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CASS CLAY FOOD PARTNERS

To: Cass Clay Food Commission

From: Cass Clay Food Partners
Fargo-Moorhead Metropolitan Council of Governments (Metro COG)

Date: September 6, 2018
RE: Cass Clay Food Commission Agenda and Correspondence

21st Meeting of the Cass Clay Food Commission

September 12, 2018 10:30 am – 12:00 pm
Location: Fargo City Commission Chambers **(regular location)**

10:30 am	1. Welcome a. Approve Order & Contents of the Overall Agenda b. Review & Action on Minutes from May 9, 2018 **(Attachment 1)**
10:35 am	2. Commission Check-In – Chair Rasmussen
10:40 am	3. Federal Nutrition Programs at Farmers Markets Blueprint Discussion & Vote for Approval **(Attachment 2)** – Megan Myrdal
10:45 am	4. Community SNAPSHOT: Food Waste **(Attachment 3a)** a. SNAPSHOT Presentation **(Attachment 3b)** – Briana Erickson, Concordia College Dietetic Intern b. Clay County Solid Waste: Anaerobic Digesters – Brett Rice c. Concordia College: Taste Not Waste – Meredith Wagner & Joan Kopperud
11:15 am	5. Metro Food Plan Update – Adam Altenburg
11:30 am	6. Cass Clay Hunger Coalition: Hunger Action Month – Stacie Loegering, Emergency Food Pantry
11:45 am	7. Public Comment Opportunity – Chair Rasmussen
11:50 am	8. Commission & Steering Committee Roundtable – Chair Rasmussen
11:55 am	9. Commission Action Steps a. Next First Fridays – October 5 & November 2, 2018 b. Health & Hunger Summit – October 16, 2018 at Dakota Medical Foundation c. **Next Commission Meeting – November 7, 2018**
12:00 pm	10. Adjournment

Cass Clay Food Commission meetings are taped and rebroadcast on cable channel TV Fargo 56 each Friday at 11:00 am. People with disabilities who plan to attend this meeting and need special accommodations should contact Savanna Leach at Metro COG at 701.232.3242. Please contact us at least 48 hours before the meeting to give our staff adequate time to make arrangements. Meeting minutes are available on the Cass Clay Food Partners website at www.cassclayfoodpartners.org and Metro COG's website at www.fmmetrocog.org.

Attachment 1

20th Meeting of the
Cass Clay Food Commission
May 9th, 2018
Fargo Commission Chambers

Members Present:
Arland Rasmussen, Cass County Commission, Chair
Mike Thorstad, West Fargo City Commission
Jenny Mongeau, Clay County Commission
Jim Aasness, Dilworth City Council
Heidi Durand, Moorhead City Council
Mindy Grant, At-Large Member
Bukola Bakare, At-Large Member
Nancy Carriveau, At-Large Member

Members Absent:
Jenny Mongeau, Clay County Commission
John Strand, Fargo City Commission
Sharon May, Horace City Council
Chris Olson, At-Large Member
Kayla Pridmore, At-Large Member

Others Present:
Kim Lipetzky, Fargo Cass Public Health
Hali Durand, Cass County Planning
Megan Myrdal, NDSU Extension
Rita Ussatis, NDSU Extension
Noelle Harden, U of M Extension
Nikki Johnson, U of M and NDSU Extension
Joleen Baker, Cass Clay Food Partners
Barb Witteman, Cass Clay Food Partners
Whitney Oxendahl, Cass Clay Food Partners
Adam Altenburg, Fargo-Moorhead Metropolitan Council of Governments

Chair Rasmussen called the meeting to order at 10:30 AM.

1(a). Approve Order and Contents of the Overall Agenda
A motion to approve the order and contents of the overall agenda was made by Mr. Aasness and seconded by Ms. Grant. The motion was voted on and unanimously approved.

1(b). Review and Action on Minutes from March 14, 2018
A motion to approve the minutes was made by Ms. Carriveau and seconded by Mr. Aasness. The motion was voted on and unanimously approved.

Ms. Durand arrived at 11:35.

2. Commission Check-In
Chair Rasmussen stated that Commission members and the steering committee had an opportunity to provide updates on news or events happening in the community.

Ms. Grant provided the Commission a brief update on FAARMS and stated that they would be starting up tours for potential new growers. She also stated that Growing Together is planning a number of events throughout the summer to promote and highlight community gardening efforts in the area.

Ms. Bakare stated that she and Ms. Harden had given a presentation on systems destruction at the Health Equity Summit on April 9. She indicated that the summit dealt primarily with food access and focused on ways to empower people through food.

Ms. Oxendahl arrived at 10:37.

Ms. Carriveau informed the Commission that the Great Plains Food Bank would be hosting a pop-up perishable food pantry on May 10 at Moorhead High School. She also stated that her colleagues were currently in Washington D.C. meeting with Senator Heitkamp and Senator Hoeven to discuss SNAP and the upcoming Farm Bill.

Ms. Lipetzky stated that the next Heart-n- Soul Community Café would be held on May 13 from 11:00 AM to 2:00 PM at Fargo Cass Public Health.

Ms. Durand stated that the Cass County Comprehensive Plan would be wrapping up in July and that there would be one addition public input opportunity on June 12.

Ms. Baker indicated that Prairie Roots Co-op has a new greenhouse with flowers and veggie starts for anyone interested. She also stated that the co-op will soon be adding additional local produce as the growing season ramps up.

Ms. Ussatis stated that NDSU Extension for Cass County is planning on providing a gardening assistance training class in cooperation with Growing Together.

Ms. Myrdal informed the Commission that the Little Free Garden program is now up to 179 gardens in 11 states and provinces. She also provided a brief update on the first season First Fridays @ B.

Ms. Harden stated that MPR had produced a good story on the Little Free Garden program and its impacts on the community. She also indicated that the northwest chapter of the Sustainable Farming Association of Minnesota would be hosting an event in mid-July highlighting several farms in the region. She further indicated that she is currently working on a research proposal on food waste in Minneapolis-St. Paul and the Fargo-Moorhead metropolitan area.

3a. Federal Nutrition Programs at Farmers Markets Education

Ms. Myrdal and Ms. Oxendahl provided the Commission information on the impacts of federal nutrition programs at farmers markets. Ms. Myrdal highlighted three main programs for food assistance: the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Women, Infants and Children (WIC), and the Farmers Market Nutrition Program (FMNP). She stated that nearly 454,000 residents in Minnesota (1 in 12 state residents) and 54,000 residents in North Dakota (1 in 14 state residents) participated in the SNAP program in 2017. She indicated that approximately 50 percent of SNAP beneficiaries are in working families and that the average monthly benefit for each household member was $111 in Minnesota and $121 in North Dakota. She stated that SNAP benefits are solely used to buy food items a household eats such as breads and cereals, fruits and vegetables, meats, fish and poultry, and dairy products, as well as seeds and plants which produce food.

Ms. Myrdal indicated that farmers markets can apply to accept SNAP but that some markets lack the organizational structure to do so. She discussed several regional and national programs which support farmers markets including the Farmers Market Coalition, North Dakota Department of Human Services, the Minnesota Farmers Market Association, PartnerSHIP4Health, and Hunger Solutions. She also discussed double bucks programs, in which individuals may use EBT cards at farmers markets and receive a dollar-for-dollar match. She indicated that Minnesota currently offers a statewide Market Bucks program through Hunger Solutions.

Ms. Myrdal stated that, amongst the seven current farmers markets in the area, only three currently accept or partially accept SNAP: Great Plain Producer Association's Community Farmers Market, Hildebrant's Farmers Market, and the Red River Market.

Ms. Oxendahl stated that the WIC program is a federal nutrition program that services pregnant, postpartum and breastfeeding women, infants, and children up to age 5. She indicated that there were 4,851 participants in Cass County and 2,472 participants in Clay County in 2017.

Ms. Oxendahl indicated that 21 states operate a WIC Cash Value Voucher (CVV) program, also known as WIC Fruit and Vegetable Vouchers. She stated that the program operates in Minnesota but does not extend to Clay County. She indicated that the voucher is $6 for children and $10 for mothers.

Ms. Oxendahl stated that another program, the WIC Farmers Market Nutrition Program (FMNP), provides vouchers that can be used to purchase eligible items at authorized farmers markets, including nutrition education. She stated that the yearly benefit is between $10 and $30 and that the program operated in 36 states, including Minnesota, but does not extend to Clay County.

Ms. Oxendahl also highlighted the Senior FMNP, which was developed to assist seniors living on a limited income help increase their consumption of fruits and vegetables. She stated that participants receive coupons that can be used at farmers markets, produce stands and CSAs, and that participants must be at least 60 years old and have an income not exceeding 185 percent of federal poverty guidelines. She indicated that the yearly benefit is between $20 and $50 and that the program operates in 42 states, including Minnesota, but does not operate in Clay County.

Ms. Myrdal iterated several key points on why federal nutrition programs at farmers markets matter. She stated that, in addition to increasing access to fresh, nutritious produce for people with lower incomes, farmers markets often offer produce that is of higher nutritional value. She also indicated that nutrition program benefit local economies, and that $1 in SNAP benefits generates $1.70 in local economic activity. She also stated that farmers markets are also community gathering places and that nutrition programs create a bridge for all people to experience local food and build community together.

Ms. Oxendahl provided information on several city and state ordinances regarding federal nutrition programs and farmers markets including: Minneapolis, Hawaii, Los Angeles, Prince George's County in Maryland, and San Francisco.

Mr. Aasness left at 11:09.

Ms. Myrdal introduced Kim Wangler, Moorhead Parks and Recreation, and Mary Larson, Assistant Professor of NDSU and member of First Presbyterian Church in Moorhead to talk about their experience at setting up a SNAP program at the Moorhead Farmers Market. Ms. Wangler and Ms. Larson spoke about the partnership between First Presbyterian Church to help provide financial assistance for the Double Bucks program at the Moorhead Farmers Market. Ms. Wangler and Ms. Larson spoke about their efforts in setting up the program with the assistance of Ms. Myrdal.

3b. Federal Nutrition Programs at Farmers Markets Blueprint
Ms. Myrdal and Ms. Oxendahl informed the Commission that the Federal Nutrition Programs at Farmers Markets blueprint included in the packet materials would be discussed in more detail at the next Commission meeting.

4. Metropolitan Food Systems Plan Update
Mr. Altenburg and Ms. Harden provided the Commission a brief update on the Metropolitan Food Systems Plan update. Mr. Altenburg stated that Metro COG would be providing assistance with researching and developing the plan with funding through a portion of the North Dakota Chronic Disease Grant. He also indicated that Metro COG would be hosting a number of pop-up public input opportunities throughout the summer and that a schedule would be posted on the Cass Clay Food Partners Facebook page the coming weeks. He stated that the intended goal is to develop a plan that is easy to read and understand with a series of achievable recommendations for the Commission and local area jurisdictions.

Ms. Harden provided information on the proposed outline of the Metropolitan Food Systems Plan. She stated that, as currently envisioned, each chapter would be centered around the core values of the Cass Clay Food Partners and the Commission. She provided information on 20 to 30 health indicators that the plan hopes to research, as well as case studies highlighting local and regional food efforts. She concluded by asking the Commission about any potential food systems issues expected to come up in the next two to three years.

5. GleaND Update
Janice Tweet, GleaND Coordinator, provided the Commission with an update on GleaND. Ms. Tweet stated that the first growing season would be a pilot season and that four growers had been conformed in both Cass and Clay Counties. She indicated that volunteer outreach efforts have been focused at First Fridays @ B meetings, with upcoming meetings with Kiwanis and Rotary clubs.

Ms. Tweet stated that the organization now has a Facebook page, website at gleand.org, and email address at info@gleand.org. She indicated that the website has information for both growers and volunteers, including calendar and waiver of liability. She stated that GleaND will track crop types, amount collected, where produce is distributed, and number of volunteers. She concluded by stating that crops may be either organic or not, and that any pesticides used on crops would be documented.

6. Public Comment Opportunity
Chair Rasmussen informed the Commission that time would be allotted for public comments.

No comments were made.

7. Commission and Steering Committee Roundtable
Chair Rasmussen asked for the Commission and the steering committee to share any additional updates.

No additional comments were made.

8. Commission Action Steps
Chair Rasmussen stated that there would be no Commission meeting in July and that the next meeting would be held on September 12. He mentioned that a special First Friday meeting to discuss the Metropolitan Food Systems Plan update would be held on June 1 at the Moorhead Center Mall from 8:00 to 9:00 AM.

Chair Rasmussen informed the Commission that this would be Ms. Baker's last meeting as a member of the Steering Committee. He thanked her for all of her work throughout the years with the Commission.

Chair Rasmussen adjourned the meeting at 11:51 AM.

Federal Nutrition Programs at Farmers' Markets

This issue brief will provide background information related to Federal Nutrition Programs and how they can be used to purchase food at farmers' markets. This brief will address the common concerns and benefits from a health, environmental, social, and economic standpoint and include a list of online resources. Appendices have been provided to share how regional jurisdictions are addressing the issue and give example policy language from other jurisdictions. The appendices also include the number of SNAP and WIC participants in Cass and Clay Counties, local farmers' markets accepting SNAP, programs enhancing SNAP participation in other jurisdictions, and federal grants for farmers' markets.

Background

Consumers in the United States are excited about purchasing and consuming locally produced foods and Cass and Clay Counties are no exception. Residents now support a strong network of weekly seasonal farmers' markets (see Appendix D).

While consumers at large have increased their purchases of local produce, people participating in Federal Nutrition Programs have struggled to keep up. Those participating in SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program), WIC (Women, Infants and Children), and FMNPs (Farmers Market Nutrition Programs) may need incentives to shop at a local farmers' markets. Enhancing the purchasing power of these programs through double bucks or community funds, marketing, and education is necessary to getting more program participants to their local farmers' markets all the while infusing the local economy with federal dollars.

Increasing these purchases not only leads to boosted sales for local producers, it provides these individuals and families with much-needed fresh produce to add to their diets. Unfortunately, many of these programs are not offered in Cass and Clay Counties.

These Federal Nutrition Programs are highlighted below, along with what can be done to enhance these dollars and which ones are available in Minnesota and North Dakota.

SNAP

SNAP stands for Supplemental Nutrition Assistance program (formerly known as food stamps) and is a program administered by the United State Department of Agriculture (USDA). It offers nutrition assistance to millions of low-income individuals and families and provides economic benefits to communities.

All states issue SNAP benefits through Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT), an electronic system using a government-issued benefit debit card to pay for food. SNAP participants can use their benefits to purchase eligible items such as breads, produce, meats, dairy products, and other foods for home consumption.

SNAP use at farmers' markets can increase individuals' consumption of fresh fruits and vegetables as well as infuse dollars into the local economy; however, there are some barriers and concerns to overcome in helping farmers' markets accept SNAP:

1. Assistance applying for the USDA program and reporting SNAP activity
2. Assistance getting the needed equipment or paying for the monthly service fees or transaction fees

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3. Perception that it won't be used
4. No market manager to run the program at the market

Many farmers' markets need to have partners in the community to help them apply to the program, help with reporting, and market the program to local agencies like food banks and the local WIC office. As for the cost, there are resources such as the Farmers Market Coalition to assist in the purchasing or rental cost of the EBT equipment. Some state agencies, such as the ND Department of Human Services, will cover the cost of a machine for newly authorized farmers' markets.

Some of the markets in Cass and Clay Counties lack a market manager or individual who is at the market weekly to run the program. Other farmers' markets have gotten creative by partnering with a non-profit or bank or civic organization to administer the program on their behalf.

No matter how the program gets started, it is important for the local SNAP community, a community that includes many children, families, elderly individuals, and people with disabilities. Below are some details from Minnesota and North Dakota about how SNAP dollars are used in each state:

In Minnesota,

- **454,000** - residents participated in SNAP in 2017 (8% of population; 1 in 12)
- **More than 69%** of SNAP participants are families with children
- **Almost 30%** are in families with members who are elderly or have disabilities
- **More than 54%** are in working families
- **$111** - average monthly SNAP benefit for each household member in 2017
- **$1.21** - average SNAP benefit per person per meal in 2017
- **$602 million** - SNAP recipients received in 2017[1]

In North Dakota,

- **54,000** - residents participated in SNAP in 2017 (7% of population; 1 in 14)
- **More than 72%** of SNAP participants are families with children
- **Almost 30%** are in families with members who are elderly or have disabilities
- **More than 48%** are in working families
- **$121** - average monthly SNAP benefit for each household member in 2017
- **$1.32** - average SNAP benefit per person per meal in 2017
- **$78 million** - SNAP recipients received in 2017[2]

Double Bucks Programs

The more dollars an individual has for fresh produce at a farmers' market, the more they can potentially consume. Farmers' markets and state governments are capitalizing on this concept by introducing Double Bucks or Market Match programs for SNAP dollars.

In these programs, when an individual uses their EBT card at a farmers' market they are able to receive a dollar-for-dollar match, doubling their purchasing power at the market. Generally, there is a cap on the

[1] Center on Budget and Policy Priorities. SNAP Fact Sheet Minnesota. 2018. https://www.cbpp.org/sites/default/files/atoms/files/snap_factsheet_minnesota.pdf

[2] Center on Budget and Policy Priorities. SNAP Fact Sheet North Dakota. 2018. https://www.cbpp.org/sites/default/files/atoms/files/snap_factsheet_north_dakota.pdf

amount of matching dollars they can receive, usually between $10-$20 per market day. For example, if they run their EBT card for $10 at a market, they would receive $20 in SNAP vouchers or tokens to use at the market.

Some states are taking note of these programs and the benefit for low-income residents by starting statewide programs. This includes Minnesota and most recently Hawaii with a bill working its way through the state legislature to start a dollar-for-dollar match program up to $20 for individuals using their EBT card at a market (see Appendix B for policy language).

WIC

WIC (Women, Infants and Children) is a federal nutrition program that services pregnant, postpartum, and breastfeeding women, infants and children up to the age of five. They must fall at or below 185% of the poverty level. In fiscal year 2016, an average of 7.4 million people in the United States participated each month.[3]

Health in the first few years of life are meaningful for life-long health and increasing the amount of fresh produce can create a base for healthy habits. The USDA has implemented two WIC programs to promote consumption of fruits and vegetables: the WIC Cash Value Voucher (CVV; also known as WIC Fruit and Vegetable Vouchers) and the WIC Farmers Market Nutrition Program (FMNP).

WIC CVV

WIC CVV began in 2007 and states get to decide if they will host the program. By 2012, only 21 allowed CVV to be used at their farmers' markets. CVV checks are issued monthly and can only be used for fruits and vegetables. Monthly allowance is $6 for children and $10 for mothers. The vast majority of CVVs are used at grocery stores, not farmers' markets. This is likely due to the administrative cost of the program for the state and the intensive regulations for the program, which is more demanding than FMNP.

An important benefit of this program is the monthly availability for receiving vouchers which encourages WIC participants to make healthy purchases each month. The benefits to farmers' markets could be vast if it were implemented; with a $500 million federal budget, those dollars could go directly to local farmers.[4]

WIC FMNP

In 1992 Congress established WIC Farmers' Market Nutrition Program (WIC FMNP) in the hopes of increasing the amount of produce WIC recipients consumed while also expanding sales at local farmers' markets. WIC recipients can use program vouchers to purchase eligible food items at authorized farmers' markets. The program also offers nutrition education on how to use the items they purchase.

Below are further program details:

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[3] USDA. Women, Infants and Children (WIC): Frequently Asked Questions about WIC. accessed 2018 April 14. https://www.fns.usda.gov/wic/frequently-asked-questions-about-wic

[4] Finn Emily. Trending at the Market: WIC Cash Value Vouchers. Farmers Market Coalition. 2013. https://farmersmarketcoalition.org/trending-at-the-market-wic-cash-value-vouchers/

- The yearly benefit is between **$10 - $30.** Some states and individual farmers' markets supplement those program funds to increase local produce consumption.
- **I**n fiscal year 2015, coupons were used at over **3,300** farmers' markets and brought in **$14 million** to farmers (including those at more than 2,800 roadside stands)
- USDA Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) provides grants to state agencies for 100 percent of the program's food costs and 70 percent of the administrative costs
- The program operates in 36 states.[5]

Senior FMNP

WIC participants are not the only population who can benefit from farmers' market vouchers. More than two-thirds of seniors in the U.S. are not eating the recommended amount of fruits and vegetables[6] and seniors on a limited budget especially struggle to make these purchases.

The USDA began the Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program (Senior FMNP) in 2001 to help supplement recipients' diets with fresh produce. Seniors receive coupons that can be used at farmers' markets, produce stands, and CSAs (community supported agriculture).

The program's requirement of nutrition education for its recipients is crucial to assisting them in improving their diets with fresh produce. The education piece is commonly implemented by the local WIC agency or other local partners. If education is lacking, recipients may not know what to do with the fresh food they purchase and it would limit the effectiveness of the program.

Below are further program details:

- Participants must be at least 60 years old and their income not exceed 185% of the federal poverty income guidelines
- The yearly benefit is between **$20 - $50.** Some states and individual farmers' markets supplement those program funds to increase local produce consumption.
- **815,751** people were served in fiscal year 2015 and coupons used at over **3,700** farmers markets
- USDA FNS provides grants to state agencies for 100 percent of the program's food costs and 10 percent of the administrative costs
- The program operates in 42 states[7]

What programs are available in Minnesota?

- Farmers' markets in Minnesota can usually get assistance in purchasing SNAP EBT equipment, transaction fees, and promotional materials from the Minnesota Farmers Market Association, PartnerSHIP 4 Health, and Hunger Solutions
- Minnesota farmers' markets are fortunate to have an established double bucks program called Market Bucks (see Resources). Through Market Bucks, all Minnesota farmers' markets that

[5] USDA. Farmers' Market Nutrition Program (FMNP). accessed 2018 April 14. https://www.fns.usda.gov/fmnp/overview

[6] National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition. Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program: Helping low-income seniors buy healthy food from local farmers. Accessed 2018 April 14. http://sustainableagriculture.net/publications/grassrootsguide/local-food-systems-rural-development/farmers-market-nutrition-program/

[7] USDA. Senior Farmers' Market Nutrition Program. accessed 2018 April 14. https://www.fns.usda.gov/sfmnp/overview

administer a SNAP program can provide a dollar for dollar match to SNAP customers, up to $10 per market.
- Minnesota receives grant dollars to administer WIC FMNP and Senior FMNP, but the programs do not currently extend into Clay County. The MN Department of Agriculture, who administers the program, would have to put in a request for an expansion, then work on getting Clay County farmers' markets authorized
- Minnesota also administers WIC CVV, and in 2015 Clay County issued over $10,000 and saw a 78% redemption rate[8], but these were not used at farmers' markets since no markets in the county are authorized

http://www.health.state.mn.us/divs/fh/wic/localagency/reports/foodbenefits/annual/2015allcounty.pdf

What programs are available in North Dakota?

- The ND Dept of Human Services provides up to $1,200 for newly authorized farmers' markets to purchase EBT machines and print banners and signs (typically available for four markets per year)
- There is no double bucks program through the state, so individual farmers' markets must raise funds to provide these programs
- North Dakota does not administer WIC CVV
- North Dakota does not administer WIC FMNP or Senior FMNP. A state agency would need to be in charge of hosting them, most likely the Department of Health and Human Services or the Department of Agriculture. Based on the administrative costs to be covered by the state (30% and 90% respectively), it may be challenging to add staff hours or hire personnel to either state department to start and run the program
- Although the State of North Dakota does not administer Senior FMNP, it is operated on the Standing Rock Indian Reservation in south central North Dakota

Conclusion

Minnesota and North Dakota can improve in providing Federal Nutrition Programs in Cass and Clay Counties. Minnesota already has many of the programs in place, but these do not extend to Clay County. In North Dakota, the government would need to determine how to deliver these programs when reluctant to add administrative or personnel costs.

Jurisdictions have found SNAP, WIC CVV, and FMNPs to be economic boosters and benefit the health of those nearing the poverty line. **Providing these programs locally** is the first step and the second is **augmenting those dollars** through double bucks programs or additional funding.

A critical step is **providing education** to those participating in these programs. These Federal Nutrition Programs can be offered and enhanced, but if participants do not know how to prepare or cook the fresh produce, the programs will not be effective. Nutrition education has the power to increase fresh produce consumption and local resources such as WIC, SNAP-Ed, and the Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program (EFNEP) are key to providing this education.

[8] Minnesota Department of Health, WIC Program. Fruit and Vegetable Cash Value Voucher Redemption for Women, Infants, and Children Participating in Minnesota WIC During Calendar Year 2015 by County of Residence. accessed 2018 April 14. http://www.health.state.mn.us/divs/fh/wic/localagency/reports/foodbenefits/annual/2015allcounty.pdf

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Lastly, it would be remiss not to mention ordinances that can be passed at the state and local levels. Beyond laws to establish a statewide double bucks program, other jurisdictions have passed ordinances that requires farmers' markets to accept Federal Nutrition Programs, set up a program that trains farmers' markets on SNAP acceptance and reporting, and require the Ag Commissioner to assess where a market might benefit those in areas that lack access to fresh produce (see Appendix B). Enacting new policies can make these programs viable long-term in the community.

Table 1. Summary of local jurisdictions with policies encouraging farmers' market purchases by federal nutrition program participants (as of March 2018)

Moorhead	Dilworth	Clay County	Fargo	West Fargo	Cass County
Not addressed	Not addressed	Not addressed	Not addressed	Not addressed	Not addressed

Table 2. Framework for evaluating policies and initiatives encouraging farmers' market purchases using federal nutrition programs

Domain	Benefit	Concern
Health	Increases access to and consumption of fresh fruits and vegetables, which can in turn impact diet-related diseases Educates new consumers about how their produce is grown and how to use that produce	
Environment	Purchasing locally can reduce greenhouse gases due to being transported shorter distance Reduces packaging materials compared to store-bought food[9]	
Social	Increases community engagement and decrease social isolation, especially for seniors who attend farmers' markets Increases the diversity of those who attend farmers' markets and allows for interaction between people who might not normally meet Consumers appreciate putting a face to the people who grow and produce their food	These new farmers' market consumers may struggle with transportation to get to the market or having to shop at multiple locations (market and grocery store) to fulfill their grocery needs. They may also have the perception that prices at the market will be too high for them

[9] Festing H. 1998, Farmers' Markets: an American success story, Ecological Books, Bath.

Economic	Benefits the local economy when individuals use these federal dollars for local purchases Provides local producers with another outlet for selling their products	The cost challenges for markets are: cost of equipment, transaction fees, monthly service plans, staff time, advertising expenses, and supplies. However, markets can receive economic assistance from organizations or state agencies to help relieve costs associated with these programs

Resources

1. Center on Budget and Policy Priorities - SNAP Fact Sheet
    a. MN: https://www.cbpp.org/sites/default/files/atoms/files/snap_factsheet_minnesota.pdf
    b. ND: https://www.cbpp.org/sites/default/files/atoms/files/snap_factsheet_north_dakota.pdf
2. County Health Rankings & Roadmaps.
    a. http://www.countyhealthrankings.org/take-action-to-improve-health/what-works-for-health/policies/wic-senior-farmers-market-nutrition-programs
    b. http://www.countyhealthrankings.org/take-action-to-improve-health/what-works-for-health/policies/electronic-benefit-transfer-payment-at-farmers-markets
3. Farmers Market Coalition https://farmersmarketcoalition.org/
4. Urban Institute: How Far Do SNAP Benefits Fall Short of Covering the Cost of a Meal? Feb 2018
    a. https://www.urban.org/sites/default/files/publication/96661/how_far_do_snap_benefits_fall_short_of_covering_the_cost_of_a_meal_2.pdf
5. How to Implement SNAP and EBT Into Your Farmers' Market
    a. https://www.mda.state.mn.us/food/business/~/media/Files/food/business/implementsnapebt.ashx
6. How to use an EBT card at a farmers market:
    a. https://www.extension.umn.edu/family/live-healthy-live-well/healthy-bodies/eat-smart/farmers-markets/using-ebt-cards/docs/using-ebt-cards-at-farmers-markets.pdf
7. Minnesota Double Bucks Program (Market Bucks)
    a. http://www.hungersolutions.org/programs/market-bucks/
8. Minnesota EBT machine for Farmers' Markets
    a. Kathy Zeman, MN Farmers Market Association, 320-250-5087, kzeman@mfma.org
9. Minnesota Farmers Market Association https://www.mfma.org/
10. Minnesota WIC-approved farmers' markets 2017
    a. http://www.health.state.mn.us/divs/fh/wic/localagency/wedupdate/moyr/2017/06jun/28/fm2017flyer.pdf
11. Missouri Fiscal Note describing the cost of implementing Senior FMNP
    a. https://house.mo.gov/billtracking/bills181/fiscal/fispdf/4986-02N.ORG.pdf
12. Missouri bill introducing WIC FMNP
    a. http://house.mo.gov/bill.aspx?bill=HB1883&year=2018&code=R
13. North Dakota EBT machines for Farmers' Markets
    a. Deb Kramer, Public Assistance Program Administrator, 701-328-3272, debkramer@nd.gov
14. North Dakota Farmers Market and Growers Association https://www.ndfarmersmarkets.org/

If you have questions, please contact Kim Lipetzky with the Fargo Cass Public Health Office at 701-241-8195 or klipetzky@fargond.gov.

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Appendix A: Federal Nutrition Programs at Farmers' Markets in Regional Jurisdictions

Bismarck, ND
The BisMarket farmers' market accepts SNAP and has a SNAP incentive program where individuals can use their EBT card for a dollar-for-dollar match up to $15 per market to purchase eligible items. This program is funded through grants in addition to donations from a local electric cooperative. The other farmers' market in Bismarck does not accept SNAP as a whole but a few individual vendors accept SNAP. This market does not have a double bucks program.

Lincoln, NE
Nebraska Extension, Nebraska Department of Agriculture, CHI Health and Children's Hospital and Medical Center partnered to offer double bucks to SNAP participants (up to $20) at three farmers' markets. Nebraska Department of Agriculture also offers Senior FMNP and WIC FMNP in Lincoln.
https://news.unl.edu/newsrooms/today/article/program-allows-snap-participants-to-double-fruits-vegetables/
http://www.ourbesttoyou.nebraska.gov/programs.html

Sioux Falls, SD
South Dakota does not have Senior FMNP or WIC FMNP. Those administering the Sioux Falls Public Health Department program called Live Well have been interested in enhancing SNAP at their farmers' market for quite some time but they currently only have one individual vendor at their farmers' market accepting it. They do not have a double bucks program but have been communicating with South Dakota State University (SDSU) about pursuing grant funding. Funding has been their biggest challenge.

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Appendix B: Example Ordinances

Minneapolis, MN: requires markets to accept FMNP, Senior FMNP, and WIC Fruit and Veg Vouchers.
201.30. - Farmers market requirements.
(5) Farmers markets shall become authorized to accept FMNP (Farmers Market Nutrition Program), S/FMNP (Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program), WIC-CVV (Women, Infants and Children Fruit and Vegetable Vouchers), and any other similar food assistance programs as designated by the licensing official, not including SNAP-EBT (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Electronic Benefits Transfer), within twelve (12) months of licensure.
(2011-Or-095, § 3, 11-4-11; 2013-Or-143, § 1, 12-6-13; Ord. No. 2017-017 , § 6, 4-28-17)

Hawaii: Requires the Dept of Agriculture to create a farmers' market dollar-for-dollar matching program for SNAP beneficiaries.
A BILL FOR AN ACT
RELATING TO THE SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.
BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

SECTION 1. The legislature finds that consumption of fresh fruit and vegetables is an integral part of a healthy diet and central to the prevention of obesity and disease. Every community should have adequate access to such healthy dietary options; however, high cost and poor quality often make this difficult.

The legislature further finds that, to increase access to fresh fruits and vegetables for beneficiaries of the federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, some states have enacted farmers' market matching incentive programs. Under such programs, individuals who purchase produce at local farmers' markets using their nutrition assistance benefits receive additional benefits on a dollar-for-dollar basis up to a certain amount.

The legislature further finds that farmers' market matching incentive programs have not only increased access to healthy dietary options, but have also helped invigorate local economies and address food insecurity. Previous legislation introduced in Hawaii to establish such a program was supported by community and scientific groups. Therefore, the purpose of this Act is to require the department of agriculture to develop and administer a farmers' market matching incentive program promoting the purchase of Hawaii-grown fruits and vegetables for beneficiaries of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program.

SECTION 2. Chapter 141, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended by adding a new section to be appropriately designated and to read as follows:

"**§141□ Farmers market matching incentive program; special fund.** (a) There is established a farmers' market matching incentive program for beneficiaries of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program. The program shall be developed and administered by the department of agriculture.

(b) Beneficiaries of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program who use food stamps to make purchases at a farmers' market shall receive a dollar-for-dollar match up to $20 to be used exclusively for purchases at a farmers' market. "Farmers' market" shall have the same meaning as in section 205□2(d)(15)(D).

(c) There is established within the department of agriculture a farmers' market matching incentive program special fund, into which shall be deposited any legislative appropriations and any public or private grants, awards, or gifts for the purpose of the farmers' market matching incentive program. Moneys in the special fund may be expended by the department to administer the program and to provide matching funds to beneficiaries.

(d) The department of agriculture may cooperate with private organizations to develop rules for the farmers' market matching incentive program."

SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of $300,000 or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2018-2019 to be deposited into the farmers' market matching incentive program special fund.

SECTION 4. There is appropriated out of the farmers' market matching incentive program special fund the sum of $300,000 or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2018-2019 for administration of the farmers' market matching incentive program and to provide matching funds to beneficiaries of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program.

The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of agriculture for the purposes of this Act.

SECTION 5. New statutory material is underscored.

SECTION 6. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2018.

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Los Angeles, CA: requires all farmers' markets to accept EBT payments (CalFresh).
Part 25 - FARMERS' MARKETS
22.52.2620 - General Provisions.
F) Forms of payment. Farmers' markets shall accept CalFresh benefits via electronic benefit transfer ("EBT") card in addition to accepting other forms of payment.
(Ord. 2013-0001 § 56, 2013.)

Prince George's County, MD: sets up a program called "SNAP to Health" which provides technical assistance to farmers' markets to accept SNAP and trains markets on reporting requirements. It also makes $5,000 in grants per fiscal year available to markets for up to three years.
Code §§ 12-116 – 121
SUBDIVISION 4. - SNAP TO HEALTH PROGRAM.
Sec. 12-116. - SNAP to Health Program.
(a) The Department shall establish a program entitled "SNAP To Health" to provide technical assistance:
(1) to a Farmer's Market as defined by Section 27-107.01(87.1) of the County Code, in acquiring technology necessary to accept and process benefits under the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).
(2) to train managers at a Farmer's Market how to manage the reporting requirements and responsibilities associated with managing a system that accepts and processes SNAP benefits.
(CB-37-2014)
Sec. 12-117. - Grants under the SNAP to Health Program.
(a) The Department shall provide grants:
(1) To a Farmer's Market to offset the initial cost of establishing a SNAP acceptance and processing system.
(2) To a Farmer's Market to offset the costs associated with managing SNAP acceptance and processing such as fees associated with hosting an Electronic Bank Transfer (EBT) device, transaction fees associated with SNAP purchases on the EBT device, and staff costs.
(b) Contingent upon available funding, a Farmer's Market applying for the type of grant assistance found in this Section is eligible for up to three (3) years of assistance in the following increments:
(1) In the first year, the grant may offset up to One Hundred Percent (100%) of the costs.
(2) In the second year, the grant may offset up to Fifty Percent (50%) of the costs.
(3) In the third year, the grant may offset up to Twenty Five Percent (25%) of the costs.
(c) A farmer's market may not receive more than $5,000 in County grants under this program in a single fiscal year.
(d) The Department shall establish the eligibility requirements the managing entity of a farmer's market must meet in order to qualify for a grant through program regulations promulgated pursuant to Section 12-120.
(CB-37-2014)
Sec. 12-118. - Outreach and Advertising.
(a) The Department shall collaborate with the Farmer's Markets, the Department of Social Services, the Prince George's County Conference and Visitors Bureau and non-profit organizations on advertising and outreach targeting Prince George's County residents participating in SNAP to inform them which Farmer's Markets accept and process SNAP benefits as well as the health benefits of buying fresh produce at the farmer's market.
(CB-37-2014)
Sec. 12-119. - Funding.
(a) The administration and implementation of this program shall be funded initially for an amount of One Hundred Thousand Dollars ($100,000.00) as appropriated in the Fiscal Year 2015 budget.
(CB-37-2014)

San Francisco, CA: updated the Park Code and Administrative Code to allow farmers' markets to be located on Parks' property, require the Ag Commissioner to conduct a yearly needs assessment for locations of new markets, and require farmers' market vendors to accept payments from federal, state or local food assistance programs.
San Francisco Park Code
SEC. 7.21. FARMERS' MARKETS.
(a) The Commission may permit the location of a Farmers' Market, that meets the requirements of Administrative Code Chapter 9A. or any successor provisions, as certified by the Agricultural Commissioner, on park land upon findings that such a use:

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(1) Is appropriate for the crowd capacity of the particular location;

(2) Does not adversely affect park grounds or facilities beyond the regular usage of the particular location; and,

(3) Does not significantly interfere with the public's use and enjoyment of other areas of the park, including, but not limited to, children's play areas or athletic courts or fields.

(b) The permit fee shall be $475 per location of market, for each six (6) months of operation, where the market is operating at the location no more than one day a week. If the market operates at the location more than one day a week at any time during the six-month permit period, the permit fee shall be multiplied by the number of days of operation during a week. For example, a market that at any time during the six-month period operates at the location two days a week shall pay a permit fee of $950 for the six-month permit period. In addition to the permit fee, the permittee shall reimburse the Department for staff costs directly incurred by the operation of the market at the location.

San Francisco Administrative Code

SEC. 9A.3. LOCATION.

(a) A market established under the provisions of this chapter may be located at any suitable site selected by the Agricultural Commissioner and owned or leased by the City and County.

(b) A market established under the provisions of this chapter may be located on property under the jurisdiction of the Recreation and Park Commission upon approval of the Commission. Upon receiving a request to locate a market on property under the jurisdiction of the Recreation and Park Commission, the Commissioner of Agriculture shall work with the Recreation and Park Department to identify possible suitable sites for approval by the Recreation and Park Commission as set forth in the Park Code.

SEC. 9A.15. SAME – TERMS AND CONDITIONS.

Permission to sell at a market shall be offered only upon the following terms and conditions:

(a) The proper completion and filing of an application;

(b) Compliance with all federal, State and local laws relating to the operation, use and enjoyment of the facilities or the market premises;

(c) Compliance with all rules and regulations of the Agricultural Commissioner regarding use of the market facilities.

(d) Accept forms of payment provided to vendors or market sponsors by participants of federal, state or local food assistance programs, including, but not limited to, food stamps, WIC Farmers' Market Nutrition Programs, and Senior Farmers' Market Nutrition Programs. Such forms of payment include, but are not limited to, coupons, vouchers, Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) cards. The Agricultural Commissioner shall work with market sponsors or managers who are not currently certified to accept any, or all, of these forms of payment to obtain such certification within six months of the effective date of this legislation.

SEC. 9A.20. NEEDS ASSESSMENT.

In order to support low income access to healthy, local produce by low-income San Franciscans, as well as to provide additional markets for regional farmers, the Agriculture Commissioner shall conduct a needs assessment of neighborhoods in San Francisco that could support additional farmers markets without impacting the viability of locally owned businesses. This needs assessment shall primarily focus on identifying the best location for farmers' markets in underserved neighborhoods. This needs assessment shall be submitted to the Clerk of Board of Supervisors on an annual basis.

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Appendix C: Cass-Clay WIC and SNAP Participation

Table 1. WIC participation by year and county - Unduplicated Data

County	Total number of participants by year			
	2015	2016	2017	2018
Clay	2,509	2,572	2,472	N/A
Cass	4,960	5,069	4,851	N/A

Table 2. Cass County SNAP Participation by year - Unduplicated Data

Month/Year	Number of Households	Number of Individuals	Issuance for January
January 2015	5,552	12,032	$1,393,872
January 2016	5,657	12,439	$1,456,074
January 2017	5,768	12,500	$1,434,651
January 2018	5,807	12,533	$1,423,920

Table 3. Clay County SNAP participation by year - Unduplicated Data

Month/Year	Number of Households	Number of Individuals	Issuance for January
January 2015	2,431	5,278	$519,747.51
January 2016	2,512	5,422	$533,966.82
January 2017	2,625	5,688	$590,493.89
January 2018	2,735	5,757	$606,117.02

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Appendix D: Cass-Clay Farmers' Markets and SNAP Acceptance

Farmers' Market	SNAP Status
Farmers Market & Beyond 500 13th Ave W, West Fargo ND	Not accepting SNAP. No plans on accepting it at this time as they are making some changes to the market. Market run by West Fargo Parks & Rec.
Great Plains Producer Association's Community Farmers Market West Acres Mall, Fargo ND	One produce vendor, Erbes Farms, accepts SNAP. Market run by producer so no main body in charge of market to accept SNAP.
Hildebrant's Farmers Market 349 E Main Ave, West Fargo ND	Accepts SNAP.
Moorhead Center Mall Market 4 St N & Center Ave, Moorhead MN	Does not yet accept SNAP. Working on accepting it for the 2018 season. Need a fiscal host and an individual to run program at the market.
NoMo Farmers' Market Junkyard Brewing, 1416 1st Ave N, Moorhead MN	Does not accept SNAP. Market runs only once a month in the summer.
Red River Market Broadway & 4th Ave N, Fargo	Accepts SNAP and has a double bucks program. SNAP users double their purchasing power up to $10 when they use their EBT card at the market. Double Bucks Funding Source: 2016: Dakota Medical Foundation, 2017: Dakota Medical Foundation & Fargo Youth Commission, 2018: Essentia Health
Whistle Stop Farmers Market Whistle Stop Park at 14th St NE, Dilworth	Does not yet accept SNAP but would like to start accepting it for the 2018 season. A vendor manages the market and would be there every week to run EBT transactions. Connected with PartnerShip 4 Health to help apply to the program.

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Appendix E: Programs enhancing SNAP purchases at Farmers' Markets

Jurisdiction	Program	Description
California	Market Match	The statewide program matches up to $10 in SNAP purchases at farmers' markets[10]
Massachusetts	Healthy Incentives Program (HIP)	HIP is a dollar-for-dollar SNAP matching program for the purchase of local produce at farmers' markets, farm stands, and CSAs. Unique to this program, the matching funds are added directly to a participant's EBT card when they make eligible purchases. The match maximum is based on household size.[11]
Oklahoma	SNAP marketing	The Oklahoma Nutrition Information Education (ONIE) Project assisted local markets by creating EBT-related signage, in-season produce guides, flyers for schools and the community, direct mailings to SNAP participant as well as online marketing.[12]
Tacoma, WA	Matching programs and SNAP Ambassador Program	They used a federal grant (FINI) to fund their double bucks program and started a program called Senior Farm Share, a matching program for Senior FMNP. SNAP Ambassadors are current or former SNAP users who use social media, peer-to-peer networking and farmers' market tours to spread the word about the SNAP program[13]

[10] https://marketmatch.org/

[11] https://www.mass.gov/service-details/healthy-incentives-program-hip

[12] Owen Jade, et al. The Muskogee Farmers Market: Working Together to Achieve Healthy, Affordable Food Options for Everyone. Farmers Market Coalition. 2017. https://farmersmarketcoalition.org/19627-2/

[13] Carkonen Stacey and Shawn. A Taste of Tacoma: Increasing Food Access Builds Community, Partnership, and Local Businesses. Farmers Market Coalition. 2017. https://farmersmarketcoalition.org/taste-tacoma-increasing-food-access-builds-community-partnership-local-businesses/

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Appendix F: Federal Grants for Farmers' Markets

Federal Grant	Description
Community Food Projects (CFP) Competitive Grants Program	Funds projects that increase community self-reliance relating to food and nutrition and also strives to meet the needs of low-income individuals in that community. One of the only federal grants to focus on a whole food system approach to public health and nutrition. Two types of grants are available: 1) Planning Grants for food security improvements and 2) Community Food Projects for ongoing projects.[14]
Farmers' Market Promotion Program (FMPP)	Strives to increase consumption of local food and develop new markets for farmers markets, produce stands, CSAs, and other producer-to-consumer services by providing technical assistance, training and outreach.[15]
Farmers' Market SNAP Support Grants	Provides grants to increase SNAP accessibility and participation at farmers' markets, which can include measures like technical assistance, staff training, and assistance creating educational materials.[16]
Food Insecurity Nutrition Incentive (FINI) Program*	Supports projects to increase SNAP participants' produce purchases. These can be pilot projects (up to $100,000), multi-year community-based projects (up to $500,000), or multi-year large-scale projects ($500,000 or greater).[17]
Healthy Food Financing Initiative (HFFI)	Assists in bringing healthy food retailers, like corner stores and farmers markets, to underserved and rural communities.[18]
Local Food Promotion Program (LFPP)	Supports the expansion of local food enterprises to increase consumption of local foods and develop market opportunities for farmers and producers. There are two types of grants: 1) planning grants used for activities such as market research, feasibility studies and business planning, and 2) implementation grants used for activities such as technical assistance and training for workers, outreach & marketing, and information technology improvements.[19]

[14] Rural Health Information Hub. Community Food Projects Competitive Grant Program. accessed 2018 April 14. https://www.ruralhealthinfo.org/funding/379

[15] USDA USDA Agricultural Marketing Service. Farmers Market Promotion Program. accessed 2018 April 14. https://www.ams.usda.gov/services/grants/fmpp

[16] USDA. USDA Awards $34.3 MIllion to Support Communities' Local Foods Infrastructure, Increase Access to Fruits and Vegetables. accessed 2018 April 14. https://www.usda.gov/media/press-releases/2015/10/02/usda-awards-343-million-support-communities-local-foods

[17] USDA NIFA. Food Insecurity Nutrition Incentive (FINI) Grant Program. accessed 2018 April 14. https://nifa.usda.gov/program/food-insecurity-nutrition-incentive-fini-grant-program

[18] U.S. Dept of Health & Human Services Office of Community Services. Healthy Food Financing Initiative. accessed 2018 April 14. https://nifa.usda.gov/program/food-insecurity-nutrition-incentive-fini-grant-program

[19] USDA Agricultural Marketing Service. Local Food Promotion Program. accessed 2018 April 14. https://www.ams.usda.gov/services/grants/lfpp

Food Waste

Cass-Clay Community Snapshot

July 2018

INTRODUCTION

At least **25% of all food in the United States goes to waste,** with some estimates as high as 40%.[1] Statistics like these have spurred individuals and organizations, including those in Cass County, ND and Clay County, MN, to focus on reducing food waste.

Cass and Clay Counties are seated in states with considerable agricultural presence, and the urban food landscape in Cass and Clay has transformed in the past ten years as more consumers have become aware of food system issues, like food waste. While communities in the area have made changes, there are some hurdles to forward progress.

The lack of 1) **a municipal site that accepts food waste for composting or anaerobic digestion** and 2) **a residential food waste collection program** are two substantial obstacles to addressing the local food waste problem. Cities around the country like Austin, TX and Minneapolis, MN have begun collecting food waste at curbsides or providing drop-off locations for this waste.

Although some systemic barriers remain, there have been recent positive changes to help educate consumers and address food waste issues.

INITIATIVES TO REDUCE FOOD WASTE IN CASS-CLAY

Community Education

Ad Council and Natural Resources Defense Council - Save the Food Campaign: these two national organizations are leading a public service campaign to combat food waste at the consumer level by trying to raise awareness and change behavior. The multi-year campaign has made its way to Fargo-Moorhead in the form of billboards, such as one featuring a milk carton with “BEST IF USED” printed on it instead of a “use by” date.
savethefood.com

Fargo South High School DECA students - Food Waste Campaign: three students in the DECA program, which prepares students to be leaders in fields like marketing and management, completed a food waste project during their junior and senior years of high school (2017-2018). To prepare for the campaign, they performed a few studies, such as giving food waste logs to 35 households to track food waste for a week, doing a week-long Snapchat study with students, and interviewing local businesses like Breadsmith, Hornbachers, and Great Plains Food Bank. They put together a small campaign by making cards with tips for reducing food waste tied to reusable bags to give out at Hornbachers. Afterward, they presented their findings and solutions to the Cass Clay Food Commission, Fargo Public Schools’ Nutrition Services Director, the school board, and at the SchoolsAlive Conference.

[1]Mooney C. Washington Post. The staggering environmental footprint of all the food that we just throw in the trash. Online. 2018, Apr 18. https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/energy-environment/wp/2018/04/18/americans-waste-about-a-quarter-of-the-food-they-buy-and-the-environmental-consequences-are-staggering/?utm_term=.52352293264e

SNAP-Ed: a federal program called Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP, formerly known as food stamps) has local educators to help participants learn how to meal plan, cook, and shop using their benefits. Recently, federal guidelines have changed to include food waste as a policy, systems, and environmental change strategy. This means that our local SNAP-Ed Educators can do work related to food waste as a part of their job.

Ugly Food of the North: a citizen-run organization with a goal to create a more sustainable Fargo-Moorhead food system through education, networking, and community organizing. They have hosted numerous events, such as community potlucks, where they ask attendees to make their dishes with imperfect (ugly) produce, conversations and panels about the local food system, documentary screenings, and many more. Their biggest initiative has been the Little Free Garden project, where they aim to foster communities committed to growing, sharing, and cultivating food in small, raised-bed gardens, designed to fit in residential spaces.
www.fmuglyfood.com

Washington Elementary and Concordia College - Hungry!: a food waste project with a local fourth grade classroom, extending to three classrooms this fall. Students are taught by Concordia College first-year students about food waste and other food related topics. Then for 20 days during the fall semester, the students record how much food, milk, or juice was not consumed during snack time and why the food or drink was not consumed. Students complete a pre-assessment and a final assessment to gauge what they learned about food waste. Trifolds and public presentations are prepared and their results are shared with their peers, families, and also at a large grocery store to the general public.

Food Retailers

Breweries: a number of local brewers have found ways to re-use their spent grains from the brewing process. Much of the spent grain from the breweries is used as animal feed which is a win-win for the brewery and for farmers, because without the partnership, the brewery would have to haul the grain away and the farmer would have to purchase feed for the cows.

- *Drekker Brewing Company*: most of their spent grains feed the dairy cows in NDSU's Animal Science Program, and these grains make up about 80% of the cows' yearly feed. A local small business also uses spent grains to make dog treats and food establishments like Nichole's Fine Pastry and Luna Fargo have used it to make granola and crumble topping.
- *Fargo Brewing Company*: most of their spent grains are picked up by a farmer to feed his cattle. A small portion goes toward the small business making dog treats.
- *Junkyard Brewing Company*: all their spent grains are picked up by regional cattle farmers.

Coffee Shops: Cass and Clay are following the national trend of consuming coffee with gusto and the local shops brew through many pounds of coffee each week. These used coffee grounds can be applied by local farmers and gardeners to the soil as fertilizer for acid-loving plants, so shops like 20 Below Coffee, Young Blood Coffee, Atomic Coffee, and Thunder Coffee all reduce waste by donating used grounds. (*A note for local farmers and gardeners*: all of the local coffee shops contacted about using grounds are willing to donating them - contact them if interested)

Grocery Retailers: grocery stores go through vast quantities of perishable food items. What they do with unsellable food can make a considerable impact on the local food system. Many grocery retailers in Cass-Clay donate some of their perishables, like produce and meat, to the local food pantry. (See below under *Great Plains Food Bank* for more information.)

- *Cash Wise*: donates as much of their perishables as possible to Great Plains Food Bank and a reclamation provider takes their non-perishables. Their parent company, Coborn's Inc., is working on further policy to capture more food waste.
- *Prairie Roots Food Co-op:* a local food co-operative that saves food from the landfill by setting out buckets of old produce, hot and cold bar remains, and deli scraps to be picked up by local farmers for animal feed. Additionally, they have an "ugly food" station where produce that is imperfect in some way, like bruised fruit, is sold at a discount.
- *Walmart*: their retail stores in the region donate produce and other perishables to Great Plains Food Bank and sell most other food waste to a composting company in Crookston, MN.

Governments and Nonprofits

Clay County Solid Waste Management - Anaerobic Digesters: Clay County is working on retrofitting Clay County Wastewater Treatment Plant's three 550,000 gallon anaerobic Digesters with the ability to break down food waste along with human waste. With the target of accepting food waste in mid-to-late 2019, the County hopes to add holding tanks to insert food waste and grinders to create comparable sized particles so the waste digests at similar rates. The County has checked with over 100 businesses in Fargo-Moorhead including colleges, hospitals, and restaurants to identify the amount of food waste that could be captured, which has so far been calculated at 6,000 pounds per day. The many benefits of the project are as follows:

- It would save businesses time and money, since the treatment plant is located in town as opposed to the landfill 20 miles out of town, and landfill tipping fees will likely continue to rise as landfill space becomes limited
- The methane produced from the process would be used to heat and power the wastewater treatment plant (with the help of a new generator)
- The biosolids produced are a highly desirable fertilizer source for area farmers

No plans are currently in the works to add the ability to process residential food waste, since it tends to be contaminated with other waste due to lack of education, but the County is open to a possible drop-off site for residential food waste in the future when the project is more mature.

GleaND: a volunteer powered network serving North Dakota and Clay County, Minnesota. Their goal is to capture excess produce from local growers and channel it through the local charitable feeding networks, like Great Plains Food Bank.
www.gleand.org

Great Plains Food Bank - Daily Bread: this local food bank has three Daily Bread trucks that go out Monday through Friday into Fargo-Moorhead, picking up mainly perishable foods (e.g. produce and meat), but also some non-perishables from local businesses like Hornbachers, Cashwise, Target, Walmart, coffee shops, and many more. This food then gets delivered directly to partner agencies like the New Life Center, Salvation Army, and Dorothy Day. What these organizations do not take gets returned to the food bank and is picked up or distributed to other North Dakota and Western Minnesota agencies.
www.greatplainsfoodbank.org

Master Gardeners - Veggies for the Pantry: a program through NDSU Extension which allows community members to bring their extra garden produce to weekly designated drop off sites, and Master Gardeners deliver the produce to the Emergency Food Pantry or Churches United.
www.ag.ndsu.edu/mastergardener/veggies

Red River Market: a farmers market in downtown Fargo that has a goal of zero waste produced at the market. Vendors can bring leftover food items to a designated area at the end of each market day and a food recovery non-profit picks it up for donation.
www.redriver.market

Businesses and Schools

Concordia College: this Moorhead university's Taste Not Waste (TNW) campaign includes performing plate waste (food left on plates post-meal) studies, hosting activities to educate students about reducing plate waste, and carrying out demonstrations that involve collecting food waste. The TNW campaign started in 2016, inspired by the USDA and EPA's goal for food waste reduction in the United States. Two Concordia professors, Dr. Meredith Wagner and Dr. Joan Kopperud, met with the university's president, Dr. William Craft, to propose a goal of 50% reduction in plate waste in their dining center by 2020, which led President Craft to issue a campus-wide goal of food waste reduction. Since then, TNW has been working to reach that goal by increasing awareness of food waste and suggesting ideas for action among key individuals and groups across campus. Since starting the TNW campaign in October of 2016, the campus has reduced plate waste by 38%.

The university has shown its commitment to sustainability and this extends to their Dining Services Department. The following are Dining Services' initiatives to reduce food waste:

- Encourage students to only take what they plan to eat. The dining hall went trayless in 2009 and immediately saw a 10 percent decrease in food waste.
- Collect meal data to continuously update the amount of food served and purchase food that can be used in different manners (like overripe bananas for banana bread).
- Every other week, Great Plains Food Bank picks up food donations from the campus. Last year the college donated around 1,400 pounds of food.

www.concordiacollege.edu/studentlife/dining-services/about-dining-services/sustainability-in-dining-services

Doubting Thomas Farms: a farm about 20 minutes north of Moorhead, MN that strives to reduce food waste in the community. They pick up compostable food waste from a few local businesses, including Swanson Health Products in downtown Fargo. Their largest food waste program is called Take Back Jack, which takes pumpkins for composting in the fall. In the past three years, Doubting Thomas has composted around 80 tons of pumpkins from the community.
www.doubtingthomasfarms.com

Hospitals: the healthcare industry provides vital services to our community and feeds community members who are sick and injured. When hospitals focus on systemic food waste reduction, it can have a sizeable impact on their food purchasing budgets, in addition to reducing the load at local landfills.

- *Essentia Health*: this local hospital uses menu planning software to plan and adjust production to reduce food waste. Their Food Service Director is working on developing food waste reduction policies.
- *Sanford Health:* this local hospital also uses menu planning software to plan and adjust production to reduce food waste. Unused food from Dining Services' back of house gets picked up by Great Plains Food Bank to be donated. Dining Services also has a food pulper they use daily, but without a local composting site, they have to throw the pulp away. If the anaerobic digester project (mentioned above under *Clay County*) moves forward, they would be able to have this pulp picked up and digested to further reduce their food waste.

Share Tables: a station where students can drop off unwanted food or drinks, like unopened pre-packaged food or drinks and whole fruits, for other students to eat. Food left over at the end of the day usually gets used for an after-school program or donated to a food bank or other non-profit. The practice saves food from going into the landfill and helps kids not go hungry.

- *Moorhead Public Schools*: the program started in the 2017-2018 school year. Five schools have a share table and it was zero cost to implement.
- *West Fargo Public Schools*: the program started in the 2016-2017 school year by Food Service Director Dana Reith after she witnessed the large amount of waste in the school cafeterias. It started with a pilot program in a few schools with the help of a Concordia College dietetics intern who helped get the program approved by the health inspector, research best practices, and train food service staff. As for cost, they purchased Coldmaster pans for each site ($100 each); these pans are frozen overnight then can hold cold products, like milk, for 4+ hours. One of the most common items taken from the table is milk, so these pans have been essential to supplementing meals for kids who are still hungry after eating their lunch. The program is currently in seven schools and they are hoping to increase the number of schools participating next year.

COMMUNITY ACTIONS

- Conduct a community-wide food waste assessment to create a measurable baseline
- Encourage local governments to prioritize food waste reduction as part of their comprehensive plans and as a policy for city functions
- Reach out to city and county officials to request that resources shift toward starting a municipal site that accepts food waste for composting or anaerobic digestion and, after the site is established, initiate a residential food waste collection program
- Educate consumers: local governments can provide resources about food product dating labels (sell-by, use-by, etc.), meal planning, food storage, how to use leftovers in new dishes, and backyard composting
- Educate businesses: local governments can provide resources, like technical assistance and waste tracking tools, to help businesses reduce waste
- Recognize businesses for their voluntary efforts to reduce food waste

RESOURCES

End Hunger - Food waste resources
http://endhunger.org/food-waste/

Environmental Law Institute - FOOD WASTE: City and State Strategies for Source Reduction
https://www.eli.org/vibrant-environment-blog/food-waste-city-and-state-strategies-source-reduction

Environmental Protection Agency - Food: Too Good to Waste
https://www.epa.gov/sustainable-management-food/food-too-good-waste-implementation-guide-and-toolkit

For more information, please contact Kim Lipetzky with the Fargo Cass Public Health Office at 701-241-8195 or klipetzky@fargond.gov

Attachment 3b

FOOD WASTE

A Community Snapshot

Snapshot Statistics

- The average food waste per person is ~23# per month
- Approximately 25% of all food is wasted in the US, with estimates as high as 40%

Local Hurdles to Overcome

- A lack of a municipal site that accepts food waste for composting or anaerobic digestion
- A residential food waste collection program
- What are other cities doing?

Current Local Initiatives: Community Ed

- Ad Council and Natural Resources Defense Council – Save the Food Campaign
- Fargo South High School DECA Students – Food Waste Campaign
- SNAP-Ed
- Ugly Food of the North
- Washington Elementary and Concordia College – Hungry!

Current Local Initiatives: Food Retailers

- Breweries
- Coffee Shops
- Grocery Stores
  - Cashwise Foods
  - Prairie Roots Food Co-op
  - Walmart

Current Local Initiatives: Governments and Nonprofits

- Clay County Solid Waste Management – Anaerobic Digesters
- GleaND
- Great Plains Food Bank – Daily Bread
- Master Gardeners – Veggies for the Pantry
- Red River Market

Current Local Initiatives: Businesses and Schools

- Concordia College Dining Services
- Doubting Thomas Farms
- Hospitals
- Share Tables

Call for Community Actions

- Conduct food waste assessment to find a measurable baseline
- Encourage local governments prioritize food waste reduction
- Shift resources to start a municipal food waste acceptance site
- Education
- Recognition of efforts in the community

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