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Charting Georgia's Food Future: *Will you be at the table?*



A Report of the Georgia Food Policy Council & Stakeholders on
Georgia's Food System and Food Policy Priorities

September 2012

Executive Summary

The **Georgia Food Policy Council (GFPC)** was formed in June 2010 to establish an equitable and sustainable food system in the state of Georgia. It is the vision of the Council to identify and propose innovative solutions to improve the state's food system, spur local economic development and make food distribution more environmentally sustainable and socially just. An equitable food system in Georgia would be "one that benefits impoverished people and groups that are disadvantaged or discriminated against, and is vital in facilitating the reduction of poverty, through increasing food security as well as through providing broader economic development opportunities."ⁱ (p. 1040)

Two critical issues impacting Georgians are food insecurity and obesity. Food insecurity is the "limited or uncertain availability of nutritionally adequate and safe foods."ⁱⁱ A recent report noted Georgia's 9,815,210 residents experience one of the highest food insecurity rates in the United States with 16.9% of Georgia households impacted.^{iii, iv} Studies have shown that lower-income areas in Georgia have poorer access to fresh food and grocery stores than higher-income areas of the state.^{v, vi} Despite more than 47,000 farms and 10 million acres of farmland in the state, we are struggling to eradicate hunger in Georgia.^{vii, viii} Occurring simultaneous with food insecurity, data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention confirm that Georgian adults and youth are experiencing very high rates of obesity. In 2007, 29% of adult Georgians were obese with county-level prevalence data ranging from 23% to 35%.^{ix} The 2011 Georgia Health Student Survey reported 31% of high school students as overweight or obese.^x Estimates suggest direct medical costs associated with obesity in Georgia are \$2.5 billion (or \$385 per person per year).^{xi}

Working in concert with regional and local food councils and organizations throughout Georgia, the GFPC will make recommendations for strategies to increase food access, improve the quality of available food, and examine policies that will positively impact the nutrition status of all Georgians.

This work can be accomplished by bringing together multiple sectors that may not typically work together to consider food system barriers, impactful food policies, and the economic "boost" food production, distribution and education programs brings to local communities.



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Introduction

In June 2010, a group of interested organizations and individuals convened in Atlanta, Georgia to discuss creation of a Georgia Food Policy Council (GFPC).

According to *Food Policy Councils: Lessons Learned* (page 2)^{xii}, the four main functions of a food policy council are:



- To serve as a forum for discussing food issues,
- To foster coordination among sectors in the food system,
- To evaluate and influence policy, and
- To launch or support programs and services that address local needs.

Many food policy councils have an executive committee with working groups that examine actions across the five sectors of the food system: production, processing, distribution, consumption and waste/recycling.

The GFPC was established to:

- serve as a forum for discussing food and nutrition issues throughout the state,
- inform, influence, develop and/or evaluate food policy,
- facilitate coordination among sectors in the food system, and
- provide support for programs and services that address local, regional or state level food needs.

The 2010 council created a voluntary Executive Committee, and think tanks (work groups) were established to work on specific issues of raised by the members.

These work groups encompassed the five sectors as well as priority areas of interest to the council membership. The work groups were:

- Sustainable Agriculture
- Recycling, Waste & Food Safety
- Farm to Table
- Retail/Supermarkets/Farmers Markets
- Education/Marketing

Initial challenges and issues for the GFPC were identified in facilitated discussions. Top challenges included the food distribution system, consumer



education related to food, nutrition knowledge and achieving healthy lifestyles; farmers markets (quantity and access); market supply and demand for fresh foods; few processing facilities for fresh foods; school nutrition; small farm establishments, sustainability and income; and lack of integrated approaches among food system stakeholders across the state. Key issues that the GFPC needed to address in its scope of work included:

- Identifying and conducting food policy inventories and assessments in Georgia;
- Education: nutrition knowledge; food preparation and nutrition education; value of local foods and support of local processing;
- Economics – ranging from producers to consumers;
- Healthy lifestyles – across different systems (schools, healthcare, worksites, etc.);
- Needs of special populations;
- Hunger and obesity paradox in rural communities;
- Access issues – distribution channels, currently export our local foods to other states and import foods for local consumption;
- Administration issues of a food policy council; and
- Challenge of reaching the decision-makers.

GFPC Mission & Vision

In January 2012, the Georgia Department of Public Health contracted with the Georgia Health Policy Center in the Andrew Young School of Policy Studies at Georgia State University to:

- Reconvene the GFPC (originally established in June 2010) and establish a meeting schedule;
- Establish a GFPC website and marketing materials;
- Engage new members with an emphasis on reaching out to non-Atlanta-based members;
- Create a statewide food system plan and explore governance and structure options, and;
- Host one statewide and three regional meetings.



The Georgia Health Policy Center convened the original members of the Council. The following mission and vision were agreed upon:

The *mission* of the Georgia Food Policy Council is to create an economically, socially, and environmentally sustainable food system for persons living in Georgia.

The *vision* of the GFPC is to identify and propose innovative solutions to improve our food system, spur economic development and make Georgia's food system more environmentally sustainable and socially just.

During the council and one-on-one member meetings, the following concerns for the Georgia Food Policy Council were identified:

- Support safe, healthy, efficient and profitable food production and retail food infrastructure;
- Strengthen the connection between Georgia's food products and consumers;
- Maximize participation in, and support for, food and nutrition assistance programs; and
- Foster a culture of healthy and local eating for all Georgia residents.

Coordination and collaboration across food system sectors, particularly at the local and regional level, will ensure the most efficient use of limited resources to gain access to healthy food for all Georgians.

The *Framework for Action* is a detailed declaration to help state and community leaders and agencies involved in food and nutrition issues, along with their stakeholders, to understand the commitment of the Georgia Food Policy Council to improving Georgia's food system and positively impacting the health of Georgians.



Framework for Action

The Georgia Food Policy Council supports a food system in the State of Georgia that:

1. Ensures Georgians have a safe and stable food supply; free of interruption by natural or human events;
2. Enhances the access, availability, affordability and quality of food for all people;
3. Maintains a safety net to ensure food security from hunger for its most vulnerable people;
4. Contributes positively to the nutritional, economic and social well-being of Georgians and its rural communities;
5. Is economically and environmentally sustainable;
6. Recognizes that Georgia is a unique place with a diverse land, climate, and coastal area conducive to the production of a wide array of food products;
7. Promotes a fair return to all participants, provides entrepreneurial freedom and allows access to opportunity to participate in the food supply system;
8. Increases food self-reliance through increasing production of food in Georgia and increasing the consumption of Georgia produced fish and farm products;
9. Is recognized as a vital sector of the Georgia economy; enhances rural economic development and contributes positively to Georgia's rural quality of life;
10. Is supported with assurance of an adequate supply of farmland, an adequate supply of clean water, and access to working waterfronts to sustain Georgia's food and fisheries industries and provide for their future growth;
11. Is accompanied by public and consumer information on the health values of a proper diet, healthy lifestyle and access to Georgia-produced agricultural and fish products; and
12. Is supported by stable and consistent state policies and programs.



Assessment of Georgia's Food System

Food is essential for good health. In Georgia, there are two critical nutrition-related health issues: food insecurity and obesity. A recent report noted Georgia's 9,815,210 residents experience one of the highest food insecurity rates in the United States with 16.9% of Georgia households impacted.^{xiii, xiv} Studies have shown that lower-income areas in Georgia have poorer access to fresh food and grocery stores than higher-income areas of the state.^{xv, xvi} Despite more than 47,000 farms and 10 million acres of farmland in the state, we are struggling to eradicate hunger in Georgia.^{xvii, xviii}

Occurring simultaneously with food insecurity, data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention confirm that Georgian adults and youth are experiencing very high rates of obesity. In 2007, 29% of adult Georgians were obese with county-level prevalence data ranging from 23% to 35%.^{xix} The 2011 Georgia Health Student Survey reported 31% of high school students as overweight or obese.^{xx} Estimates suggest direct medical costs associated with obesity in Georgia are \$2.5 billion (or \$385 per person per year).^{xxi}

Figure 1 presents a graphic of a healthy food system. As noted, there are many Georgians that lack access to a variety of healthy food with the east and southwest regions of the state most deprived. Products produced in Georgia are often not distributed in the regions in which they are grown and healthy food options may be limited in certain urban and rural settings.

A comprehensive assessment of Georgia's food system was not possible due to time constraints. However, we have documented various components of the state's food system to better understand which parts need strengthening and where food access and resource management is a concern.

Appendix A contains a series of Georgia maps highlighting the following food system components and characteristics:

- Map 1. Georgia Farm Products: Intensity by Region
- Map 2. Food Insecurity and Farmers Markets
- Map 3. Food Manufacturing, Composting and Recycling Facilities
- Map 4. Farms and Known Farm to School Locations

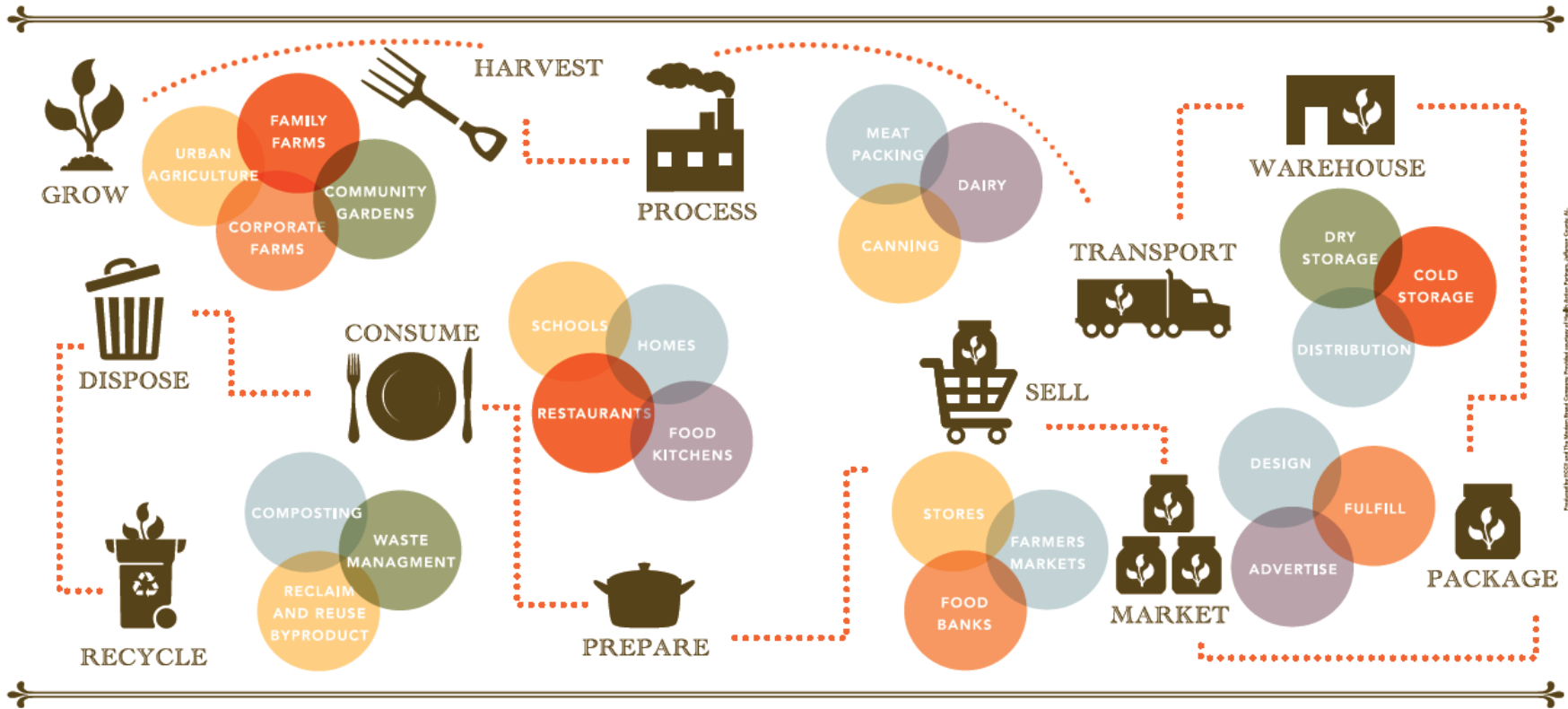
A future goal of the GFPC is conduct a more comprehensive food system assessment that documents regional concerns and strengths.



Figure 1: A Healthy Food System

A Healthy Food System

DEFINED



Powered by USDA and The National Food Company, provided courtesy of the National Farmers Union, Inc.

A FOOD SYSTEM IS THE LIFE CYCLE OF GROWING, PROCESSING, TRANSPORTING, SELLING, CONSUMING AND DISPOSING OF FOOD.

An effective and healthy food system makes the healthy choice the easy choice by providing sufficient quantities of safe and nutritious food to maintain a healthy diet. The healthiest system is one where food is produced, processed, transported, and marketed in ways that are respectful of our environment and the communities where they exist.

Source: Jefferson County Health Action Partnership. Our Food System at Work: Living, Learning and Eating in Jefferson County, Alabama.

Charting Georgia's Food Future: Will you be at the table? provides an overview of the Georgia Food Policy Council, recommends policies that may be considered at the state and regional levels, and highlights best practices that are being implemented in various regions. It is the council's hope that this information can lead to a prioritization of food-related actions and policies that will ensure Georgians have access to healthy, affordable and, where possible, regional or state-grown food.

GFPC Structure and Work Groups

The reconvened council explored the organization's structure in the first quarter of 2012. Members confirmed that there were certain activities that were overarching all of the activities of the council:

- marketing,
- education, and
- communication.

The council opted to collapse into three work groups which will be called "Think Tanks." The new Think Tanks are:

- Production and distribution;
- Processing, food waste, recycling, and composting; and
- Consumption and nutrition education.

The structure of the council including a leadership structure and criteria for selection of leaders was explored at the June 20, 2012 statewide food policy meeting and in GFPC general meetings.



Priority Areas

To create this plan and identify priority areas for action, the Georgia Health Policy Center examined more than 15 food policy council reports, conducted over 35 informational interviews, and hosted four regional events and one statewide meeting. During the meetings, priority strategies were developed through a group ranking process using an agreed upon set of criteria. Statewide meeting summary is presented in **Appendix B**.

The criteria used for selection of priority areas were as follows:

- Will the food strategy or policy have an impact at the local, regional or state level?
- Is the strategy specific and measurable?
- Does the strategy have a clear leader and a likely person, organization or group that can work on it?
- Is the strategy achievable and practical within a three-year timeframe?
- Is the strategy clear of conflict or opposition?

Priorities were identified with Georgia's food system stakeholders via informational interviews and a series of meetings around the state. For each of the think tank arenas, the council and stakeholders applied the above criteria and identified a list of strategies and policies for consideration. Participants were given the opportunity to provide input in various ways:

- 1) written feedback,
- 2) individual feedback;
- 3) participation in small group discussions; and
- 4) facilitated large group discussions.



Regional meetings and their co-organizers are detailed below. A summary of the regional priorities is presented in **Appendix C**.

Northeast Georgia

June 8, 2012

Partners: University of Georgia, various Departments & Centers

West Georgia

June 11, 2012

Partners: Tanner Health System, Crager-Hager Farms

Northwest Georgia

June 14, 2012

Partners: Northwest Georgia Healthcare Partnership, North GA WIC Program

Central Georgia

June 19, 2012

Partners: Live Healthy Baldwin, Community Health Works

It is expected that for each priority presented on the following pages, a plan of strategic action would be created in the future.

Global Growers Network:

Creating New Agricultural Models & Opportunities in Georgia

Using a whole-systems approach, Global Growers facilitates production of good food, provides farmer training and placement, and creates economic opportunity for local farmers and communities in the Decatur-Clarkston-Stone Mountain area.

Global Growers' market operations include a 20-member Community-Supported Agriculture (CSA) program and sales at three farmers markets. As shown in the photo below, the produce grown and distributed by the market operations generate revenue (supplemental income) for the farmers while they are going through the farming training program offered by Global Growers.

By providing a bridge to connect new Georgia farmers with experienced, international farmers and supporting culturally and linguistically appropriate training for global farmers who are new to Georgia, Global Growers is creating a replicable and sustainable urban agriculture model.



These policies and actions are not listed in order of priority.

Priority Area #1: Production and Distribution

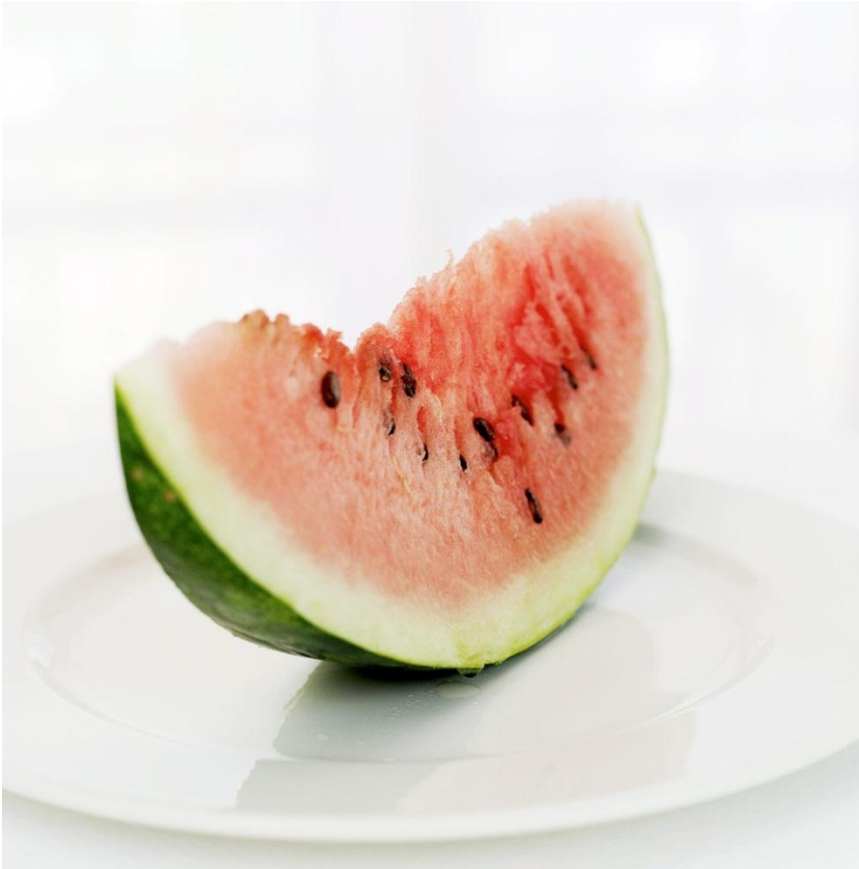
- FACT:** Georgia is the #1 producer in the United States of chicken broilers, peanuts and pecans.^{xxii}
- FACT:** Agriculture contributes more than \$68.9 billion annually to Georgia's economy.^{xxiii}
- FACT:** One in seven Georgians works in agriculture, forestry or related areas.^{xiv}

- ***Production***

The following topics are key interest areas for the GFPC members and stakeholders in the next three years:

- Identify and promote resources and technical assistance available to new and beginning farmers, especially those involved in small-scale agriculture (as new or part-time occupations).
- Communicate information regarding “Georgia Grown” labeling including encouraging:
 - Retailers to stock Georgia Grown items.
 - Small and medium farmers to become members of the Georgia Grown initiative.
- Examine local land use laws that can protect direct marketing and farm-based food businesses.
- Ascertain the economic impact created by local food production and direct marketing of locally or regionally produced food.
- Document zoning laws in areas throughout the state that support urban agriculture and community gardening.
- Explore strategies for preservation and rehabilitation of farmlands, for example, provision of low cost or no interest loans to beginning farmers.
- Determine the feasibility of tax breaks or other incentives that may encourage leasing of farmland to beginning farmers.





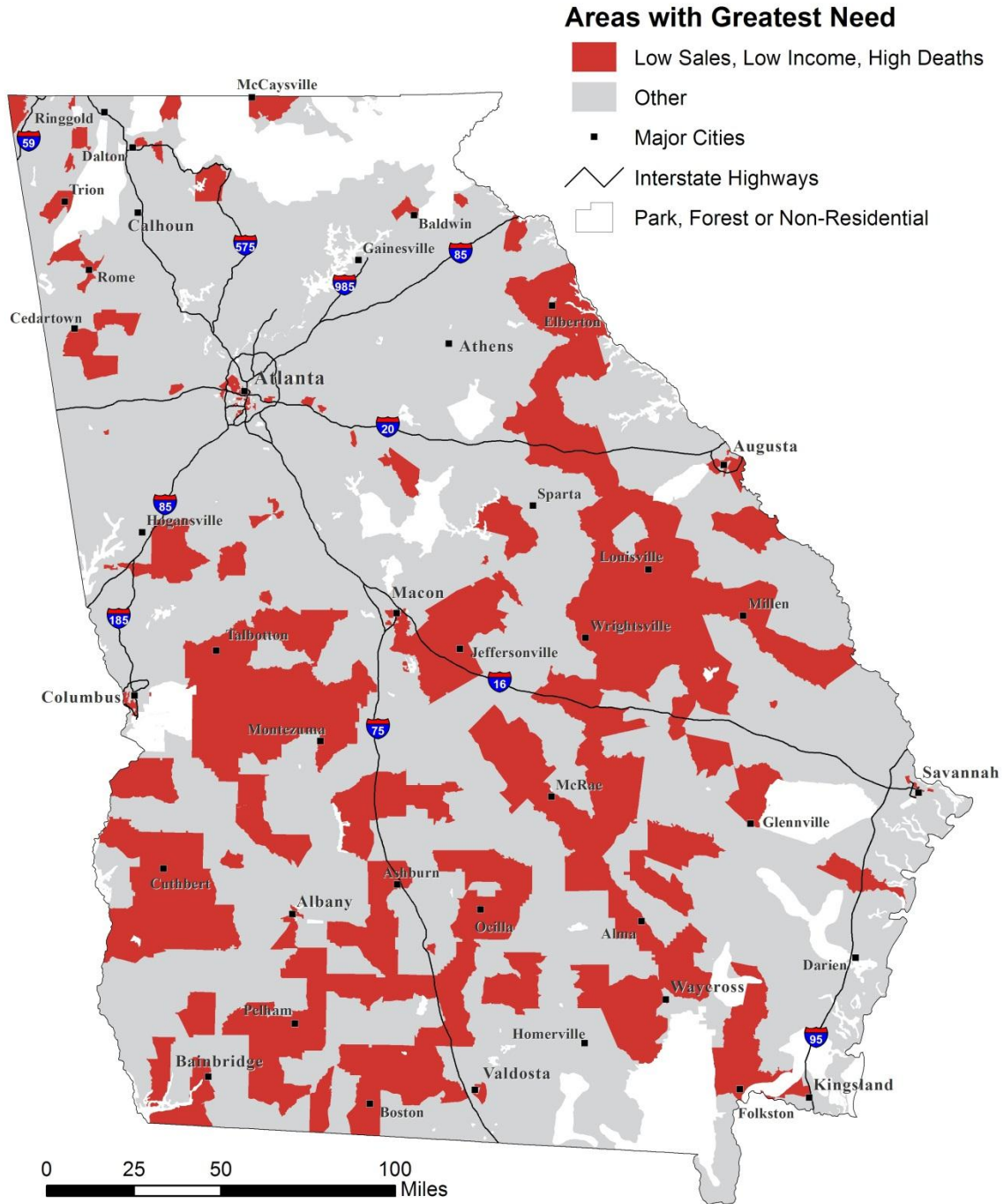
Healthy food access for all Georgians is an important priority

Unfortunately, many regions throughout the state do not have a grocery store or retail outlet at which Georgians can obtain healthy food. *Map 1* on page 12 highlights lower-income communities in Georgia where there are low supermarket sales and a high number of deaths due to diet-related disease. These areas have the highest need for more supermarkets.

Reprinted with Permission: Food for Every Child: The Need for More Supermarkets in Georgia. The Food Trust.^{xiv}



Map 1: Areas in Georgia with Greatest Need for Grocery Stores



Data: TradeDimensions Retail Database, 2009, US Census, 2000

Notes: "High deaths" or diet-related mortality areas are defined as having diet-related death rates greater than the statewide average, and "low" areas have diet-related death rates lower than the statewide average. Only data for Georgia were analyzed. *Reprinted with Permission: Food for Every Child: The Need for More Supermarkets in Georgia. 2011. The Food Trust. P.9.*^{xiv}

- **Distribution**

Because food distribution to high need areas is a critical concern for certain regions, the GFPC membership and stakeholders will work with partners in the next three years to:

- Explore the feasibility of food hubs in select locations around the state to ensure processing and distribution of fresh products to areas with limited food access.
- Examine infrastructure issues, such as transportation/delivery, small scale processing and market place development/ revitalization, which need to be addressed for both urban and rural landscapes, including wholesale distribution centers.
- Identify what actions or incentives could connect beginning farmers, food distributors, and retailers to collaborate on development of local food infrastructure, such as grocery stores, distribution systems, farmers markets, etc.^{xxiv}
- Promote adoption of a state grown purchasing priority for state and local institutions (thus increasing demand for foods produced in the state) and support distribution of locally grown products to state institutions and worksites.
- Promote adoption of local food procurement goals at state agencies, state-owned and supported institutions and facilities, and other state-supported meal programs.
- Identify and address state and/or local health department barriers and food safety concerns that prevent retail and restaurant food excess redistribution.

Priority Area #2: Processing, Food Waste, Recycling, and Composting

FACT: According to the Georgia Department of Natural Resources, 11,671,171 tons of municipal solid waste was disposed in Georgia in 2011. Of that tonnage, 9,868,999 originated in Georgia. A 2005 study revealed that food waste (800,329 tons) was 12% of this material.^{xxv}

- **Processing & Food Waste (FW)**

- Identify financing initiatives to support various farmer-owned food processing enterprises, often referred to as “value added agriculture.”
- Discover and promote educational opportunities for food licensing.

Thirty-eight of the country's top 100 food processing companies have operations in Georgia.

Source: www.georgia.org

- Increase the number of poultry and poultry farms covered by the “on-farm” processing exemption.
- Work to improve FW recycling policies in state-supported institutions.
- Support expansion of Zero Waste Zones (improving current disposal methods of consumed and reducing waste).
- Explore standards that can lead to reduction of FW in municipal solid waste landfills and shift FW to composting facilities.
- Support partners who are working to increase the fees for (food) waste disposed of at municipal solid waste landfills.

Georgia-based Elemental Impact in partnership with the National Restaurant Association launched the *Zero Waste Zones* program in February 2009. Participants in a zone work together to change current disposal methods of consumed products and divert assets from landfills.

Source: Elemental Impact, 2012

Website: www.zerowastezones.org

- ***Recycling & Composting***

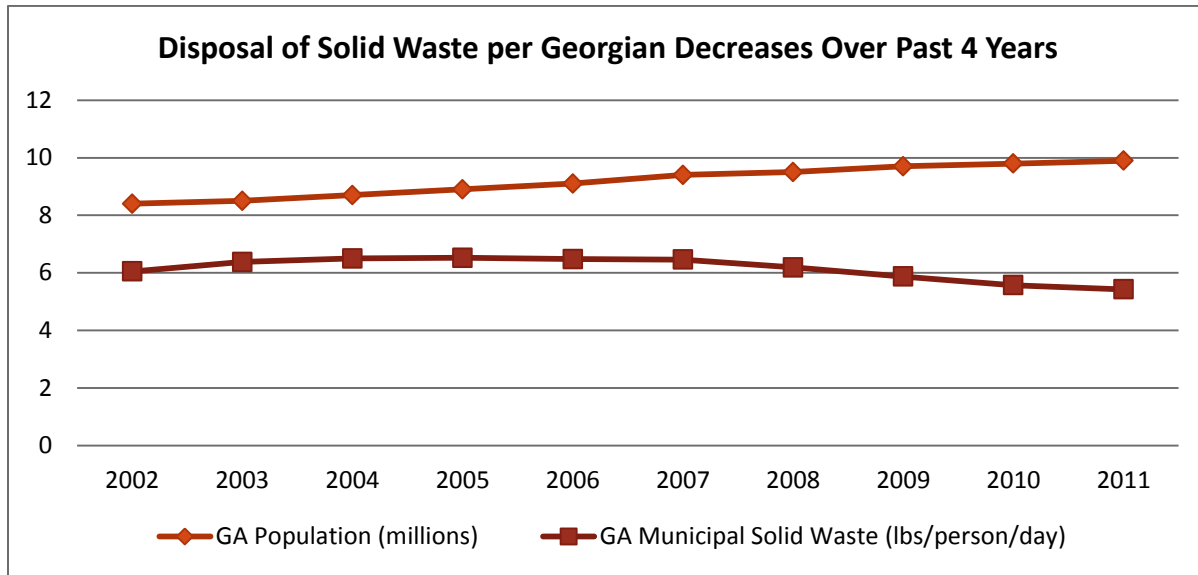
- Promote the “YouGottaBeKidding.org” recycling campaign funded by the Georgia Department of Community Affairs Office of Environmental Management.
- Educate Georgians on and promote solid and FW recycling as well as the production of high-quality, consistent compost products.
- Work with public-private partners to establish, expand and/or market composting centers around the state.
- Examine state regulations that could be modified that would move FW out of landfills to compost sites.
- Establish FW management policy for state institutions (prisons, schools, hospitals, etc.) to promote composting.
- Encourage university and corporate partners to develop Georgia-specific brochures on the compost quality needed for particular uses.
- Place all composting regulations under a separate chapter with a tiered system based on risk.
- To encourage new composting sites, set a permeability

Georgia House Bill 310 (2009):

The Georgia Building Authority is authorized to establish and coordinate a state-wide recycling program for state agencies including, but not limited to, aluminum and steel cans, plastic and glass bottles, all grades of paper and for the mulching or composting of yard trimmings.

Source: http://www1.legis.ga.gov/legis/2009_10/fulltext/hb310.htm

standard for composting pads such as 1 x 10.7 centimeters per second, allowing several options for composting facilities to meet standards.



Source: Georgia DCA FY 2011 Solid Waste Management Annual Report.^{xxvi}

- Actively promote composting by encouraging state agencies to use the material in landscaping and erosion control.
 - Note: Georgia has a senate resolution that encourages state agencies to use Georgia produced compost in public works and landscape projects.^{xxvii}
- Support constitutional protection of fees (solid waste trust fund/tire fee) and ensure a specific amount is used to support recycling efforts (rather than going into a general fund).
- Promote a higher fee on all tons of municipal solid waste disposed at landfills that would go toward supporting recycling which may level the playing field for composting operations and support recycling programs via proper allocation of funds.

Priority Area #3: Consumption and Consumer Education

Because this priority includes broad focus areas, it is presented in two categories: schools and community.

- **Schools**

- **FACT:** In 2009-2010, 1.7 million children were enrolled in Georgia's elementary and secondary schools^{xxviii} and 56% (or 933,520) were eligible for free and reduced lunch.^{xxix}

- **FACT:** The Healthy Hunger Free Kids Act of 2010 requires education agencies to report on the school nutrition environment to USDA and the public on food safety inspections, local wellness policies, school meal program participation, and the nutritional quality of program meals.
- *Improve the Nutrition, Quality and Appeal of Food Served and Sold*
 - Implement nutrition standards regulating all food and beverages sold or served at school, including a la carte items, vended items, items sold as part of fund raisers, school store, and items given to students as rewards (e.g., Healthy, Hunger Free Kids Act 2010, Institute of Medicine Nutrition Standards for Foods in Schools).
 - Provide technical support to schools in implementing stronger nutrition standards and policies.
 - Discourage offering of fast food and “branded” food items as part of the school meal program or as a la carte items during the school day.

Best Practices in School Nutrition: Carrollton City Schools ♦ Carrollton, GA

Winner ♦ U.S. DHHS Healthier US Schools Gold Award

“Working under the Healthier US School Challenge Gold guidelines has allowed our schools the opportunity to promote a healthy school environment not only in the School Nutrition Program, but also through curriculum and fitness activities throughout the system. Receiving the recognition from USDA has also provided more awareness within our school staff of the overall efforts that are being supported by our Board of Education, Superintendent and School Administration. Communicating this initiative to our parents has also given us the opportunity to encourage them to support the School Nutrition Meal Program and the administration of this effort. Faculty and students have already started asking how to get involved next year. We are looking forward to continuing this initiative next year in our schools and coordinating it with the new meal pattern regulations.”

Source: Linette Dodson, School Nutrition Director

- *Offer Healthy, Local Food Items*
 - In obtaining bids for school food provision, districts must understand and apply the Federal procurement requirements for school nutrition detailed in the Geographic Preference guidance. GFPC can encourage districts to explore invitation for bid procedures that include a preference for procurement of food that is grown locally, regionally or in-state.^{xxx}



- Promote farm to school (F2S) connections and F2S implementation including:
 - Provide outreach and technical assistance to farmers, teachers and school nutrition staff interested in participating in F2S programs.
 - Establish seed grants for farm to school training for teachers and cafeteria staff and technical assistance.
- *Adhere to Wellness Policies and Integrate Food Service & Nutrition with School Mission*
 - Establish or identify learning content that integrates nutrition, health education, and physical education.
 - Link food and nutrition content and activities with academic concepts.
 - Ensure school eating areas have access to free, safe drinking water sources and facilities for washing hands.
 - Encourage school food service nutrition staff reviews of all food vending contracts prior to the approval of the contracts to ensure that every contract complies with school food policies.
 - Promote a school wellness policy that states food and beverage vending contracts may not offer incentives for increasing students' consumption of drinks or snacks.
 - Support adequate training and professional development for school food service personnel to contribute to the district's and state's nutrition and health missions.

Champions in Georgia's Farm to School (F2S) Efforts

* Georgia Organics (GO) established the Georgia Farm to School Program in 2007. Working with partners to integrate healthy, sustainable and locally grown food into the lives of all Georgians, GO promotes F2S programming that incorporates food, farm and nutrition education into the 4 C's: Classroom, Community & Farms, Culinary experiences & Cafeteria.

* In 2011-2012, the Georgia Department of Agriculture (GDA) piloted "Feed My School for a Week." One elementary school in each participating school district committed to lunches composed of 75-100% of Georgia Grown food. In return, the participating school must host a fall semester planning meeting put on by GDA as well as dedicate a week in the school's spring semester to putting on the event.

Interested in F2S? *Georgia's Farm to School Implementation Handbook* can be downloaded from GO's Farm to School Resources website:

<http://www.georgiaorganics.org/>

Best Practices in School Nutrition: Burke County Schools* ♦ Waynesboro, GA


“What is special about this lunchroom at Waynesboro Primary School is that it is such a fun, bright place for the students to come to each day. The room is open and airy and lets in a lot of light. It is large enough that students aren’t crowded when they eat. You almost feel like you are eating outdoors each day!”

Source: Donna Martin, School Nutrition Director, Burke County

*Burke County Schools was awarded a U.S. DHHS Healthier US Schools Gold Award

- ***Increase Participation in School Nutrition Programs and Ensure that No Student Goes Hungry***
 - Assist school districts and schools in encouraging maximum participation in meal programs.
 - Work at the federal and state level to increase reimbursements for school meal programs.
- ***Provide Opportunities for Public Input***
 - Support establishment of school wellness committees or child nutrition advisory committees to advise the district on creation and implementation of nutrition policies.
 - Encourage school districts to create a system for getting student and parent input in menu planning, including surveys and taste tests at schools.

- Work with school districts, school nutrition professionals, parents, professional associations and other stakeholders on policy issues that affect child nutrition and wellness at the state and national level.

- **Community**

FACT: If the 3.7 million Georgia households spent \$10 per week of their food dollars on Georgia-grown products, an estimated \$1.9 billion would be reinvested into the state.^{xxx1}

FACT: Serving metro Atlanta and North Georgia, the Atlanta Community Food Bank annually distributes over 30 million pounds of food and other donated grocery items to more than 700 nonprofit partner agencies in 38 counties.^{xxxii}

State Actions that can support Community-level or Regional Concerns

- Provide incentives for creating municipal and/or regional food policy councils.
- Work with partners to institute financial incentives to attract grocery stores and mobile farmers markets to areas of Georgia identified as food deserts.
- Establish a model ordinance policy with business license incentives to new and existing business owners to increase healthy food options in convenience and corner stores.
- Support sourcing of machines and technology necessary to enable farmer's markets to accept SNAP EBT and explore incentives to encourage farmer's market vendors to accept WIC vouchers.
- Proactively address the issue of obesity and diet-related diseases by using professionally recommended, evidence-based prevention initiatives and education that focus on cultural and environmental changes.
- Support and promote Cooperative Extension as system that can provide nutrition, farming and gardening information to Georgians in specific areas of the state.

A study conducted in 460 migrant farm workers in Georgia found that 63% of these workers were food insecure.^{xxxiii}

Institutions

- Increase the number of Georgia institutions (e.g., hospitals, government agencies, prisons, state buildings, etc.) participating in local and healthy food procurement.
- Increase the number of Georgia institutions and worksites that establish nutrition guidelines for foods sold and served in cafeterias and vending.

Food Safety & Nutrition Education

- Improve the emergency food preparedness of our communities and regions.
- Disseminate information about Good Agricultural Practices (GAPS) and food safety via systems and programs providing nutrition education to Georgians.
- Improve the body of research that will inform and support Georgia's food policy efforts.
- Increase the number of food advocates among the public that support healthy food initiatives and policy changes.
- Ensure Georgians know about foods grown in Georgia and increase the demand for locally grown foods.
- Improve the nutrition knowledge and behavior of Georgians to achieve good health and local and state economic impact.

The GFPC members also noted there are many tools and resources available to organizations and individual working across Georgia's food system. It was suggested that having a list of resources would be helpful to food and nutrition professionals throughout the state. Appendix D contains a list of GFPC member websites; USDA websites for farmers and consumers; and other resources of interest to food system stakeholders.

Top Priorities

The *top priorities* identified by Georgians are presented below with possible measures that may be employed to assess accomplishment of these activities:

| GFPC Priorities | Possible Measures |
|--|--|
| <p><i>Priority #1:</i> Explore the establishment of central sites that can serve as food hubs, food aggregation centers, and food processing and distribution sites</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Convene stakeholders to explore viable business models for food hubs to be tested in Georgia (# of models analyzed) • Engage public-private partners to invest in infrastructure for hub models (# of partners, # of dollars invested) • Establish food hubs, aggregation, processing and distribution centers in high need areas (# of hubs or central sites established that aggregate, process and/or distribute) |
| <p><i>Priority #2:</i> Communicate and promote the Department of Agriculture's "Georgia Grown" program including encouraging retailers to stock Georgia Grown items and engaging small and medium farmers to understand the value of Georgia Grown to their business</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Distribute Georgia Grown information to consumers, farmers, retailers, and restaurants (# of contacts who receive information) • Document consumers, farmers, retailers and restaurants that establish Georgia Grown membership due to GFPC action in 1 year (# of members attributable to GFPC) |
| <p><i>Priority #3:</i> Work to expand Georgia's farm to school (F2S) program considering the needs and interests of school systems, farmers and school nutrition professionals</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of school districts / schools who participate in farm to school programming from 2012-2015 • Number of farmers and school nutrition professionals who receive F2S training from 2012-2015 |
| <p><i>Priority #4:</i> Proactively address obesity and diet-related diseases by using professionally recommended, evidence-based prevention initiatives and education that focus on cultural and environmental changes</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify nutrition-related objectives within Georgia's nutrition and physical activity 10-year plan on which GFPC can take action (# of objectives) • Document achievement of selected objectives as a result of GFPC investment/action (# of completed objectives) |



| GFPC Priorities (continued) | Possible Measures |
|--|---|
| <p><i>Priority #5:</i></p> <p>Promote use of evidence-based or “best practice” education tools and resources with a focus on educating families, students and specific audiences on food and nutrition topics, i.e. healthy food choices, impact of local food purchases, healthy menus on a budget, composting, and food safety</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Distribute details about evidence-based or best resources, tools, programs, and funding relevant to GFPC stakeholders including consumers, farmers, nutrition-related program specialists and specific systems serving Georgians most impacted by food insecurity and food access concerns • Determine number of tools, programs and resources implemented by stakeholders |

GFPC Governance and Structure

Five possible structure options for the Georgia Food Policy Council were examined and briefly presented at the statewide meeting on June 20, 2012. The five FPC structures reviewed by FPC’s were created and structured include:

| Structure Options | Examples |
|--------------------|--|
| Legislation | Massachusetts, Colorado |
| Executive Order | Michigan, New York |
| 501(c)3 non-profit | Iowa, Detroit |
| State Agency | South Carolina (within the Dept. of Agriculture) |
| Independent | New Mexico |

The recommendation from the GFPC membership following a review of the various structures is to establish a steering committee that will help guide the council in exploring establishment of a non-profit 501c3 organization. In the short-term, the structure of the GFPC will consist of:

1. Leadership Team: this core group will guide and/or act on behalf of the GFPC membership and will make decisions by consensus on immediate food policy issues as well as future GFPC governance, structure, and administration. They will represent sectors and geographically diverse regions of the state. An odd number of members will be selected for voting purposes. The team would meet monthly or every other month in 2012. The leadership team participants will represent:
 - Production Urban - Farmers/grower with direct experience and knowledge in urban gardening/ farming; experience in organic or sustainable farming practices.
 - Production Rural - Farmers/growers engaged in small to medium sized farming in rural Georgia; knowledge or experience in organic or sustainable growing practices is helpful.

- Distribution - Individuals with experience in food retail and distribution including small and large scale distribution.
 - Processing - Individuals with experience, extensive knowledge and background in medium and large food processing industry
 - Waste/Recycling - Individuals with working experience in waste recycling and composting
 - Consumption-Nutrition Education - Individuals in nutrition education / consumer outreach to disparate/low income communities, for example, food banks, nutritionists or dietitians, chefs and consumers. Food Marketing knowledge and experience might be very useful.
 - Consumption-Food Safety - have knowledge or research background in food safety in state and/or federal levels.
2. Steering Committee: this group will include the leadership team members along with representatives from state and federal agencies including: CDC, USDA, Farm Bureau, and the Departments of Public Health, Agriculture, and Education. Others may be engaged in the committee who can serve as subject matter experts or advisors on specific topics.
 3. Work Groups: the three work groups are Production and Distribution; Processing, Waste, Recycling and Composting; and Consumption-Nutrition Education. Each work group has two co-chairs who lead the work group meetings and guide the groups to formulation of action plans around priorities.
 4. Membership Council: all stakeholders interested in Georgia's food system are invited to participate in the GFPC.

In the future, the Georgia Food Policy Council leadership team and members would like to achieve a formal structure that includes:

- **501(c)(3) Status:** In most states with food policy councils, the councils were created by mandate / act by the governor, or by state legislation. However, in Iowa, the food policy council was originally established by a governor's executive order that was not renewed under new state leadership. Iowa FPC was re-established by a group of stakeholders, interested in the future of food in the state. Although legislation would be the most ideal way to create a food policy council, as with Iowa, Georgia has no act or legislation creating the Georgia Food Policy Council (GFPC). Thus, in order for the council to have the best chance at sustainability, it could be created as a non-profit. An advantage to having the GFPC as a 501(c)(3) is that it will include important players from the state government and stakeholder representatives. One point to take into consideration however, is that 501(c)(3)s may not participate in substantial or excessive lobbying. While lobbying is not a main purpose of the GFPC, it is foreseeable that the GFPC will partake in food-related

advocacy on occasion. Therefore, any such activities should be closely monitored and made sure to be in compliance with the 501(c)(3) lobbying regulations. Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws (including the information below) should be created in order to properly set up the structure of the GFPC, if it is decided to be a 501(c)(3).

- **Board of Directors:** The number of Directors on a Board varies from organization to organization, but should always be an odd number for voting purposes. Iowa's food policy council has 17 Board of Directors, while South Carolina's council has nine members. It is important to ensure that diverse views of the Board are represented in all votes. Board of Directors should be elected by GFPC members, and should represent each of the food system areas of concern to the GFPC members: food access/hunger, health & nutrition, agriculture, food manufacturing/production, food retailers/restaurants, and education. All decisions of the GFPC should be made by a vote of the Board of Directors, unless otherwise designated by the Board to a vote of all members. (Because membership is unrestricted, this is recommended in order to avoid voting outcomes that are only representative of one subgroup or interest, if that subgroup or interest has larger membership).
- **Executive Committee:** Within a Board of Directors, there is usually an executive committee, consisting of a President, Vice President, Treasurer, and Secretary (or combination Treasurer/Secretary). Members of the executive committee are voted into office by a majority of the Board of Directors. Terms of executive committee members vary from one council to the next. A two year term may be appropriate for the first two years of the council. Appointment terms could increase to three years after the council is deemed to be successfully operating (after year two, if applicable). The Executive Committee should be responsible for putting out an annual report (including achievements, activities/meetings, and finances) for the GFPC.
- **Ex-officio State Government Representatives:** Most food policy councils also include representatives of state government agencies; however these members are typically not voting members of the Council. It is recommended that the GFPC includes a member from each of the following state agencies in Georgia: Department of Agriculture, Department of Public Health, Department of Education, Department of Community Health, State Office of Rural Health, Office of Nutrition and WIC, Department of Human Services, and Department of Corrections. Representatives of federal agencies may also be identified as ex-officio members including USDA, CDC, and FDA.
- **GFPC Membership:** GFPC will be open to any persons, or representatives of organizations, industries, or corporations, interested in food policy in Georgia. A majority of all GFPC should constitute a quorum.

- **Member Work Groups or “Think Tanks”:** The GFPC has established three work groups including production and distribution; processing, waste, recycling and composting; and consumption and nutrition education. It is possible that as a more formal structure is established and membership grows that the additional work groups may form. Should this occur, a non-Board member or members should be identified by each subgroup to manage or co-chair the work group activities. It is also possible to divide the state into regions and conduct certain meetings by region.
- **Mission / Vision / Values / Goals:** The GFPC will create or revise existing statements regarding its mission and goals, so that members and the Board can be guided by the mission / goals when voting or carrying out other work on behalf of the GFPC. Mission / goals should address access, economy, and health.
- **Meetings:** GFPC should meet minimum of 4 times a year as an entire body. Each subgroup should also meet 4 times a year. Regional meetings may take place on an as needed basis.

GFPC Administration

Should the state and stakeholders commit to support the Georgia Food Policy Council, a variety of activities could be acted upon over the next three years that would lead to enhanced sustainability of the council. These may include:

- Secure the formal establishment of a state-, public- and privately-supported Food Policy Council with seed funding and a governance and structure that supports achievement of sustainability in three years.
- Educate the public about Georgia's food system and issues that affect our security, safety, nutrition and health, and economy.
- Establish an inter-agency (state level) task force to address food and nutrition issues.
- Develop a statewide and regional network linking different sectors and existing initiatives and food policy councils within the food system.
- Provide policy makers with guidance as to how legislation and policy affects the food system and consumers in Georgia.
- Create a database of local and in-state farms to increase schools' awareness of what local produce is available.
- Document existing assessments, resources, programs, and policies that can inform and strengthen Georgia's food system.
- Identify food system resource and program gaps and seek funding for projects and possible collaborators to fill in these gap areas.

- Authorize preparation of an annual Georgia Food Security Report Card, including data on: hunger, farm numbers, food consumption, crops, farmland preservation, and state based food processing and production.
- Prepare an annual report on developments and advances in Georgia's food system.
- Identify and increase economic development opportunities within the food system.
- Fund creation of the annual Georgia Food Awards program to recognize those farmers that produce and distribute a high percentage of their crops in Georgia and adhere to best practices relative to land use and sustainable practices (e.g., awards could be by farm acreage size, by crop, by adherence to certain criteria, etc.).

In order for GFPC to become a self-sustaining entity it will be critical to:

- Engage members across different sectors of the food system and from different socio-economic backgrounds and geographic regions, drawing from a diverse, but organized base.
- Establish priorities and agree on some kind of a strategic plan from the outset.
- Establish clear structures for governance, decision-making, communication and evaluation from the beginning.
- Diversify political and internal leadership support.
- Include elements of self-education (for council members) and the public.
- Evaluate and monitor the effects of the councils' policies and/or activities.

GFPC Marketing & Communications

The GFPC has created a communications and marketing plan with objectives, tactics and sub-activities. The plan is intended to guide communications with legislators, media, community leaders, food and nutrition stakeholders and advocates about Georgia's food system as well as broker relationships across a broad spectrum of partners to foster discussions on the findings and benefits of a strategic approach to managing food policy and activities.

The steps in the GFPC marketing and communications plan are detailed below:

- Conduct external scan using technology (internet, websites, etc.),
- Conduct partner informational interviews to explore competitors, existing frameworks and knowledge
- Establish communication principles for GFPC

- Convene Executive Committee to establish communications guiding principles focused on integrity, honesty, ethics, consistency, and mission alignment
- Identify the target audience(s) for communications
 - Review external scan information and develop “hypothetical best audience(s)” & their characteristics;
 - Determine preferred methods of communications for each
- Determine core message content (key ideas, talking points, etc.)
 - Develop messages that highlight mission, vision and actionable priorities;
 - Test key messages with stakeholders before large scale implementation
 - Gather feedback on key messages via face-to-face interviews or focus groups or on-line survey
 - Based on input, refine the key messages
- Identify and evaluate channels or methods for message delivery statewide
 - Considering budget and time of members, explore various communications channels:
 - individual and/or group presentations by GFPC members;
 - broadcast & print media; advertising;
 - events or trade shows;
 - email; and online media for communications
 - Establish evaluation metrics to assess impact for each tactic used considering efficiency vs. effectiveness
 - Considering budget & time of members, determine specific tactics for marketing and PR activities that GFPC will undertake to disseminate key messages (local papers, farm organizations, etc.)
 - Determine how technology can be used most efficiently & effectively to disseminate key messages (list serves, blogs, e-newsletters, Facebook, other social media networks)
 - Establish evaluation metrics to assess impact for each tactic used considering efficiency vs. effectiveness
 - Request information from internal & external partners about food/nutrition policies being examined at local, regional and state levels.
- Establish short-term communications objectives for action
 - Create a clear statement of what GFPC wants to accomplish via communications – measurable, specific and by December 2012
- Identify geographic targets for communications dissemination
 - Based on external scan, partner/member knowledge, local and state policy trends, key geographic areas of the state may be targeted for communications & partnership development

Conclusions

It is clear that many Georgians are committed to a healthy food environment as evidenced by the increased participation in the GFPC over the last seven months. With a goal of improving the nutrition status of Georgians at the state, regional and community level, the GFPC has taken the initial steps to:

- Engage a broad spectrum of audiences in the conversation from across the food system and at the state, regional and local level; and
- Ensure participation of public and private partners in the Council from throughout Georgia;

The identification of specific food system and nutrition priorities and recommendations put forth in this plan will form the foundation or “blueprint” for future GFPC actions that can be accomplished in the next one to three years.



Appendices



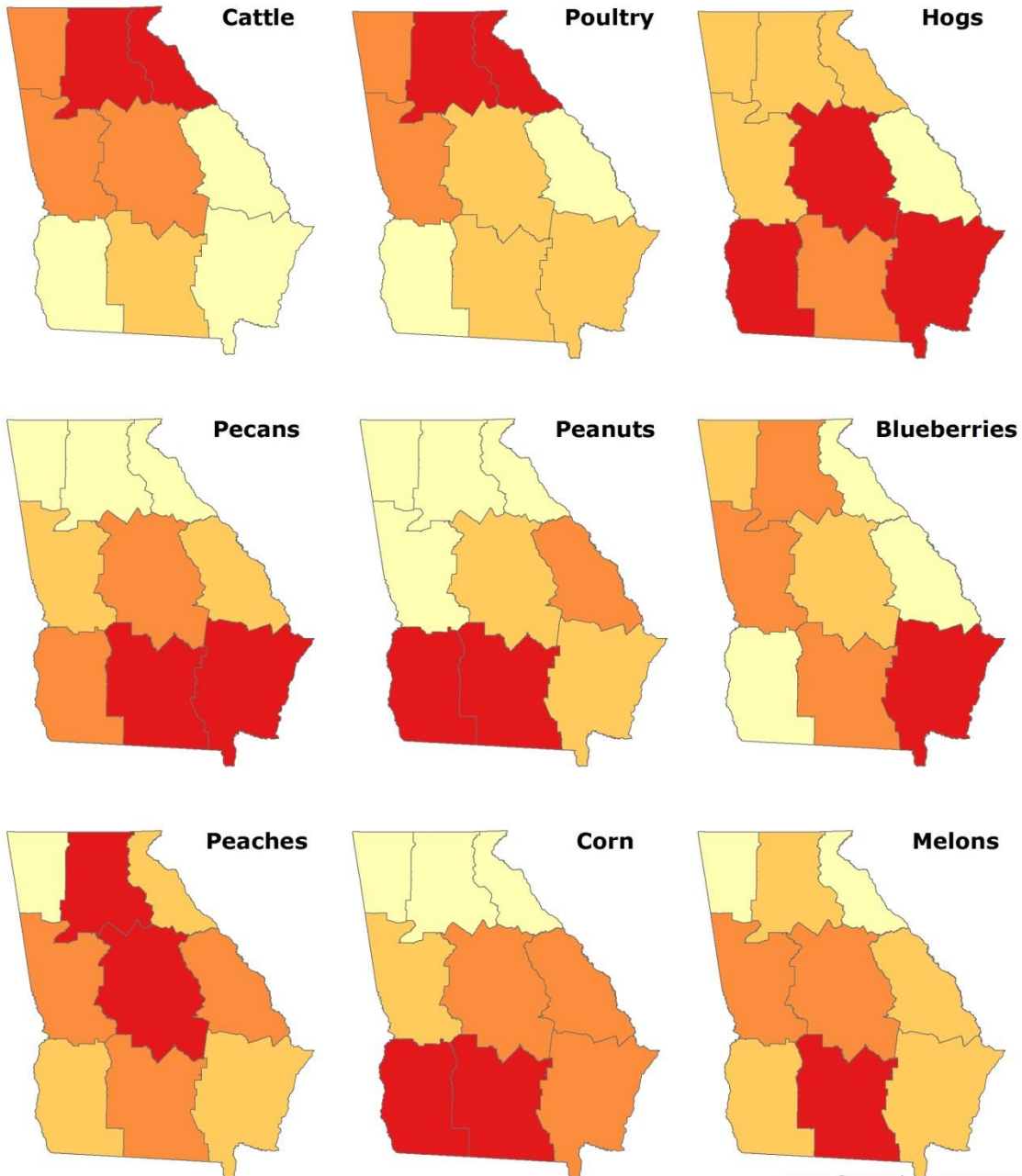
Appendix A: Georgia Food System Maps

Appendix A contains for Georgia maps highlighting the several food system components and characteristics:

| | |
|----------------------|--|
| <p>Map 1.</p> | <p>Georgia Farm Products: Concentration of Agricultural Products by Region</p> <p><i>Description:</i> Map 1 features nine State of Georgia outlines each featuring a different agricultural product. The information is presented by “concentration” level with lighter colored areas representing low concentration or production of that item and darker colors representing regions with the heaviest concentration of product production.</p> <p><i>Source:</i> USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service</p> |
| <p>Map 2.</p> | <p>Georgia Food Deserts and Farmers Markets</p> <p><i>Description:</i> Map 2 provides information on farmer’s market locations throughout Georgia and their alignment with locations where Georgians have limited access to fresh produce and grocery stores.</p> <p><i>Sources:</i> USDA Economic Research Service, Food Desert Locator; Georgia Department of Agriculture</p> |
| <p>Map 3.</p> | <p>Georgia Food Manufacturing, Recycling, and Composting Facilities</p> <p><i>Description:</i> Map 3 features food manufacturing, recycling and composting facilities throughout Georgia. Public or private recycling and composting locations are designated.</p> <p><i>Sources:</i> Georgia Department of Economic Development; Georgia Department of Natural Resources</p> |
| <p>Map 4.</p> | <p>Georgia Farms and [Known] Farm to School Locations by County</p> <p><i>Description:</i> Map 4 highlights the concentration of farms in Georgia counties and notes counties in which a Farm to School program exists.</p> <p><i>Sources:</i> Georgia Departments of Agriculture and Education; Georgia Organics; USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service</p> |

Appendix A - Map 1.

Concentration of Agricultural Products by Region



Data Sources:
 USDA - National Agricultural Statistics Service
<http://quickstats.nass.usda.gov/>

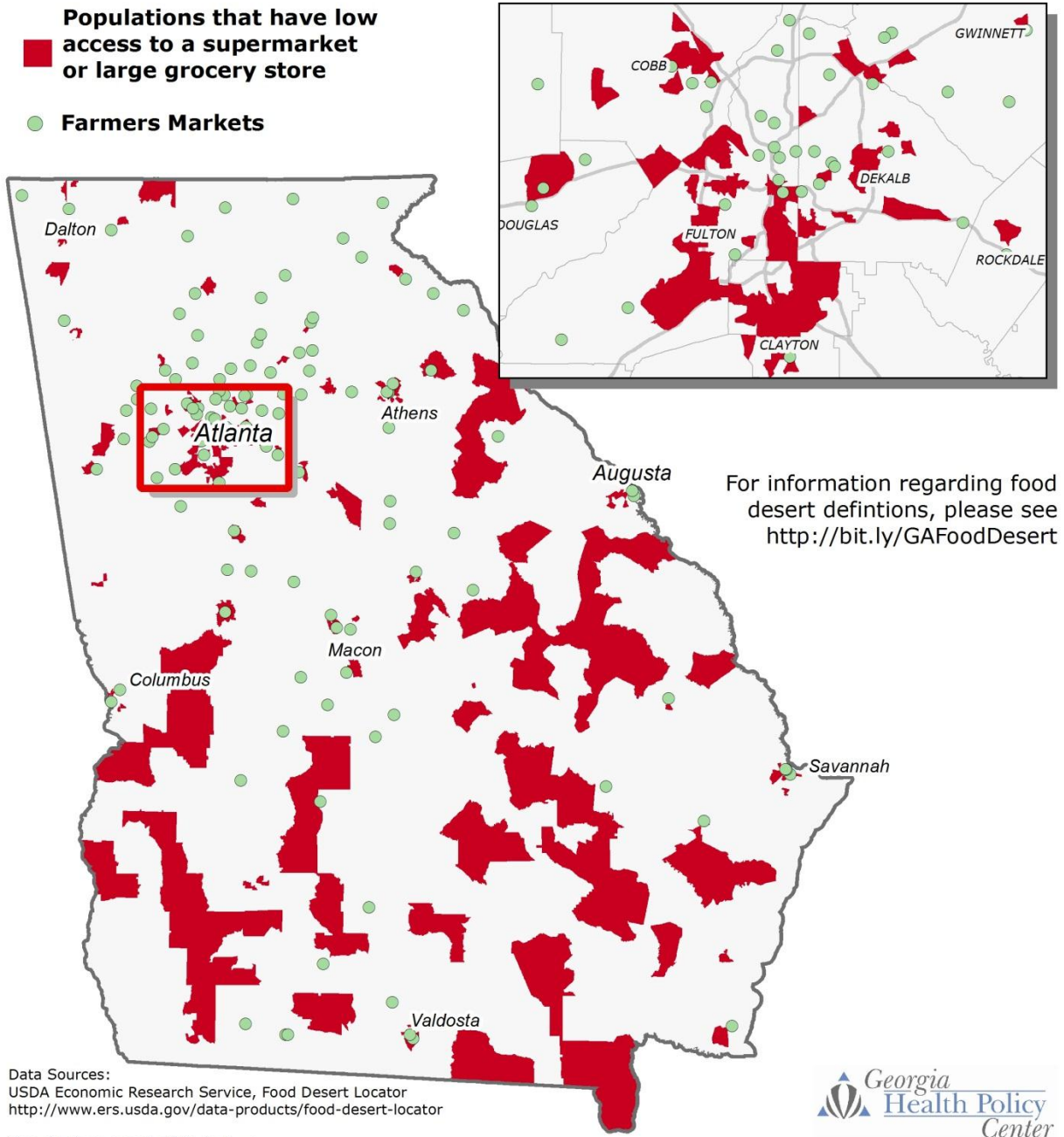


Georgia Health Policy Center

2012 - Georgia State University - Geospatial Laboratory

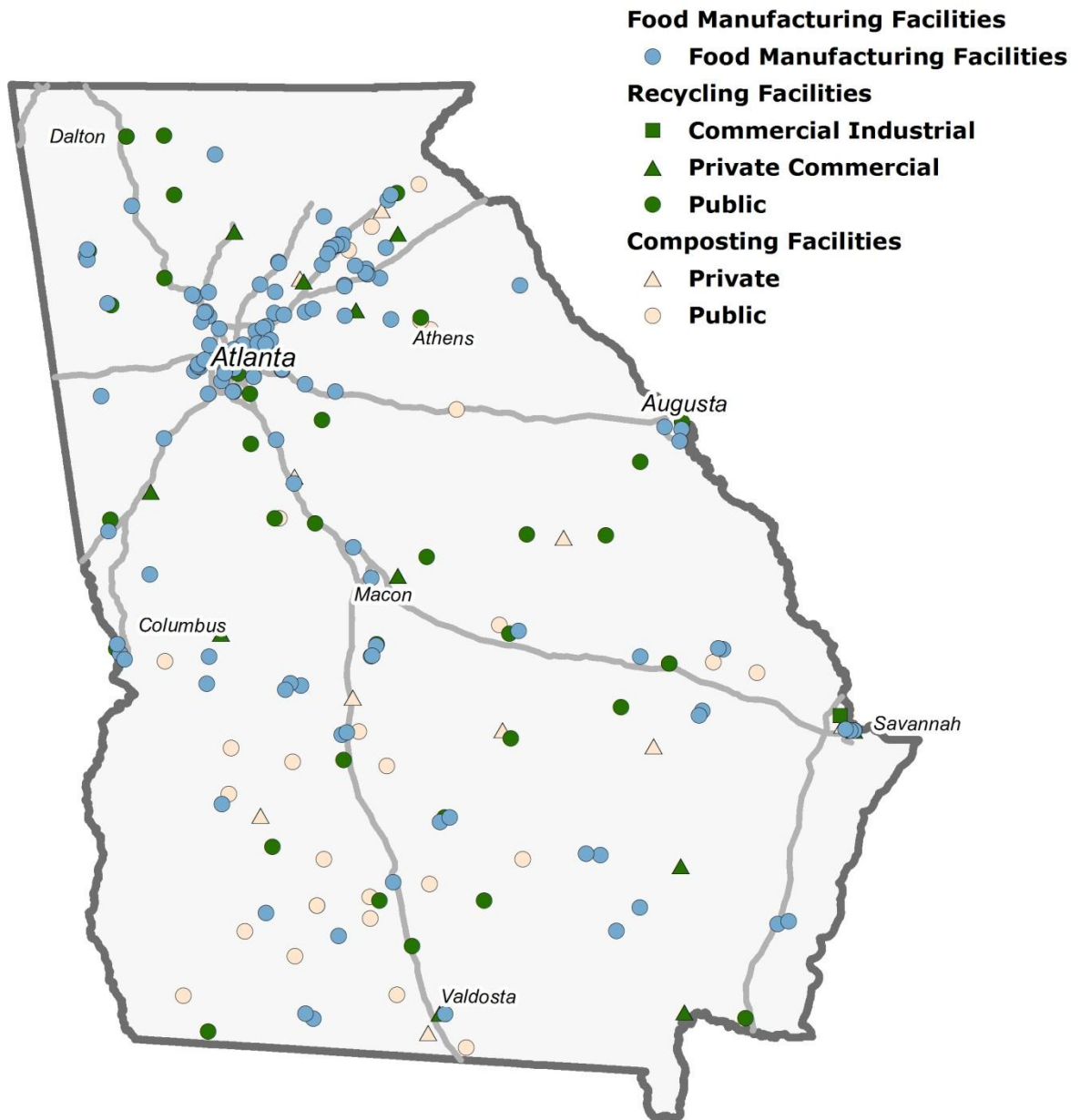
Appendix A - Map 2.

Georgia Food Deserts & Farmers Markets



Appendix A - Map 3.

Georgia Food Manufacturing, Recycling, and Composting



Data Sources:
Georgia Department of Economic Development
<http://georgiaallies.org>

Georgia Department of Natural Resources
http://www.gaepd.org/Documents/swp_map02.html

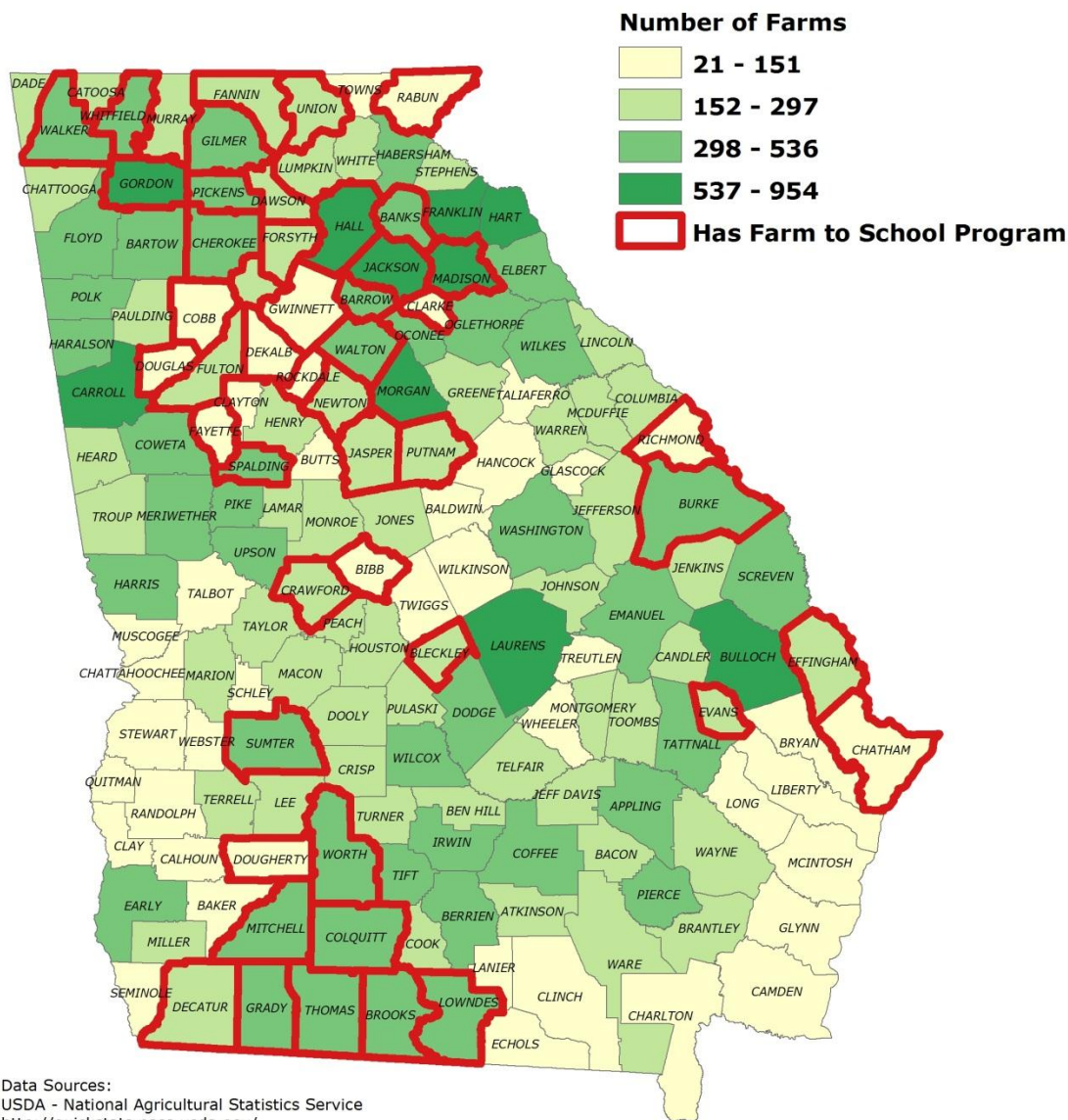


2012 - Georgia State University - Geospatial Laboratory



Appendix A - Map 4.

Georgia Farms & Farm to School Programs



Data Sources:
 USDA - National Agricultural Statistics Service
<http://quickstats.nass.usda.gov/>
 Georgia Organics
<http://www.georgiaorganics.org/farmtoschool.aspx>
 Georgia Department of Agriculture - Feed My School
<http://agr.georgia.gov/feed-my-school-for-a-week.aspx>



2012 - Georgia State University - Geospatial Laboratory

Appendix B: GFPC State Meeting Summary



Georgia Food Policy Council Statewide Meeting

Wednesday - June 20, 2012

Centreplex, Macon GA

I. Welcome and Meeting Objectives

The Georgia Food Policy Council (GFPC) state meeting was convened at 9:10 a.m. Dr. Chris Parker, Associate Project Director, Georgia Health Policy Center (GHPC) introduced himself as today's facilitator and reviewed the agenda. He summarized the purpose for today's meeting noting that by the end of the day the group would get to state level policy priorities.

Dr. Parker highlighted the "table manners" that would apply today's discussions. He likened the various manners to how attendees will treat and work together today to achieve the meeting objectives.

Kimberly Redding, M.D., M.P.H., Director, Health Promotion and Chronic Disease Prevention, Georgia Department of Public Health

Dr. Kimberly Redding welcomed attendees, thanked them for taking time from their busy schedules to attend, and presented an overview of the purpose for the GFPC. She advised the state has been thinking about the Georgia Food Policy Council and thanked the GHPC for its leadership of the initiative. Dr. Redding reviewed the food and nutrition facts from Georgia presenting data on hunger, school nutrition and WIC and SNAP participation. She noted that Georgia is a top producer of several food products – good healthy foods. So this raises several questions. Why do we have hunger issues when we produce a lot of healthy foods? What do we have low consumption of fruits and vegetables (F&V) by GA adults and high school students? What do we have a high childhood obesity rate?

Dr. Redding presented the 10-year state Nutrition and Physical Activity plan that was revised in 2011. She noted that the GA Food Policy Council is part of the state's main objectives. The deliverables for the GFPC

initiative were reviewed including reconvening the council, hosting meetings, creating a state plan, a website and establishing governance and structure. She highlighted the goals that public health hoped to accomplish during the meeting and expressed appreciation to attendees for the work they will do throughout the day.

Participant Introductions

To complete introductions at the tables, Dr. Parker asked the participants to share their name, organization, roles, and what's most important to you about your food - origin, preparation, flavor, or cost?

Various representatives from the audience shared their information. Table 1 attendees included representatives from the GA Department of Agriculture, Georgia Organics, and Food Industry. This group indicated the GFPC should provide policy leadership that is global and encompassing. GFPC should connect food to economic impact; promote food as medicine. It should help promote teaching for good choices; improve food desert food choices; work across sectors for sustainability and be especially concerned about childhood obesity.

Table 2 participants were introduced by Michelle Uchiyama, with Reclaim it Atlanta and Charitable Connections noted that public health, non-profits, and GFPC members were at her table. She indicated their group would like the GFPC to generate ideas and strategies that influence decision-makers; serve as a "think tank"; bring sectors together; facilitate a cross-sector discussion about healthy food, economic impact, and food access. GFPC should serve as voice for the masses influencing local level groups and policies.

Table 3 represented by Lynn Young and her colleagues with the Atlanta Metro Food and Farm Network indicated that communicating with various stakeholders including the food industry and advocating for and helping citizens to be more informed was important for the GFPC.

Jess Avasthi, RD and Truly Living Well Board Member said Table 4 considered all the issues -- origin, preparation, flavor and cost -- important. Cost is very important as well as creating a hub and a sense of community. The GFPC should recognize the link to other issues (environment, etc.). People's perceptions and values must be considered in the discussion.

Table 5 had several School Nutrition Directors. They indicated the GFPC should assist schools, communities & institutions that support healthy food

consumption. Nutrition education particularly with consumers/parents is needed. Processing, waste, recycling and composting can also be considered by schools and supported by GFPC.

Table 6 supported the GFPC's assistance to and training of new farmers (expanding already existing initiatives) and advocating for incentives to young farmers; to get more people to make the food available.

II. Keynote Speaker: Mr. Mark Winne, Community Food Security Coalition

Dr. Jim Lidstone, Georgia College and State University, Executive Director of Live Healthy Baldwin and GFPC member, came to the podium to introduce keynote speaker Mark Winne. Dr. Lidstone reviewed the goals of Live Healthy Baldwin including a hosting food summit and establishing a regional food policy council. He welcomed the attendees who were new to the event and welcomed back those that attended the central region event yesterday. An overview of Mark Winne's bio was shared with the audience including his time in Connecticut, at universities and consulting for CDC.

Topic - *State Food Policy Councils: Issues and Considerations for Georgia*

Mr. Winne thanked participants and organizers for the opportunity to present. Mark noted he had been to Georgia several times, was pleased to be back, and identified friends in the audience. A detailed summary of Mark's comments are presented below.

Today is a great opportunity to take control over the direction of your food system. Food has become a really big deal. Mark's been working in this area for 40 years and he's astounded at how big it has become. He shared a story in which his 85-year old mother sent a letter and about a year ago in which she started sharing news clippings from her community newspaper. She noted that she finally understood what he did after reading all these articles.

Quote: Kurt Vonnegut said "Food is pretty much the whole story, the whole time."

Food policy, food citizenship and food democracy are the themes of today's presentation. Food democracy or the lack thereof is the biggest challenge Georgia is going to face. It will take you in the direction of justice, access and cost. A survey by WK Kellogg Foundation suggests 93% of Americans believe it is important to have access to F&V; 97% of Americans want their food to be healthy. Consumers want food that is picked by fairly paid workers; and want children's health valued.

Mark reviewed the 2012 Farm Bill issues and noted the need for citizens to weigh in on the bill in the next 24 hours. He said there is a “ripple” of hope in the work at the federal level that citizens’ opinions will be considered. In some countries, people spend 40% of their income on food. Nine billion people will live on this planet by 2050 – a “big table” will be needed to feed them all. Can we feed them without destroying the planet and its natural resources? GA’s food security is no longer dependent on what remains of natural resources and food structure. You are dependent on a far-flung food system; the way it is produced, moved, resources, control and other issues have changed and not necessarily for the better. In light of food insecurity and obesity issues in the U.S. and abroad, our much touted global food system has not earned bragging rights. A billion undernourished/hungry and a billion are obese around the globe. We wonder if we should have been more attentive to how the food system changed over time. Do we put too much trust into those that are providing food? We the people have a stake in the direction of our food system; we care about the legacy of health; we are citizens and consumers. Food Citizenship must be enriched by community participation, diversity, stewarded and nurtured.

Who will feed a hungry world? The answer has to be taken in the context of our world economy. Amartya Sen, Nobel Laureate said “No major famine has ever occurred in a functioning democracy with regular elections, opposition parties, basic freedom and a relatively free media (even when the country is very poor).” Where transparency exists, democracy is present and people are engaged, we can take collective action. We need more democracy: all the people who are in the food system need a seat at the table in order to change the direction of our food system. An FPC brings justice and connectivity to a food system. He provided an example from Connecticut (CT) that involved education and advocacy to change the farm land preservation policies. In Pennsylvania, people working on local food issues examined food deserts and saw vast health disparities. Food financing initiative established a \$30 million investment of state funds and leveraged money from private sector to create food hubs. In New Mexico, the FPC found out that state was not applying for benefits to help low income seniors shop at farmers markets. Their effort focused on procurement of local food – getting local institutions to purchase local food. These examples are not going to end world hunger; but they can improve the lives of millions.

The Community Food Security Coalition completed a census of FPCs recently. Nearly 200 councils around North America exist at present; a 2-fold increase in 2 years. The FPCs exist to influence local and state policy; to advise on how to change policies to favor healthier more sustainable systems of food production and living. They are also there to coordinate the work of food system stakeholders. There is no department of food so the FPC can fill this role. FPCs can gather stakeholders to address problems. Over half of the councils are less

than 3 years old. Leading policy issues that FPCs address include: better food access, urban agriculture promotion, farmland preservation and local food procurement. The FPCs are based on and promote relationships among those who might not otherwise connect.

Mark shared the story of Ralph: A man Mark knew from the CT FPC – the Department of Transportation was mandated to have a rep on the Hartford CT FPC. Ralph hadn't eaten a vegetable in a long time and was hindering the work of the FPC. Ralph became a verb – meaning “to deliberately impede work.” Ralph invited Mark to a retirement party at a local bar and they talked about a lot of things except policy. At the next meeting, Ralph came in with a stack of folders and he said I think I'm starting to get this FPC stuff. The DOT has transport and funds to support access by people to a farm or a farmers market. A roadmap was created to tell the story of agriculture in CT and to connect citizens with food and farmers markets. The message: Don't neglect those opportunities to meet with people you might not otherwise agree with.

Institutions, especially government, are by nature conservative; in the traditional sense of the word, where they are committed to supporting status quo. Bold ideas are not the forte of government or large corporations. Story of an 80-year old farmer still farming. Mark was on a farm tour and the farmer said “The corn doesn't grow so good around the edges so I'm not going to plant any edges.” Mark's point: Unless we cultivate the ‘edges’ we'll get stuck in the middle of the field. We must take on the edges, work them hard, test them and accept some measure of failure, nothing is going to change. As a FPC and a community that cares about its food system future, plant those edges and cultivate them.

Think differently, change procurement regulations; change zoning regulations. Mark gave examples of how communities are challenging decision-makers to put food on the public agenda. Another side of the discussion – you will sometimes have conflict and there are powerful forces that resist change at any level. The City of Cleveland tried to pass a prohibition on the use of trans fats in their restaurants (similar to NYC). The food industry got the state to pass a law to preempt this action (i.e. only state can pass laws). The city is now suing the state. San Francisco banned use of premium toys in Happy Meals at McDonald's (estimated 650 kcals in a meal or ½ of a child's daily caloric requirement). The company fought the issue and the city prevailed. Vermont tried to label products that contained GMO's but Monsanto threatened to sue the state. In CT, there was battle to ban sugary drinks from schools and it passed out of both sections of the legislature and was the biggest debate. The beverage industry put up \$140,000 to get the governor to veto the bill. The bill was brought back, revised, and was passed the following year. There are powerful interests in this discussion. In NM, they say “tell the truth and ride a fast horse.” He has seen

the food fights across the country and has been involved in many of the discussions. He is perplexed by the inability to find common ground on this food system issue – the action leads to sustainability, access and justice. He's tried to hold reality and justice in a single vision (poet, Yates). He knows that for anyone who cares about the future of our children, the vibrancy of our food economies; self-righteousness is an issue we can ill afford. We can't stay in the world with those we only agree with. Mark noted he may have to swallow his anger and go the extra mile but at the same time expect a new ethic of food behavior. It doesn't allow money to trump the ideal of one person, one vote. This ethic doesn't allow the sometime spurious logic to compromise his choices, his health or serve up disinformation; that doesn't put private interest above public interest. If we have a chance to fix the food system in Georgia, all must recognize their stake in the fight that extends beyond our individual beliefs. The collaboration is important. The work is not a nicety, it's a necessity. Communities that don't take food seriously will be left at the mercy of private interests. Communities that take food for granted will run the risk of seeing their communities' health and economy decline; they will miss the opportunity to enjoy health and joy. Prescription: for all of us to take control of our food system, we need to get our hands in the soil, our voices at the state capital and in city halls.

The audience applauded Mark's presentation. Dr. Parker thanked Mark for his thoughtful and insightful presentation and summarized key points: 1) don't be a "Ralph" and don't neglect the opportunity to meet with people who you may not otherwise agree with on food system issues. GA has the opportunity to do something in important and to be successful, compromise, consensus & collaboration is critical.

Question and Answer Session: Mr. Mark Winne

Question: What mistakes should we avoid making?

Answer: Don't try to take on too much. Don't try to solve all the problems of the world in the first year or two. Look for low hanging fruit, some early wins that we can all feel good about. Learn more about your food system – assess the system but don't become obsessed with it. Take time to understand each other's opinions; the words that we use (sustainability, justice, insecurity)

Question: Understanding food itself – we have overfed, underfed and undernourished children in Georgia. How can we approach the concept of food so we can consider the multi-dynamic concept of undernourishment?

Answer: We have made progress and we don't all share the same concept of health and what is healthy food. This is an evolution and a work in progress. Keep pushing ahead on what constitutes a healthy diet...we understand food not

just as nutrients and calories but its connections to place, community, culture – who we are and how we see ourselves.

Question: There are diverse stakeholders here but thinking back to communities: single moms, food deserts, etc. As an FPC how do we get them to participate in the discussion?

Answer: Diversity in all respects has to be front and center – have to get out into the communities to connect. Community members take time to reach decisions to become advocates so having a plan to encourage the people's connection from food to policy is important.

Question: The country as a whole is experiencing some level of crisis around democracy. Can you talk about the relationship of food to democracy in a bigger sense?

Answer: America is a land of disparities. We have economic, income and other disparities – of the 33 most developed nations in the world we have the highest food insecurity, worse health outcomes, and least diversity. In Santa Fe, they passed a living wage ordinance of \$10.50 an hour and the FPC supported this effort. Economic justice is linked to food justice and linked to reducing disparities. If we could pay people fairly, we wouldn't spend \$80 billion on food stamps and health care costs would be reduced. This should be a topic for the FPC.

Question: There is the broad spectrum of economics, policy – what is the low hanging fruit for this broad spectrum?

Answer: 1) Local procurement – using public dollars to increase the procurement of locally produced food. Not heavy duty politics. 2) Access to healthy food – not big dollar approaches but pilot projects in areas where there are underserved communities. 3) School food – we can agree on this as a topic that promotes health in children.

Question (from a teacher): Are there any food policy or food system victories that were youth-initiated?

Answer: In NM there is a 30-day session for legislators, one day of the session is a school food day. Students come in to talk to legislatures – one of the students talked to the legislature about the quality of school food. While she didn't make friends with school food, she spoke her heart and mind. The state is committing to supplementing the purchase of F&V and local procured food for schools. Procurement legislation is being considered – getting F&V serving on the plate that is local procured.

Chris Parker thanked attendees for their questions. He noted to continue the food analogy that by the end of the day we want to have a basket of “low hanging ripe fruit that is ready to eat right now.” He noted we also want to identify those fruit that need a little time to ripen and those that are higher on the tree that.

BREAK: The meeting will reconvene at 11 am.

Draft State Plan & Priorities

Debra Kibbe, Senior Research Associate, Georgia Health Policy Center, provided an overview of the GFPC state plan, a draft copy of which can be found on the tables. Attendees were asked to scan the sections of interest to them and write comments or corrections. The content for the plan will be finalized based on input from the regional and state meetings as well as a final review by the GFPC members. She reviewed the governance and structure options for a food policy council and answered questions from the group about the availability of slide presentations and information from the meeting.

The first working session for the meeting will be tabletop discussions by sectors. An overview of the sectors and the coordinating dots on the nametags was provided:

- Blue dot = production
- Red dot = distribution
- Green = processing
- Yellow = consumption
- Orange = recycling & waste

On the tables there are three policy lists to which participants can refer during the discussion: 1) production and distribution; 2) processing, food waste, recycling and composting; and 3) consumption and nutrition education.

Reporting from Table Discussions

Group Discussion - Distribution:

Attendees were reminded to write priorities on sticky notes and place them on the food systems map.

Production – Facilitator: Mark Vanderhoek, Macon Roots

- Facilitate scale – Modify and/or implement appropriate regulations based on size of farm operations; a work group is needed among the small & mid-size farms to organize priorities and production.
- Facilitate and leverage farmer education and resource access

- Expand existing efforts, e.g. Team Agriculture Georgia (<http://www.teamaggeorgia.com/>); Including matchmaking of farmers; GA Grown
- Urban Ag Zoning
- Market cross subsidization between rural and urban farmers
- Develop policies / funding for help with small and midsize farmer infrastructure
- Food Hubs

Production – Facilitator: Lesly McGiboney, Live Healthy Baldwin

Education for local farmers & public; land & natural resources including water conservation; support for local farmers – incentives to get them started, eliminating fees; Schools – connecting producers to schools & education programs – amend bid process for school food process to allow access to local farm product; allow one time purchases

- Education for local farmers and general public
 - Value of local, natural, organic, building consumer base
- Land and natural resources conservation (including H2O) – land trusts, DNR
 - Land use and preserving natural resources – 2 separate issues really; 3 year goal; Acquiring, preserving, and rehabilitating land; Leveraging community assets in rural areas
- Support for local farmers
 - Incentives to get them started (eliminate fees, incentives to stay local, farm to school contracts, etc.)
- Schools – connecting farmers/producers to schools and education programs
- Amend bidding process for school nutrition programs to allow access to local farm products and to favor local products. Allow one-time purchases from local producers.

Distribution – Facilitator: Chris Kiker, Community Health Works

- Creative financing strategies for distribution and processing infrastructure investments. Maps partially to #3 and #6 on list. FPC could bring people together to explore the leaders on this topic.
- Institutional food procurements policy that prioritizes GA Grown. Could be prioritized for state institutions first (establish the brand, create a business

model) and then work in other private & public institutions. Maps to distribution #4 and #7 in list.

- Support development of food hubs (a way of scaling up the farmers markets model) both for processing and distribution. Maps to distribution #8.
- Identify and address state barriers that prevent retail/restaurant excess food redistribution. Maps to distribution #10.

Distribution – Facilitator: Deborah Harshbarger, Milledgeville Community Garden Association

Comment: Deborah noted they had great overlap with the other groups' reports.

- Food hubs
- Microdistribution systems – springs from the idea for taking food to people in mobile units; increasing access to EBT policies;
- Transportation – people getting to sites, people are limited in getting to locations

Processing – Facilitator: Michelle Uchiyama, Reclaim It Atlanta

- Finance
 - Create initiatives to finance various farmer-owned food processing enterprises, often referred to as “value added agriculture”. Local processing opportunities for multiple products (chicken, meat, F&V).
 - Examine the economic opportunities/impacts created by local production, direct marketing and local/regional.
- Capacity Building: Establish community kitchens throughout the state as food business incubators.
- Technical Assistance (TA): Provide TA to new and beginning farmers, especially those involved in small-scale agriculture or as new or part-timer occupations.
- Food safety – not having the rules & regulations so “heavy” that it prevents small farmers (addressed in scale discussion)

Waste Recycling – Paula Kreissler, Savannah Chatham Food Policy Council

- Establish statewide goals
 - Food waste out of landfills
 - Food waste to composting facilities

- Food waste management from large institutions
- Food waste from low-income communities (section 8)
- Compost to growers at no low cost
- Educate
 - Advocacy
 - Benefit of compost
 - Food as medicine/no waste
- Identify and address barriers
 - Transportation
 - Existing waste industry
 - Legislative permits
 - NIMBY
 - Lack of best practices/models
- Food as medicine – medical community guides families in eating
- Improve soil quality for growing healthy food in urban areas.
- Policy for municipal areas to offer incentives on water and/or waste bill for composting.
- Establish statewide goals for recycling and composting via incentives. a. Food waste out of landfills by year (x%); b. Food waste to composting facilities; c. Direct compost to farmers – low cost.
- Standards for compost – food, yard waste/livestock.
- Establish policy/process for consolidating and collecting and transporting yard food waste for large institutions.
- Encourage/incentive institutions and businesses to transition edible-avoid going to food waste
- Concerns / Issues:
 - Focus on areas with high risk section 8 residents. (Life cycle)
 - Focus on food deserts (17 in Atlanta) – transportation
 - Use food for community transformation.
 - Assure recycling community is at the table.

Consumption – Facilitator: Gregg Kaufmann, Georgia College

- School: State policy standards relative to nutrition standards – state nutritional plan for schools
- Community – Educate Georgians about healthy food choices.
- Community – Support technology at Farmers Market so that EBT can be accepted.
- Institution – Increase the # of GA institutions participating in local and healthy food procurement

- Other: Increase the # of food advocates among the public that support healthy food initiatives.
- Other: Ensure Georgians know about foods grown in GA and increase the demand for locally grown food.

Consumption – Facilitator: Kwabena Nkromo, Atlanta Metro Food and Farm Network

- School: no unhealthy fundraising
- Community #2 – financial incentives for creating municipal / regional FPC
- Community #3 – model ordinance policy to increase healthy food options in corner stores
- Community #4 – food access grants to communities

Consumption – Facilitator: Diane Thompson, Centers for Disease Control & Prevention

- School #1 – Focus more on definition of “healthy options”
- School #5 – Branded foods should not be offered for sale
- School #9 – Farm to School promotion & education/resources
- School #8 – Food Procurement focused on local foods
- Community #12 – promotion & incentives to attract stores & mobile markets to need areas
- Community #5 – EBT/SNAP Farmers Market- Wholesome Wave
- Community #9 Amended - Create incentives for urban/suburban agriculture and promote /incent for community-based agriculture in both urban & rural settings
- Add: Transparency about food systems and how food is produced (GMO, humane practices, etc.)
- Add: Address or balance focus on rural and urban settings
- Add: Transportation to increase access to healthy foods
- Add: Transparency about food systems and how produced; Address or balance focus on rural and urban; Transportation to increase access to healthy foods

Consumption – Facilitator: Jess Avasthi, RD

- Existing food system/food policy structures – definitions and well
- Accessibility – GA grown, healthier, quality, affordability
- Nutrition Education – nutrition & PA – we must balance academic and value-beliefed base content; increase demand for local food

- Existing food system / food policy structures – problem solution NOT maintenance; Definitions and well-grounded arguments
- Access – GA Grown, healthier, quality, place & program (affordable) – institutions for public & programs SNAP/WIC
- Nutrition Education – nutrition & physical activity (see restrictions); Proportionality (academia vs. moms); breastfeeding; increase demand, where is food from?
 - Choice – links access and nutrition education – examine architecture vs. restrictions & motivation

Chris Parker acknowledged the Georgia products (& producers) that are being served during this event and thanked the growers and producers for supporting the meeting's focus on Georgia food. He asked the audience for other issues and concerns at the state level that should be considered among the priorities. Issues for named for consideration were:

- Labor Practices – Immigration issue/bill is impacting not only farmer's but food banks, etc.
- National Restaurant Association – Elemental Impact ; Zero Waste Zones discussion – Debbie Kibbe confirmed they are part of the state food policy council.

Highest Priorities Discussion

Question #1 – what is the take away from the reports? What is the area that has the broadest support, the greatest impact, and can be executed in the next 3 years?

Consider the options: 1) High value with broad support vs. 2) high value impact with moderate support vs. 3) high value impact with low support.

Deliberation on FPC Structure: Mr. Mark Winne

Mr. Winne commented on the structure of Food Policy Councils ((FPC). He noted problems occur when the FPC is very top down; when it is embedded in or made up mostly by people from state government (created by executive order, state statute or a program of a state agency). By following this model, you're not ensuring broad-based support by stakeholders.

Criteria for determining the FPC model to follow:

- Ability and access to policy makers, to work with and relate to those who are appointed, elected and administrative leaders.
- Sustainability – financially and through structure
- Broad food system focus – respect for public-private collaboration

- Capacity to execute
- Leadership is important
- Favors an independent structure:
 - Example: Iowa – 501c3 (also VA but operates differently) - bylaws and detailed criteria for leadership team.
 - Example: New Mexico – operates under the auspices of a well-established non-profit organization that has interest in commitment to public policy. It preserves independence but has good working relationship is with state officials. Governing guidelines, governing board and members elect the governing board. The FPC in NM is almost a “program” of the non-profit supporting organization.
- Be inclusive & diverse and have a broad membership.
 - NM – open membership; anyone can join
 - IA – pays membership dues on a sliding scale
- University-based? MI State Univ had a significant role in the early stages of their FPC; it was created by Executive Order – have not lost their FPC when administration changed in state (unlike IA and OH who lost their status)
 - NM - Legislated action required participation in the FPC by several state agency leaders so that those impacting the food system
- Fiscal management – for an FPC to be aggressive on key strategies
 - Support sought from community & national foundations
 - Support from state government – MI passed the hat among agencies; required to put \$5K in their budget
 - 1-2 full-time staff – mid to high level staff; MI has 2 FTEs with in-kind support from state agencies

Regional Efforts - Different Priorities

A. Production & Distribution

- **Production #3:** Provide technical assistance to new and beginning farmers, especially small-scale operations.
- **Production #4:** Promote/Expand use of recognition labeling for products that are “Georgia Grown”
- Links to **Distribution #2:** Strengthen local branding and marketing of products developed in regions around the state.
- **Production #8:** Provide tax breaks to beginning farmers to encourage production & distribution of local food for consumption.
- **Production #9:** Establish zoning laws in urban areas throughout the state that support urban ag. and community gardening.
- **Distribution #4:** Create a state grown purchasing priority for state and local institutions

- **Distribution #5:** Focus on new models of food delivery that favor local, nutritious food products.
- **Distribution #6:** Address infrastructure issues, such as small scale processing, transportation/delivery and market place development/ revitalization, for both urban and rural locations in Georgia.
- Comments: Needs to be more specific
- **Distribution #8:** Explore the feasibility of food hubs in select locations around the state to ensure distribution of fresh products to areas with limited food access.
- **Distribution #10:** Ease barriers and address food safety issues that would encourage the redistribution of excess food through the Georgia food bank network.

B. Processing, Food Waste, Recycling & Consumption

- **Processing #1:** Create initiatives to finance various farmer-owned food processing enterprises, often referred to as “value added agriculture.”
- **Processing #4:** Examine and modify land use policies for food processing.
- **Processing #5:** Improve food waste recycling policies and capabilities in state-supported institutions.
 - *Comment:* this priority needs to be flushed out / more specific
- **Processing #7:** Expand “Zero Waste Zones” model wherein current disposal methods of consumed products are improved and waste reduced.
- **Recycling/Comp #1:** Educate Georgians on and promote the production of high-quality, consistent compost products.
- **Recycling/Comp #2:** Work with public-private partners, establish or expand and market composting centers around the state.
- **Recycling / Comp #5:** Place all composting regulations under a separate chapter with a tiered system based on risk
- **Recycling / Comp #9:** Actively promote composting by encouraging state agencies to use the material in landscaping and erosion control.
- **Recycling / Comp #12:** Establish food waste management policy for state institutions (prisons, schools, hospitals, etc.) to promote composting.

C. Consumption & Nutrition Education

- School

- **#1:** Implement nutrition standards regulating all food and beverages sold or served at school: school meals, a la carte items, vended items, food fund raisers & food rewards for students.
- **#5:** fast foods and branded foods shall not be offered as part of a la carte
- **#2:** Provide technical support to schools to facilitate implementation of Healthy Hunger Free Kids Act standards using evidence-based practice.
- **#8 & #9 Combined:** Districts shall set food procurement guidelines that favor locally grown food (#8). If food procurement guidelines favored local products that would lead into expansion of farm to school (#9) programs
- **#11:** Develop policies to link nutrition, health education, agriculture education and physical education efforts.
- **#19:** School principals are responsible for ensuring compliance with federal, state, and district food policies.

- Community
 - **#2:** Institute financial incentives to attract grocery stores and mobile farmers markets to areas of Georgia identified as food deserts.
 - **#4:** Offer food access grants to communities (transportation and community-based stores).
 - **#5,6:** Address WIC, SNAP EBT acceptance at farmers markets,
 - Issues: how to get consumers to the market, technology access
 - **#10:** Proactively address the issue of obesity and diet-related diseases by using professionally recommended, evidence-based prevention initiatives and education that focus on cultural and environmental changes.
 - **#13:** Educate Georgians about safe food handling and home processing of foods.
 - **#18:** Promote expansion of Cooking Matters program.

- Institution / Worksite
 - **#1:** Increase the # of Georgia institutions (e.g., hospitals, government agencies, etc.) participating in local and healthy food procurement.
 - **#2:** Change state purchasing guidelines to require a specific percent of Georgia Grown food to be purchased, i.e. 5% in 5 Years, 10% in 10 years.

- #3: Increase the number of Georgia institutions that establish nutrition guidelines for foods sold and served in cafeterias.
- Other
 - Ensure evidence-based nutrition education; educating students & parents re: choice outside of school setting
 - Support campaign funding reform to support transparency on food and nutrition lobbies

Summary, Wrap-up & Next Steps

Dr. Parker asked attendees to think about the topics that have become priorities during today's discussion. He urged them to imagine the state of Georgia's food system 3 years from now and to write down the headline they would most like to see in the paper or online.

Attendees' Headlines:

In 3 years – what is the headline you would like to see appear in the newspaper that relates to the GFPC and GA's food system?

- GA Grown and Consumed Food is Economic Boom to the State
- Great Strides made in access to GA Grown Foods
- GA food reinvigorates local community
- Food deserts in GA eliminated
- GA has risen to the head of the class in School Nutrition
- GA sees revival in county fairs – fierce competition among farmers
- School Nutrition: we've learned the viewpoint of the Stakeholders – seen the "light of day"
- New Small Vegetable Farms Pop Up Across GA to meet increased demand
- GA Eats its Way to Economic Recovery
- GA Food Policy Council helps birth a healthier GA
- Back to the Future: GA's Food Systems Moves into the 21st Century With Lessons from the past
- From D to A: GA DOE passes sweeping school food policy reform
- Childhood obesity rates decline 10% in Georgia
- GA reduces Childhood Obesity Prevalence by 10% through effect food policies
- The New Local: Farmers Markets now established every 50 miles in GA

Attendees were thanked for their time and participation in today's statewide food policy meeting. Meeting slides and a summary will be disseminated to attendees and input considered by the Georgia Food Policy Council membership.

Appendix C: GFPC Regional Priorities

Regional priorities were identified by participants during four June 2012 events held in Athens, Dalton, Carrollton and Macon. The top regional priorities are presented below.

Production & Distribution Priorities:

- Examine the economic opportunities/impacts created by local production, direct marketing and local/regional purchasing.
- Provide technical assistance to new and beginning farmers, especially those involved in small-scale agriculture or as new or part-time occupations.
- Consider use of recognition labeling for products that are “Georgia Grown” or produced and strengthen local branding and marketing of products developed in regions around the state.
- Establish zoning laws in urban areas throughout the state that support urban agriculture and community gardening.
- Ease barriers and address food safety issues that would encourage the redistribution of excess food through the Georgia food bank network.
- Encourage or incentivize farmers to shift from monoculture (producing a single crop variety on large acreage).
- Develop incentives for developing local food infrastructure, such as distribution systems, farmers markets, etc.
- Explore the feasibility of food hubs in select locations around the state to ensure distribution of fresh products to areas with limited food access.
- Create a state grown purchasing priority for state and local institutions thus increasing demand for foods produced in the state and support distribution of locally grown product to state institutions and worksites.
- Address infrastructure issues, such as small scale processing, transportation/delivery and market place development/ revitalization, for both urban and rural locations in Georgia.

Processing, Food Waste, Recycling & Composting Priorities

- Establish outreach and education on food licensing.
- Create incentives to finance various farmer-owned food processing enterprises, e.g. USDA loans & grants.
- Institute mechanisms by which processing facilities can be established in regions for specific products (eggs, beef, poultry, vegetables, etc.) and processes (canning, flash freezing, aggregating and distributing).

- Improve FW recycling policies and capabilities in state-supported institutions.
- Expand “Zero Waste Zones” model wherein current disposal methods of consumed products are improved and waste reduced
- Place all composting regulations under a separate chapter with a tiered system based on risk.
- Educate Georgians on and promote the production of high-quality, consistent compost products.
- Work with public-private partners, establish or expand and market composting centers around the state.
- Work with public-private partners, establish or expand and market composting centers around the state.
- Establishing recycling policy for state-owned/leased buildings.
- Actively promote composting by encouraging state agencies to use the material in landscaping and erosion control.

Consumption & Consumer Education

- School: Implement nutrition standards regulating all food and beverages sold or served at school: school meals, a la carte items, vended items, food fund raisers & food rewards for students.
- School: Districts shall explore food procurement structures that favor locally grown or in-state considering federal guidelines and requirements. Promote farm to school programs including outreach, technical assistance and training grants to interested teachers, farmers, and school nutrition staff.
- School: Develop policies to link nutrition, health education, agriculture education and physical education efforts.
- School: School principals are responsible for ensuring compliance with federal, state, and district food policies.
- Community: Institute financial incentives to attract grocery stores and mobile farmers markets to areas of Georgia identified as food deserts.
- Community: Support machines and technology necessary to enable farmers markets to accept SNAP EBT and incent or encourage farmer's market vendors to accept WIC vouchers.
- Community: Educate Georgians about safe food handling and home processing of foods.
- Institutions/Worksites: Change state purchasing guidelines to require a specific percent of Georgia Grown food to be purchased, e.g., 5% in 5 Years, 10% in 10 years.
- Institutions/Worksites: Increase the number of Georgia institutions that establish nutrition guidelines for foods sold and served in cafeterias.
- Institutions/Worksites: Require quick serve and family “sit down” restaurants to provide nutritional information on food and beverage items on pricing displays and printed menus.

Other

- Proactively address the issue of obesity and diet-related diseases in communities and schools through the use of best practice, evidence-based prevention initiatives and education that focus on cultural and environmental changes.
- Promote use of evidence-based nutrition education with a focus on educating students and parents regarding healthy food choices outside of school setting.
- Encourage campaign funding reform to support transparency on food and nutrition lobbying activities.

Appendix D: Food and Nutrition Resources

Georgia Food Policy Council Members' Resources & Tools

Elemental Impact – Sustainability in Action: <http://www.elementalimpact.org/>

Emory University Sustainability Initiative: <http://sustainability.emory.edu/>

Georgia Center of Innovation for Agribusiness:
<http://www.georgia.org/business-resources/Pages/georgia-centers-innovation.aspx>

Georgia Department of Agriculture – Programs: <http://agr.georgia.gov/programs.aspx>

Georgia Department of Education – School Nutrition Program:
<http://www.doe.k12.ga.us/Finance-and-Business-Operations/School-Nutrition/Pages/default.aspx>

Georgia Department of Public Health:

Nutrition Information: <http://health.state.ga.us/programs/nutrition/>

Nutrition and Physical Activity Initiative: <http://health.state.ga.us/nutandpa/>

Georgia Food Policy Council: <http://aysps.gsu.edu/ghpc/georgia-food-policy-council>

Georgia Fruit & Vegetable Growers Association: <http://gfvga.org/>

Georgia Grown: <http://www.georgiagrown.com/>

Georgia Organics – Resources for Farmers, Eaters, Schools, and Gardeners:
<http://www.georgiaorganics.org/aboutus/programs.aspx>

Georgia Recycling Coalition: <http://www.georgiarecycles.org/>

Georgia Restaurant Association – Resources:
<http://www.garestaurants.org/GRAresources>

Georgia Rural Health Association: www.grhainfo.org

Georgia School Nutrition Association – Nutrition Information & Resources:
<https://www.georgiaschoolnutrition.com/>

Global Growers Network: <http://globalgrowers.net/>

Sustainable Agriculture, Resources and Education: <http://www.sare.org/>

Southeastern United Dairy Industry Association: <http://www.southeastdairy.org/>

Southern Sustainable Agriculture, Resources and Education:
<http://www.southernsare.org/>

Team Agriculture Georgia: <http://www.teamaggeorgia.com/>

Truly Living Well: <http://trulylivingwell.com/>

University of Georgia Cooperative Extension:

Teacher Resources - <http://extension.uga.edu/about/services/teachers.cfm>

Food & Food Safety - <http://extension.uga.edu/food/>

Voices for Georgia's Children: www.georgiavoices.org

United States Department of Agriculture

USDA Agricultural Marketing Service: <http://www.ams.usda.gov/AMSV1.0/>

USDA Agricultural Marketing Service, Grading Certification and Verification (GAP, GHP):
<http://www.ams.usda.gov/AMSV1.0/ams.fetchTemplateData.do?template=TemplateN&page=GAPGHPAuditVerificationProgram>

USDA Center for Nutrition Policy and Promotion: <http://www.cnpp.usda.gov/>

USDA Farm Service Agency:

<http://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA/webapp?area=home&subject=landing&topic=landing>

USDA Farm to School Website: www.fns.usda.gov/cnd/f2s

USDA Food and Nutrition Service: www.fns.usda.gov

USDA Food and Nutrition Service - Team Nutrition Resources:

<http://teamn nutrition.usda.gov/library.html>

USDA Healthy Schools Resource System:

<http://healthymeals.nal.usda.gov/farm-school-resources-2>

USDA Know Your Farmer, Know Your Food:

<http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal/usda/knowyourfarmer?navid=KNOWYOURFARMER>

USDA Know Your Farmer, Know Your Food Compass:

http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal/usda/usdahome?navid=KYF_COMPASS

USDA Market News Fruit and Vegetable Portal:

<http://www.marketnews.usda.gov/portal/fv>

USDA Market News Livestock and Grain Portal:

<http://www.marketnews.usda.gov/portal/lg>

USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service:

<http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/home>

USDA National Agricultural Library: <http://www.nal.usda.gov/>

USDA Rural Development: <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/Home.html>

USDA WIC Works Resource System – Nutrition Education:

<http://wicworks.nal.usda.gov/nutrition-education>

Other Resources

Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics – Public Resources: <http://www.eatright.org/Public/>

Centers for Disease Control & Prevention – Nutrition: <http://www.cdc.gov/nutrition/index.html>

Federal Resources for Sustainable Rural Communities – Publication:

http://www.sustainablecommunities.gov/pdf/federal_resources_rural.pdf

Food Research and Action Center: <http://frac.org/>

National Farm to School Network: <http://www.farmtoschool.org/>

Nutrition.gov: <http://www.nutrition.gov/>

Southwest Georgia Farm Credit – Farming Loans: <http://www.swgafarmcredit.com/home.asp>

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