UF/IFAS Extension
The Journey to Sustainability Begins with Education
Community Food System and Assessment: A Proposal for Implementation

Newtown Community Health Action Team (CHAT)

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What’s In A Name?

- Local food system
- Community food security
- Community-based food system
- Community food system assessment
- Food/ Agriculture policy council
Local Food System

The Who, What, Where, When, Why and How of Our Food - From Farm to Plate

Source: EarthFriends. 1995
At a minimum, the “ready availability of nutritionally adequate and safe foods and the assured ability to acquire acceptable foods in socially acceptable ways.” - USDA
Community Food System

• Expanded local food-related issues:
  – agriculture profitability
  – hunger
  – farmland loss
  – lack of economic opportunity for rural and low-income communities
  – sustainability
  – diet-related diseases
  – poor access to healthy foods
# 2002 Sarasota Agriculture Economic Value and Potential

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Value ($ Millions)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Consumed Food Total Value</strong></td>
<td>815.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Home consumed food</strong></td>
<td>458.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Away from home consumed food</strong></td>
<td>351.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Out of town consumed food</strong></td>
<td>5.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Agriculture Total Market Value</strong></td>
<td>17.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Floriculture</strong></td>
<td>8.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Fruits</strong></td>
<td>4.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Cattle/calves</strong></td>
<td>3.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Misc small livestock</strong></td>
<td>1.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Vegetables</strong></td>
<td>N/R</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Data provided by Ken Meter of Crossroads Resource Center; & by FL Farm Bureau
Figure 15. Overweight and obesity by age: United States, 1960-2000

NOTES: Percents for adults are age adjusted. Overweight for children is defined as a body mass index (BMI) at or above the sex- and age-specific 85th percentile BMI cut points from the 2000 CDC Growth Charts. United States, Overweight for adults is defined as a BMI greater than or equal to 25 and obesity as a BMI greater than or equal to 30. Obesity is a subset of the percent with overweight. See Data Table for data points graphed, standard errors, and additional notes.

SOURCES: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics, National Health Examination Survey and National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey.
# Sarasota’s Ecological Footprint: Demand Versus Supply

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DEMAND – Footprint per Sarasotan</th>
<th>Global acres/capita</th>
<th>SUPPLY – Biocapacity per Sarasotan</th>
<th>Global acres/capita</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Absorbing CO² from fuel use</td>
<td>13.2</td>
<td>Land reserved for CO²</td>
<td>0.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Growing Crops</td>
<td>3.8 *</td>
<td>Cropland</td>
<td>0.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grazing Animals</td>
<td>0.5 *</td>
<td>Grazing Land</td>
<td>0.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Harvesting Timber</td>
<td>3.0 *</td>
<td>Forest Area</td>
<td>0.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accommodating Roads, Houses &amp; Infrastructure</td>
<td>1.1</td>
<td>Built-up Area</td>
<td>1.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fisheries</td>
<td>0.6 *</td>
<td>Fishing Area</td>
<td>0.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL – biocapacity used</td>
<td>22.2</td>
<td>TOTAL – existing biocapacity</td>
<td>2.1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Agriculture based = 7.9
Community Food System Assessment

• a collaborative and participatory process
• systematically examines a broad range of community food issues and assets
• informs change actions and policies to make the community more food secure
Why Community-Based Food Systems Assessment?

- emphasize relationships between growers and eaters, retailers and distributors, processors and preparers of food
- give priority to local resources and focus on local markets
- promote social equity, and environmental sustainability along with efficiency and profitability.
CBFSA Benefits

- It’s ‘good business’ for a community because it generates:
  - Community economic development
  - Private and public sector partnerships
  - New markets for family farmers
  - Income-generating projects
  - Skills training
  - Job creation
  - Employment
  - Micro-enterprise development
Who Are The Stakeholders?

- Farmers, farm organizations, farmer’s markets
- Consumers: CSAs, Co-ops, advocacy groups
- Civic groups & boards, nonprofits & charities, community groups, community gardens
- Community Institutions: schools, hospitals, senior citizen homes and prisons
- Churches, food banks, & soup kitchens
- Restaurants, grocery stores, & wholesalers
- Producers, processors, & distributors
- University & extension
- Local, state and federal government offices
- Regional planners
How Is An Assessment Done?

Each community food assessment is unique, based on a variety of factors including goals, participants, methods, resources, and timeframe.
Research Methods Examples:

- Surveys or focus groups conducted by community members, universities, agencies, etc.
- Community meetings and trainings to raise awareness and get input;
- Mapping and surveys of food-related resources such as farms, ranches, gardens, farmers' markets, stores, distributors, processors, food banks, etc;
- Analysis of data from a variety of public and private sources, such as the census, hospitals, and state departments of agriculture;
Who Is Working On Community Food Systems?

- USDA
- SSAWG
- SARE
- Foundations, e.g., Wallace Center
- Hundreds of non-profits, municipalities, and counties
- Thousands of groups worldwide
USDA Community Food Projects Program

- federal grants program to community food security programs
- first authorized in the 1996 Farm Bill, re-authorized in the 2008 Farm Bill
- $5 M annual appropriations
- administered by USDA/NIFA
USDA Community Food Projects Program

• funded project areas:
  – community self-reliance for food needs
  – low income people food access needs
  – comprehensive response to nutrition issues
  – entrepreneurial development
  – food system linkages and planning

• http://www.csrees.usda.gov/nea/food/in_focus/hunger_if_competitive.html
Community Food Security Coalition

• a North American non-profit at forefront of building a national movement around community food security.
• publication “What’s Cooking in Your Food System”: A Guide to Community Food Assessment”
• membership-based coalition (325 orgs.)
• http://www.foodsecurity.org/
APA's 2006 National Planning Conference

“Food System Planning”
First Time Session*

Now repeated at annual conferences
Purpose
- Implementation of BCC Resolution for Sustainable Agriculture, i.e., county support of a community food system assessment

Provider
- Sarasota County Extension

Timeframe: TBD

Amount: TBD
Proposal Scope

➢ Provide administrative coordination to:
  ✓ organize a Newtown greater area coalition of community stakeholders
  ✓ develop funding resources
  ✓ facilitate a community food system assessment

➢ Report recommendations with specific action plans
A local food system approach seeking ways to tap and build on existing community resources & issues

Community members set priorities, conduct the research, and develop recommendations

An action orientation for implementation

Sarasota County Extension as facilitator & coordinator