Feeding our Community: Hunger and the Local Food System

The 2015 Montgomery County Food Summit

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USDA Ohio Rural Development
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Local and Regional Food Systems

Why local and regional food?

- Economic development and jobs
- Education and health in schools
- Increased access to healthy food
- Beginning farmer opportunities
- Wealth stays in the region
USDA and Local/Regional Food Systems

Infrastructure

Aggregating ➔ Processing ➔ Distributing ➔ Marketing

www.rd.usda.gov
Local Foods Resources

The KYF Compass Map SHOWS:

- USDA-funded local food projects
- Farmers markets and other USDA agency-gathered data
- Projects and resources from nine other federal departments and agencies

www.usda.gov/kyfcompass
The KYF Compass Map

- Includes data on:
  - USDA-funded local food projects
  - Farmers markets and other "context data" gathered by USDA agencies

- Projects and resources from 9 other federal departments

- Updated regularly

www.usda.gov/kyfcompass
USDA Rural Development Resources

Rural Cooperative Development Grants establish rural co-operative centers
Ohio Cooperative Start-ups:

- Our Harvest; Cincinnati (regional food hub)
- Farmers Market Management Network (Farm Market Training)
- Fifth Street Brewpub Cooperative (Public House)

Tending plants that will eventually produce food to be sold through Our Harvest Cooperative in Ohio, which is structured based on the worker cooperative model used in the Mondragon region of Spain.

Photo courtesy Our Harvest Cooperative.

From food hubs to brewpubs, cooperatives are growing in Ohio, and are a useful tool in the local foods movement.
The LTR Food Hub includes aggregation with online ordering, a planned retail outlet and kitchen processing capacity • Operated by a multi-stakeholder cooperative • Owned by Common Wealth, Inc., an Ohio 501c-3 nonprofit corporation located near Youngstown State University.
Business & Industry Loan Guarantee

- Guarantee up to 80 percent of a private lender’s loan for a business that will create/retain jobs
- Eligible Areas: 50,000 or fewer population
- Typical Loan Guarantee is $2.5 million but range from $500,000 to $10 million

- Kettle Creations; Lima – pre-cooked potato products
- Hirzel Canning; Ottawa – Ohio vegetable products
- Gerber Poultry; Wooster – Ohio poultry products
Value Added Producer Grants

- Products that are aggregated & marketed as a locally-produced food
- Helps expand customer base for products; commodities
- Result in greater portion of revenues being available to producer

Images courtesy of Tea Hills Farms
Examples of recent USDA Ohio Rural Development-funded projects

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Applicant Name</th>
<th>RD Funding</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tea Hills Farm; Loudonville – Value-Added Producer Grant</td>
<td>$172,062</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ann’s Raspberry Farm; Fredericktown - VAPG</td>
<td>$19,251</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ohio River Vista Winery; Cincinnati - VAPG</td>
<td>$49,958</td>
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<td>Quarry Hill Orchard; Berlin Heights - VAPG</td>
<td>$44,769</td>
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<td>Milligan’s Maple Products; Columbus - VAPG</td>
<td>$4,380</td>
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<td>Beepothecary; Groveport - VAPG</td>
<td>$49,584</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oberlin Food Hub – Rural Business Development Grant</td>
<td>$100,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Canal Market District; Newark – RBDG</td>
<td>$58,000</td>
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</tbody>
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USDA Support for Local and Regional Food

- **NRCS**: EQIP conservation practices for livestock producers
- **FSA**: Farm loans, microloans and Farm Storage Facility Loans
- **RD**: Local food infrastructure, regional food hubs
- **AMS and FNS**: Marketing programs, food access efforts
- **NIFA**: Training and research along the supply chain
- **ARS, ERS and NASS**: Research and data; policy analysis
Extending the Growing Season

- Seasonal High Tunnel initiative (hoop houses)

NRCS State Conservationists:
FSA Assistance: Local/Regional Food Systems

Farm Service Agency

- Beginning Farmer Loans
- Microloans and Farm Storage Facility Loans (for cold storage!)
- Youth Project Loans

Farm Service Agency State Offices:
http://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA/stateOffices
FARM STORAGE FACILITY LOANS

• Applies to fruit, vegetable, and nut frozen or dry storage facilities
• Low interest financing for farmers to erect or upgrade farm storage and handling facilities.
• The loan is approved by the local FSA Committee.

• $500,000 is the maximum per person
• 15 percent down
• 7-year, 10-year, and 12-year loans
• Fixed interest based on month of disbursement
• Equal amortized installments
• Loan disbursed after bin is erected and inspected