

K-STATE
Research and Extension

Kansas Statewide Local Food Systems Virtual Town Hall

October 26, 2022

*Knowledge
to
Life*

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Agenda for today

- 1) Five minute presentations by:
 - a. Kathy Ruhf, National Food Systems Consultant
 - b. Eileen Horn- Kansas Food Action Network- SW KS Local Food Systems Assessment
 - c. Eleni Pliakoni, KSU- recap of KSU Urban Food Systems Symposium
 - d. Chris Roper, Flower Hill Institute local food systems support
- 2) Open discussion about upcoming/ ongoing local food systems-related grants in KS:
 - a. KSRE application for a USDA Regional Food Systems Program grant
 - b. Kansas Rural Center USDA grant application
 - c. KDA- Local Food Purchase Assistance grant update, organic cost share program
 - d. Regional Food Business Center opportunity
- 3) Brief announcements of upcoming local food systems events/initiatives in Kansas
- 4) Evaluation

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NOTE: Recordings and slides posted at: www.rrc.k-state.edu/localfood/index.html

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A Regional Imperative: The case for regional food systems

By Kathryn Ruhf and Kate Clancy

- Final Report
- Executive Summary
- What We Learned

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Agriculture & Food Systems

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Why Regional Food Systems?

- Regionalism is a powerful and necessary construct for developing sustainable, resilient and food systems.
- Regional food systems are not “alternatives” to local or global; ‘regional’ is an essential layer (scale).
- Important political & biophysical dimensions play out at regional (often multi-state) levels.
- Regional population demographics directly affect food supply & demand.
- A regional approach to structuring food systems offers environmental, economic, & cultural resource advantages.

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Regionalism and “Thinking Regionally”

What is regionalism? A framework that:

- Responds to regional differences & needs.
- Encourages regional approaches & solutions.
- Compels consideration of scale.

- Regions can be located & described; they are special references.
- ‘Thinking regionally’ is an approach to food systems change.
- Both *place & approach* are essential.

Regionalism can—and should—be applied to a range of public & private sector food system challenges.

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Regionalism and “Thinking Regionally”

Address complicated, border-transcending food system problems

- Planning, incl. land use & water mgt.
- Climate change & weather events
- Energy generation & use
- Transportation
- Structure of agriculture
- Trade
- Food supply: quantity, variety, & access
- Supply chains
- Infrastructure
- Social & economic inequities

Challenges

- Defining the region
- Parochialism
- Ingrained preference for local (food, governance, identity)
- Organizing regionally, including structures & networks

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Ideal Regional Food System

An ideal regional food system is one in which as much food as possible to meet the population's food needs is produced, processed, distributed, and purchased at multiple levels and scales within the region, resulting in maximum resilience, minimum importation, significant economic return, and social justice for everyone in the region.

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Report Contents

Executive Summary

- I. Introduction
- II. Language & concept conundrums
- III. Regionalism & regional thinking
- IV. The Northeast region
- V. RFS attributes
- VI. RFS dimensions
- VII. Constraints & challenges
- VIII. Conclusion: core concepts & what is needed

Dimensions

1. Food needs & supply
2. Natural resources
3. Economic development
4. Infrastructure
5. Social justice
6. Human & political capacity

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What you can do

Everyone has a role to play in advancing regional food systems.

- Understand & advocate for 'regional.' Train & educate on RFS.
- Distinguish regional from local and promote both.
- Build region-scale projects & collaborations.
- Collaborate across regions.
- Employ a systems perspective: horizontal & vertical relationships.
- Support collaborations, structures, activities & mechanisms that enhance regional functioning & governance.
- Read & share the report! (Google *Lyson Center*)

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Kansas Food Action Network

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Southwest Kansas Food System Assessment

- Led by the Kansas Food Action Network, in partnership with Genesis Family Health.
 - Steering committee members include Network Kansas, K-State Research and Extension, and the Western Kansas Community Foundation.
- Funded by a State Partnerships Improving Nutrition and Equity (SPINE) grant through the National Association of Chronic Disease Directors.
 - The purpose of the SPINE Program is to address food and nutrition security through sustainable and equitable actions that tackle economic and social conditions limiting food and nutrition security across the lifespan.

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Project Overview

Purpose

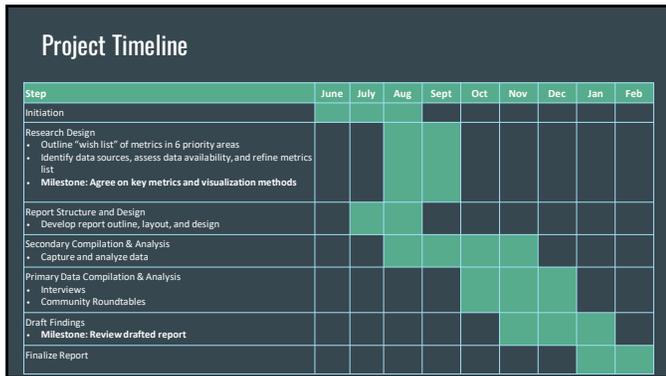
- Conduct a **food assessment of a 14-county region** in Southwest Kansas to:
 - Understand the barriers of, challenges to, and opportunities for **equitable healthy food access** across the lifespan in southwest Kansas.
 - Lay the foundation for food systems policy work in this region.

Priorities

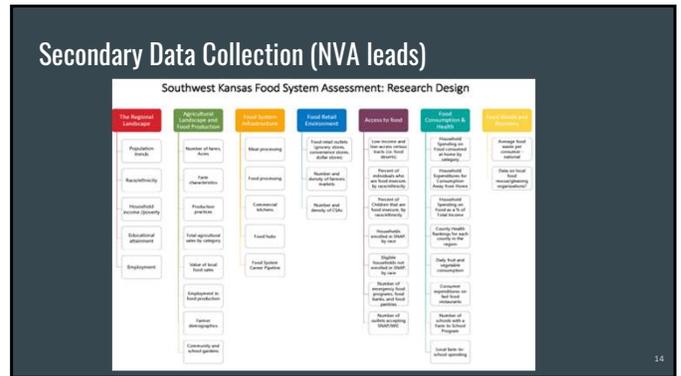
- The fourteen counties identified for this project are: Hamilton, Kearney, Finney, Stanton, Grant, Haskell, Morton, Stevens, Ford, Gray, Seward, Meade, Clark, and Hodgeman Counties.
- As the target region is one of the most racially/ethnically diverse in the state, the assessment of the following priorities will be conducted from a **racial equity perspective**:
 - Agricultural Landscape and Food Production
 - Food System Infrastructure
 - Food Retail Environment
 - Access to Food
 - Food Consumption & Health
 - Food Waste and Recovery

NEW VENTURE ADVISORS 12

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Primary Research Design (led by KFAN)

1 16 Lived Experience Interviews:

- To be conducted by CHWs at Genesis Family Health
- Participants have experienced food insecurity within the past 6 months
- Will be asked to share their experience with food insecurity in SW KS
- Will be compensated \$100
- Interviews will be recorded and transcribed (and translated if necessary)

2 Stakeholder Roundtable Discussions:

- To be conducted by KFAN team
- Virtual conversations centered around the FSA categories.
- Participants will be leaders/stakeholders in the SW KS region and recruited, in part, by steering committee members.
- Participants will be asked to share the challenges, barriers, and opportunities for a strong SW KS food system.

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Join us!

Southwest Kansas Food System Virtual Roundtable Discussions: Nov 7-10

- Topics
 - Local food production
 - Food system infrastructure
 - Food retail environment
 - Institutional food
 - Access to healthy food/food insecurity

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0c45afac2ea3f4c52-southwest>

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Kansas Food Action Network Annual Convening

Wed Nov 2 from 1:00 - 4:30 pm
Thu Nov 3 from 9:00 - 1:30 pm

Registration link:
https://www.flipcause.com/secure/cause_pdetails/MTU30TQ1

Open to all council leaders, members, partners & stakeholders

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The slide displays the title 'Urban Food Systems Symposium' with the subtitle 'Building Coalitions for a Changing World' and a 'Welcome' message. The background shows a room with stained glass windows and a chandelier.

UFSS 2022

Eleni Pliakoni, Jeremy Cowan, Londa Nwadike Cary Rivard, Manreet Bhullar, Candice Shoemaker, Erin Muirhead and Debbie Kirchoff

HOTEL KANSAS CITY

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SYMPOSIUM AT A GLANCE

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 26
 8:00 am - 10:00 am: Registration, Breakfast, and Welcome
 10:00 am - 12:00 pm: Keynote and Invited Speakers
 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm: Lunch
 1:00 pm - 2:00 pm: Registration, Breakfast, and Welcome
 2:00 pm - 4:00 pm: Presentations and Networking
 4:00 pm - 5:00 pm: Registration, Breakfast, and Welcome
 5:00 pm - 7:00 pm: Dinner and Entertainment

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 27
 8:00 am - 10:00 am: Registration, Breakfast, and Welcome
 10:00 am - 12:00 pm: Keynote and Invited Speakers
 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm: Lunch
 1:00 pm - 2:00 pm: Registration, Breakfast, and Welcome
 2:00 pm - 4:00 pm: Presentations and Networking
 4:00 pm - 5:00 pm: Registration, Breakfast, and Welcome
 5:00 pm - 7:00 pm: Dinner and Entertainment

Keynote and Invited Speakers



Pandora Thomas



Anu Rangarajan



Samina Raja



Candace Rashada Mujahid

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Symposium Audience

Mixture of academic and NGO audience

- Registrants: 215
- Students: 28
- States: more than 35
- Academic institutions: more than 40

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Social Activities

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- Missouri Farmers' Market

UFSS 2022 is brought to you by Kansas State University
 For more information visit the website: <https://urbanfoodsystems Symposium.org>

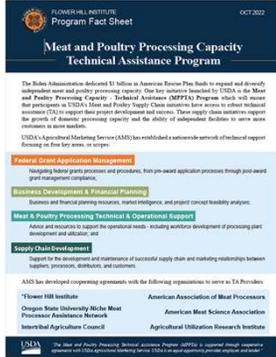
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Chris Roper

Flower Hill Institute Local Food Systems Support

"Flower Hill is a native-owned, community-directed nonprofit. Our objectives include preserving and enhancing cultural resources, preparing youth to inherit leadership, improving economic self-sufficiency, agriculture, food sovereignty and security, and improving outcomes to climate change."

<https://flowerhill.institute>



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USDA Regional Food Systems Program grant

- Grant awarded Oct 19, 2022!
- **Goal:** strengthen and grow the capacity of Kansas' local and regional foods systems by:
 - 1: Increase local food system education and coordination capacity across the state**
 - Create a Center for Local Food Systems, hire full-time Local Food System Coordinator for the state.
 - 2: Facilitate partnerships, coordination, and access to resources across the state.**
 - Fund intern positions at non-profits, farmers markets, and KSRE offices to work on local foods issues
 - 3: Develop marketing and promotion strategies**
 - Develop a consumer educational campaign on reasons to buy local
- Will hire full-time Program Director and Program Coordinator
- More information and other funded projects list available:
www.ams.usda.gov/sites/default/files/media/2022RFSPDescriptionofFundedProjects.pdf

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Agenda for today

3) Brief announcements of upcoming local food systems events- all partners

a) KSDE: Crunch off!

- Eryn Davis, Farm to Plate Coordinator, began employment with Child Nutrition & Wellness on October 24, 2022. She will be assisting with project coordination and marketing the Farm to Plate program in our State.
- The 2022 Farm to School Sub-Grant Applications will be available at [SNP What's New \(kn-esat.org\)](http://SNP.What's New (kn-esat.org)) on November 1, 2022. KSDE, CNW, is offering sub-grant funds to CNPs to assist in purchasing equipment that will support CNPs in preparing, packaging and merchandising grain products made from scratch.

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Agenda for today

- 3) Brief announcements of upcoming local food systems events/initiatives in Kansas
 - Upcoming KSRE events:
 - Food Safety-related workshops: <https://www.ksre.k-state.edu/foodsafety/>
 - KDA/KSRE Farmers Market vendor/ Direct to consumer sales webinar series: Feb 6-10, noon-1PM
 - KDA meat marketing workshops: Feb 3- Wichita; Feb 24: Olathe; March 3: Parsons
 - Great Plains Growers Conference- St Joe, MO: Jan 13-14
 - KC-area Food Business Conference- Olathe, March 9-10
 - Many other events also available: <https://events.k-state.edu/ksre>
 - Others
- 4) Evaluation

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Agenda for today

4) Evaluation:

https://kstate.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_8pk6K5ZbcquvR1Y

- **Next Kansas local foods virtual town hall: Jan 25, 2023, 11AM CST**
- Register here: <http://events.constantcontact.com/register/event?lr=tvkeonpab&oeidk=a07ejewagatb0118b49>

- NOTE: Recordings posted at: www.rrc.k-state.edu/localfoods/index.html

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Contact Details

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