



Food Systems - From Planning to Implementation at a Regional Level

Part of CONNECT Our Future Project

Centralina Council of Governments

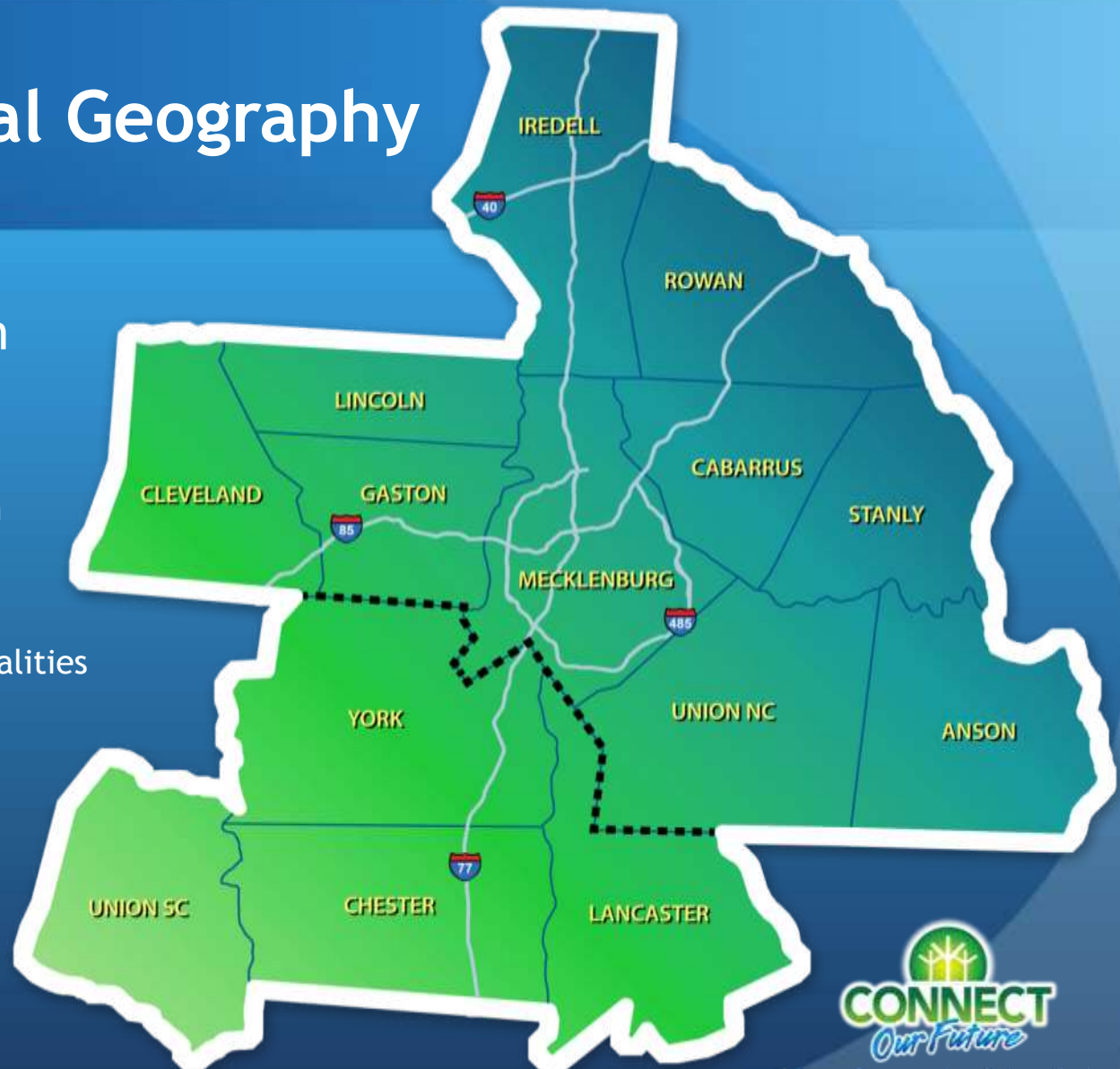
Our Regional Geography

Two-State Region includes:

- 14 Counties with about 2.43 million population (NC 2.06 million; SC 0.37 million)
- More than 100 municipalities

2011 HUD Grant:

One of only 30 awarded in U.S.,
one of few fully funded



Vibrant Communities – Robust Region

CONNECT incorporates community food systems into its regional planning effort.



Asap
Local Food
Strong Farms
Healthy Communities

CEFS
CENTER for ENVIRONMENTAL
FARMING SYSTEMS
NCSU | NCA&TSU | NCDA&CS

carolina farm stewardship
association

Assessment and analysis gave views of food production, consumption, and infrastructure.

Snapshot of Cleveland County's Local Food System

Production	County	North Carolina
Proportion of farms by size	Small family farms (<\$250k) 92% Large family farms (\$250k-\$499k) 1% Very large family farms (\$500k+) 3% Nonfamily farms 3%	Small family farms (<\$250k) 85% Large family farms (\$250k-\$499k) 3% Very large family farms (\$500k+) 8% Nonfamily farms 4%
Proportion of farmers younger than 35	2.1%	7.3%

Number of farms
Proportion of farms growing fruit & vegetables
Change in farmland acres 2002-2007
Proportion of farms reporting positive net income
Proportion of farms with direct sales

Retail Infrastructure

Grocery stores/1,000 pop
Full service restaurants/1,000 pop
SNAP-authorized stores
Farmers markets

Consumption, Access, and Health

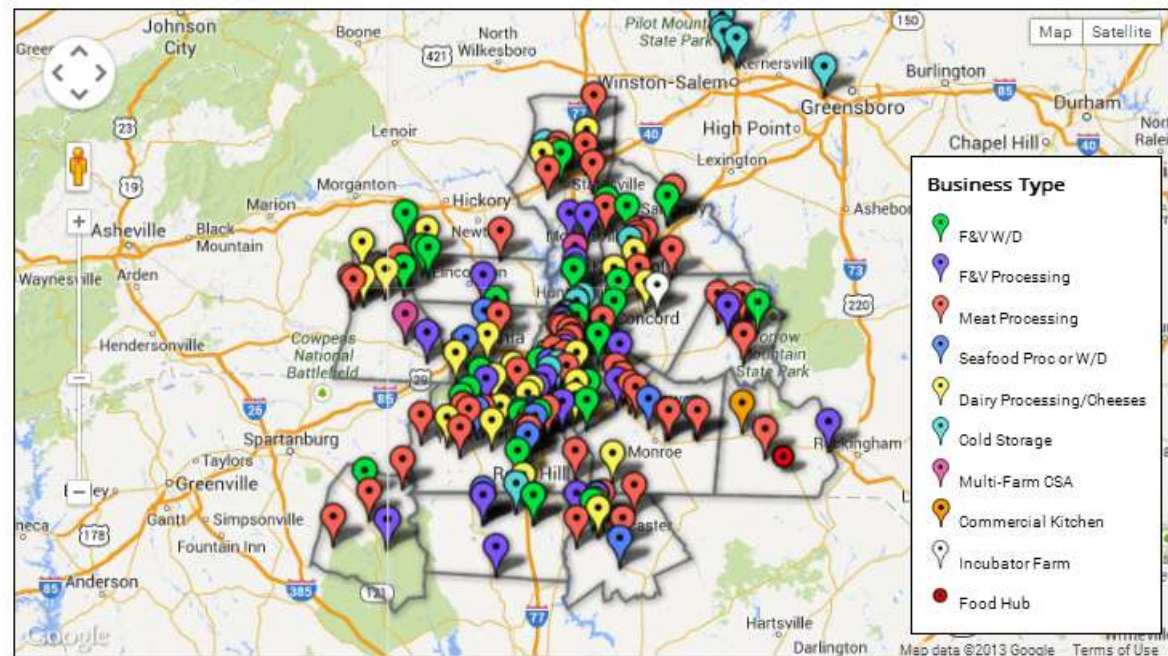
Proportion of population with inadequate fruit and vegetable consumption
Rates of diabetes and obesity
Proportion of children eligible for free/reduced price lunch

Waste Management

Estimated annual tons of residential food waste, commercial food waste (ICI), and municipal solid food waste (MSW)
--

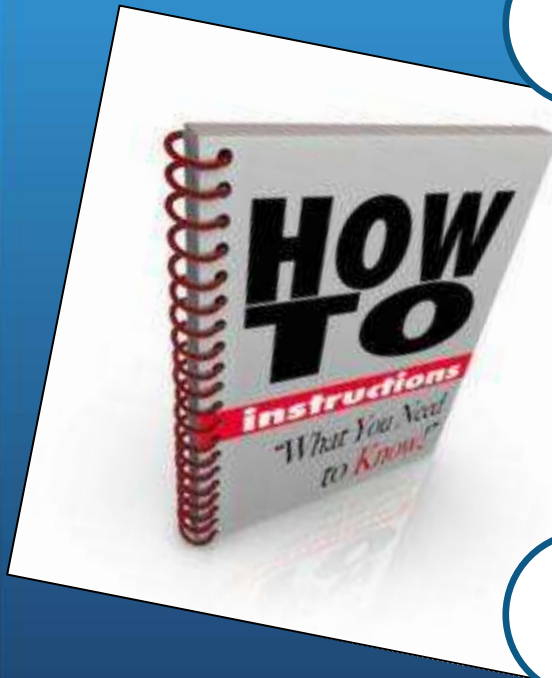
Equity

Wages throughout the food system sectors
--



Business Type: All County: All

Action planning yielded a framework and strategy for localizing regional food systems.



Bring Food System Issues to the Forefront

Support Farmers and Local Food Production

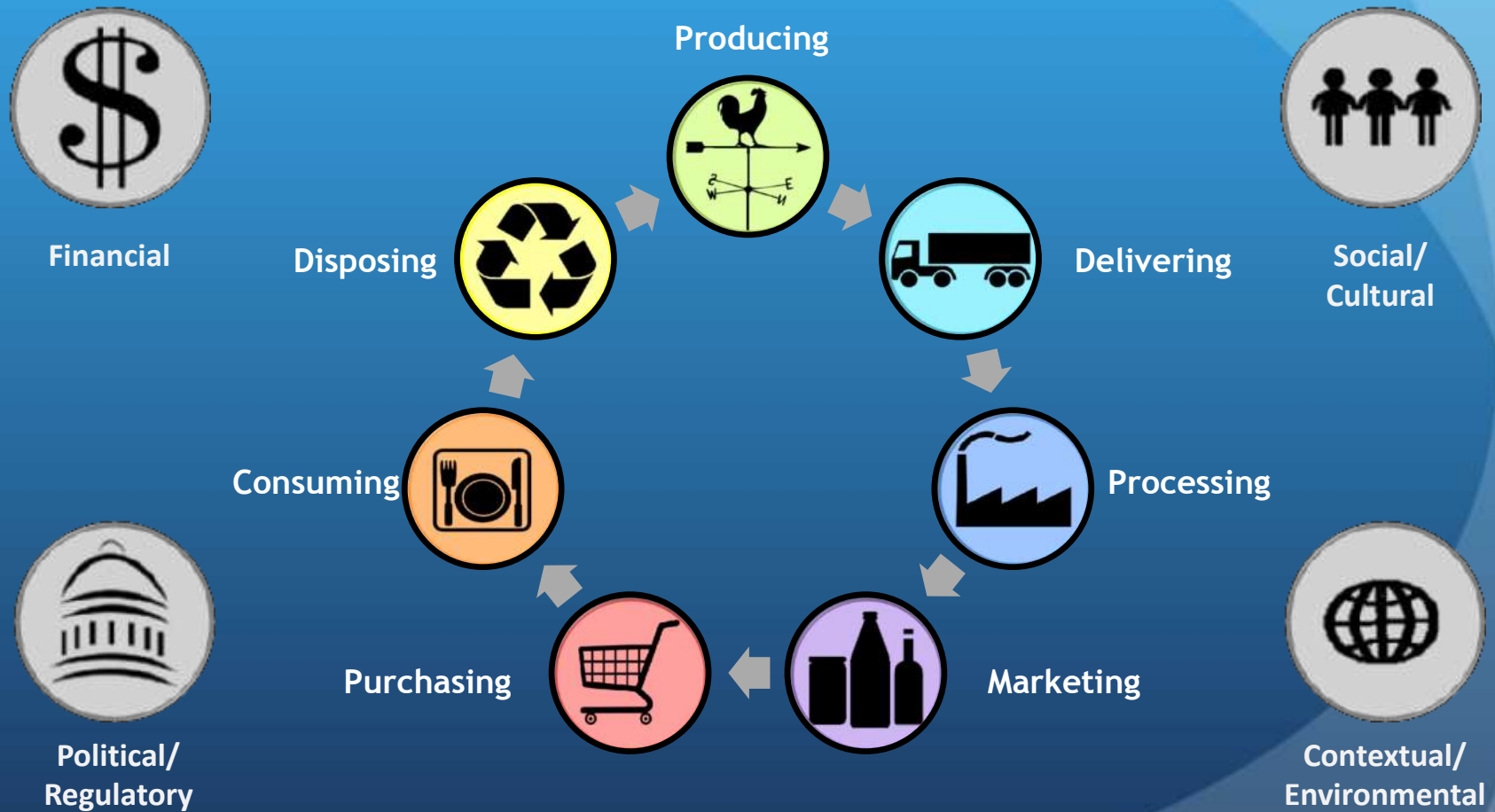
Connect Residents to their Food System

Address Equity and Access in the Food System

Food councils solve the challenge of coordinating efforts across sectors.

Hardware, Feed & Seed Stores Land Trusts Health Practitioners
Higher Education Chambers of Commerce Museums and Historical Associations
Local Farm & Food Orgs Distributors Parks and Recreation Community Gardens
Marketing Groups Hospitals Food Bloggers & Writers Cooperative Extension
Nature Groups Farm Bureau Youth Organizations Grocery/Convenience Stores
Tourism Social Services Economic Development Educators (K-12)
Faith-Based Organizations Media Watershed Groups Culinary Schools
Food Hubs/Aggregators People with Networks Soil and Water Conservation
Community Foundations Farm Service Agency Environment/Sustainability Offices
Planning & Code Enforcement Dealer/Packers/Processors Farmers Markets
Restaurant Associations Public Health Local Government Food Banks
Civic Clubs and Organizations Community College Banks & Funding Agencies
Future Farmers of America Small Business Centers School System Nutritionists
Elected Officials Natural Resource Conservation Service Waste Management

Food access is one aspect of a complex community food system.



Strong community food systems address food access...and more.



Vibrant Farms & Fishing



Healthy People



Strong Communities



Resilient Ecosystems



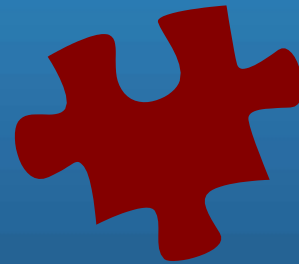
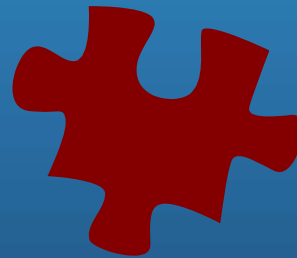
Thriving Local Economies

Strengthen community food systems to improve food access across North Carolina.

Complex
Issues



Your
Support



Vibrant Farms & Fishing



Healthy People



Strong Communities



Resilient Ecosystems



Thriving Local Economies

Encourage food councils and networks that strengthen community food systems.



Champion federal, state and local policies that strengthen community food systems. 



Society of St. Andrew
GLEANING AMERICA'S FIELDS
FEEDING AMERICA'S HUNGRY

Prevent the regulatory barriers posed by FSMA from hurting NC farmers and food producers

**FDA FOOD SAFETY
MODERNIZATION ACT**



Continue the conversation as we continue to learn more about these issues.



GROWING LOCAL

*Expanding the Western North Carolina
Food and Farm Economy*

ASAP

Appalachian
Sustainable
Agriculture
Project



CEFS



NCSU | NCA&TSU | NCDA&CS
www.cefs.ncsu.edu



**A Community and Local Government Guide to
Developing Local Food Systems
in North Carolina**



Strengthen community food systems to improve food access across North Carolina.

**Complex
Issues**



**Your
Support**



Vibrant Farms & Fishing



Healthy People



Strong Communities



Resilient Ecosystems



Thriving Local Economies



Questions or Comments?

Jared Cates

jared@carolinafarmstewards.org

Office: 919-542-2402

Mobile: 828-719-0143