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Learning about Local: A Resource Guide to Iowa Organizations and Programs Supporting Local and Regional Food Systems

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Learning about Local: A Resource Guide to Iowa Organizations and Programs Supporting Local and Regional Food Systems

Abstract
This is a directory of organizations, programs, funders and consultants that offer various forms of assistance for Iowa producers, processors, food retailers and communities interested in local and regional food systems.

Keywords
Community-based food systems

Disciplines
International and Community Nutrition

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Learning about Local:
A Resource Guide to Iowa Organizations and Programs Supporting Local and Regional Food Systems
Acknowledgements

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Thanks to all the organizations and programs that provided us with the information to assemble this resource guide. Thanks also go to Mary Adams for editing, Tina Davis for design and Laura Miller for communication assistance.

* If there are other organizations or programs that would be appropriate for inclusion in this resource guide, please contact the Leopold Center by phone: (515) 294-3711 or email: leocenter@iastate.edu
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* O=Organization, P=Program, C=Consulting, F=Grants and/or Loans
**1000 Friends of Iowa**

**Mission or Goal**
Promotes responsible development that conserves and protects our agricultural and natural resources, revitalizes our neighborhoods, towns and cities and improves the quality of life for future generations.

**Type of Work**
- Research
- Outreach/Extension
- Business Development/Technical Assistance

**Topical Category**
- Environment and natural resources
- Sustainability in the food system
- Farmland preservation
- Food-based community and economic development
- Buy local-keep urban centers, towns, and main streets strong and vibrant

**Geographic Location**
Statewide

**Program Examples**
- Iowa Immigrant and Refugee Incubator Farm Program
- Sustainable Planning Workshop (annual in June)
- Healthy Urban Food and Farming Work Group for Polk County
- Policy to enhance farmland protection in Iowa
- Civic engagement allows new growth to be planned to improve communities without sprawling, auto-dependent development resulting in a rapid loss of open space and farmland. Re-use of existing buildings and infrastructure uses our tax dollars more efficiently.

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**Keywords**
Land use, farmland protection, revitalization, sustainable development, smart growth, buy local campaign, civic engagement, urban-rural fringe, quality of life

**Audience**
- General community
- Community-based organizations
- Local elected or appointed government officials
- Youth
- Rural landowners
- Policy makers
- Public health/environmental advocates
Agricultural Marketing Resource Center (P)

Mission or Goal
A national electronic resource for producers/processors interested in value-added agriculture

<table>
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<td>Technical Assistance</td>
<td>• Sustainability in the food system</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Agriculture technology</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Program Examples
• Value-Added Agriculture Producer Grants
• USDA Business Development Programs
• Food Industry National Market Maker
• Business Planning and Development
• Iowa MarketMaker
• www.visitiowafarms.org

Contact Information

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Ames, IA 50010  
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Keywords
Value-added agriculture, business development, markets and industries, renewable energy, commodities and products, agritourism

Audience
• Business/entrepreneurs
• Farmers
• Producers and processors
• Extension educators
• Agriculture service providers
ATTRA National Sustainable Agriculture Information Service (O, P)
A project of National Center for Appropriate Technology (NCAT)

Mission or Goal
Helping people by championing small-scale, local, and sustainable solutions to reduce poverty, promote healthy communities, and protect natural resources

Type of Work
- Research
- Outreach/Extension
- Business Development/
  Technical Assistance

Topical Category
- Energy efficiency
- Food and agricultural
  entrepreneurship
- Food crop production
- Livestock production
- Farm to school
- Agriculture technology

Geographic Location
National, with the Midwest regional office serving the Midwest in particular

Program Examples
- ATTRA provides free technical information on sustainable agriculture and renewable energy.
- More than 250 free publications on a wide variety of livestock, crop and horticultural production and marketing topics are available online (www.attra.org) and by calling ATTRA's toll-free line (1-800-346-6379).
- The Web site also features news flashes, notice of funding opportunities, a calendar of events, and resource directories, including a national listing of local foods directories.
- NCAT's Midwest office in Des Moines serves as the regional lead agency for the National Farm to School Network.

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Keywords
Sustainable agriculture, renewable energy, information service, resource directories, publications, education, training, technical assistance

Audience
- Farmers
- Producers and processors
- Rural landowners
- Extension educators
- Fresh fruit and vegetable producers
- Ranchers/livestock producers
- Agriculture service providers
Backyard Abundance (O)

Mission or Goal
Backyard Abundance helps build vibrant communities by creating beautiful, resilient landscapes that provide healthy food and habitat.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of Work</th>
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<tr>
<td>• Research</td>
<td>• Food and agricultural entrepreneurship</td>
<td>Johnson County</td>
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<td>• Outreach/Extension</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Community food security</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Environment and natural resources</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Food policy</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Program Examples
- Tours of gardens that were consciously designed to help the environment by growing food and creating habitat
- Classes and workshops showing how to improve the ecological health of land
- One-on-one and group support through consulting and gatherings

Contact Information

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http://www.BackyardAbundance.org

Contact 2 (if applicable)

Keywords
Environmental health, community resilience, food security, gardening, urban and rural farming, Johnson County, landscapes, habitat

Audience
- General community
- Farmers
- Consumers
- Students
- Fresh fruit and vegetable producers
# Beginning Farmer Center (O)

## Mission or Goal
To provide resources to help our next generation of farmers

## Type of Work
- Outreach/Extension

## Topical Category
- Farmland preservation
- Children and families
- Food-based community and economic development

## Geographic Location
Statewide and reach throughout United States

## Program Examples
- Ag Link Seminars (four-day farm family retreat to initiate and facilitate succession planning for farm business transitions)
- Farm On Program (computerized matching service for individuals wishing to enter or retire from farming)
- Individual counseling for farm families working through estate planning and transition efforts of their farm operations
- Financial planning for farm businesses
- Educational webinars through extension network for all of the above topics and subjects

## Contact Information

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## Keywords
- Beginning farmers
- Farm transitions
- Small farm development
- Farm business
- Estate planning
- Business succession
- Farm succession
- Family counseling

## Audience
- General community
- Farmers
- Minorities
- Women
- Rural landowners
- Extension educators
- Agriculture service providers

## Geographic Location
Statewide and reach throughout United States
Buy Fresh Buy Local (P)

Mission or Goal
To increase market access, sales volume, net income and long-term stability of direct marketing farmers; to raise awareness among Iowans of our local treasures: farmers markets, family farms and orchards, local meat lockers, restaurants, grocery stores and other businesses that serve or sell locally grown farm products; and to stimulate the social and economic vitality of Iowa through strengthening the viability of independent farmers and businesses.

Type of Work
• Outreach/Extension

Topical Category
• Market development and access

Geographic Location
Statewide

Program Examples
In each chapter contact these people:
• Black Hawk County: Andrea Geary, (319) 273-7883
• Upper Iowa: Teresa Weimerslage, (563) 568-6345
• Greater Des Moines: Matt Russell, (515) 271-4956
• Quad Cities: Cathy LaFrenz, (563) 282-4338
• Hometown Harvest: Elisabet Humble, elisabet@pathfindersrcd.net
• Southeast Iowa: Chris Gehring, (319) 752-7608
• Johnson County: Michelle Kenyon Borwn, michelle@jclfa.org
• Central Iowa: Kristin Johnson, kristinlouisejohnson@gmail.com
• River Bend: Joe Wagner, (319) 462-3196 ext. 3
• Southwest Iowa Food and Farm Initiative: Keith Booth, (712) 769-2604
• Sioux land: Abby Gaffney, (712) 224-3350
* Contacts may change, visit the BFBL website for most recent information.

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www.bfbliowa.org

Contact 2 (if applicable)

Keywords
Buy Fresh Buy Local campaign

Audience
• Business/entrepreneurs
• General community
• Farmers
• Consumers
• Producers and processors
Cass County Local Food Policy Council

Mission or Goal
The Cass County Food Policy Council (CCLFPC) is committed to bringing together community members and organizations to promote stable food systems and access to healthy, locally produced food for all. The CCLFPC is working to foster collaborative relationships and action in pursuit of its mission. The CCLFPC goal is to establish a coalition of local organizations and individuals with experience working in agriculture, community organizing, nutrition, health services, food retail, public policy, food service, school districts and more.

Type of Work
- Outreach/Extension

Topical Category
- Market development and access
- Food and agricultural entrepreneurship
- Sustainability in the food system
- Community food security
- Food-based community and economic development

Geographic Location
Cass County

Program Examples
- Online tools for increased connectivity between Cass County local food producers and consumers/buyers
- Food safety outreach and education
- Farm to school
- Rural community redevelopment
- Community gardens
- Policy education
- Community outreach
- Building public and private partnerships and linkages
- Farmers market development and support
- Youth involvement in food-based agriculture

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Oakland, IA 51560
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Keywords
Outreach, farm-based business technical support, policy

Audience
- Diverse array of local food system stakeholders
Center for Energy and Environmental Education (CEEE) (O)

Mission or Goal
Empowering Iowans with the knowledge, tools, and inspiration needed to create a more sustainable future for our communities

Type of Work
- Research
- Outreach/Extension
- Business Development/ Technical Assistance

Topical Category
- Sustainability in the food system
- Energy efficiency
- Food-based community and economic development
- Environment and natural resources
- On-farm energy needs

Geographic Location
Statewide

Program Examples
- Local food and local government
- Farm Energy Working group
- Economic impacts of local food
- Farm to School

Contact Information

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www.ceee.uni.edu

Contact 2 (if applicable)

Keywords
On-farm energy needs, food systems planning

Audience
- Business/entrepreneurs
- Farmers
- Local elected or appointed government officials
- Planners/economic and community development staff
- Consumers
# Community Vitality Center (O, F)

## Mission or Goal
To serve as a catalyst for innovative projects and philanthropy capacity demonstration projects and initiatives designed to improve the vitality of Iowa communities. CVC leads initiatives to create Iowa Foundation for Microenterprise and Community Vitality (dba Iowa MicroLoan), Iowa Small Business Loan Program, and Iowa Community Capital equity funds for small businesses.

## Type of Work
- Outreach/Extension
- Business Development/Technical Assistance
- Grants

## Topical Category
- Food and agricultural entrepreneurship
- Food-based community and economic development

## Geographic Location
Statewide, regional, and national

## Program Examples
- Mini-grants for local community demonstration projects
- Community Entrepreneurship Challenge grants
- Wealth transfer study
- Migration and population studies

## Contact Information

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www.cvcia.org | |

## Keywords
Community vitality, entrepreneurship, community development

## Audience
- Diverse array of local food system stakeholders
Drake University Agricultural Law Center

Mission or Goal
The Drake University Agricultural Law Center examines how the legal system shapes our food system and influences the ability of society to produce, market, and utilize agricultural products. The Center sponsors an array of courses, publications, conferences, research initiatives and a certification program in food and agricultural law. The Center focuses on legal issues involving the full scope of food and agriculture, including marketing and finance; sustainable agriculture; local food systems; direct marketing; international trade; soil and water conservation; land use and environmental issues; food safety; and federal farm programs.

Type of Work
- Research
- Outreach/Extension
- For-credit Education

Topical Category
- Food and agricultural entrepreneurship
- Sustainability in the food system
- Food-based community and economic development
- Environment and natural resources
- Food policy

Geographic Location
Statewide

Program Examples
- Greater Des Moines Buy Fresh Buy Local Campaign
- The Iowa Landowner and Sustainable Agricultural Land Stewardship Project
- Rural Lands Rural Livelihoods
- Local and State Food Policy
- New and beginning farmers

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Keywords
Food policy, food and agricultural law, legal guides, legal agreements

Audience
- Farmers
- Consumers
- Rural landowners
- Students
- Policy makers
Dubuque Eats Well (DEW) is a roundtable of grassroots networks within the Tri-State community that value sustainable healthy local food systems to the benefit of all. DEW is a participant in our regional food system organization as it relates to comprehensive social policy, economics and legislative issues. DEW values systematic resilience within the six local food chain interlinks: production, distribution/marketing, processing, purchasing/consumption, preparation and waste minimization.

**Mission or Goal**

Dubuque Eats Well (DEW) is a roundtable of grassroots networks within the Tri-State community that value sustainable healthy local food systems to the benefit of all. DEW is a participant in our regional food system organization as it relates to comprehensive social policy, economics and legislative issues. DEW values systematic resilience within the six local food chain interlinks: production, distribution/marketing, processing, purchasing/consumption, preparation and waste minimization.

**Type of Work**

- Outreach/Extension

**Topical Category**

- Market development and access
- Food and agricultural entrepreneurship
- Sustainability in the food system
- Food and health
- Food-based community and economic development
- Food policy
- Farm to school

**Geographic Location**

Counties of Dubuque, Delaware, Jackson and Jones

**Program Examples**

- Building producer directory
- Partnering with River Bend Buy Fresh Buy Local
- Promoting Local Family Farms
- Outreach and education
- Marketing
- Economic Development

**Contact Information**

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cburbach@cityofdubuque.org

**Keywords**

Consumer education, food system development, local food network, Buy Local campaign, Farm to School, market development, family farms, regional food system working group

**Audience**

- Business/entrepreneurs
- General community
- Farmers
- Consumers
- Producers and processors
- Fresh fruit and vegetable producers
Edible Iowa River Valley

Mission or Goal
Edible Iowa River Valley is the go-to resource for the people, places, and food that make up Iowa's rich heritage.

Type of Work
- Outreach/Extension
- Publicity and advocacy

Topical Category
- Sustainability in the food system
- Community food security
- Farmland preservation
- Food-based community and economic development
- Food policy

Geographic Location
Statewide

Project Examples
- Edible Iowa River Valley is a seasonal magazine dedicated to recognizing, preserving, and revitalizing the flavors of the Heartland.
- In addition, the organization supports related organizations such as the Women, Food and Agriculture Network, Friends of the Iowa City Farmers Market, and the Terra Madre Relief Fund.

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www.EdibleIowa.com

Contact 2 (if applicable)

Keywords
Edible, outreach, advocacy, publicity, magazine, slow food

Audience
- Diverse array of local food system stakeholders
Environmental Nutrition Solutions (C)

Mission or Goal
Providing an ecological approach to food and health by defining the balance between environment and nutrition – educating eaters, health professionals and policy makers on cultivating and participating in resilient and sustainable food systems that promote good health, vibrant communities and environmental stewardship.

Type of Work
- Grants
- Consulting, convening, planning

Topical Category
- Sustainability in the food system
- Community food security
- Food and health
- Children and families
- Environment and natural resources
- Food policy
- Farm to school/ institution
- Food policy councils

Geographic Location
State and national work

Program Examples
- Food system assessment, planning and evaluation
- Food system policy (individual, organizational, public policy)
- Convening, strategic planning, policy development
- Public health impacts of current food systems
- Food access inequities
- Link healthy soil, healthy food, healthy eaters
- Food policy council

Contact Information

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Contact 2 (if applicable)

Keywords
Ecological approach to food, nutrition and health; environmental nutrition; sustainable food systems; soil to food to health; food policy council; Journal of Hunger and Environmental Nutrition, food access and health; hunger; Iowa Food Systems Council

Audience
- Diverse array of local food system stakeholders
Farm Fresh Local Harvest Food Alliance (O)
(also known as Southern Iowa Regional Food System)

Mission or Goal
Facilitating food system linkages with individuals and organizations to production, processing, distribution and consumption for improved food security, community, and economic development.

Type of Work
• Outreach/Extension
• Grants

Topical Category
• Food and agricultural entrepreneurship
• Community food security
• Food and health
• Food-based community and economic development
• Farm to school
• Farm to institution

Geographic Location
Adair, Adams, Clarke, Decatur, Guthrie, Ringgold, Taylor, and Union counties

Program Examples
• Community/school gardening
• Farmer’s market promotion
• Buy Fresh Buy Local campaign
• Producer education subject matter (marketing, production topics, strategic planning)
• Diversity gardens

Contact Information

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Keywords
Locally grown foods, consumer education, buy fresh buy local, healthy food choices, food decision making

Audience
• General community
• Consumers
• Youth
• Youth educators
• Fresh fruit and vegetable producers
Flavors of Northwest Iowa (O)

Mission or Goal
Flavors of Northwest Iowa is a regional network for local food producers and consumers. We provide:
- Producer support through access to resources, education, and promotional opportunities
- Information to consumers about local foods and flavors, farmers markets and local businesses
- Support for the local food movement in Northwest Iowa and surrounding regions by helping build healthy food partnerships

Type of Work
- Outreach/Extension
- Business Development/Technical Assistance
- Local food promotion, regional branding

Topical Category
- Market development and access
- Food and agricultural entrepreneurship
- Community food security
- Food-based community and economic development
- Food crop production
- Farm to institution
- Networking

Geographic Location
Woodbury, Plymouth, Monona, Cherokee, Ida, and Sioux Counties

Program Examples
- Siouxland Buy Fresh Buy Local
- Local food system planning
- Farmers markets
- Food asset mapping and local food directory
- Local food promotion and marketing

Contact Information

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Contact</th>
<th>Contact 2 (if applicable)</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
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<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Keywords
Regional brand, regional network, local food promotion, local food systems, community development, producers education, consumer information

Audience
- General community
- Farmers
- Local elected or appointed government officials
- Planners/economic and community development staff
- Consumers
Fruit and Vegetable Working Group (P)

Mission or Goal
To work with partners to help build the production, handling, and marketing capacity for Iowa's fruit and vegetable industries. The group is part of the Iowa-based network of food and agricultural working groups called Value Chain Partnerships.

Type of Work          Topical Category          Geographic Location
• Research             • Market development and access          Statewide
• Outreach/ Extension   • Sustainability in the food system
• Business Development/ • Food crop production   
  Technical Assistance  • Food distribution and aggregation

Program Examples
• Information gathered and summarized by the Fruit and Vegetable Working group from Midwestern vegetable growers in their first five years of operation will help provide needed input for business planning by new growers. Information includes capital purchases, operating costs, sales and profits for early years.
• Working with a consultant, FVWG has developed a tool to help growers develop an optimum post-harvest handling system to improve the processing line.

Contact Information

Contact 1
Joseph Hannan
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Keywords
Production capacity, aggregation, distribution, fruit and vegetable, producers, retailers

Audience
• Farmers
• State agency partners
• Extension educators
• Scientific community
• Fresh fruit and vegetable producers
Grass-Based Livestock Working Group (P, F)

**Mission or Goal**
1) Create a diverse and inclusive support network for grass-based farm and food business people
2) Promote innovation, conservation, and information-sharing in the grass-based livestock sector
3) Help grass-based livestock agriculture realize potential ecological, economic, and social benefits

The group is part of the Iowa-based network of food and agricultural working groups called Value Chain Partnerships.

**Type of Work**
- Research
- Outreach/Extension
- Grants

**Topical Category**
- Market development and access
- Sustainability in the food system
- Livestock production

**Geographic Location**
Primarily the state of Iowa, but we have partners in surrounding states

**Program Examples**
- Creating a Nutritional Quality of Restored Grasslands Calendar for a better understanding of the nutritional qualities of native plants and what production and economic opportunities that presents for graziers
- South Central Iowa Grazing and Wildlife Project to demonstrate the integration of planned grazing and wildlife habitat management
- NE Iowa Alternative Forage Production and Fencing Costs Demonstration to increase understanding of production costs and utilization of alternative forage crops in grazing rotations
- Rotational Grazing Brochure and Landowner Workshops to increase the awareness of grassland managers about the benefits of rotational grazing to the habitat of grassland birds

**Contact Information**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Contact 1</th>
<th>Contact 2 (if applicable)</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Andrew Larson</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2303 Agronomy Hall</td>
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<tr>
<td>Iowa State University</td>
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<td>Ames, IA 50011</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>(515) 294-5875</td>
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<tr>
<td>(515) 294-5099 (fax)</td>
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<tr>
<td><a href="mailto:allarso1@iastate.edu">allarso1@iastate.edu</a></td>
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<tr>
<td><a href="http://www.valuechains.org/livestock">http://www.valuechains.org/livestock</a></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Keywords**
Grass-based, grass-fed, pasture, forage, rotational grazing, management intensive

**Audience**
- Business/entrepreneurs
- Farmers
- State agency partners
- Producers and processors
- Extension educators
- Agriculture service providers
Greene County Local Foods Working Group (O)

Mission or Goal
Position the Greene County Local Foods Working Group within the overall local foods system as the central access point for reliable, up-to-date information on fresh, local foods in order to share markets, resources, and community

Type of Work
- Outreach/Extension
- Research
- Business Development/Technical Assistance

Topical Category
- Market development and access
- Food and agricultural entrepreneurship
- Sustainability in the food system
- Food-based community and economic development
- Food distribution and aggregation

Geographic Location
Greene and Guthrie Counties

Program Examples
- Expand on current Greene County Farmers’ Market in order to continue to connect producers and consumers in Greene County and surrounding areas
- In the future, create an Information Hub that serves as a database of market research in order to strengthen the local food system

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Keywords
Consumer education, marketing, market development, community, regional partnerships, farmers’ markets

Audience
- General community
- Consumers
- Producers and processors
- Fresh fruit and vegetable producers
- Business/entrepreneurs
The Great River Food Alliance of Southeast Iowa (O)

Mission or Goal
The Great River Food Alliance of Southeast Iowa, Inc. is a producer-controlled Iowa non-profit corporation. Its mission is to improve the quality and marketability of locally produced food and value added agricultural products. The Alliance's efforts will in turn enhance the economic viability for local producers while contributing to the regional economy.

Type of Work          Topical Category          Geographic Location
• Business Development/Technical Assistance • Market development and access          Southeast Iowa (Lee, Henry, Des Moines, and Louisa Counties)
• Sustainability in the food system • Food crop production
• Food distribution and aggregation • Farm to school
• Farm to institution

Program Examples
• The Alliance's primary strategy during 2010 was to work with local organizations to employ a full-time food coordinator. Geode RC&D was granted funding to hire Adam Hohl in December of 2010.
• The Alliance is collaborating with economic development, tourism, chambers, and extension organizations in the Great River Region four-county area to develop a regional strategy that will focus on incorporating the food systems along business development and entrepreneurship for the region.
• The Burlington Community School District (BCSD) will become the region's first Farm to School chapter. The food service manager and superintendent's goals are to create gardens or high tunnel at each school and use that produce in their cafeteria.

Contact Information

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yvonne@lcedg.com
http://www.lcedg.com

Keywords
Farm to School, Farm to Institution, Buy Fresh Buy Local Campaign

Audience
• Business/entrepreneurs
• Farmers
• Planners/economic and community development staff
• Consumers
• Producers and processors
• Fresh fruit and vegetable producers
Grinnell Area Local Foods Alliance (GALFA) (O)

Mission or Goal
To draw public attention to the virtues of local food and promote local food connections

Type of Work          Topical Category                      Geographic Location
• Outreach/Extension  • Market development and access  Grinnell and surrounding
•                      • Food and agricultural  communities within a 50-mile
  •                      • entrepreneurship        radius
  •                      • Sustainability in the food system
  •                      • Children and families
  •                      • Food-based community and
    •                      • economic development
  •                      • Food crop production
  •                      • Farm to school/ institution

Program Examples
• Promoting local food in the Grinnell College dining hall
• Collaborating with Mid-Iowa Community Action to bring local food to low-income families
• Collaborating with Iowa Valley RC&D to create a regional food system in east-central Iowa
• Publication of a directory of local food producers who market locally

Contact Information

Contact 1
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http://web.grinnell.edu/cps/galfa/

Contact 2 (if applicable)

Keywords
Grinnell area, Grinnell College, Compass Plant CSA, Heritage Farms CSA, community gardening

Audience
• General community
• Consumers
• Producers and processors
• Students
• Scientific community
• Low Income families
Grow Your Small Market Farm™ Network (P)

Mission or Goal
To provide strategic business solutions through business training tools and an internet-based network for small, specialty and/or niche farms and rural businesses

Type of Work | Topical Category | Geographic Location
--- | --- | ---
• Business Development/Technical Assistance | • Market development and access | Statewide
• Food and agricultural entrepreneurship
• Sustainability in the food system
• Food-based community and economic development
• Food distribution and aggregation

Program Examples
• Farmer-led fruit and vegetable processing
• Iowa Valley RC&D local food system planning
• Marshalltown community local food system planning
• Writing feasibility study for Women Food and Agriculture Network on a women’s land management center

Contact Information

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www.growmarketfarm.com

Contact 2 (if applicable)

Keywords
Specialty farms, business planning, agricultural business network, business solutions for farmers and rural businesses, grow your farm business, small farms, local food, Iowa small farms

Audience
• Business/entrepreneurs
• Farmers
• Producers and processors
• Rural landowners
• Fresh fruit and vegetable producers
Healthy Urban Food and Farming Working Group

Mission or Goal
To develop a sustainable, replicable system for accessing healthy local foods in low-income areas of metro Des Moines that supports residents, producers, distributors, educators and entrepreneurs

Type of Work
- Outreach/Extension
- Food system collaboration

Topical Category
- Food and agricultural entrepreneurship
- Sustainability in the food system
- Community food security
- Food and health
- Food-based community and economic development

Geographic Location
Metro Des Moines

Program Examples
- Iowa Immigrant and Refugee Farm Incubator Program
- Empowerment Gardens
- Hope for the Hungry Workshop

Contact Information

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Contact 2 (if applicable)

Keywords
Healthy food, local food, food security, community gardens, urban farming, sustainable food systems

Audience
- Diverse array of local food system stakeholders
Hometown Harvest of Southeast Iowa (O)

Mission or Goal
We help align the goals and needs of food consumers, food buyers, and food producers to create a vibrant, healthy, and sustainable local food economy.

Type of Work | Topical Category | Geographic Location
--- | --- | ---
Research | Market development and access | Davis, Jefferson, Keokuk, Mahaska, Wapello and Van Buren counties in southeast Iowa
Outreach/Extension | Food and agricultural entrepreneurship | 
Business Development/Technical Assistance | Sustainability in the food system | 
Financial Assistance/Loans | Food and health | 
| Food-based community and economic development | 
| Food distribution and aggregation | 
| Farm to school/institution |

Program Examples
- Farm-to-school programs
- Cooperative feasibility studies
- Producer surveys
- Event planning
- Buy Fresh Buy Local
- Public outreach and education
- Producer outreach and education
- Marketing
- Promoting local family farms

Contact Information

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Contact 1</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Elisabet Humble</td>
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<tr>
<td>304 South Maple</td>
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<tr>
<td>Suite 101</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fairfield, IA 52556</td>
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<tr>
<td>(641) 472-6177</td>
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<tr>
<td>(641) 472-6211 (fax)</td>
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<tr>
<td><a href="mailto:elisabet@pathfindersrcd.org">elisabet@pathfindersrcd.org</a></td>
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<tr>
<td><a href="http://www.hometownharvestseiowa.org">www.hometownharvestseiowa.org</a></td>
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Contact 2 (if applicable)

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<tr>
<td>Detra Dettman</td>
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<tr>
<td>304 South Maple</td>
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<td>Suite 101</td>
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<td>Fairfield, IA 52556</td>
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</table>

Keywords
- Consumer education, food system development, local food network, buy local campaign, Farm-to-school, market development, family farms, regional food system working group

Audience
- Diverse array of local food system stakeholders
Iowa Corridor Food and Agriculture Coalition

**Mission or Goal**
To develop strategic partnership to revitalize a local food system within the Iowa Corridor region that embraces local foods in a diversified and environmentally conscious agriculture community, serving as a hub for a revitalized regional food system.

**Type of Work**
- Research
- Outreach/Extension
- Grants
- Financial Assistance/Loans

**Topical Category**
- Market development and access
- Food and agricultural entrepreneurship
- Sustainability in the food system
- Food-based community and economic development
- Food distribution and aggregation
- Farm to school/institution

**Geographic Location**
East central Iowa

**Program Examples**
- Iowa Valley Food Co-op
- Beginning farmer and rancher training and education
- Farmers market promotion
- Buyer and farmer networking
- Farm-to-school

**Contact Information**

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www.iacorridor-localfood.org

**Contact 2 (if applicable)**

**Keywords**
Regional Food System Working Group

**Audience**
- Diverse array of local food system stakeholders
Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship (O)

**Mission or Goal**
To provide leadership for all aspects of agriculture in Iowa, ensure consumer protection and promote the responsible use of our natural resources

**Type of Work** | **Topical Category** | **Geographic Location**
---|---|---
- Grants | - Market development and access |  
- Regulatory | - Environment and natural resources |  
- Policy Development | - Food crop production |  
- Marketing | - Food distribution and aggregation |  
- | - Food policy |  
- | - Farm-to-School/Insitution |  

**Program Examples**
- Soil Conservation Division: Soil Conservation Committee, Watershed Improvement Review Board, conservation contractors, etc.
- Animal Industry Bureau: Iowa Animal Admission Regulations, Iowa Recorded Livestock Brands, Iowa Board of Veterinary Medicine, etc.
- Pesticide Bureau: Pesticide certification, Pesticide code and rules, Sensitive Crops Directory, etc.
- Feed and Fertilizer Bureau: Labeling, commercial feed, commercial fertilizers, commercial fertilizer licensee List, etc.
- Agricultural Diversification and Market Development Bureau: Organic Certification; Specialty Crop Market Development and promotion; Farm to School; Farmers Markets

**Contact Information**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Contact 1</th>
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</table>
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(515) 281-6178  
tammy.stotts@iowaagriculture.gov |

**Keywords**
Department of agriculture, agriculture policy, agriculture regulations, local foods, organic certification, ag marketing

**Audience**
- Diverse array of local food system stakeholders
Iowa Department of Economic Development (O, F)

Mission or Goal
Value-Added Agriculture program - to assist new and innovative utilization/processing of Iowa’s agriculture industry

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Financial Assistance/ Loans</td>
<td>Agriculture processing businesses with new and innovative products</td>
<td>Statewide</td>
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</table>

Program Examples
- Innovative agricultural products and processes
- Innovative and new renewable fuels
- Agricultural biotechnology industry, biomass and alternative energy production
- Organic products and emerging markets

Contact Information

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Contact 2 (if applicable)

Keywords
Value-added agriculture, processing, organic products, financial assistance

Audience
- Business/entrepreneurs
- Economic development officials
- Producers and processors
Iowa Department of Inspections and Appeals Food and Consumer Safety Bureau (O)

Mission or Goal
The Bureau is responsible for administering and enforcing the state’s food and sanitation laws (Iowa Code chapters 137C, 137D, 137F and 196). Staff in the Bureau protects Iowa’s consuming public by licensing and conducting inspections at food establishments (grocery stores, restaurants, and convenience stores), food processing plants, and hotels and motels.

Type of Work          Topical Category          Geographic Location
• State Food Inspections and Licensing • Food and health Statewide
• Food safety and labeling

Program Examples
• Processing applications and inspections of food processing plants and food establishments

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terri.duden@dia.iowa.gov

Keywords
State government, food inspections, food safety, food regulations

Audience
• Diverse array of local food system stakeholders
### Iowa Department of Public Health -
Division of Health Promotion and Chronic Disease Prevention (O, F)

**Mission or Goal**
Promoting and protecting the health of Iowans

**Type of Work**
- Outreach/Extension
- Business Development/Technical Assistance
- Grants

**Topical Category**
- Food and health
- Children and families
- Food policy
- Farm to school

**Geographic Location**
Statewide

**Program Examples**
- Provides grants to communities for health improvement projects
- Coordinates technical assistance services in communities to build community capacity

**Contact Information**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Contact 1</th>
<th>Contact 2 (if applicable)</th>
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</table>
| Jane Schadle  
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jschadle@idph.state.ia.us  
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**Keywords**
Healthy community, health promotion, community wellness grants

**Audience**
- General community
- Local elected or appointed government officials
- State agency partners
- Policy makers
- Public health/environmental advocates
Iowa Environmental Council (O)

Mission or Goal
The Iowa Environmental Council actively works in public policy to provide a safe, healthy environment for all Iowans. We focus on public education and coalition building to give Iowans a voice.

Program Examples
Educating decision makers, media and the public in efforts to:
• Pass federal climate legislation to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 83 percent by 2050.
• Pass state legislation to encourage energy efficiency and the use of renewable energy sources by individuals and utilities.
• Implement portions of the federal Clean Water Act in Iowa, such as water quality standards, antidegradation rules, nutrient standards, and much more.
• Reduce loss of important agricultural soils and, with it, farm chemicals that degrade water and air quality
• Reduce Iowa’s contributions to hypoxia (Dead Zone) in the Gulf of Mexico
• Reduce ammonia pollution and fine particulate matter pollution in Iowa

Type of Work
- Environmental Advocacy and Public Policy

Topical Category
- Sustainability in the food system
- Environment and natural resources
- Food policy
- Water quality and quantity
- Energy and global warming solutions/air quality

Geographic Location
Mostly Iowa, but also collaborate on regional and federal policy work with other Midwestern states

Contact Information

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Contact 2 (if applicable)

Keywords
Environment, environmental advocacy, Iowa environment, environmental policy, water quality, air quality, energy, global warming

Audience
- Diverse array of local food system stakeholders
Iowa Farm to School Program (P)

Mission or Goal
To establish a program that would link elementary, secondary, public and non-public schools with Iowa farmers; provide schools with fresh and minimally processed Iowa grown food for inclusion in school meals and snacks; and to encourage children to develop healthy eating habits and provide them with hands-on learning opportunities, such as farm visits, cooking demonstrations, and school gardening and composting programs

Program Examples
• “A” is for Apple, launched in the fall of 2008 to encourage the purchase of locally grown Iowa apples
• Iowa Farm to School Chapters throughout the state to help connect the local food network with local students
• Iowa Grown Wrap Your Own (in development)

Type of Work
• Outreach/Extension
• Business Development/
  Technical Assistance
• Financial Assistance/ Loans

Topical Category
• Market development and access
• Food crop production
• Food distribution and aggregation
• Food policy
• Farm to school

Geographic Location
Statewide

Topical Category
• Market development and access
• Food crop production
• Food distribution and aggregation
• Food policy
• Farm to school

Geographic Location
Statewide

Program Examples
• “A” is for Apple, launched in the fall of 2008 to encourage the purchase of locally grown Iowa apples
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Keywords
Farm to school, local food, school gardens, school farm tour

Audience
• Farmers
• Local elected or appointed government officials
• Students
• Policy makers
• Fresh fruit and vegetable producers
Iowa Farmers Market Nutrition Program (P)

**Mission or Goal**
1. To provide fresh, nutritious, unprepared, locally grown fruits, vegetables, and herbs from farmers markets and farmstands to nutritionally at-risk women, infants, children and low-income seniors
2. To increase the domestic consumption of agricultural commodities by expanding or aiding in the expansion of farmers markets, farmstands and CSA programs
3. To develop or aid in the development of new and additional farmers markets, farmstands and CSA programs

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<tr>
<td>Financial Assistance/ Loans</td>
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<td>Food crop production</td>
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**Program Examples**
- Provide access to healthy, local fresh fruits, vegetables, and herbs to women, infants, and children who may be nutritionally at risk in Iowa
- Provide greater access to low-income seniors for healthy, local fresh produce found at farmers markets and farmstands throughout Iowa
- Expand the awareness, use of, and sales at farmers markets

**Contact Information**

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**Contact 2 (if applicable)**

**Keywords**
Women, infants, children, seniors, nutrition, farmers markets, Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship

**Audience**
- Minorities and Women  
- State agency partners  
- Consumers  
- Youth and Elderly  
- Extension educators  
- Fresh fruit and vegetable producers
Iowa Farmers Union (O)

Mission or Goal
Strengthen family farms through education and policy work; improve rural quality of life

Type of Work  Topical Category  Geographic Location
- Outreach/Extension  • Energy efficiency  Statewide
- Policy recommendations  • Food policy

Program Examples
- Advocacy on behalf of diversified farmers at the state and federal levels
- Farm Bill support
- Education programs focused on cooperatives and school gardening
- Advocacy for on-farm renewable energy projects
- Local control issues-confinement livestock

Contact Information

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www.iowafarmersunion.org

Keywords
Family farms, policy, farm diversity, renewable energy, cooperative

Audience
- Farmers
- Local elected or appointed government officials
- Consumers
- Policy makers
- Agriculture service providers
Iowa Food Bank Association (O)

Mission or Goal
To coordinate efforts to alleviate hunger by supporting Feeding America food banks that serve Iowa

Type of Work | Topical Category | Geographic Location
---|---|---
• Outreach/Extension | • Community food security | Statewide
• Hunger Relief | • Food distribution and aggregation
| • Food policy
| • Food-based community and economic development

Project Examples
• SNAP (food assistance) outreach
• Support of Iowa food banks

Contact Information

Contact 1

Jordan Vernoy  
2101 Kimball Avenue  
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jvernoy@feedingamerica.org  
www.iowafba.org

Contact 2 (if applicable)


Keywords
Hunger relief, food banks, food pantries, community meals, SNAP

Audience
• Diverse array of local food system stakeholders
Iowa Food Systems Council

Mission or Goal
The Iowa Food Systems Council develops and recommends policy, research, and program options for an Iowa food system that supports healthier Iowans, communities, economies and the environment.

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<td>• Food system education</td>
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Program Examples

• Established November 2011 a 25-member Board of Directors and more than 80 members
• “Cultivating Resilience, A Food System Blueprint that advances the Health of Iowans, Farms and Communities” outlines a current report card for Iowa’s food system along with recommendations for improvement through all system sectors.

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Contact 2 (if applicable)

Keywords
Food systems, sustainable, policy, stakeholders, network

Audience
• Community-based organizations
• Local elected or appointed government officials
• State agency partners
• Policy makers
• Public health/environmental advocates
• Regulatory agency officials
Iowa Foundation for MicroEnterprise and Community Vitality (O, F)

Mission or Goal
Foster entrepreneurship throughout the State of Iowa by providing loan funding and technical assistance.

Type of Work
- Business Development and Technical Assistance
- Financial Assistance/Loans

Topical Category
- Food and agriculture entrepreneurship
- Food crop production
- Food distribution and aggregation
- Livestock production
- Farm to institution

Geographic Location
Based in Boone, Iowa, but we are a statewide initiative.

Program Examples
- Lending to agricultural product manufacturing, food production, alternative food uses and cooperative production ventures

Contact Information

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Contact 1</th>
<th>Contact 2 (if applicable)</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Craig Downs</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P.O. Box 793</td>
<td></td>
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<td>Boone, IA 50036</td>
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<tr>
<td>(515) 212-0182</td>
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<tr>
<td>(515) 432-0358 (fax)</td>
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<tr>
<td><a href="mailto:fcdowns@iowamicroloan.org">fcdowns@iowamicroloan.org</a></td>
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<td><a href="http://www.iowamicroloan.org">www.iowamicroloan.org</a></td>
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</table>

Keywords
Micro-lending

Audience
- Business/entrepreneurs
- Minorities
- Cooperative managers and directors
- Producers and processors
- Fresh fruit and vegetable producers
Iowa Fruit and Vegetable Growers Association (O)

Mission or Goal
To represent the interests of Iowa fruit and vegetable growers through education, marketing, and research

Type of Work
- Outreach/Extension
- Grants
- Marketing for members

Topical Category
- Market development and access
- Food and agricultural entrepreneurship
- Food crop production
- Food distribution and aggregation
- Food-based community and economic development

Geographic Location
Statewide

Program Examples
- Support for fruit and vegetable research
- Educational opportunities for fruit and vegetable growers
- Field days for growers
- Sponsor of consumer awareness
- Iowa State Fair competition sponsor
- Partnerships with Iowa State University and the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship
- Farmers market nutrition programs and other programs providing assistance to needy Iowans

Contact Information

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chowell849@aol.com

Keywords
Fruits and vegetables, locally grown, food decision-making, farmers markets, farm stands, agritourism, u-pick or pick your own (orchards, mazes, pumpkin patches)

Audience
- State agency partners
- Consumers
- Producers and processors
- Fresh fruit and vegetable producers
- Agriculture service providers
Mission or Goal
To promote a local food system in a seven-county region of northwest Iowa by developing a group of cooperative growers, establishing in-school programs and community gardens, and coordinating a network of diverse partners.

Type of Work
- Outreach/Extension

Topical Category
- Market development and access
- Food and agricultural entrepreneurship
- Sustainability in the food system
- Community food security
- Food and health
- Food-based community and economic development
- Food distribution and aggregation
- Farm to school

Geographic Location
Iowa Great Lakes region

Program Examples
- Ten local growers aggregating product for sale within a 30-mile radius of the Iowa Lakes area
- Dickinson County Community Gardens established in Spirit Lake with plans for expansion into communities throughout the county
- Spirit Lake Elementary School fourth-grade class presentations and garden emerging as a model for schools in a seven-county region

Contact Information

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Contact 2 (if applicable)

Keywords
Cooperative growers, school programs, children’s gardens, community garden

Audience
- Diverse array of local food system stakeholders
Iowa League of RC&Ds (O)

Mission or Goal
To create jobs, protect the environment and improve the quality of life in rural communities

Type of Work
- Business Development/Technical Assistance

Topical Category
- Food and agricultural entrepreneurship
- Environment and natural resources

Geographic Location
Statewide

Program Examples

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Area</th>
<th>Contact Details</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Iowa Lakes</td>
<td>(712) 262-2690</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sioux Rivers</td>
<td>(712) 943-7882</td>
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<tr>
<td>Golden Hills</td>
<td>(712) 482-3029</td>
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<tr>
<td>M &amp; M Divide</td>
<td>(712) 792-4415</td>
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<tr>
<td>Prairie Partners</td>
<td>(515) 332-3337</td>
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<tr>
<td>Southern Iowa</td>
<td>(641) 782-7058</td>
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<tr>
<td>Prairie Winds</td>
<td>(641) 923-3606</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interstate</td>
<td>(309) 764-1830</td>
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<tr>
<td>Northeast Iowa</td>
<td>(563) 864-7112</td>
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<tr>
<td>Prairie Rivers</td>
<td>(515) 232-0048</td>
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<tr>
<td>Iowa Heartland</td>
<td>(515) 963-8654</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chariton Valley</td>
<td>(641) 437-4376</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cedar Valley</td>
<td>(641) 257-1912</td>
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<tr>
<td>Iowa Valley</td>
<td>(319) 213-9243</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pathfinders</td>
<td>(641) 472-6177</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Limestone Bluffs</td>
<td>(563) 652-5104</td>
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<tr>
<td>Geode</td>
<td>(319) 752-6395</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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www.ia.nrcs.usda.gov/partnerships/rcanddlist.html#iowa%20Heartland

Contact 2 (if applicable)

Keywords
Natural resources, economic development, food systems

Audience
- Business/entrepreneurs
- Community-based organizations
- Planners/economic and community development staff
- Economic development officials
- Producers and processors
- RC&D councils in Iowa
Iowa Network for Community Agriculture (O)

Mission or Goal
INCA is a community development organization focused around local and regional food systems. It is the goal of INCA to develop functional groups and coalitions of farmers, consumers and institutions that build awareness and opportunity for the expansion and growth of local foods across Iowa.

Type of Work
- Networking & Community Development

Topical Category
- Food and agricultural entrepreneurship
- Community food security
- Food and health
- Food-based community and economic development

Geographic Location
Statewide, but focused on specific communities for sustained periods of time.

Program Examples
- Biennial local food conference
- Food Mapping Exercise
- Community development around food, agriculture, and the built environment
- Growing Food and Profit

Contact Information
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info@growinca.org
www.growinca.org

Audience
- General community
- Community-based organizations
- Planners/economic and community development staff
- State agency partners
- Economic development officials
Iowa Small Business Development Center (C)

Mission or Goal
The Iowa Small Business Development Center (SBDC) conducts research, counsels, and trains business people in management, financing, and operating small businesses, and provides comprehensive information services and access to experts in a variety of fields. The SBDC is the only nationally accredited entrepreneurial development program in Iowa.

Type of Work          Topical Category          Geographic Location
• Business Development/Technical Assistance
• Market development and access
• Business counseling and training

Program Examples
Iowa Small Business Development Centers are located throughout Iowa. These centers provide business counseling services to new and existing businesses; assist businesses with developing business plans, marketing plans, growth plans, and accessing capital; provide domestic market research and export/import assistance. (All market research and business counseling is free of charge.)

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Contact 2 (if applicable)

Keywords
Business technical assistance; access to capital; market research; counseling; training; finance; marketing; human resources; business plan; marketing plan; loans; guaranteed loans; small business; grow; accounting; entrepreneur; business; international trade; export; import; free

Audience
• Business/entrepreneurs
• Planners/economic and community development staff
• State agency partners
• Economic development officials
Iowa State University Department of Horticulture (P)

Mission or Goal
Improve the health and quality of life of Iowans through the promotion of fresh fruit and vegetables

Type of Work
- Research
- Outreach/Extension
- For-credit Education

Topical Category
- Food and agricultural entrepreneurship
- Sustainability in the food system
- Food and health
- Environment and natural resources
- Food crop production
- Agriculture technology

Geographic Location
Statewide

Program Examples
- Educational programs for small acreage farmers
- Supporting grape and wine production efforts in Iowa
- Organic production of horticultural crops
- Master Gardener educational programming
- Homegrown lifestyle educational programming

Contact Information

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www.hort.iastate.edu

Keywords
- Consumer education
- Commercial producer information
- Grower field days
- Crop production research

Audience
- Diverse array of local food system stakeholders
## Program Examples

- **Ag Decision Maker**: tools and information for agricultural business planning and decision-making including costs and returns, markets, outlook and prices, and strategic planning. [http://www.extension.iastate.edu/agdm/](http://www.extension.iastate.edu/agdm/)
- **Center for Agricultural Law and Taxation**: timely, objective information concerning the application of important legal developments to agriculture in both state and federal law [http://www.calt.iastate.edu](http://www.calt.iastate.edu)
- **Food Safety from Farm to Table**: research-based, unbiased information on food safety and quality for consumers, processors, and foodservice operators [http://www.extension.iastate.edu/foodsafety/](http://www.extension.iastate.edu/foodsafety/)
- **Sustainable Agriculture Extension Program**: training and programming on philosophy and implementation of sustainable agriculture for farmers, educators, and the public [http://extension.agron.iastate.edu/sustag/](http://extension.agron.iastate.edu/sustag/)
- **Viticulture and Enology**: research, extension, and collaboration towards sustainability in Iowa's evolving grape and wine industry

## Contact Information

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**Contact 2 (if applicable)**

## Keywords

Livestock agriculture and waste management, air quality, water quality, natural resources, crop production and soil stewardship, farm business management and entrepreneurship, farm safety, food safety, homeland security, horticulture, viticulture, and aquaculture, agricultural energy and the bioeconomy, forestry and wildlife

## Audience

- Farmers  
- Cooperative managers and directors  
- State agency partners  
- Rural landowners  
- Agriculture service providers
Iowa State University Extension -
Small Farm Sustainability (P)

Mission or Goal
To help small family farmers and food businesses move toward operational and environmental sustainability by providing programs and facilitating partnerships in the following focus areas:
1) local and regional food systems
2) niche and specialty markets and
3) agri-entrepreneurship

Program Examples
• Cultivating the Agrarian Dream: a “go or no-go” decision-making workshop for aspiring agricultural entrepreneurs on whether or not to take the plunge into small-scale, sustainable farming
• Improve Your Success at Farmers Markets: a workshop for farmers market vendors/managers on how to improve marketing and product merchandising at farmers market booths
• Homegrown Lifestyle: an introductory local foods production and natural resource stewardship curriculum designed for acreage owners

Type of Work | Topical Category | Geographic Location
---|---|---
• Outreach/Extension | • Market development and access |  
| | • Food and agricultural entrepreneurship |  
| | • Sustainability in the food system |  
| | • Food-based community and economic development |  

Contact Information

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Contact 2 (if applicable)

Keywords
Small farms, local foods, sustainable agriculture, niche markets, market research, agriculture entrepreneurship

Audience
• Business/entrepreneurs
• Farmers
• Producers and processors
• Rural landowners
• Fresh fruit and vegetable producers
Mission or Goal
Provide research-based information to retail foodservice organizations

Type of Work
- Research
- Outreach/Extension

Topical Category
- Market development and access
- Food and agricultural entrepreneurship
- Sustainability in the food system
- Energy efficiency
- Farm to school/ institution

Geographic Location
Statewide efforts and regional Midwest (Nebraska and Illinois)

Program Examples
- Outreach efforts include research, presentations, and publications related to use of locally sourced foods by retail foodservice establishments.
- Work has focused on these topic areas: food safety (worker health and hygiene, good agricultural practices, and cleaning and sanitizing); regulations; producer understanding of sectors within the foodservice industry; and decision making considerations for foodservice buyers.

Contact Information

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Contact 2 (if applicable)

Keywords
Foodservice, food safety, regulation, procurement, farm to foodservice, farm to school, farm to restaurant

Audience
- Business/entrepreneur
- General community
- State agency partners
- Youth educators
- Extension educators
- Students
- Fresh fruit and vegetable producers
## Iowa State University Graduate Program in Sustainable Agriculture (P)

### Mission or Goal
Provide students with the analytical and problem-solving skills required to meet the challenges confronting agriculture in the 21st century; develop an innovative approach to graduate education that is interdisciplinary and interdepartmental; position ISU at the forefront of institutions conducting research and extending knowledge about sustainable agriculture.

### Type of Work
- Research
- Outreach/Extension
- For-credit Education

### Topical Category
- Food and agricultural entrepreneurship
- Sustainability in the food system
- Community food security
- Food-based community and economic development
- Environment and natural resources
- Food crop production
- Livestock production

### Geographic Location
State, national and international

### Program Examples
- MS and Ph.D programs in sustainable agriculture
- Options for co-majors and minors

### Contact Information

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www.sust.ag.iastate.edu/gpsa/

### Keywords
Sustainable agriculture education, sustainable use of natural resources, community-based agriculture

### Audience
- Students
- Scientific community
Mission or Goal
Assist producers, processors and marketers in recommendations for organic ag and local food production

Type of Work | Topical Category | Geographic Location
--- | --- | ---
• For-credit Education | • Sustainability in the food system | Statewide
• Farmland preservation
• Food-based community and economic development
• Food crop production

Program Examples
• Local foods publication
• Organic agriculture research and education
  See: http://extension.agron.iastate.edu/organicag/

Contact Information

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Contact 1</th>
<th>Contact 2 (if applicable)</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>Kathleen Delate</td>
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<tr>
<td>Iowa State University</td>
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<td>Ames, IA 50011</td>
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<td><a href="mailto:kdelate@iastate.edu">kdelate@iastate.edu</a></td>
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Keywords
Organic agriculture, local foods, education

Audience
• General community
• Community-based organizations
• Farmers
• Scientific community
Iowa State University
Value Added Agriculture Program (P)

Mission or Goal
To provide unbiased, science-based information to help establish or expand agricultural-related businesses

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<tr>
<th>Type of Work</th>
<th>Topical Category</th>
<th>Geographic Location</th>
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<td>• Outreach/Extension</td>
<td>• Food and agricultural entrepreneurship</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Business Development/Technical Assistance</td>
<td>• Food distribution and aggregation</td>
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Program Examples
• Local and regional foods initiatives
• Market Maker Iowa
• Cooperative Development
• Business Planning and Development
• Facilitate development of agriculture-related businesses
• Assist clients in making informed decisions
• Provide leadership and vision for value-added agriculture education and business development

Contact Information

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Raymond Hansen</td>
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<td>Ames, IA 50010</td>
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<td><a href="http://www.extension.iastate.edu/valueaddedag">www.extension.iastate.edu/valueaddedag</a></td>
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Keywords
Value added agriculture, business development, feasibility studies

Audience
• Diverse array of local food system stakeholders
Iowa Western Community College (P)
Sustainable Agriculture, Culinary Arts, Horticulture and Sustainability Programs

Mission or Goal
Iowa Western is a learning community committed to excellence in meeting the educational needs and improving quality of life through programs, partnerships and community involvement. In a narrower scope on local foods and sustainability techniques, the college educates students, the public, farmers and the community by projects, partnership, and curriculum.

Type of Work
• Outreach/Extension
• Business Development/Technical Assistance
• For-credit Education

Topical Category
• Food and agricultural entrepreneurship
• Sustainability in the food system
• Energy efficiency
• Environment and natural resources
• Food crop production
• Food distribution and aggregation
• Food policy
• Farm to institution

Geographic Location
The main campus of Iowa Western Community College is located in Council Bluffs. Iowa Western has four satellite campuses in Harlan, Atlantic, Shenandoah, and Clarinda.

Program Examples
• High tunnel project placed at the local Boys and Girls Club and homeless shelter to provide local food and highlight the importance of gardens
• Continuing education classes focused on local food production
• Composting food waste from culinary food services
• Educational degree and certificate programs in: Sustainable Agriculture, Turf and Landscaping, Horticulture and Culinary Arts
• Sustainable Energy- focusing on renewable energy and energy efficiency

Contact Information

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Contact 2 (if applicable)

Keywords
Education, Community Outreach, Local Food Educational Center, Sustainable Food Production

Audience
• Diverse array of local food system stakeholders

Leopold Center for Sustainable Agriculture
Iowa Wine and Beer Promotion Board (O, F)
Administered by the Tourism Office, Iowa Department of Economic Development

Mission or Goal
Promote wine and beer made in Iowa

<table>
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<tr>
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<th>Topical Category</th>
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<td>• Business Development/</td>
<td>• Promote Iowa-made wine and beer</td>
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<td>Technical Assistance</td>
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<tr>
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</table>

Program Examples
• The Iowa Wine and Beer Promotion Board is funded through a gallonage tax paid by native Iowa wineries and breweries.
• The Board publishes an annual directory of Iowa wineries and breweries, maintains a website, develops marketing campaigns.

Contact Information

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Contact 2 (if applicable)

Keywords
Iowa, wine, beer, marketing, promotion

Audience
• Consumers
Iowa Workforce Development, Regional Research and Analysis Bureau

Mission or Goal

The mission of the Bureau of Regional Research and Analysis is to produce products and perform services that are intended to support the state's workforce and economic development efforts through customized labor market information.

Type of Work  Topical Category  Geographic Location

- Research  • Workforce research  
- Business Development/Technical Assistance

Program Examples

- Laborshed studies: Labor availability study of people ages 18-64
- Regional skillshed: Identification of the gap between the skills of residents within a region
- Fringe benefit profile: Employer survey of fringe benefit packages
- Unemployment insurance statistical data: Unemployment insurance statistics includes unemployment insurance benefits paid and number of UI recipients by county
- Workforce needs assessment: Employer survey identifying the current and upcoming job vacancies
- Educational outcomes: Custom research designed to assist colleges/universities in the determination of the effectiveness of their educational programming
- Dislocated worker analysis: Aggregate worker analysis based on a group of individuals that have been/will be separated from employment

Contact Information

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Keywords

Laborshed studies, workforce needs assessment, educational outcomes, skillshed

Audience

- Business/entrepreneurs
- General community
- Community-based organizations
- Planners/economic and community development staff
- Economic development officials
- Students
- Policy makers
ISU Dining -
Farm to ISU and Buy Fresh Buy Local Central Iowa (O)

Mission or Goal
To be better stewards of the Earth as we fulfill Iowa State University’s mission: Create, share, and apply knowledge to make Iowa and the world a better place. Focus on local small growers, farmers, and ranchers who use sustainable and organic practices. Support Iowa businesses as they provide local jobs and economic development. Develop organic features in residential dining centers and retail operations.

Type of Work
- Research
- Outreach/Extension
- Business Development/Technical Assistance

Topical Category
- Market development and access
- Sustainability in the food system
- Community food security
- Food and health
- Food-based community and economic development
- Food distribution and aggregation
- Farm to school/institution

Geographic Location
Iowa State University, Ames, Story County, Iowa

Program Examples
- Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship Specialty Crop Grant Project- Increasing the amount of Iowa Specialty crops that ISU Dining purchases from 20011-2012. This project includes GAP (Good Agricultural Practices) training for farmers, farmer outreach, and student/staff education.
- Farm to ISU - ISU Dining’s initiative to increase its purchases of local (food from farms within 250 miles of Ames), sustainable (Food Alliance certified) and organic (USDA or IDALS certified) foods.
- Buy Fresh Buy Local Central Iowa - A directory of local producers and institutions that represent the local food system in central Iowa.
- Composting and Food Waste Reduction projects - There have been numerous projects with ISU Dining to decrease food waste.
- Education of Iowa State Community through conferences and workshops; VEISHEA booths and Farm to ISU informational booths at dining centers

Contact Information

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Keywords
Local food, buy fresh buy local, farm to college, farm to institution, alternative agriculture marketing

Audience
- Business/entrepreneurs
- Farmers
- Consumers
- Producers and processors
- Youth educators
- Students
- Fresh fruit and vegetable producers
Johnson County Local Food Alliance (O)

Mission or Goal
To foster a more local and more sustainable food economy in Johnson and surrounding counties

Type of Work | Topical Category | Geographic Location
---|---|---
• Education and promotion | • Environment and natural resources • Sustainability in the food system • Market development and access • Community food security • Food and health | Johnson and surrounding counties

Program Examples
• Buy Fresh Buy Local Directory
• Local Food Summit
• Field to Family

Contact Information

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Keywords
Consumer education, buy local campaign

Audience
• General community
• Community-based organizations
• Farmers
• Consumers
• Fresh fruit and vegetable producers
Leopold Center for Sustainable Agriculture (O, F)

Mission or Goal
To conduct research into the negative impacts of agricultural practices; to assist in developing alternative practices; and to work with ISU Extension to inform the public of Leopold Center findings.

Program Examples
Leopold Center Marketing and Food Systems Initiative has the following objectives:
1. Research and test new marketing strategies and business structures that allow Iowa's farmers and communities to retain more of the value for energy, food, or fiber produced;
2. Support education, conduct research, and facilitate partnerships to increase investment and support of local and regional food, fiber, and energy enterprises; and
3. Conduct research and education to address challenges that impede farmers and farmer networks from being equal partners in energy, food or fiber-based value chains.
• This initiative awards food systems grants on a yearly basis through the Leopold Center's competitive grants program. Iowa-based educational institutions and non-profit organizations are encouraged to apply to the Center's request for pre-proposals in early summer of each year.

Type of Work
• Research
• Outreach/Extension
• Business Development/Technical Assistance
• Grants

Topical Category
• Food and agricultural entrepreneurship
• Sustainability in the food system
• Food and health
• Food-based community and economic development
• Environment and natural resources
• Food crop production, distribution and aggregation
• Livestock production
• Farm to institution

Geographic Location
Statewide

Contact Information

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Keywords
Farmer profitability; food market research; food and health; food systems

Audience
• Diverse array of local food system stakeholders
Local Foods Connection (O)

Mission or Goal
To make available to the Iowa low-income community the opportunity to enjoy locally made healthy food, to become part of a local, environmentally aware community, and to learn how best to prepare fresh food for the most health benefits.

Program Examples
- LFC enrolls families, individuals and social service agencies (such as a domestic violence shelter) in community supported agriculture (CSA) programs. We pay full price for fresh produce, eggs, bread and meat produced by a variety of sustainable agriculture local farms to donate. Social service, religious and medical organizations refer clients to our program.
- LFC runs an educational program that offers our clients the opportunity to make meaningful changes in their health. Clients earn points for every education activity they complete. With these points they can purchase kitchenware and cookbooks from our small store.
- LFC and partners host an annual free CSA fair in Iowa City and produce a CSA guide.
- To increase the suburban community’s awareness of local farms and sustainable agriculture, LFC recruits anywhere from 50 to 300 volunteers a year to work on farms, an activity that earns the charity credit toward food purchases.
- Environmental science classes at the University of Iowa and Kirkwood Community College

Contact Information

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Keywords
- Community Supported Agriculture (CSA), volunteering on farms, charity

Audience
- Diverse array of local food system stakeholders
Luther College Sustainability Program (P)

Mission or Goal
As a residential college, Luther is a place of intersection. Founded where river, woodland, and prairie meet, Luther College practices joyful stewardship of the surrounding resources, and strives to be a community where students, faculty, and staff are enlivened and transformed by encounters with one another, by the exchange of ideas, and by the life of faith and learning.

Type of Work | Topical Category | Geographic Location
---|---|---
Outreach/Extension | Sustainability in the food system, Food and health, Energy efficiency, Environment and natural resources, Food crop production, Food distribution and aggregation, Food policy, Farm to school/ institution | Northeast Iowa

Program Examples
- Development of local food procurement guidelines
- Coordination of Luther College Gardens
- Planning, planting and maintaining of Luther’s edible landscape gardens on central campus
- Programming related to our diversity garden that highlights produce varieties from specific parts of the world
- Lecture on Luther’s local food purchasing, the gardens, and the importance of connecting with food
- Organizing educational opportunities connected to the gardens
- Outreach to local schools that are interested in starting school gardens
- Strategic thinking tied to building the capacity of our local food system
- Planning food-related educational opportunities for Luther students, staff, and faculty (book groups, cooking classes, farm tours)
- Coordinating student “farm audit” program where students visit all the farms that provide food to Luther

Contact Information

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Contact 1</th>
<th>Contact 2 (if applicable)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
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<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Keywords
- Gardens, edible landscape, local food procurement guidelines, purchasing guidelines, farm to school, local foods, college, sustainability

Audience
- Diverse array of local food system stakeholders
Lutheran Services in Iowa - Refugee Community Services (O)

Mission or Goal
Lutheran Services in Iowa responds to the love of Jesus Christ through acts of service to all. The goal of the Refugee Community Services program includes linking ethnic communities that have come to Des Moines with refugee status to available resources in the community and to help seniors and others in these communities gain access to land and grow food as they once did in their countries of birth.

Type of Work
- Outreach/Extension
- Business Development/Technical Assistance

Topical Category
- Food and agricultural entrepreneurship
- Community food security
- Food and health
- Food crop production

Geographic Location
Des Moines metropolitan area

Program Examples
Iowa Immigrant and Refugee Incubator Farm Program: This program helps to establish community gardens in areas where there are high concentrations of immigrants in Des Moines and allows for the research and development of an incubator farm program that would provide the training and assistance needed by immigrant and refugee growers who desire to be food entrepreneurs.

Contact Information

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Keywords
Community gardening, land access, community outreach

Audience
- Business/entrepreneurs
- Minorities
- Producers and processors
- Elderly
- Farm workers
Market Maker Iowa (P)

Mission or Goal
An interactive mapping system that locates businesses and markets of agricultural products in Iowa

Type of Work
- Outreach/Extension
- Business Development/Technical Assistance

Topical Category
- Market development and access
- Food and agricultural entrepreneurship
- Community food security
- Food-based community and economic development
- Food distribution and aggregation

Geographic Location
Statewide, multi-state affiliation

Program Examples
- Local and regional foods initiatives
- Food traceability and certification awareness
- Food Industry National Market Maker

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Keywords
Market research, market analysis, mapping, directory, demographics, procurement

Audience
- Business/entrepreneurs
- Community-based organizations
- Farmers
- Consumers
- Producers and processors
- Extension educators
- Fresh fruit and vegetable producers
- Food retailers and wholesalers
## Mission or Goal
Provide education and demonstration of entrepreneurial and sustainable agriculture

## Type of Work
- Outreach/Extension
- For-credit Education
- Consulting

## Topical Category
- Food and agricultural entrepreneurship
- Sustainability in the food system
- Food-based community and economic development
- Food distribution and aggregation
- Livestock production

## Geographic Location
We are a community college open to all. We primarily serve those in the state of Iowa.

## Program Examples
- Degree program in sustainable agriculture
- Entrepreneurship training
- Organic demonstration farm
- Student cooperative farm
- Research collaborations in sustainable agriculture

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## Keywords
- Community College, education, courses, sustainable agriculture, educational farm

## Audience
- Business/entrepreneurs
- General community
- Minorities
- Students
- Fresh fruit and vegetable producers
Martha-Ellen Tye Foundation (F)

Mission or Goal
To perpetuate the generosity and giving philosophy of Martha-Ellen Tye by providing support for and working with programs, projects, and organizations that are striving to make a better life for the people of Marshalltown, Iowa and San Antonio, Texas and their surrounding areas; particularly to address the educational, artistic, cultural, youth and human services needs of communities in these geographic areas, and prefers to support initiatives that enable recipient organizations to build their own capacities to produce significant, measurable, change

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of Work</th>
<th>Topical Category</th>
<th>Geographic Location</th>
</tr>
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</table>
| Grants       | • Children and families  
               • Food-based community and economic development | Marshall County |

Program Examples
• Midwest Center for Entrepreneurial Agriculture at Marshalltown Community College, Iowa Valley Community College District
• Challenge grant to Harvest from the Heartland local food system for a local marketing program

Contact Information

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Keywords
Grants, families, youth services, cultural services

Audience
• Business/entrepreneurs  
• Minorities  
• Producers and processors  
• Students  
• Fresh fruit and vegetable producers
Midwest Aronia Association (O)

Mission or Goal
Gather and provide information regarding the culture of aronia; improve the conditions of those engaged in growing aronia and encourage sustainable practices; improve the quality and marketability of aronia produced through the use of education and research; promote the aronia industry and other value-added uses of aronia; network and cooperate with related government agencies, educational institutions, development organizations and private industry to address these stated purposes; promote a healthy social and political environment conducive to aronia growing.

Type of Work
- Research
- Business Development/Technical Assistance
- Develop Grower Best Practices

Topical Category
- Market development and access
- Food and agricultural entrepreneurship
- Sustainability in the food system
- Food and health
- Food-based community and economic development
- Food crop production
- Food distribution and aggregation

Geographic Location
Primarily in the Midwestern states, with some members in Canada

Program Examples
- Midwest Aronia Conference featuring speakers addressing key topics related to the growing, marketing, and science related to aronia
- Report on aronia from Iowa State University about nutritional value, taste considerations, and antioxidant content of Iowa grown aronia berry food and beverage products

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Keywords
Aronia, fruit, education, sustainability, non-profit, marketing

Audience
- Diverse array of local food system stakeholders

Leopold Center for Sustainable Agriculture 64
The Missouri River Alliance for Community Based Food Systems

Mission or Goal
To facilitate the development and expansion of resilient community-based local food systems in southwest Iowa and the greater Omaha metropolitan area of Nebraska

Type of Work
- Research
- Outreach/Extension
- Business Development/Technical Assistance
- Grants

Topical Category
- Community food security
- Food-based community and economic development
- Sustainability in the food system
- Food distribution and aggregation
- Building urban-rural partnerships in local food system development

Geographic Location
- In Nebraska: Dodge, Saunders, Washington, Douglas and Sarpy Counties
- In Iowa: Harrison, Shelby, Pottawattamie, Cass, Mills, Montgomery, Fremont and Page Counties

Program Examples
- NCR-SARE listening sessions (first urban-rural listening sessions in 2010)
- Growing Power ROTC development
- Unified food-shed support
- Urban-rural partnerships
- Infrastructure replacement
- Community kitchen development
- Inter-state community listening sessions
- Food-hub development
- USDA Great Region designation
- Food-based Agriculture in STEM education curriculum modules

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Keywords
Urban - rural partnerships, interstate local food system development, unified food-shed development, urban and rural redevelopment, community sustainability, youth engagement, entrepreneurial technical assistance, community kitchens, CSAs, aggregation, distribution, food hub development

Audience
- Diverse array of local food system stakeholders
North Central Iowa Local Food Partnership (O)

Mission or Goal
Be a convener of diverse partners committed to a sustainable regional food system through capacity building and local food promotional and educational activities

Type of Work | Topical Category | Geographic Location
---|---|---
• Outreach/Extension | • Market development and access | North central Iowa
• Business Development/ Technical Assistance | • Food and agricultural entrepreneurship |
• Grants | • Food and health |
• Financial Assistance/ Loans | • Food-based community and economic development |
| • Food crop production |
| • Food distribution and aggregation |

Program Examples
• Buy Fresh Buy Local chapter/directory
• Insitutional Buyers Education
• Producer education selling to institutions
• Speed dating buyers and producers

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Keywords
Consumer education, marketing, market development, grower support, community, regional partnerships

Audience
• Diverse array of local food system stakeholders
North Central Region-Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (O, F)

Mission or Goal
North Central Region Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education strengthens rural communities, increases farmer/rancher profitability, and improves the environment by supporting research and education.

Type of Work
- Research
- Outreach/Extension
- Grants

Topical Category
- Market development and access
- Food and agricultural entrepreneurship
- Sustainability in the food system
- Environment and natural resources
- Food crop production
- Livestock production
- Agriculture technology

Geographic Location
- Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota and Wisconsin

Program Examples
Funds applied research and/or education projects and conduct outreach for educators, graduate students, farmers and ranchers, youth and youth educators, and researchers, and others to make agriculture in the North Central Region of the United States more sustainable.

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Keywords
USDA, sustainable agriculture research and/or education grants

Audience
- Diverse array of local food system stakeholders
Northeast Iowa Food & Farm Coalition

Mission or Goal
The Northeast Iowa Food & Farm Coalition has been formed to begin implementation of the strategic plan designed to build a stronger local food and farm economy in northeast Iowa. The coalition has identified the following goals:
1. Provide an opportunity for existing and new producers to diversify;
2. Explore the development of regional processing and storage facilities to add value to all agricultural products in the area; and
3. Increase sale and consumption of locally grown food on a local, regional and national level.

Type of Work
- Outreach/Extension
- Business Development/Technical Assistance

Topical Category
- Market development and access
- Food and agricultural entrepreneurship
- Sustainability in the food system
- Food and health
- Food-based community and economic development
- Food crop production
- Food distribution and aggregation
- Farm to school/institution

Geographic Location
Allamakee, Chickasaw, Clayton, Howard, Fayette, and Winneshiek Counties

Program Examples
- Northeast Iowa Food and Fitness Initiative Annual Conference: This community conference is being planned to assist citizens as they work to improve the policies, practices, and systems that determine how food arrives on our tables and how northeast Iowa communities can grow opportunities for physical activity for all.
- Farm-To-School: A two-year pilot program involving a northeast Iowa FFI Regional School Planning work group’s efforts to grow a Farm-to-School program incorporating healthy local foods into school food programs while teaching people about nutrition and the local food system.
- Annual Buy Fresh Buy Local Campaign: http://www.iowafreshfood.com
- NIFF Education Committee: plans and partners with local organizations and food producers to provide and promote a variety of seasonal workshops for the region.

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Keywords
Local food, northeast Iowa, business development, processing and storage facilities, sales marketing, regional food systems working group, Buy Fresh Buy Local

Audience
- Farmers
- Local elected or appointed government officials
- Cooperative managers and directors
- Economic development officials
- Producers and processors
- Youth
- Fresh fruit and vegetable producers
- Farm workers
Northern Iowa Food & Farm Partnership

Mission or Goal
To support the development of a local and regional food economy that positively impacts local farmers, consumers and businesses through education, collaboration, and economic development

Type of Work | Topical Category | Geographic Location
---|---|---
Outreach/Extension, Business Development/Technical Assistance | Market development and access, Food and agricultural entrepreneurship, Sustainability in the food system, Food-based community and economic development, Food distribution and aggregation, Farm to school/institution | Benton, Black Hawk, Bremer, Buchanan, Butler, Grundy, and Tama counties

Program Examples
- Buy Fresh Buy Local, UNI Chapter
- Buy Fresh Buy Local Iowa
- Aggregation/Food Distribution
- Farm to Institution
- Farm to School
- Local Food and Local Government
- Outreach/Education
- Marketing
- Economic Development
- Promotional Events
- Food Crops
- Urban Agriculture

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Keywords
Marketing assistance, farm to institution, farm to school, Buy Fresh Buy Local, regional food systems working group

Audience
- Business/entrepreneurs
- Farmers
- Local elected or appointed government officials
- Planners/economic and community development staff
- Minorities
- Women
- Consumers
- Fresh fruit and vegetable producers
Next Generation and Savings Incentive Program (P)

Mission or Goal
Help the many families who are bringing back sons and daughters to the farm make as smooth a transition as possible; provide introductory programming that will help beginning farmers commit to an enterprise and then work to make that commitment a reality; link experienced farmers with newcomers through a mentoring program that offers on-the-farm experience; offer targeted trainings, workshops, webinars, and field days on topics identified by beginning farmers, especially production and marketing topics; provide opportunities for beginners to network with each other through field days and conferences and retreats. Provide $1:$1 savings matches (up to $2,400) to those who apply for and complete a 2-year personal savings commitment, write a business plan, meet with a mentor, and participate in PFI events.

Program Examples
- Programs include networking, workshops, field days, cooperators' program, Farminar Online Learning and savings incentive programs

It is all about the network. Beginners want to talk with others like them, to break the isolation they report to us, and connect with farming colleagues. Over 350 of Iowa’s beginning farmers are in our network. Hundreds more are out-of-state who participate in our online Farminar online seminars. We have a great diversity of farmers, by many metrics - enterprise, markets, geography, farm size, skills, experiences, ideas, and we have the open community that freely shares for the mutual benefit of all. About half of our beginners are women.

Contact Information

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Contact 1</th>
<th>Contact 2 (if applicable)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
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<tr>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Keywords
- New farmers, beginning farmers, farm apprenticeships, farm mentorship, transitioning the family farm

Audience
- Business/entrepreneurs
- Farmers
- Women
- Fresh fruit and vegetable producers

Type of Work | Topical Category | Geographic Location
---|---|---
- Business Development/Technical Assistance | - Market development and access | Statewide
- | - Food and agricultural entrepreneurship | |
- | - Food-based community and economic development | |
- | - Food crop production | |
- | - Livestock production | |
One Backyard (C)

Mission or Goal
Writing and consulting in sustainable food and agriculture, including marketing, branding, distribution and communication. Freelance writing and research on food, agriculture, and environment.

Type of Work | Topical Category | Geographic Location
--- | --- | ---
• Research | • Market development and access | Eastern and central Iowa, some in Wisconsin; plus the Northeast U.S.
• Outreach/Extension | • Sustainability in the food system
• Writing, marketing, communication | • Environment and natural resources
 | • Food distribution and aggregation

Program Examples
Red Tomato, a non-profit organization based in Canton, Massachusetts:
• Development and marketing of Eco Apple program—marketing and production of advanced IPM fruits for a network of farms, and promotion to supermarkets and consumers
• Marketing of regional fruits and vegetables to wholesale supermarkets in Northeast U.S.
• Farm Labor and Domestic Fair Trade standards for small and mid-size fruit and vegetable producers
• Grantwriting

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**Contact 2 (if applicable)**

Keywords
Fruit and vegetable marketing, heirloom fruits and vegetables, apples, ecological production, advanced IPM (Integrated Pest Management), farm labor practices and standards, distribution

Audience
• General community
• Consumers
• Fresh fruit and vegetable producers
• Farm workers
Pork Niche Market Working Group (P)

Mission or Goal
To foster the success of niche pork value chains that are profitable to all participants, that incorporate farmer ownership and control, and that contribute to environmental stewardship and rural vitality. The group is part of the Iowa-based network of food and agricultural working groups called Value Chain Partnerships.

Type of Work
- Research
- Outreach/Extension
- Business Development/Technical Assistance

Topical Category
- Market development and access
- Food and agricultural entrepreneurship
- Food distribution and aggregation
- Livestock production

Geographic Location
Midwest United States

Program Examples
- Niche pork virtual farm tours
- Niche pork cost of production research
- An evaluation of the importance to consumers of selected niche pork attributes
- Maximizing carcass utilization in niche pork companies
- LTL Trucking Terms and Process Guide
- Niche Pork Production Handbook
- Niche Pork Herd Health Guide
- Berkshire Swine Production and Marketing Report

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Keywords
Niche pork production, processing, and marketing

Audience
- Business/entrepreneurs
- Farmers
- Producers and processors
- Extension educators
- Agriculture service providers
Pottawattamie County Local Food Council

**Mission or Goal**
To facilitate and stimulate connections between growers and consumers and to provide fresh, nutritious, safe, local food while enhancing community health and economic vitality

**Type of Work**
- Outreach/Extension

**Topical Category**
- Community food security
- Food and health
- Food-based community and economic development
- Food policy
- Increasing local food production

**Geographic Location**
Pottawattamie County
Omaha/Council Bluffs metro area in southwest Iowa

**Program Examples**
- Recruiting more local food producers into Pottawattamie County
  (Relatively new organization which is still developing)

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**Keywords**
Increase local food production, local food policy, community food systems

**Audience**
- Diverse array of local food system stakeholders
Practical Farmers of Iowa

Mission or Goal
To research, develop and promote profitable, ecologically sound and community-enhancing approaches to agriculture

Type of Work
- Research, Farmer-led Research and Demonstration
- Outreach/Extension
- Business Development/Technical Assistance

Topical Category
- Market development and access
- Food and agricultural entrepreneurship
- Energy efficiency
- Environment and natural resources
- Food crop production
- Livestock production

Geographic Location
Statewide

Program Examples
- Next Generation Program (for transitioning farm families and beginning farmers) includes networking, production marketing information and mentoring
- Pork Niche Market Working Group
- Horticulture clusters and production programming
- Field Days
- On-Farm Research and Demonstration
- Savings Incentive Program

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Keywords
Sustainable agriculture, farmer networking, mentorship

Audience
- Business/entrepreneur
- General community
- Farmers
- Rural landowners
- Fresh fruit and vegetable producers
Mission or Goal
Find market-based solutions for sustainable growth; assist sustainable businesses to grow profitably

Type of Work
- Research
- Business Development/Technical Assistance

Topical Category
- Market development and access
- Food and agricultural entrepreneurship
- Sustainability in the food system
- Food-based community and economic development
- Food distribution and aggregation

Geographic Location
Statewide and national

Program Examples
- Development of business strategy and growth plans for distribution and retail-oriented food businesses
- Development of policies and procedures for boards of directors overseeing corporate sustainability efforts
- Development of training and curriculum in sustainability for businesses and MBA students
- Development of business expansion plan and financing plans for a non-profit corporations and cooperatives
- Informational articles based on syndicated data for the grocery trade

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Contact 2 (if applicable)

Keywords
Consumer insights, market development, distribution, business plans, business strategy, sustainability training and education

Audience
- Business/entrepreneurs
- Community-based organizations
- Women
- Cooperative managers and directors
- Consumers
- Producers and processors
- Fresh fruit and vegetable producers
Prairiewoods Franciscan Spirituality Center

**Mission or Goal**
Prairiewoods Franciscan Spirituality Center is a sacred space where people of all faiths and cultures are invited to explore and nurture their relationship with the Source of all being, Earth, Self and Others within an expanding understanding of the Universe Story. Prairiewoods is an ecospirituality retreat and conference center with a Franciscan tradition.

**Program Examples**
- CSA and local foods fair
- I-RENEW Renewable Energy Workshop and Training Facility
- Native habitat restoration
- ‘Green Series’ programs and classes
- Green Living Group
- Ecospirituality

**Type of Work**
- Outreach/Extension

**Topical Category**
- Sustainability in the food system
- Energy efficiency
- Environment and natural resources

**Geographic Location**
Linn County, Eastern Iowa, Midwest

**Contact Information**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Contact 1</th>
<th>Contact 2 (if applicable)</th>
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**Keywords**
- Sustainability classes, permaculture gardening, renewable resources classes and instruction, consumer education, green classes, eco-friendly, sustainable land management, native habitat restoration, CSA (Community Supported Agriculture), ecospirituality

**Audience**
- General community
- Community-based organizations
- Women
- Consumers
Quad Cities Food Hub

Mission or Goal
To support healthy lifestyles by promoting local food production, connecting producers and consumers, and cultivating education and training programs. In addition, the vision is to create a sustainable local food system fostered through community partnership.

Type of Work
- Outreach/Extension
- Business Development/Technical Assistance

Topical Category
- Market development and access
- Food and agricultural entrepreneurship
- Sustainability in the food system
- Food and health
- Children and families
- Food-based community and economic development
- Farm to school
- Farm to institution

Geographic Location
Quad Cities- Scott County, Iowa and Rock Island County, Illinois-
Eastern Iowa and Western Illinois

Program Examples
The Quad Cities Food Hub is a community-based initiative designed to strengthen our local food system by expanding opportunities in both delivery and demand of nutritious, local food. Our plan is to build on the solid foundation established by the Freight House Farmer’s Market. The strategic plan calls for:
- A daily market inside the Freight House
- Creation of a certified community kitchen
- Introducing of a wholesale market to link community institutions
- Creation of community gardens in neighborhoods throughout the Quad Cities

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Contact 2 (if applicable)

Keywords
Local food, consumer education, market access, food distribution and aggregation, food hub, shared kitchen

Audience
- Diverse array of local food system stakeholders
Regional Food Systems Working Group (RFSWG) (P)

Mission or Goal
RFSWG conducts research, supports education, and facilitates partnerships to increase investment and support of community-based, economically sustainable, and environmentally and socially responsible regional food enterprises. The group is part of the Iowa-based network of food and agricultural working groups called Value Chain Partnerships.

Type of Work
- Outreach/Extension
- Networking
- Learning Community

Topical Category
- Market development and access
- Sustainability in the food system
- Food-based community and economic development
- Farm to school

Geographic Location
Statewide

Project Examples
The Regional Food Systems Working Group supports the following local food groups:
- Flavors of Northwest Iowa
- Iowa Great Lakes Local Foods Network
- Northeast Iowa Food and Farm Coalition
- Northern Iowa Food and Farm Partnership
- Southwest Iowa Food & Farm Initiative
- Southern Iowa Regional Food Systems
- Healthy Urban Food and Farming Group
- Quad City Food Hub
- South-Central Iowa Area Partnership
- Harvest From the Heart
- Hometown Harvest of Southeast Iowa
- Dubuque Eats Well
- Iowa Corridor Food and Agriculture Coalition
- North Central Iowa Local Food Partnership
- Great River Food Alliance of Southeast Iowa Inc.
- Green County Local Foods Working Group

Contact Information

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Keywords
Local foods, regional foods, community of practice, learning community, networks

Audience
- Diverse array of local food system stakeholders
Sac and Fox Tribe of the Mississippi in Iowa (Meskwaki Nation); Meskwaki Inc. (O)

Mission or Goal
The economic development and business goals, combined, include the mobilization of community assets to diversify employment, entrepreneurship, and financial empowerment of the Meskwaki Nation; and to develop and operate successful tribally-owned business enterprises; to generate income; and to achieve total self-sufficiency.

Type of Work  Topical Category  Geographic Location
- Research  - Market development and access  Meskwaki Indian Settlement in
- Business Development/   - Food and agricultural   Tama County
   Technical Assistance   entrepreneurship   
- Financial Assistance/ Loans  - Sustainability in the food system

Program Examples
- Tribally-owned business corporation
- Strategic energy planning for community energy development; wind feasibility study
- Broadband development in partnership with ICN
- Meskwaki Museum and Cultural Center development
- Community development with an eye towards sustainability
- Partnerships

Contact Information

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Keywords
Federally-recognized Indian tribe, economic & business diversification, energy development, technology, and community development

Audience
- Business/entrepreneurs
- General community
- Local elected or appointed government officials
- Planners/economic and community development staff
- State agency partners
- Economic development officials
- Consumers
- Policy makers
- Public health/environmental advocates
Seed Savers Exchange (O)

Mission or Goal
Non-profit, member-supported organization that saves and shares the heirloom seeds of our garden heritage, forming a living legacy that can be passed down through generations

Type of Work | Topical Category | Geographic Location
--- | --- | ---
• Storage and recording of various plant varieties | • Seed diversity preservation | Based in Decorah, Iowa, Seeds from across the nation

Program Examples
• Lillian Goldman Visitors Center
• Heritage farm
• Preservation gardens
• Historic orchard
• Ancient White Park Cattle

Contact Information

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Contact 2 (if applicable)

Keywords
Heirloom seeds, seed preservation, heritage farm, seed exchange, seed bank, endangered vegetables

Audience
• General community
• Farmers
• Consumers
• Fresh fruit and vegetable producers
Slow Food Iowa City (O)

Mission or Goal
To create dramatic and lasting change in the food system by reconnecting Americans with the people, traditions, plants, animals, fertile soils and waters that produce their food, inspire a transformation in food policy, production practices and market forces so that they ensure equity, sustainability and pleasure in the food people eat.

Type of Work
- Outreach/Extension
- Consumer Education

Topical Category
- Sustainability in the food system
- Food-based community and economic development
- Environment and natural resources
- Food policy

Geographic Location
Eastern Iowa

Program Examples
- Food Democracy Now
- Back to Lunch campaign (food in schools)
- U.S. Ark of Taste (safeguarding biodiversity in our food supply)
- Renewing America's Food Traditions (RAFT) (preservation of heritage breeds and plants)
- Slow Food on Campus
- U.S. Youth Food Movement

Contact Information

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Contact 2 (if applicable)
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Keywords
Good, clean and fair food (social, economic, and environmental impact of food production and consumption); sustainable food production; consumer education; volunteer-based; school lunch program; heritage breeds (Ark of Taste, RAFT)

Audience
- General community
- Community-based organizations
- Farmers
- Consumers
- Youth
Carol Richardson Smith,  
Process Design and Training (C)

**Mission or Goal**  
Process design and training for food and food systems, families, communities, and health

**Type of Work**  
- Outreach/Extension  
- Business Development/Technical Assistance  
- Processes for Business/Community Assessment and Planning

**Topical Category**  
- Food and agricultural entrepreneurship  
- Food and health  
- Children and families  
- Food-based community and economic development

**Geographic Location**  
Statewide and Midwest

**Program Examples**  
- Iowa Department of Public Health: community mapping and planning for healthy local food and physical activity in nine Iowa communities  
- USDA State Outreach Council in Iowa “Women, Land, and Legacy” project, designer and leadership team member for listening/research/local programming development for women landowners in Iowa  
- Iowa Network for Community Agriculture, designer and development of “Growing Food and Profit” communities of practice for farmers  
- Community Vitality Center at ISU: Member of board and development of Iowa Microloan entity

**Contact Information**

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Carol R. Smith  
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rjcrsmrit@netins.net

**Contact 2 (if applicable)**

**Keywords**  
Process design, participatory process, community development, rural development, food preparation, food preservation and storage, food and health, food decision making

**Audience**  
- Diverse array of local food system stakeholders
South Central Iowa Area Partnerships (O)

Mission or Goal
This is a regional economic development group working on agribusiness development, economic development and marketing within the region.

Type of Work
- Research
- Outreach/Extension
- Business Development/Technical Assistance

Topical Category
- Market development and access
- Food and agricultural entrepreneurship
- Food-based community and economic development
- Food distribution and aggregation
- Livestock production

Geographic Location
South central Iowa

Program Examples
- Contact local producers and consumers, inventory needs
- Network growers to improve market efficiency
- Study feasibility of aggregation and distribution systems for the region
- Study feasibility of community kitchen incubator projects
- Showcase local foods

Contact Information

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<tr>
<th>Contact 1</th>
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Keywords
Agribusiness development, regional food systems working group, local foods, regional foods

Audience
- Diverse array of local food system stakeholders
Southwest Iowa Food and Farm Initiative (SWIFFI) (O)

Mission or Goal
The Southwest Iowa Food and Farm Initiative is a multi-county coalition of individuals and organizations working to build a regional food system in Southwest Iowa. The vision is to build a sustainable regional food system linking production, distribution, and consumption for better health, food security, and community and economic development.

Type of Work
- Outreach/Extension
- Business Development/Technical Assistance
- Grants

Topical Category
- Market development and access
- Sustainability in the food system
- Community food security
- Food and health
- Food-based community and economic development
- Farm to school/institution
- Food crop production
- Regional food system leadership group

Geographic Location
Harrison, Shelby, Pottawattamie, Cass, Mills, Montgomery, Fremont, and Page Counties

Program Examples
- Pottawattamie County Local Food Council, Iowa Food System Council and farm-based business technical assistance
- Cass County Local Food Council
- Local Food Coordinator
- Year-round growing and season-extending technology transfer and high tunnel demonstration projects
- Mentors for new and beginning farmers
- Community gardens
- “Land Bank” development with Western Iowa Development to link landless to available land
- Interstate partnerships to serve a unified foodshed that includes greater Omaha metropolitan area

Contact Information

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<tr>
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Keywords
Outreach, food system mapping, policy guidance, support for developing county-based food councils in southwest Iowa, regional food systems working group, regional local food producers association, farm-based entrepreneur resources

Audience
- Diverse array of local food system stakeholders
Mission or Goal
To equitably serve all farmers, ranchers, and agricultural partners through the delivery of effective, efficient agricultural programs for all Americans

Type of Work
- Financial Assistance/ Loans
- Federal Farm Programs

Topical Category
- Food and agricultural entrepreneurship
- Sustainability in the food system
- Environment and natural resources
- Food crop production
- Livestock production

Geographic Location
All programs are available nationwide.

Program Examples
- Farm ownership and operating loans, including those for beginning farmers and socially disadvantaged persons
- Direct and Counter Cyclical Program; ACRE
- Disaster programs
- Non-Insurable Crop Disaster Assistance Program
- Conservation programs
- Price support programs
- Livestock programs

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Keywords
Farm Programs, Farm Loans

Audience
- Diverse array of local food system stakeholders
USDA Rural Development (O, F)

Mission or Goal
To increase economic opportunity and improve the quality of life for all rural Americans

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<tr>
<th>Type of Work</th>
<th>Topical Category</th>
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<td>• Business Development/Technical Assistance</td>
<td>• Market development and access</td>
<td>All programs available nationwide</td>
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<td>• Grants</td>
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<td>• Energy efficiency</td>
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<td>• Food-based community and economic development</td>
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<td>• Food distribution and aggregation</td>
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Program Examples
• Value Added Producer Grants
• Business and Industry Guaranteed Loan Program

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Keywords
Financial assistance, business assistance

Audience
• Business/entrepreneurs
• General community
• Planners/economic and community development staff
• Economic development officials
• Producers and processors
• Fresh fruit and vegetable producers
• Agriculture service providers
Value Chain Partnerships (P, F)

**Mission or Goal**
Value Chain Partnerships is an Iowa-based network for food and agriculture working groups. It works to deliver social, environmental, and economic benefits to clients and communities. The network does this by leveraging funding and expertise to identify food and agriculture system challenges, foster learning and innovation, and implement solutions.

**Type of Work**
- Research
- Grant
- Outreach/Extension
- Business Development/Technical Assistance

**Topical Category**
- Market development and access
- Food and health
- Food-based community and economic development
- Food crop production
- Livestock production

**Geographic Location**
Statewide

**Program Examples**
- Pork Niche Market Working Group
- Regional Food Systems Working Group
- Farm Energy Working Group
- Grass-Based Livestock Working Group
- Food Access and Health Working Group
- Fruit and Vegetable Working Group

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**Keywords**
Working groups, communities of practice, value chains, food systems, networks

**Audience**
- Diverse array of local food system stakeholders
Whiterock Conservancy

Mission or Goal
Whiterock Conservancy fosters a resilient and self-renewing Iowa landscape by integrating economic, social and ecological land management strategies and engaging the public through outdoor recreation and education.

Type of Work
- Research
- Outreach/Extension

Topical Category
- Environment and natural resources
- Sustainability in the food system
- Farmland preservation

Geographic Location
Primarily operating in the Middle Raccoon River watershed in west central Iowa. Guthrie, Greene, Carroll, and Audubon counties

Program Examples
- Rotational grazing transition project
- Prairie restoration using grazing and row crops in the process
- Sustainable trail system
- Cover crops on row crops
- Oak savanna restoration using mechanical removal and fire
- Extensive prescribed burn program

Contact Information

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www.whiterockconservancy.org

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Keywords
Land trust, prairie restoration, oak savanna, rotational grazing, rural land management, conservation, outdoor recreation, multipurpose land use, ecotourism, trails

Audience
- General community
- Farmers
- Rural landowners
- Public health/environmental advocates
- Scientific community
Mission or Goal
Our mission is to link and empower women to build food systems and communities that are healthy, sustainable, and that promote environmental integrity.

Type of Work | Topical Category | Geographic Location
--- | --- | ---
Outreach/Extension | Community food security, Supporting women in sustainable agriculture, Food-based community and economic development, Food policy, Food and agricultural entrepreneurship | Network is national, programming is generally conducted in Iowa. Focus is statewide.

Program Examples
- Informing women farmland owners about conservation practices and programs available to them for their farmland
- Providing networking opportunities for women in farming and food systems development

Contact Information

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<th>Contact 1</th>
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Keywords
Woman farmer, women in agriculture, woman landowner

Audience
- Farmers
- Minorities
- Women
- Rural landowners
- Fresh fruit and vegetable producers