Food Production in Johnson County

Harvesting a Growing Economy

Consumers in Johnson County want to purchase locally-grown food products, yet we have a $177 million unmet demand for local food in our region. Johnson County is well positioned to support this rising demand by advancing our local food economy.

The Rising Demand for Local Food

- In 2015, local food sales totaled $8.7 billion in the United States. This showed a twofold increase in local food sales from 2008.
- Data shows that farmers who sell into local markets are more likely to “survive” than other farming & ranching operators.
- Johnson County accounts for 27% of the unmet demand for local food in the Kansas City metropolitan area.

There are eight farmer's markets in Johnson County where you'll find fresh-cut flowers, local honey, free-range eggs, baked goods and locally-grown produce.

The Benefits of Local Food

Economic Benefits
Buying locally-grown food keeps a greater proportion—25% more—of every food dollar in the local economy ($0.65 vs $0.40, respectively). This helps farmers grow their business, enables them to expand their employment of local farm laborers, and helps prevent the loss of agricultural land in Johnson and surrounding counties.

Health Benefits
The amount of time between harvest and consumption of many fruits and vegetables affects its nutrient content and composition. When locally-grown food is consumed within a shorter harvest-to-consumption timeframe, it retains more of its nutritional value. Research also shows that buying local is correlated with a higher consumption of fruits and vegetables.
Meeting the Need Through Local Agriculture

FURTHER ASSESSMENT IS NEEDED

Johnson County Food Policy Council will conduct a food policy audit of Johnson County policies at county government, city government and institutional levels that affect the production, sourcing, purchasing and consumption of local food.

Policy support ensures our agriculture land is profitable for farmers while still meeting local needs.

For more information on the FPC or how to get involved contact Renee Bryant, M.Ed. at renee.bryant@jocogov.org or 913-477-8325

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