

UF/IFAS Extension

The Journey to Sustainability Begins with Education



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**Community Food System
and Assessment:
A Proposal for Implementation**

**Newtown Community Health Action
Team (CHAT)**

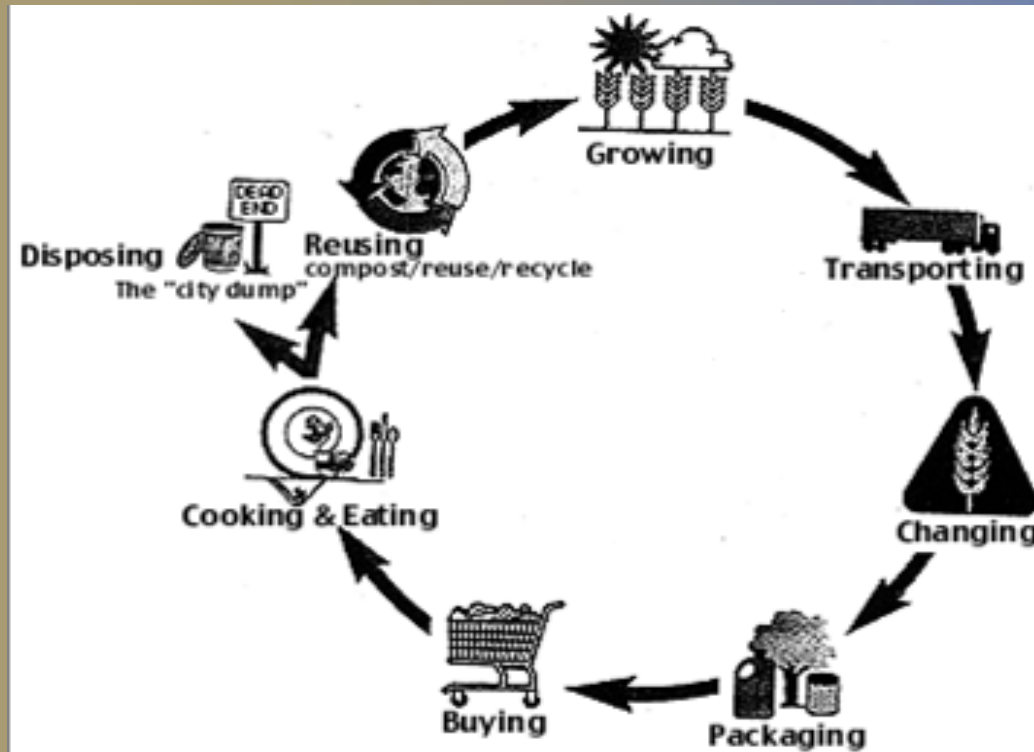
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What's In A Name?

- 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

Food Security

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

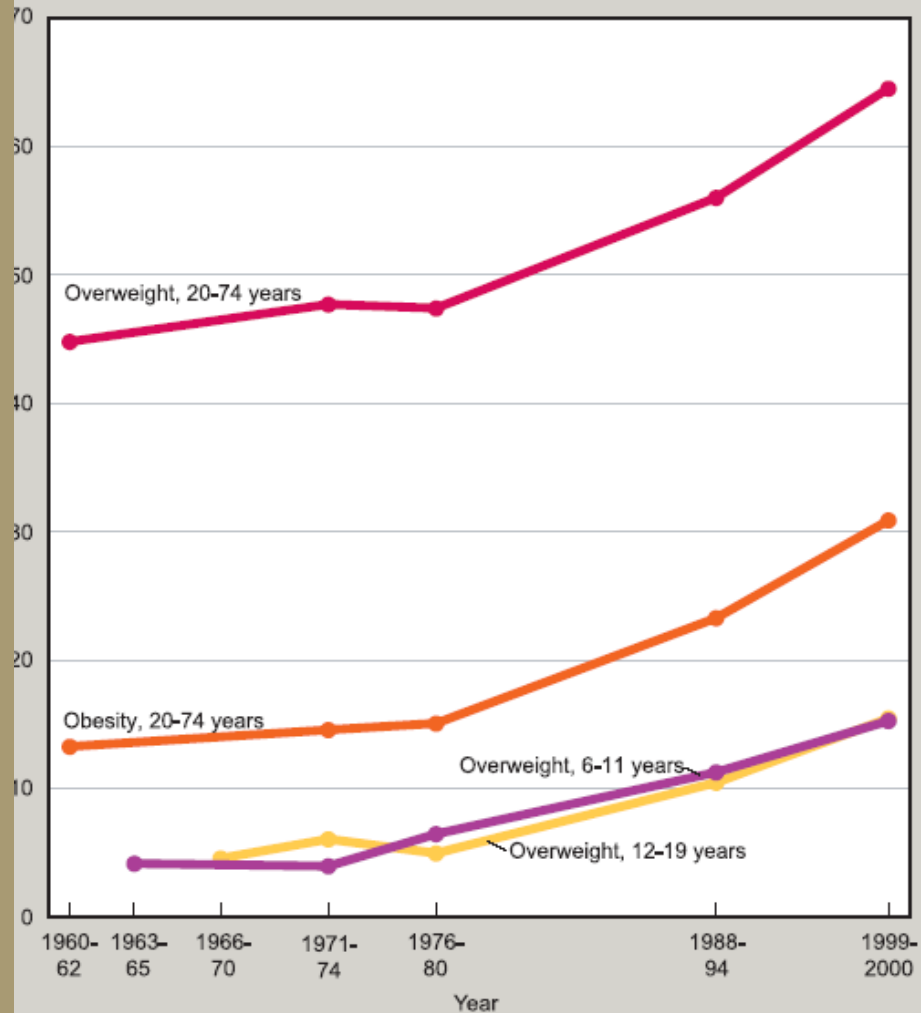
2002 Sarasota Agriculture Economic Value and Potential

	\$ Millions
Consumed Food Total Value	815.8
Categories:	
Home consumed food	458.7
Away from home consumed food	351.5
Out of town consumed food	5.6

Agriculture Total Market Value	17.8
Categories:	
Floriculture	8.3
Fruits	4.9
Cattle/calves	3.6
Misc small livestock	1.0
Vegetables	N/R

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 95th 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

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

* Agriculture based = 7.9

Community Food System Assessment

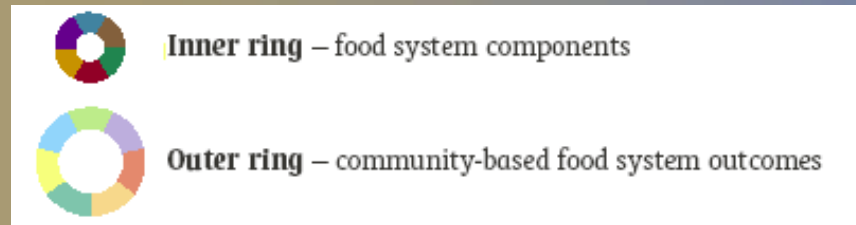
- a collaborative and participatory process
- systematically examines a broad range of community food issues and assets
- informs change actions and policies to make the community more food secure

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

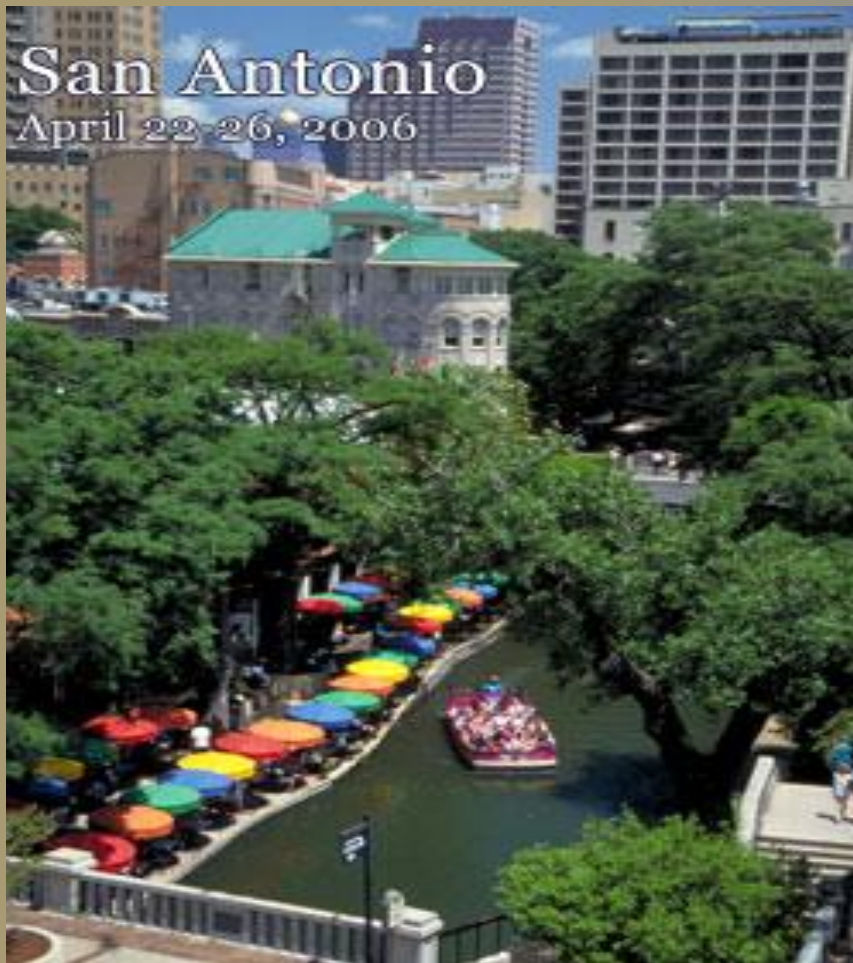
Community Food Security Coalition

- 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/>



American Planning Association

Making great communities happen



APA's 2006 National
Planning Conference

**“Food System
Planning”
First Time Session***

Now repeated at annual
conferences

Proposal to Sarasota County for Extension Services

- 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

Summary

- ✓ 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