Finding Food in Sarasota County

Ken Meter
Crossroads Resource Center (Minneapolis)

Photo: Team Santa Rosa
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Financial partners:

- Sarasota County
- **Team Santa Rosa**
- University of Minnesota
- **Experiment in Rural Cooperation (SE Minnesota)**
- NW MN Regional Sustainable Development Partnership
- **West Central MN Regional Sustainable Development Partnership**
- Community Design Center
- **Regional Food Systems Working Group (Value Chain Partnerships project) — Aldo Leopold Center**
- Aldo Leopold Center for Sustainable Agriculture
  - Iowa State University
- **ALCES Foundation (Boston)**
- Community Alliance with Family Farms (California)
- **Cole Family Foundation**
- Sunnyfields Farm Institute
- **Maui Land & Pine**
- University of Hawaii — Manoa
- **Roots of Change Council (San Francisco)**
- Ecotrust (Portland, OR)
- **W. K. Kellogg Foundation**
Sarasota County

- 355,722 residents
- $15.3 billion personal income each year

Source: Federal Census 2000, BLS
Sarasota County Personal Income (adjusted), 1969 - 2004

Source: Bureau of Economic Analysis
Sarasota County, Florida, Earnings by Sector, 1969-2000 (adjusted)

Source: Bureau of Economic Analysis
Total transfer payments to Sarasota County, Florida, 1969 - 2004

Source: Bureau of Economic Analysis
Food stamps to Sarasota County, Florida, 1969 - 2004

Average farm production surplus

Source: Bureau of Economic Analysis
Sarasota County residents lost $835 million of net assets in 2004.

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics
Mural: The Food Project

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Sarasota County
Food & Farm Economy

• 371 farms

Source: USDA Agriculture Census 2002

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Photo: Team Sarasota
Sarasota County Food & Farm Economy

- 23 (6%) of farms are over 1,000 acres
- 255 (69%) are less than 50 acres

Source: USDA Agriculture Census 2002
Sarasota County
Food & Farm Economy

- 92 farms (25%) irrigate
- 5,002 acres

Source: Ag Census
• Average value of land and buildings
  $841,623 per farm

• 126% of state average
Farm Production Balance
in Sarasota County, Florida, 1969-2004

Source: Bureau of Economic Analysis
Farm Production Balance in Sarasota County, Florida, 1969-2004

$3 million (27%) less than 1969

Source: Bureau of Economic Analysis
Sarasota County
Food & Farm Economy

• Region’s farmers produce $34 million of crops & livestock per year

And...

• Spend $24 million to raise it

$10 million surplus per year

29-year average (1976-2004)

Source: Bureau of Economic Analysis
Sarasota County
Food & Farm Economy

Also...

• Farm families earn $823,000 of other farm-related income

• Receive little federal support

Source: Bureau of Economic Analysis
63% of county farms lost money in 2002
Farm Subsidy Profile, 1994-2005

Sarasota County, Florida

Number of farms (BEA) 371
Number of farms receiving subsidies (EWG) 44
Percent of subsidies received by top 5 recipients (EWG) 53%
Percent of subsidies received by 1 recipient (EWG) 26%
Total subsidies received (EWG) $479,589

Source: Environmental Working Group, BEA
## Farm Subsidy Profile, 1994-2005

### Sarasota County, Florida

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type</th>
<th>No. farms</th>
<th>Subsidies Received</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Disaster Relief</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>$259,958</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Commod. Payments</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>$170,491</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conservation</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>$49,140</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>44</strong></td>
<td><strong>$479,589</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Ave. commodity payments/year** $14,207

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Farm production expenses in Sarasota County, Florida, 1969-2004

Source: Bureau of Economic Analysis
$7 million of these farm inputs are sourced outside the region

Source: Ken Meter using data from Agriculture Census 2002
Crop and livestock sales in Sarasota County, Florida, 1969-2004

Source: Bureau of Economic Analysis
Sarasota County, Florida, farm income by type, 1969-2004

Source: Bureau of Economic Analysis
Food-related personal income in Sarasota County, Florida, 1969-2000

Source: Bureau of Economic Analysis
Also a region of food consumers...
• Consumers buy $797 million of food each year

• Most from outside region

Source: Ken Meter using Bureau of Labor Statistics
In fact...

- The average food item in the U.S. travels 1,500 miles from farmer to consumer

- Food prices will rise as energy costs increase

Source: Aldo Leopold Center

Source: ERS
## Sarasota County Food & Farm Economy

### Markets for food eaten at home

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Amount (millions)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Meats, poultry, fish, and eggs</td>
<td>$127</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fruits &amp; vegetables</td>
<td>75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cereals and bakery products</td>
<td>49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dairy products</td>
<td>64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>“Other,” incl. sweets, fats, &amp; oils</td>
<td>152</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Census & BLS
What is the region’s energy market?
Sarasota County

Consumer markets for energy

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Product</th>
<th>Quantity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Household Electricity</td>
<td>$193</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Household Natural Gas</td>
<td>38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Household Fuel Oil</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gasoline &amp; Motor Oil</td>
<td>240</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Motor vehicle purchases</td>
<td>479</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All transportation</td>
<td>1,084</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Census & BLS
Energy in the Food System

U.S. spends about $139 billion each year...

...paying for the energy used to bring food to our tables

Source: BLS; Department of Energy (estimates based on 1976 studies)
All told, Sarasota County...

- Gains $10 million producing food
- Buys $7 million of outside inputs
- Buys $500 million of outside food

Potential wealth lost each year
Total loss is:

• $500 million each year

• Equals 15 times entire value of all crops & livestock raised in the region
The good news is...

Photo: Team Sarasota
Finding Food in Sarasota County

If region consumers bought only 5% of their food directly from farmers:

$40 million of new farm income earned each year

more than what is now sold!