



Purpose

The Community Food Systems team supports and enhances Cooperative Extension's research mission and capacity to work with community food systems in an integrated, systemic, and coordinated manner, spanning across all program areas within Extension as well as with external stakeholders.

Vision

A sustainable community food system provides a healthy, culturally appropriate, and nutritionally adequate diet throughout the lifespan while maintaining resilient ecosystems that supply food for generations to come with minimal negative impact to the environment. A community food system addresses all parts of the food system continuum including: production, processing, distribution, sales, purchasing, preparation, consumption, and waste management.

Values

We work to build and support a food system that is . . .

Just

Ensures nutritious food is available, accessible, and affordable to all community members

Is humane and just, protecting farmers and workers, consumers, and communities

Sustainable

Accommodates all scales of food production

Protects and maintains a healthy and bio-diverse ecosystem throughout the entire food system

Develops food and agriculture-related businesses that create jobs or contribute to the community's economic development and social cohesion

Supports family farms and farmland preservation

Place-based

Supports production, processing and distribution infrastructures that create direct and beneficial links between farmers and consumers building financial capital within the community

Recognizes and builds upon the culture, traditions, and natural resources of the community