Local and Regional Foods: Policy and Institutions

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Local Food Systems Roundtable
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Center for Town/Craft
Drake Ag Law Center

• Provides opportunities to study how the legal system shapes our food and agriculture systems

• Supports courses, publications, conferences, research initiatives, certification program in food and agricultural law

• My role: to help grow the Iowa food economy

• [link](http://www.law.drake.edu/aglaw)
Coyote Run Farm: Restoring a 110 acre farm into a profit center through relational marketing and sustainable agriculture

- Fruits, vegetable, cut flowers, plants
- Pasture poultry
- Specialty beef
- Hay, horses, mules
INCA aims to promote relationships among people who are developing sustainable local food sources that are safe and healthy for people, all creatures, and the land.

www.growinca.org
Local and Regional Foods

Perceptions about Local Foods

- Trendy/Popular/Hot
- Healthy
- Sustainably grown
- Local—food miles, carbon footprint
- Quality

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Defining Local and Regional Food Systems
Ride the Wake
Farming Model vs. Business Model

- Product
- Price
- Placement
- Promotion
- People
Iowa Food Policy Council

• What happened?

• What’s happening?

• Why is this important?
Framing the Question

• “Why can’t I sell milk off of my farm?”

• “I want to milk cows and bottle the milk on my farm. I plan to sell it at an on farm store and wholesale to grocery stores. Who do I need to talk with so I’m complying with the regulations and acquiring the necessary licenses?”
Who Do You Contact?

- City Zoning
- County Zoning
- Department of Public Health
- Department of Inspections and Appeals
- Department of Agriculture
- Department of Revenue
- Department of Workforce Development
In addition to the county health departments depicted in the map above, DIA has contracts with five municipal health departments to conduct inspections in the following cities:

1. City of Ames
2. City of Council Bluffs
3. City of Dubuque
4. City of Muscatine
5. City of Ottumwa (including Wapello County)
Processing

• Is it a federal, state, or local issue?

• Who do you contact?

• How is the activity defined and who defines it?

• Does scale matter?
Distribution

• Is it a federal, state, or local issue?

• Who do you contact?

• How is the activity defined and who defines it?

• Does scale matter?
Food Safety

• Is it a federal, state, or local issue?

• Who do you contact?

• How is the activity defined and who defines it?

• Does scale matter?
Labeling

• Is it a federal, state, or local issue?

• Who do you contact?

• How is the activity defined and who defines it?

• Does scale matter?
Promotion

- Is it a federal, state, or local issue?
- Who do you contact?
- How is the activity defined and who defines it?
- Does scale matter?
Insurance

• Is it a federal, state, or local issue?

• Who do you contact?

• How is the activity defined and who defines it?

• Does scale matter?
Iowa Landscape

- Iowans Fit for Life
- Regional Food Systems Working Group
- Farm to School
- Iowa Nutrition Network
- County Food Policy Councils
- Buy Fresh Buy Local
- Rural Development
- Community Wellness Grants
- RC&Ds
- Wellmark Foundation
- Iowa Veterans Home

- Iowa Wine Industry
- Iowa Farmers Market Association
- Practical Farmers of Iowa
- Iowa Network for Community Agriculture
- Farmers Union Local Food Project
- WIC and Seniors Coupons
- Fresh Made Easy
- Iowa Gaming Commission
- Prison Gardens
Thank You!

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