

# GROWING FOOD CONNECTIONS

## Dedication

A visionary and inspirational thought leader, **Jerome L. Kaufman, FAICP**, (1933-2013) was a professor at the University at Wisconsin–Madison from 1971 to 2001. When he retired, he was accorded Emeritus status and served in this capacity until 2013.

Kaufman laid the foundation for food systems planning and, thanks to his continued leadership and innovation, it has become accepted as part of planning practice today.



Kami Pothukuchi photo

## PROJECT TEAM AND PARTNERS

### PROJECT LEAD



### PROJECT CO-LEADS



cultivating  
healthy  
places



### PROJECT PARTNER



American Planning Association  
Making Great Communities Happen

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**Growing Food Connections** is supported by a 5-year grant from the USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI) Food Systems Program (NIFA award no. 2012-68004-19894). The project integrates research, education, and extension to understand, evaluate, and share lessons learned about food system planning and local policy development. Its overarching goal is to enhance community food security while ensuring sustainable and economically viable agriculture and food production.



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

National Institute  
of Food and  
Agriculture

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## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

**GROWING LOCAL: A Community Guide to Planning for Agriculture and Food Systems** reflects the collective efforts of many inspiring people and communities across the United States who are working to strengthen community food systems. It is based on the research and practical experience of the Growing Food Connections (GFC) team and advisors to improve agricultural viability and enhance community food security, decades of field experience by American Farmland Trust (AFT), and a growing body of literature on food system planning and development.

Many of the policy and practice examples are drawn from GFC's Communities of Innovation and Communities of Opportunity. After conducting a national scan, the GFC team identified 299 local governments that have implemented a range of innovative plans, programs, public investments, and other policies to strengthen their food systems. After exploratory telephone interviews with 20 of these urban and rural communities, we selected 11 ***Communities of Innovation*** to highlight innovative food systems planning and policy work:

[Baltimore City, Maryland](#)

[Cabarrus County, North Carolina](#)

[City of Burlington and](#)

[Chittenden County, Vermont](#)

[City of Cleveland, Ohio](#)

[City of Lawrence and](#)

[Douglas County, Kansas](#)

[City of Minneapolis, Minnesota](#)

[City of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania](#)

[City of Seattle, Washington](#)

[Lancaster County, Pennsylvania](#)

[Marquette County, Michigan](#)

[Region 5, Minnesota](#)

We also are actively engaged with representatives from GFC's Communities of Opportunity to help them bridge the gap between food production and food security through public policy. Local governments from across the country responded to GFC's invitation for community partnership, and the GFC team went through a rigorous selection process to identify and select eight diverse communities from the four U.S. Census regions based on several factors including need, readiness for change, and food production potential. GFC's ***Communities of Opportunity*** are:

[Chautauqua County, New York](#)

[Cumberland County, Maine](#)

[Doña Ana County, New Mexico](#)

[Dougherty County, Georgia](#)

[Douglas County, Nebraska](#)

[Luna County, New Mexico](#)

[Polk County, North Carolina](#)

[Wyandotte County, Kansas](#)

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**Our heartfelt thanks** to our remarkable colleagues who contributed counsel and content, and who edited and reviewed countless drafts, including Caitlin Marquis and Jeanne Lecesse who have moved on to other endeavors, and the following individuals without whom the final publication would not have been possible: AFT's Don Buckloh, Jennifer Dempsey, Benjamin Kurtzman, Doris Mittasch, Kate Rossiter Pontius, and Phoebe Silag; and GFC's Project Lead Samina Raja, Project Co-Leads Jill Clark and Kimberley Hodgson, Brian Estabrook, Brenda Stynes, and the wonderful group of graduate students from the University of Buffalo Food Systems and Healthy Communities Lab: Enjoli Hall, Kelley Mosher, Subhashni Raj, and Jennifer Whittaker.

We are indebted to our reviewers for their thoughtful feedback, challenging questions, and sharing of resources: David Rouse from American Planning Association; Fred Kirschenmann, Kami Pothukuchi, and Louie Rivers from our National Advisory Committee; and Brooke Barone, Jorge Castillo, Patrick Gooch, and James Morgan from GFC Communities of Opportunity. And we are deeply grateful to Kip Holley, Kirwan Center for the Study of Race and Ethnicity; Erica Campbell, Vermont Farm to Plate; Joy Leos, Eat Well! El Paso; Carrie Miller, Ohio City Incorporated; Emily Reynolds, Cornell Extension; Danielle Rovillo, Massachusetts Avenue Project in Buffalo, New York; and Stephen J. Ventura, Land Tenure Center, University of Wisconsin-Madison, for sharing quotes, graphics, and other information to round out the guide.

Finally, special thanks to the USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture, Agriculture and Food Research Initiative Food Systems Program (NIFA Award # 2012-68004-19894), as well as to Wallace Genetic Foundation and the members of American Farmland Trust for financial support.

Recommended citation: Freedgood, Julia and Jessica Fydenkevez. *Growing Local: A Community Guide to Planning for Agriculture and Food Systems*. Northampton, MA: American Farmland Trust, 2017. Available online at: <http://www.farmlandinfo.org/growing-local-community-guide-planning-agriculture-and-food-systems>.