presence at that meeting; their knowledge of food system issues is more advanced than the general population. However, this bias is anticipated given the range of community involvement among Kentucky’s residents.

To understand the level of knowledge of food policy councils participants had, and to weigh knowledge against engagement, food system sector and other identifiers, Wildflower and CFA amended the survey tool a month after its launch. The two new questions were to understand: 1) to what degree participants self identify as low-income; and 2) generally how knowledgeable participants are with food policy councils.
Demographics and Background
Survey respondents represented a balanced mix of ages, with the exception of 18 to 24 year olds, and 65 or older.

We found a majority of respondents (56%) either represented themselves in the sector of “individuals” or as part of a “community-based organization.”
Apart from the sector that respondents identified with, we wanted to know what was their primary role in the food system.

**Primary Role in the Food System**

(n=195)

- 41% Anti-hunger
- 18% Food-related economic development
- 9% Farming and food production
- 32% Nutrition and public health

**Low-income participation**

Initially, the survey asked respondents to indicate if they have received food and nutrition assistance in the past 12 months.

**In the past 12 months have you received assistance from:**

(n=206)

- Free or reduced lunch program (for your children): 3.4%
- Senior nutrition vouchers: 0.5%
- SNAP/food stamps: 4.4%
- WIC: 1.5%
- None of the above: 92.7%
However, we later added a question to see if respondents self-identify as low-income, regardless if they receive food and nutrition benefits. Out of 194 responses, 19% of survey respondents identified as low-income. This amendment was made because we recognized early that people who qualify for these programs do not always participate (for multiple reasons).

Knowledge and Involvement

We asked two questions to understand respondents’ level of involvement in the food system. The majorities of participants (66%) either had no knowledge or are somewhat knowledgeable about food policy councils.

![Pie chart showing levels of knowledge about food policy councils]

- 38% No Knowledge
- 15% Somewhat Knowledgeable
- 16% Knowledgeable
- 3% Very Knowledgeable
- 28% This question was not included on this version of the survey.

Interestingly enough, the two top responses for participation and involvement in the food system were either communicating with “local/state policymakers” or “none of the above” (represented in the chart below as N/A). This shows a wide variance of participation and familiarity with local food system activities.
Lessons Learned

In using a predominately qualitative approach, there were some key process-oriented lessons learned. Below are highlights:

1. **Meetings should always be done face to face.** In an attempt to reach more people through technology, we allowed the option for steering committee meetings to be both in person and via teleconference. Technology glitches and bad connections made this difficult to understand each other.

2. **Engaging small farmers** should be done apart from normal business hours due to their responsibility to the farm.

3. **Policy makers** are much more likely to attend events if they have a clear and effective role on the agenda.

4. Attempt to provide **more education** around what a food policy council is before launching a general public survey.
Major Findings
Through our conversations on food policy with more than a hundred key stakeholders, families, policymakers, community food advocates, and farmers, we found common (and in some cases, conflicting) themes emerge. Kentuckians sounded off about the structure, leadership, roles, activities, communication, and outreach efforts of the Council.

**Structure and Leadership**

In analyzing the data from the surveys, key informant interviews and listening sessions, we found a great deal of input from participants on the structure and leadership model for potential statewide Food Policy Council. There was a general consensus for non-government leadership of the Food Policy Council.

“You run the risk of all the political issues, bureaucracy, administrations transitioning and all that. Have government come into it but don’t let them run it.”

However, many spoke to the need for a **public/private partnership**:

20 of 31 open responses on the survey indicated a need for nonprofit and government organizations working together.

“It would help to have a governmental authority involved.”

“...Government needs to be a resource or guide for the community agencies.”

“I think CFA should lead it. It really needs to have community-organizing mindset, and also we need to have farmers...I don’t think it should be ran by government because government is out of touch with people. There is a lack of creativity, thinking outside the
box, and that's what grassroots people want.”

In listening sessions and interviews, some felt that government involvement and commitment from elected officials would give the Council more “teeth.”

“As a demonstration of the seriousness of this, you need high-level involvement.”

Everyone agreed that nearly every sector in the food system should be involved in a statewide Food Policy Council/Network.

“Small farmers/truck farmers, wholesale buyers like chefs who purchase local food, some youth so we can get more farmers on the farm. Of course, government people, grassroots organizations with an interest will join. I'm focused more on who HASN'T historically been at the table. And media.”

In 5 of the key informant interviews and at all 4 listening sessions, participants talked about the need to address Kentucky's diverse regions and their interests:

“It will be hard to have one council when you have two Kentuckys. Or more than two. 120.”

“In theory I think a statewide Council would be better because state policy affects all areas. But work with local councils to understand specific issues in their area or region. You saw this with the smoking ban.”

“Every district should have an FPC; also have one that’s countywide with all the counties; have regional.”

About 50% of survey respondents stated that Kentucky adequately provides networking opportunities for local and regional food policy groups.

Roles and Activities

When we asked questions about what the Council should do if it were created, we found little consensus on what should be the main focus. Many people wanted to know what the focus of the Council was so they could respond to it, underscoring the reason a planning process is necessary for creating such a Network/Council. Some suggested that the FPC not adopt a mission or vision, and instead, remain flexible to food system issues as they arise:
“Your group needs to be somewhat fluid depending on what issue you’re looking at.”

Many listening session participants suggested the statewide FPC serve as a networking body for local activities and groups to effectively collaborate. This was echoed in the survey as well, where only 50% of respondents stated that Kentucky adequately provides networking opportunities for local and regional food policy groups.

In all, participants agreed that the FPC should do a little bit of everything, such as:

- Create programs to address gaps
- Monitor and serve as a “watchdog” over government agencies
- Focus on incubating growers/farmers
- Research – “Collecting data is essential. With data we can ‘inform’ rather than ‘advise’.”
- Serve as a vehicle for democratic participation, especially for farmers and low-income people

In 6 out of 10 interviews, respondents expressed interest in a Food Policy Council focusing on economic development, infrastructure, and strengthening the local food economy.

“For the policymakers...the credibility will come if the [FPC] comes up with answers, with projects, with solutions. It’ll have to be presented as a viable player in the farm market, so that it grows the farm economy. [What else should it focus on?] That’s it. If it can’t do that, it’s finished.”

“Think more about food hubs. We need more organization for the distribution of food. That can help both the farmers and the low-income population at the same time. The food banks are operating successfully. The nutrition part is working. We need to concentrate more on helping the farmer with marketing and distributing the food.”

In 5 out of 10 interviews, participants noted that a primary focus of a statewide Food Policy Council should be on Public Health.

“...you can have all the healthy corner stores in the world, but if you do nothing to address the unhealthy food and marketing, it’s not going to work. Policy makers are going more in that direction.”
“First and foremost we have to think about nutrition. Our food is de-nutrified and to get better, healthy food you have to go local. Studies show that food loses its nutrition for every 100 miles or so that it’s produced so to help farmers, to help with nutrition and health, we need to focus on local.”

Communication and Outreach

The people who are most affected by food policy are those whose daily lives are shaped by decisions made about federally and state administered programs such as SNAP, WIC, Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Vouchers and where investments will be made for grocery stores and farmers markets. For farmers, policy impacts them the most through regulation, inclusion in subsidy and resource programs and access to markets. These are the folks who must not only be at the table, but play a key role in shaping food and farm policy. What we have learned is there

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**Case Example 1: Summer Feeding Program**

The Summer Feeding Program in Kentucky is ranked 45th in the country for participation, but KY Food Policy Network members are working to address this. The first farmers market based summer feeding site was launched in the summer of 2014. Collaboration across sectors has been key to the success of this program. Local farmers, market managers, community leaders and district school nutrition staff came together to take stock of current resources and navigate permits and staffing barriers. Network members are hoping to share their successes and barriers with the greater food policy network in the fall via webinar and through the farmers’ market support program conference.

Letcher County Farmers’ Market
are multiple roles they can play that extend beyond serving as a food policy council representative such as serving as a spokesperson between the council and their local community and organizer for gaining support on a specific bill or program amendment.

Regardless of the role, there must be clear communication about how council activities impact their communities directly with a detailed description of their responsibilities.

Key informant interviewees promoted direct vs. indirect involvement by 3:1.

"Instead of coming to these meetings, community partners also need to do actual community engagement—go door to door with the plan, let children come along."

"They [low-income individuals] should be in both leadership and advisory positions. If food access is an issue in terms of importance to the Policy Council, they should be leaders."

Some interviewees discussed the difficulties that low-income individuals face in participating in volunteerism and activities. One interviewee described her struggle with finding

### Case Example 2: Food Stories Make it Personal

Three non-traditional students from Western Kentucky University-Glasgow shared their stories at the First Annual Kentucky Food Policy Summit. By making the abstract concept of "food policy" a personal issue, the students were empowered to take action and inspire others. A few of the students have since joined the KY Food Policy Summit leadership team and are developing food security projects in Glasgow. The leadership team would like to continue the food stories project as part of a long-term Communications and Outreach plan so that more people can share their personal experiences with food system injustices, and to better inform legislators.

Keith Watson shares the story of how the loss of his family's farm changed their eating habits and dramatically from fresh foods to heavily processed, which ultimately resulted in poor health outcomes.
reliable transportation and childcare to come to meetings.

Some interviewees gave suggestions on how to encourage low-income participation:

“From my perspective, they should be paid with a stipend to participate.”

“Location, you need to come where people are.”

One interviewee described how salient food access and nutrition issues are in her neighborhood. She felt that even though residents struggle with food scarcity and health, they are unaware of the connection between food and personal issues.

“It’s been hard to see farmer’s market food as real food. They [low-income residents] see it as boutique food and they can’t afford it. We need to redefine how they see the food and make it like it’s for everyone.”

“You have to raise awareness and build education...when researchers do polls, you don’t see food policy as a priority issue. So we need to target their issues and raise awareness [about food].”

“Frame it for what it [FPC] can do for them or what they can get back. A lot of low-income leaders like to pay it forward. I don’t want to just ...
forward or give back. So maybe it’s “your expertise would be valuable for the rest state.” How they connect to best practices.”

The topic of clear communication about the purpose, mission and vision of the food policy council had the highest frequency (17 out of 31) of the key informant interviews.

“So when you talk about setting up a Food Policy Council or Network, what that means is different to someone from the west end of Louisville versus Versailles. It depends on where you’re from and where you’re at, in terms of geography, economics, socioeconomic status.”

“I don’t think people understand that [name]. With liquor stores, the community is coming together saying “hey, we don’t want another liquor store.” That’s a pretty straightforward message. A FPC needs a similar approach.”

“To say we need another statewide entity to work on food policy, I would want to know what they are tasked with. That’s where we are – there would be some hesitation to be honest. If there was some notion of what this group would do that others can't or aren't doing, then that would make sense.”
Conclusions

Increase coordination

- Create intentional opportunities for collaboration and effective, results-based networking
- Provide statewide policy and program development, strategic planning and coordination of local/regional groups
- Build off of existing efforts and assets
- Work with government, not against it

Increase low-income involvement

- Create leadership opportunities on the FPC for low-income residents and especially people of color
- Develop incentives for low-income participation
- Programs and projects with tangible results are more attractive than policy
- Meet people where they are

Clearly communicate the role of KFPN

- Clearly communicate the mission, goals, and purpose of the KFPN
- Increase education and awareness of Food Policy Councils and their value
- Use language that’s not restrictive or scary. Connect food system issues and food policy to what people care about
- Utilize tools such as "food stories" that connect policy to personal experiences
Next Steps

Group 3 Plan:

1) Priority Activity: Policy - Baseline Data Collection
   - Enhancing collaboration through membership/Communities of practice and Communication

2) Engagement Strategy:
   - Policy: Both meetings - KC, SOP, FAB
   - Enhanced: Social media

3) Future:
   - Community: Annual Round of Surveys
Kentucky farmers, state and local agencies, philanthropic and nonprofit organizations, private healthcare companies and individuals are ready to bond together across sectors and interests to ensure a vibrant food system for our future.

The Kentucky Food Policy Network

The Hub

Since the beginning of the feasibility study, the steering committee has now become a leadership committee made up of 10 individuals. This new group will lead what is now known as the Kentucky Food Policy Network into the next stage of growth by helping to achieve structural goals of developing a mission/vision statement, five year Strategic Plan, and Communications Plan.

The Kentucky Food Policy Summit was the first step in the process of establishing the above goals as participants worked in groups to brainstorm the potential name, activities and structure of the KFPN. Over the next six months, the leadership committee will use the recommendations from the Summit, along with the findings of this report to achieve these goals.

The Spokes

In addition to a core leadership committee, what have also emerged are issue work groups such as Partnership for a Fit KY’s Farmers’ Market Committee led by the Kentucky Public Health Department. One of our lessons learned throughout this process has been that in order to ensure diverse participation in policy and program development, participants must be personally connected to issues. Thus, we have found that it may be abstract to develop a ‘food security’ work group. Yet, a more targeted work group that is focused on a specific issue or program such as “Increasing access to farmers markets for low-income individuals” has a clear definition and can better elicit participation by those directly affected by the issue. In short, issue based work groups allow participants to spend their time and energy on what they care about the most while also helping facilitators/organizers to direct their outreach efforts. With this
structure in place, organizers could put out a “Call to Participate” in work groups through the entire KFPN.

**Issue Work Groups in Development**

- Farm to School Taskforce
- Farm to Food Banks Advisory Council
- Farm to Childcare Work Group
- Summer Feeding Program Work Group
- Partnership for a Fit KY, Farmers’ Market Committee

**Local/Regional Policy Collaboratives**

Another key component of the KFPN's “spoke” system will be to increase the capacity of local/regional food policy groups. Currently there are 15 collaboratives across the state (see Appendix 1 for full list), including 7 in the developmental stage that are being facilitated by the University of Kentucky Cooperative Extension Service.

By leveraging federal, state and local funding, we see the above-mentioned efforts developing more formal structures that interact with the KFPN. Having a network of local/regional food policy groups has been modeled for other statewide food policy council such as the Iowa Food Systems Council.

To ensure the viability and sustainability of regional/local groups it is imperative that investments are made in human capital to facilitate and provide community outreach assistance, which increases grassroots participation by farmers and low-income individuals.

**Convening the Network**

In a network-based state food policy council with multiple layers, ensuring connectivity across sectors and regions should be a central concern for the leadership committee. A strong communication plan must be developed that convenes network members through the following:

---

**Case Example 3: Eastern KY Food Systems Collaborative**

The Eastern Kentucky Food Systems Collaborative is a network of farmers, gardeners, producers, consumers, health professionals, educators, extension agents and more who are dedicated to building, strengthening and connecting the Eastern Kentucky food system. This network aims to support the regional food system through information sharing, promoting education, advocating for policy change and building markets for Eastern Kentucky products. Four working groups have been identified as areas in which the participants in the EKFSC would like to lift up on the local level in their communities and in the region at large. These working groups include: Community Education, Producer Support, Market Development and Community and School Gardens.
• Issue-based work group meetings;
• Regional/local meetings;
• Distance technology (used for leadership committee meetings, peer to peer mentoring between different regions, and webinars/workshops);
• Semi-annual Food Policy Summits.

Based on lessons learned from our first Food Policy Summit, the semi-annual gatherings will be an opportunity for all network members to meet with key policy makers to establish a larger, multi-pronged policy agenda before the Kentucky legislative session. KFPN members should then evaluate efforts after the session to monitor progress and ensure accountability from the state officials. Also, the Summits should be used as a time for regional/local groups to network and share best practices as well as an opportunity for issue work groups to work collaboratively with policy makers.

Table 3. Major Takeaways from the First Annual Kentucky Food Policy Summit

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Structure</th>
<th>Regional work groups that report to an executive committee and Decision-making power by those most affected</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Priority Activities of a Food Policy Group | 1.) Disseminate funding opportunities  
2.) Connect people with different skill sets  
3.) Collect information about food policies and disseminate to the larger group  
4.) Support and engage local/regional groups |
| Name | Suggested names include: “Reinvisioning Kentucky’s Food System” and “Farm to People” |
| Engagement Strategies | • Meet people where they are, I.E. soup kitchens, boys and girls club, faith-based institutions  
• Coordinate communication toolkits from leaders/partners |
Recommendations for Broader Food System Change

In order to create meaningful and sustainable change in the food system, we must continue to do so by broadening engagement strategies with stakeholders, residents, farmers and leaders in the food movement. As we heard during the regional listening sessions and key informant interviews, food insecurity is deeply tied with race, power, class and geography. However, those most impacted by institutional racism, geographic isolation and poverty are often times not at the table when decisions are being made that directly impact their reality. Nonprofit organizations, policy makers, businesses and other stakeholders need to ensure that diverse voices are included in leadership positions, and to also more accurately define the issues.

Taking stock of our existing state food system assets has been another important process for ensuring a strong foundation for the Kentucky Food Policy Network. Through that process, we were also able to identify opportunities and challenges that have the potential to influence our state food system. The areas that we have focused on have been past legislation, existing local/regional groups that are working on food system development, current statewide programs and/or initiatives. We have included this work as four different food system asset inventories in the Appendix of the report.

Outlined below are recommendations for policy and systems change based on our existing Kentucky Food System Assets. Evaluation of existing efforts is a consistent recommendation which both provides a snapshot of baseline food system information and reflects the need to further expand on our current assets list. In fact, regional/local inventories are suggested as a best practice that could then feed into our larger understanding of the state as a whole. The Eastern Kentucky Food System Collaborative is currently undergoing a food systems asset inventory that will provide a deeper understanding of the needs of the region, but will also help the KFPN to identify similar concerns across the entire state. Addressing those issues will be a key role for the KFPN as a state level entity.

Past Legislation

- Analyze existing legislation to evaluate the extent to which directives are being followed and the extent that diverse community stakeholders are engaged
- Encourage cross-committee collaboration between Health and
Welfare and Agriculture and Natural Resources

Local and Regional Food System Work Groups

- Invest in human capital to build local/regional capacity (I.E. Food policy advisors in Louisville and Lexington and Farm to table coordinators in Louisville and Eastern Kentucky)
  - Facilitate strategic planning and data collection
  - Community outreach and Communications
- Encourage collaboration among academic institutions and community based groups to collect and analyze data (I.E. Community Food System Assessments)
- Facilitate Peer-to-Peer mentoring
- Encourage the development of food system work groups in Western and Northern Kentucky
- Formalize existing work groups to ensure long-term sustainability

State Programs and Initiatives

- Continue effort to develop an extensive inventory of current program, projects and initiatives and make it easily available to the public
- Facilitate cross-sector collaboration (I.E. Federal food and nutrition program officers)
- Evaluate current efforts, especially the following:
  - Extent to which community stakeholders are involved in research, planning and implementation (I.E. WIC and/or SNAP participants advising state plans)
  - Extent to which programs impact the local economy (I.E. Kentucky Proud and Farm to School)
  - Extent to which programs impact low-income and small farm communities
- Compare Kentucky’s efforts with similar states (I.E. Georgia’s WIC Farmers Market Nutrition Program receives approx. $900,000 per year compared to $235,000 for KY)
### Appendix 1 - Local and Regional Food Systems Work Groups

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Contact</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Food in Neighborhoods Community Coalition</strong></td>
<td>Louisville</td>
<td>Andrew Bartlett, Presbyterian Hunger Program</td>
<td><a href="#">Louisville Food Blog</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Barren River Food Systems Collaborative</strong></td>
<td>Bowling Green</td>
<td>Diane Sprowl, Barren River District Health Department</td>
<td>Community Food Systems Assessment in Process</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Berea (L.I.F.E.) Locally Integrated Food Economy Work Group</strong></td>
<td>Berea</td>
<td>Martin Richards, Community Farm Alliance</td>
<td><a href="#">Completed Community Food Systems Assessment Report</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Appalachian Roots</strong></td>
<td>Prestonsburg</td>
<td>Denise Thomas, Big Sandy Area Development District</td>
<td><a href="#">Community Food Systems Assessment in Process</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Eastern Kentucky Food Systems Collaborative</strong></td>
<td>Regional</td>
<td>Jason Brashear, Community Farm Alliance</td>
<td><a href="#">Website includes food systems asset map</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Appal-TREE (Together Restoring the Eating Environment) Letcher County</strong></td>
<td>Whitesburg</td>
<td>Valerie Horn, Community Farm Alliance</td>
<td>University of Kentucky College of Public Health and Community Farm Alliance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Sustainable Communities Network-Lexington</strong></td>
<td>Lexington</td>
<td>Jim Embry, Sustainable Communities Network</td>
<td><a href="#">http://www.sustainlex.org/</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Alliance for Local Food Access</strong></td>
<td>Clark County</td>
<td>Marisa Aull, CEDIK Extension Associate</td>
<td>University of Kentucky Cooperative Extension-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community Food Systems Work Group</td>
<td>Location</td>
<td>Name</td>
<td>Affiliation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>----------------------------------</td>
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<td>-----------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Barren Co. Community Food System Work Group</td>
<td>Barren County-Glasgow</td>
<td>Mindy McCulley- Family and Consumer Science Agent</td>
<td>University of Kentucky Cooperative Extension-Farms Feed Kentucky Initiative</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fayette Co. Community Food System Work Group</td>
<td>Lexington</td>
<td>Sara Talbott- Family and Consumer Science Agent</td>
<td>University of Kentucky Cooperative Extension-Farms Feed Kentucky Initiative</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Franklin Co. Community Food System Work Group</td>
<td>Frankfort</td>
<td>Keenan Bishop- Ag and Natural Resources Extension Agent</td>
<td>University of Kentucky Cooperative Extension-Farms Feed Kentucky Initiative</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Madison Co. Community Food System Work Group</td>
<td>Madison County</td>
<td>Amanda Sears- Horticulture Agents</td>
<td>University of Kentucky Cooperative Extension-Farms Feed Kentucky Initiative</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pendleton Co. Community Food System Work Group</td>
<td>Pendleton County</td>
<td>Lindie Huffman- Ag and Natural Resources Extension Agent</td>
<td>University of Kentucky Cooperative Extension-Farms Feed Kentucky Initiative</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Whitley Co. Community Food System Work Group</td>
<td>Whitley County</td>
<td>Melissa Bond- FINE ARTS Agent</td>
<td>University of Kentucky Cooperative Extension-Farms Feed Kentucky Initiative</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Food Systems Professions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Affiliation</th>
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Community Food Projects Final Report 2014
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<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Organization</th>
<th>Location</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Food Policy Advisor to the Mayor</td>
<td>Theresa Zawacki</td>
<td>Office of Economic Growth and Innovation</td>
<td>Louisville</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Farm to Table Coordinator</td>
<td>Sarah Fritschner</td>
<td>Office of Economic Growth and Innovation-Louisville Farm to Table Program</td>
<td>Louisville</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Farm to Table Coordinator</td>
<td>Jason Brashear</td>
<td>Community Farm Alliance-Eastern Kentucky Food Systems Collaborative</td>
<td>Eastern Kentucky</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Local Food Coordinator</td>
<td>Ashton Wright</td>
<td>Mayor's Office of Economic Development</td>
<td>Lexington, KY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Farm to School Coordinator</td>
<td>Tina Garland</td>
<td>Kentucky Department of Agriculture</td>
<td>Statewide</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
# Appendix 2 – Kentucky Food Systems Legislation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Responsible Party</th>
<th>Role</th>
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</table>
| 2002 | **SB 13- AN ACT related to economic development through the state purchase of perishables** - Directed the Department of Agriculture to identify opportunities in the state procurement process to promote Kentucky's agricultural economy; established pilot projects in the Department of Parks to promote the sale of Kentucky-grown agricultural products and catfish; directed the Finance and Administration Cabinet to issue guidelines to support and encourage the growth of Kentucky's agricultural economy; encouraged state agencies to purchase Kentucky grown agricultural products. | 1. KDA-Commissioner  
2. State Parks-Secretary | 1. Identify opportunities to promote Ag economy and produce a report by Oct. 1, 2002 to Governor, LRC and secretary of Finance and Administration Cabinet  
2. Develop a pilot project to promote the sale of Kentucky-grown agriculture products and establish a steering committee.  
3. Steering committee presents program structure by Sept. 1, 2002 |
| 2003 | **HB 391- AN ACT relating to the marketing of home-processed foods** - Directed the Cabinet for Health and Family Services and the UK Cooperative Extension Service to establish criteria for home-based processors and home-based microprocessors to be able to sell food products at farmer's markets, certified roadside stands, and the processor's farm. | 1. KY Cooperative Extension Service  
2. Cabinet for Health and Family Services | 1. The Kentucky Cooperative Extension Service shall develop, implement, and administer a program to train home-based microprocessors or personnel in compliance with 21 C.F.R. sec. 114.10.  
2. The cabinet shall evaluate and certify home-based microprocessors or personnel who have completed the microprocessing program. |
| 2006 | **HB 669- AN ACT relating to** | 1. All state agencies that purchase | **All state agencies that purchase** Kentucky-grown agricultural products shall, on or before January 1 of each year, provide a report to the |
| **Agricultural Products** | Required state agencies to purchase Kentucky-grown agricultural products if the products were available and could meet pricing and quality requirements; required state agencies to report the amount of each product purchased to the LRC and to the Department of Agriculture. | Kentucky-grown agricultural products | Legislative Research Commission and to the Department of Agriculture describing the amount of each product purchased. |

| **2007 SB 25: An Act Relating to Nutrition** | The Kentucky Farmers Market Nutrition Program is created within the Kentucky Department of Agriculture, in collaboration with the Cabinet for Health and Family Services, for the purpose of enhancing nutrition AND The Commissioner of the Kentucky Department of Agriculture shall submit an annual report to the Interim Joint Committee on Health and Welfare and the Interim Joint Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources. | 1. KDA and Cabinet for Health and Family Services  
2. State Treasury upon warrant by KDA Commissioner  
3. Commissioner of Agriculture Report Requirements | 1. Farmers Market Support Program created within the department in collaboration with the Cabinet for Health and Family Services. KDA can collaborate to:  
a) Identify funding sources;  
b) Establish services and a program delivery strategy;  
c) Market the program to citizens and farmers; and  
d) Develop strategies to introduce fresh, locally grown fruits and vegetables into school food programs.  
2. The Kentucky Farmers Market Nutrition Program fund is created in the State Treasury as a trust and agency account.  
3. The Commissioner of the Kentucky Department of Agriculture shall **submit an annual report to the Interim Joint Committee on Health and Welfare and the Interim Joint Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources**, which includes but is not limited to:  
a) The amount of funding received for the Kentucky Farmers Market Nutrition Program;  
b) The economic impact of the program;  
c) Strategies implemented to market the program and improve nutrition; and  
d) Statistics related to the number of individuals served and farmers' markets participating in the program. |

| **2007 HB 120: AN ACT relating to Farmers Markets** | Created a Farmers Market Temporary Food Service Establishment permit that established the criteria by which a farmer could sell Kentucky-grown farm products to | 1. Cabinet for Health and Family Services  
2. K-12 Private, parochial, and public school cafeterias or | 1. Provides permits and regulatory power  
2. Exempt from the payment of fees, but shall comply with all other provisions of KRS 217.005 to 217.215 and the state retail food establishment code. For this subsection, the term "charitable food kitchens" means a not-for-profit, benevolent food service establishment where more than one-half (1/2) of the employees |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Bill Number</th>
<th>Bill Title</th>
<th>Summary</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>HB 484</td>
<td>AN ACT relating to Agriculture Products</td>
<td>Encouraged governing boards of universities to purchase Kentucky-grown agricultural products.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
2. To comply with 45A.645 the governing board should on or before January 1 of each year, provide a report to the Legislative Research Commission and to the Department of Agriculture describing the amount of each product purchased. |
| 2008 | HB 626      | AN ACT relating to Agriculture | Created the Kentucky Proud program to promote the sale of agricultural products; directed the department to establish criteria to participate in the program; created the Kentucky Proud Advisory council to advise the department on implementing the Kentucky Proud program. |
|      |             |            | 1. KDA Commissioner  
2. Establishes the Kentucky Proud Advisory Council with 12 members - Council attached to KDA for administrative purposes  
3. State Treasury - Kentucky Proud promotion fund | 1. Establish the Kentucky Proud Program.  
a) The Commissioner may develop labeling statements that apply to specific marketing or promotional needs.  
b) The Commissioner may deny the use of the logo or labeling statements if they are used in a manner that does not meet the criteria of the program  
2. Commissioner, or the Commissioner's designee, who shall serve as chair and who shall appoint the members:  
a) Dean, University of Kentucky College of Agriculture, or the Dean's representative;  
b) One (1) farmer member of the Kentucky Proud™ Program;  
c) One (1) Kentucky food retailer;  
d) One (1) Kentucky food distributor;  
e) One (1) Kentucky food processor;  
f) One (1) Kentucky agritourism venue operator;  
g) One (1) representative of a Kentucky agriculture commodity organization;  
h) One (1) Kentucky restaurateur;  
i) One (1) producer of a Kentucky Proud™ product; and  
j) Two (2) at-large members.  
- Advise the department concerning the implementation and administration of the Kentucky Proud™ Program; and  
- Make recommendations to the department regarding the content of administrative regulations promulgated by the department |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Bill</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>HB 344: An Act relating to surplus agriculture commodities</td>
<td>Farms to Food Banks Program and Trust Fund established</td>
<td>1. KDA and Ag Commissioner &lt;br&gt;2. Non-profit Food Distribution Organizations (KY Association of Food Banks) &lt;br&gt;3. Establishes the Surplus Agriculture Commodities Advisory Committee to advise KDA on program implementation</td>
<td>1. Established the Farm to Food Banks Program within the Department of Agriculture and provides grants to non-profit food banks. The Commissioner shall promulgate regulations for the administration of the program. &lt;br&gt;2. Submits to the department, in a manner and time prescribed by the department, a proposal for the collection and distribution of agricultural commodities to food banks and other charitable organizations for use in providing food for needy or low-income individuals, including: &lt;br&gt;a. A description of the proposal; &lt;br&gt;b. A schedule of projected costs for the proposal; &lt;br&gt;c. Measurable goals for the proposal; and &lt;br&gt;d. A plan for evaluating the success of the proposal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>SB 84: An ACT relating to Agriculture Products</td>
<td>Required state agencies and 1. All state agencies that purchase</td>
<td>1. Provide a report to the Legislative Research Commission and to the Department of Agriculture describing the types, quantities, and costs of</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Statute</td>
<td>Description</td>
<td>Actions</td>
<td>Notes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Governing boards of universities</td>
<td>To annually report to LRC and the Department of Agriculture the types, quantities, and costs of agricultural products and Kentucky-grown agricultural products purchased.</td>
<td>Kentucky agriculture products and governing boards of Universities</td>
<td>Each product purchased.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| 2011 HCR 13: A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION establishing the Legislative Task Force on Childhood Obesity | The task force was charged with studying issues relating to childhood obesity and strategies for addressing the problem of childhood obesity and encouraging better nutrition and increased physical activity among children. | 1. LRC
2. Speaker of the House of Representatives and President of the Senate | Directed to establish the Legislative Task Force on Childhood Obesity. The task force shall meet at least monthly during the 2011 Interim of the General Assembly. The task force shall submit a report of its recommendations and any findings to the Legislative Research Commission and the Interim Joint Committee on Health and Welfare by November 30, 2011, and thereafter the task force shall cease to exist. 2. Shall appoint 5 members |
| 2011 HB 166: AN ACT relating to the use of Kentucky-grown agricultural products in state resort parks | Directed the Department of Parks to establish a promotion program requiring state parks to purchase Kentucky-grown agricultural products if the products were available and could meet the pricing and quality standards of the parks; directed a steering committee to evaluate the program and submit an initial report to the Governor, the LRC, and the Finance and Administration and subsequent annual reports. | 1. State Resort Parks
2. State Parks Department | 1. Any contract for the provision and sale of food services and agricultural products in state resort park restaurants, gift shops, concessions, and golf courses shall promote the sale of Kentucky-grown agricultural products under the Kentucky Proud™ Program in accordance with KRS 45A.645, 148.830, 148.835, and 260.017. Only contracts entered into or renewed after the effective date of this Act shall be required to comply with the provisions of this section. 2. Establish a promotion program to promote the sale of Kentucky agricultural products. Also, directs the State Parks Dept. to establish a steering committee which shall consist of:
   a. The secretary of the Finance and Administration Cabinet, or a designee;
   b. The Commissioner of Agriculture, or a designee;
   c. The commissioner of the Department of Parks, or a designee;
   d. The director of the Agriculture Development Board, or a designee;
   e. The coordinator of the Kentucky State University |
f. The chairperson of the horticulture department at the University of Kentucky, or a designee; and
g. Two (2) members of organizations and associations representing the Kentucky farming community, appointed by the Commissioner of Agriculture.

- The steering committee shall plan and assist in the implementation of the promotion program identified in KRS 148.830 and 148.835.
- The steering committee shall recommend by October 1, 2011 the structure and objectives of the promotion program identified in KRS 148.830 and 148.835.
- The steering committee shall evaluate the promotion program and submit an initial report to the Governor, the secretary of the Finance and Administration Cabinet, and the Legislative Research Commission no later than July 2012 and subsequent annual no later than July 1 of each year thereafter.
- The steering committee shall continue to meet at least once each year at a date and location to be determined by its members to ensure the continuation of the promotion program.

| 2012 | **HB 550: AN ACT relating to the Kentucky Healthy Nutrition Pilot Project** | 1. LRC | 1. Directs the LRC to complete a comprehensive review of:
|      | Directed the Legislative Research Commission to undertake a review of Kentucky-related nutritional studies and programs; direct interviews with those knowledgeable on the nutrition issue; direct consideration of the need for a nutritional pilot program; report findings to the Legislative Research Commission. | 1. The available studies or programs, undertaken either prior to or during the period of the study, that focus on the nutritional habits of Kentucky citizens and the health outcomes of those habits. The staff shall submit a written report detailing its study findings to the Legislative Research Commission for referral to the appropriate interim joint committee on or before November 30, 2012. |
| 2012 | **HB 419: AN ACT relating to an income tax check off for local food banks** | 1. Secretary of the Revenue Cabinet 2. Surplus Agriculture Commodities Advisory | 1. Shall, by July 1, 2014, and by July 1 of each year thereafter, transfer the funds designated by taxpayers 2. Advise on how the money is spent for the farm to food banks program. Moneys received in the fund shall only be used for awarding |
| Contributions to the farms to food banks trust fund; amend KRS 247.985 to rename the surplus agricultural commodities fund as the farms to food banks trust fund; amend KRS 247.984 to require a plan for expenditure of the funds and an annual report. | Committee | Grants to eligible nonprofit organizations pursuant to KRS 247.980 to 247.986.

- Develop a written plan for the expenditure of funds. The initial plan shall be completed on or before October 1, 2013, and shall be reviewed and updated if needed on an annual basis on or before October 1 of each year thereafter.

- Provide to the Governor and the Legislative Research Commission an annual report by October 1 of each year. |

| HB 141: An ACT relating to tax credits for farmers | 1. Donors - a qualified taxpayer who provides free of fee or charge edible agricultural products to a nonprofit food program operating in Kentucky; 2. Qualified Taxpayer - a person responsible for and deriving income from: a. Growing fruits, vegetables, or other edible agricultural products; or b. Raising beef, poultry, pork, fish, or other edible agricultural products. | 1. For taxable years beginning on or after January 1, 2014, but before January 1, 2018, any donor shall be allowed a nonrefundable credit against the tax imposed by KRS 141.020, or 141.040 and 141.0401, with the ordering of credits as provided in Section 2 of this Act, in the amount equal to ten percent (10%) of the value of the donated edible agricultural products as determined under subsection (3)(b) of this section. 2. A qualified taxpayer that is a pass-through entity not subject to the tax imposed by KRS 141.040 and that has tax credits approved under this section shall apply the credits against the limited liability entity tax imposed by KRS 141.0401, and shall also distribute the amount of the approved tax credits to each partner, member, or shareholder based on the partner’s, member’s, or shareholder's distributive share of income as determined for the year during which the tax credits are approved, with the ordering of credits as provided in Section 2 of this Act. |
### Appendix 3 - Federally-funded Food and Nutrition Programs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Department of Education</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• National School Lunch Program 2012-$169 M cash payments</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Summer Food Service Program For Children-2012 $4.8 M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Special Milk Program</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• School Breakfast Program-2012 $64.9 M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Child and Adult Care Food Program-2012 $31.2 M</td>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Department of Agriculture</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• National School Lunch Program Commodity Costs-2012-$20.6 M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Emergency Food Assistance Program-2012 $2.8 M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program-2012 $306,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Commodities Supplemental Food Program-2012 $5.2 M</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cabinet for Health and Family Services</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• WIC-2012-$60 M for Food Costs and $30 M for Nutrition services and Admin.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• WIC FMNP-(Farmers Market Nutrition Program)-2012-$235,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) 2012-$1.3 B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Dept. of Aging: Senior Meals Program $12 M</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>UK Ag Extension</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• SNAP EDUCATION 2010-$7.3 M</td>
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</table>
## Appendix 4 – State Food Programs and Initiatives

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PROGRAM/INITIATIVE</th>
<th>DEPARTMENT-ORGANIZATION</th>
<th>DESCRIPTION</th>
<th>LOCATION</th>
<th>WEBSITE</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Better Bites Program</td>
<td>Tweens Coalition</td>
<td>The Tweens Nutrition and Fitness Coalition partners with groups to bring healthy food that meets Better Bites nutritional guidelines to the places where youth convene: recreational facilities, sports events, after school programs, school concessions, camps and restaurants.</td>
<td>Lexington and State Parks</td>
<td><a href="http://tweenslex.org/better-bites/">http://tweenslex.org/better-bites/</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Farm to Food Banks Program</td>
<td>Kentucky Department of Agriculture and Kentucky Association of Food Banks</td>
<td>Farms to Food Banks provides fresh, healthy produce to Kentuckians in need while reducing losses for farmers.</td>
<td>Statewide</td>
<td><a href="http://www.kafb.org/farmstofoodbanks/">http://www.kafb.org/farmstofoodbanks/</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Farm to School</td>
<td>Kentucky Department of Agriculture</td>
<td>We at KDA are committed to our farmers and our communities. Our goal is to bring high quality and fresh KY Proud products to our school systems.</td>
<td>Statewide</td>
<td><a href="http://www.kyagr.com/consumer/farm-to-school.html">http://www.kyagr.com/consumer/farm-to-school.html</a></td>
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<td>Kentucky Proud Program</td>
<td>Kentucky Department of Agriculture</td>
<td>Through the Kentucky Department of Agriculture and the Kentucky Agricultural Development Fund, any state business that grows, raises or produces agricultural products can become a member of Kentucky Proud. The program features a two-year grant initiative. However, funds are usually given to a business or farm with a significant economic impact on Kentucky agriculture income. The program’s main mission is to boost the state’s economy by increasing the value of locally grown products</td>
<td>Statewide</td>
<td><a href="http://www.kyproud.com/">http://www.kyproud.com/</a></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Community Food Projects</strong></td>
<td><strong>Project Description</strong></td>
<td><strong>Location</strong></td>
<td><strong>Website</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Fresh Stop Program</strong></td>
<td>The Fresh Stop Project is a community-driven fresh food access project where families pool their money and SNAP benefits to purchase in bulk from local farmers on a sliding scale.</td>
<td>Louisville</td>
<td><a href="http://www.newrootsproduce.org/">http://www.newrootsproduce.org/</a></td>
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<td><strong>Louisville Grows</strong></td>
<td>Our mission is to grow a just and sustainable community in Louisville, Kentucky, through urban agriculture, urban forestry, and environmental education. Our programs include our community gardens, Love Louisville Trees, the Seeds and Starts Garden Resource Program, Community Green Schools, and the Urban Growers Cooperative.</td>
<td>Louisville</td>
<td><a href="http://www.louisvillegrows.org/">http://www.louisvillegrows.org/</a></td>
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<td><strong>Grow Appalachia</strong></td>
<td>Grow Appalachia seeks to solve pervasive food insecurity issues by restoring the relationship between the people and the land. The program seeks both to educate communities and to learn from communities. It works to preserve the past, build hope for the future, and empower Appalachians to live healthy, productive lives. Grow Appalachia is proud to be a part of the Loyal Jones Appalachian Center of Berea College.</td>
<td>East Kentucky</td>
<td><a href="http://www.berea.edu/grow-appalachia/">http://www.berea.edu/grow-appalachia/</a></td>
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<td><strong>Seedleaf Inc.</strong></td>
<td>Seedleaf <em>nourishes communities</em> by: <strong>growing, cooking, sharing, and recycling food</strong> so that we can increase the amount, affordability, nutritional value, and sustainability of food available to people at risk of hunger in central Kentucky.</td>
<td>Lexington</td>
<td><a href="http://www.seedleaf.org/">http://www.seedleaf.org/</a></td>
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<td><strong>Kentucky Agriculture Data Information System</strong></td>
<td>Kentucky's Area Development Districts have partnered with the U.S. Economic Development Administration, Kentucky Department of Agriculture, Governor's Office of Agriculture Policy, and Kentucky Agricultural Council to launch the Kentucky Agricultural Development Information System (KADIS). The KADIS will become the state's first interactive agricultural asset map, designed</td>
<td>Statewide</td>
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<td>Kentucky Agriculture Development Fund</td>
<td>Governor's Office of Agriculture Policy</td>
<td>The Kentucky Agricultural Development Board will invest monies from the Kentucky Agricultural Development Fund in innovative proposals that increase net farm income and affect tobacco farmers, tobacco-impacted communities and agriculture across the state through stimulating markets for Kentucky agricultural products, finding new ways to add value to Kentucky agricultural products, and exploring new opportunities for Kentucky farms and farm products.</td>
<td>Statewide</td>
<td><a href="http://agpolicy.ky.gov/Pages/default.aspx">http://agpolicy.ky.gov/Pages/default.aspx</a></td>
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<td>Governor's Kentucky Health Now Initiative</td>
<td>Governor's Office</td>
<td>Governor Steve Beshear has made improving the health and wellness of Kentucky's children, families and workforce one of his highest priorities. To significantly advance the wellbeing of Kentucky's citizens, Governor Beshear is announcing the following health goals for the Commonwealth. He is outlining a number of strategies to help achieve these goals over the next five years, and will continue to add strategies throughout his term. These strategies will be implemented through executive and legislative actions, public-private partnerships and through the success of enrolling Kentuckians in health care coverage.</td>
<td>Statewide</td>
<td><a href="http://governor.ky.gov/healthierky/kyhealthnow/Pages/default.aspx">http://governor.ky.gov/healthierky/kyhealthnow/Pages/default.aspx</a></td>
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<td>Kentucky Center for Agriculture and Rural Development (KCARD)</td>
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<td>The Kentucky Center for Agriculture and Rural Development (KCARD) is a 501 (c)-3 non-profit organization established to facilitate agricultural and rural business development in Kentucky. KCARD is supported through grants from the USDA Rural Cooperative Development Grant program and the Kentucky Agricultural Development Fund.</td>
<td>Statewide</td>
<td><a href="http://www.kcard.info/">http://www.kcard.info/</a></td>
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| **Coordinated School Health Program** | Kentucky Department of Education | A CSHP is an organized set of programs, policies and activities. This coordinated model consists of assessing the school environment, having a school health or wellness council and developing an action plan. This team has members at both the Kentucky Department of Education and Kentucky Department for Public Health. We are federally funded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) for three priority areas:  
1. Youth Risk Behavior Survey  
2. HIV Prevention  
3. Coordinated School Health Programs/Physical Activity, Nutrition and Tobacco | Statewide | [http://education.ky.gov/curriculum/CSH/Pages/default.aspx](http://education.ky.gov/curriculum/CSH/Pages/default.aspx) |
<p>| <strong>Partnership for a Fit Kentucky</strong> | Kentucky Department of Public Health | The Partnership for a Fit Kentucky is a public/private partnership which supports the Kentucky Department for Public Health’s Obesity Prevention Program. The focus is on promoting nutrition and physically active communities. This website is a clearinghouse of the Partnership for a Fit Kentucky's initiatives. The intent is to link resources, network programs, provide tools that work, and strengthen partnerships in order to develop cutting edge initiatives. | Statewide | <a href="http://www.fitky.org/">http://www.fitky.org/</a> |
| <strong>SOAR, Strikeforce and Promise Zones</strong> | USDA, KY Dept. of Agriculture and Governor's Office |  | Select counties |  |
| <strong>Investing in Kentucky's Future</strong> | Foundation for a Healthy Kentucky | <em>Investing in Kentucky's Future</em> is an initiative aimed to improve the health of Kentucky's children by engaging in communities and testing innovative strategies. | Statewide | <a href="http://www.health-ky.org/our-focus/investing-kentuckys-future">http://www.health-ky.org/our-focus/investing-kentuckys-future</a> |</p>
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<tr>
<th>WellCare of Kentucky</th>
<th>Medicaid and Medicare Provider. Provides community support for innovative preventive health strategies</th>
<th>Statewide</th>
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<tr>
<td>Seed Capital Kentucky</td>
<td>Seed Capital KY is a 501 (c)(3) nonprofit organization created to catalyze the success and resilience of Kentucky's regional agriculture and regional food economy.</td>
<td>Statewide</td>
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<tr>
<td>Community and Economic Development Initiative of Kentucky</td>
<td>University of Kentucky</td>
<td>The Mission of CEDIK is to provide education, research and assistance to people, communities, and organizations so they are empowered to shape their own futures. Develops county food and agriculture food profiles</td>
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<td>Third Thursday Thing Workshop Series</td>
<td>Kentucky State University</td>
<td>Workshops for small, limited resource farmers</td>
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<td>Small, Minority/Limited Resource Farmer Conference</td>
<td>Kentucky State University</td>
<td>Annual Conference aimed to support small, limited resource farmers</td>
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<tr>
<td>Louisville Farm to Table Program</td>
<td>Mayor's Office of Economic Growth and Innovation-Louisville</td>
<td>Louisville Farm to Table's mission is to increase the capacity of the local food system by working to increase production, marketing, distribution and sales of Kentucky edible agriculture products and to meet the demand of Louisville's market for local foods. The effort includes brokering deals and relationships, creating public forums to identify and overcome barriers to progress, and working with institutions such as Jefferson County Public Schools. The goal is to make the flow of Kentucky-grown products into the city more seamless, giving easier access to the folks who are interested in procuring local products.</td>
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<td><strong>Farmers Market Support Program</strong></td>
<td>Community Farm Alliance</td>
<td>The Farmers’ Market Support Program is designed to provide resources, technical support and capitalization for farmers’ markets, with the goal of building farmers’ market capacity and farmers’ market vendor skills in East Kentucky.</td>
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<td><strong>Agriculture Legacy Initiative</strong></td>
<td>Community Farm Alliance</td>
<td>The Ag Legacy Initiative is Kentucky's first Beginning Farmer Network that aims to support the next generation of Kentucky farmers by encouraging programs and policies that recognize the need for more farmers. This group consists of both beginning and established farmers because we believe in continuing an agricultural legacy that is rooted in agricultural tradition and history. Our plight is about farms without farmers and farmers without farms. Our work spans from various projects and policies that focus on the core needs of beginning farmers: access to land, access to capital, technical resources, and community with mentorship. All of our events or initiatives work to create a holistic support system for farmers with the intention to promote and sustain farming as a profession in Kentucky.</td>
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<td><strong>Growing Warriors Project</strong></td>
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<td>The Growing Warriors Project is a program to train, assist, and equip veteran families with the skills, tools, and supplies needed to grow high quality naturally grown produce for their families, their communities, and their country.</td>
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<td><strong>Local Food Association</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>A national trade association for those engaged in the business of local food. We work to increase market access and market share for both sellers and buyers of local food across the United States. LFA builds on the bedrock principles of supporting community-centered businesses, maintaining healthy relationships in</td>
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In the fall of 2013 Gov. Beshear and Congressman Hal Rogers created the Shaping Our Appalachian Region Initiative (SOAR) and a SOAR Summit was convened. Agriculture was not one of the original 10 SOAR workgroups but three of the workgroups listed food systems as a top priority resulting in the creation of a separate Agriculture Committee. The Agriculture and Regional Foods Workgroup along with the other workgroups will be drafting five recommendations for immediate, short-term and long-term priorities. The SOAR Executive Committee will then craft a report on for the 2015 SOAR Program.

Since the SOAR Summit the USDA has now designated 73 KY counties as part of its StrikeForce, the Whitehouse added eight Eastern Kentucky counties to its Promise Zone, the Kentucky USDA field office has created the Local Food Economies Initiative and the Appalachian Regional Commission had a three day Eastern Kentucky Foodways tour. Additionally, the Kentucky Department of Agriculture has added an Appalachian Proud brand to its Kentucky Proud Program.
SOAR, USDA StrikeForce and Promise Zone: Governor Steve Beshear and Congressman Hal Rogers created the Supporting Our Appalachian Region Initiative (SOAR), which subsequently resulted in the USDA designating 73 Kentucky Counties as part of its StrikeForce and the Whitehouse adding eight Eastern Kentucky counties to its Promise Zone. Not surprisingly, 3 of the 10 SOAR workgroups listed food systems as a top priority – including the public health workgroup. The SOAR Initiative has now created a separate Agriculture Committee and the Kentucky USDA field office has also created the Local Food Economies Initiative.
