6 | STRATEGIES FOR SUPPORTING SUSTAINABLE FOOD SYSTEMS

Summary

How can we promote change? This session goes deeper into possible strategies and barriers to supporting a shift toward sustainable food systems, and encourages you to develop a personal strategy for change.

Guiding Questions

- What are possible ways to achieve a sustainable food system?
- What are the barriers to these solutions?
- How can we change our actions to support sustainability?

Activities

1) What Can We Do? (reading/group activity)

2) What Will I Do? (creating a personal commitment)

2008 Michigan State University Museum Voices Project/Creative Change Educational Solutions

Activity 1) What Can We Do?

Consider this quote:

> "I wish I could fast forward the camera to see what agriculture would be like in twenty years. There are so many grass-roots movements out there, so many people that want to turn things around . . . so how can the higher power not bring us all together and give us some sort of vision on how to do this. I believe that each of us in doing what we are doing, already are making a difference, a huge difference." Judy Hageman, Paoli, Wisconsin – Dane County from Voices of Wisconsin Farm Women by Cynthia Vagnetti, 2003.

How will your actions impact the direction of agriculture? In this activity, you will review strategies to promote sustainability, and assess barriers and opportunities for action.

Directions

1. You will work in a group. Each group will review at least one of the "Strategies" reading selections that follow. Topics:

    1) Local Farmer's Markets
    2) Urban Gardening
    3) Community Supported Agriculture (CSA)
    4) Fair Trade
    5) Farm to School Programs
    6) Organic Agriculture
    7) Pasture-Raised Animals

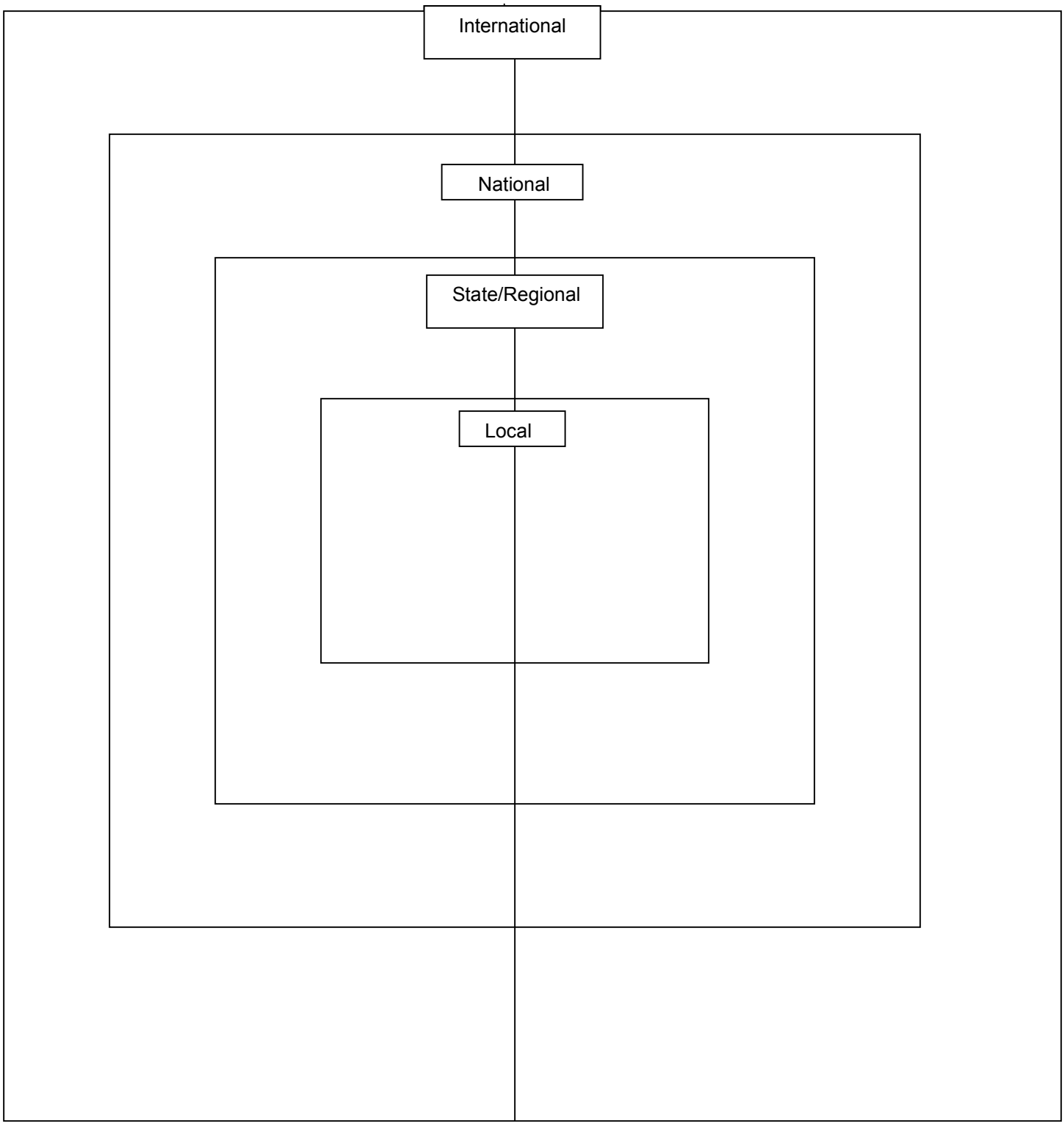
2. After you read, brainstorm with your group the actions you can take **to support** that strategy at different levels: locally, regionally, statewide, nationally, and internationally. Record your actions in the diagram on the next page, and/or on sticky notes your facilitator provides.
3. Then brainstorm and record the possible **barriers** to achieving those actions on the different levels. Again, record your responses.
4. You will share your responses with others, and/or post your stickies on a large diagram the facilitator creates on the board.
5. Use the questions on the page below to debrief after everyone has presented.

Questions:

- What strategies or information was most familiar? What strategies are you already involved in?
- What strategies or information was new?
- What actions seem most difficult? Why?
- What actions seem easiest? Why?

2008 Michigan State University Museum Voices Project/Creative Change Educational Solutions

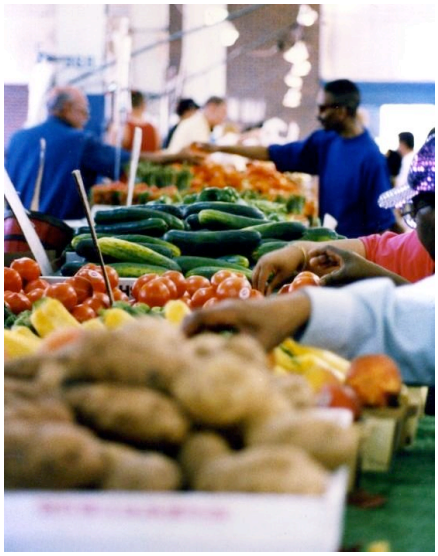
Actions **Barriers**



2008 Michigan State University Museum Voices Project/Creative Change Educational Solutions

Reading Selection 1) Local Farmers' Markets

Although grocery stores seem to offer endless choices, much of the fresh food has traveled many miles and was picked days or weeks before finally reaching the produce section. Local farmers' markets offer an alternative by enabling local farmers to sell their fresh products directly to consumers. Small farm operators, communities, and citizens can all benefit from farmer's markets.



Farmers' markets give farmers a much larger share of the overall price than they would get if selling their food to a processor or distributor. For example, a farmer selling eggs to a distributor gets 30% of the final price, compared with 100% if the eggs are sold at the farmer's market (USDA, 2006).

Markets typically take place once or twice per week in a designated area such as a parking lot, train depot, or a designated structure. Farmers "set up shop" and sell their foods directly to community customers. Fresh produce, eggs, honey, herbs, and crafts are common products.

Farmers' markets provide an opportunity for the community to gather as they support the local economy, get healthy and fresh food, enjoy live music or local art, or even just meet neighbors. Researchers have found that consumers have ten times as many conversations at farmer's markets than at supermarkets (Halweil, 2004).

Healthy food for all

Farmers' markets help ensure that everyone in the community has access to healthy foods. In 1992 Congress established the Farmers' Market Nutrition Plan (FMNP), a supplement to the nutrition program for women, infants and children (WIC). Along with regular WIC coupons, the FMNP program gives women coupons to buy fresh, local vegetables, herbs and other goods. In 2004, recipients received between $10-$30 per season. During 2004 over 2.5 million women recieved this program (USDA, 2008).

Barriers and challenges

Farmer's markets are growing in number around the country. The number of markets in the U.S. rose from 340 in 1970 to 1,755 in 1994 to 4,385 in 2006 (USDA, 2006). Despite this growth, markets face hurdles such as:

- Zoning regulations: Local land use rules may prevent growing or selling of food.
- Seasonality: Depending on the climate, farmers' markets may operate only part of the year.
- Real estate development: In many areas of the country, land values are increasing, making it more attractive for farmers to potentially sell their land for housing or shopping development.
- Economics: Current agricultural policy largely favors large commodity production.

2008 Michigan State University Museum Voices Project/Creative Change Educational Solutions

Reading Selection 2) Urban Gardening

A city farmer in Guizhou province, China. Photo by A.J.Howard

More people are living in cities than ever before; 2007 was the first year in history that the number of people living in urban areas outnumbered those living in rural areas (FAO, 2008).

The residents of these growing areas need access to fresh and healthy foods. However, many urban areas lack adequate grocery stores or farmers' markets, earning them the title "food desert." With few shopping options besides fast food, gas stations or convenience stores, many inner city residents consume disproportionate amounts of processed foods or "junk" food, contributing to health problems such as obesity and/or malnutrition.

In response, citizens and community groups throughout the world are responding with networks of urban gardens. Urban gardening can range in scale and occur in many types of sties. In homes, gardens occupy front yards, backyards, window boxes, or rooftops. In neighborhoods, abandoned building sites, street corners, roadsides, schoolyards, and churchyards may be sites of gardens.

In addition to growing food, many communities also offer courses and support to teach urban gardening on topics from water use to seed saving to food preservation. Community volunteers share knowledge and resources, enabling traditions to be shared across ages and cultures. The physical exercise and fresh food also contributes to individual health (Score & Young, 2008).

Urban Gardening Example: Healing soils, helping neighbors

Students at Ralph J. Bunche Elementary School, located in Detroit's east side, plant and harvest a variety of flowers and grasses in the school's Phytoremediation Garden (Phytoremediation is the practice of using plants to clean up soil). The garden features prairie grasses and sunflowers that remove and trap pollutants such as lead from the contaminated soil on the school grounds. After planting and harvesting the grasses and sunflowers, students processed the sunflower stalks into paper, which was used to make labels for the produce grown later in the garden. (Co-lab, Inc. 2008).

Barriers and Challenges to Urban Gardening

Urban gardening has great promise to feed a growing population, but faces barriers such as:

- Contaminated soils: Abandoned industrial sites in cities often contain contamination such as lead.
- Zoning regulations: Local land use rules may prevent growing or selling of food.
- Access to equipment: Proper tools can be expensive to buy. Creating proper storage and access is also a challenge.
- Knowledge: Residents without experience in gardening need training and support to be successful.

(Resource Center on Urban Agriculture and Food Security, 2008)

2008 Michigan State University Museum Voices Project/Creative Change Educational Solutions

Reading Selection 3) Community Supported Agriculture programs (CSAs)

Community Supported Agriculture programs are farm operations that sell 'shares' to customers in advance of the growing season. These farms create a link between the production and the consumption of food within a community. In a CSA, the customer typically makes a payment at the beginning of the season and gets weekly portions of whatever is harvested that week. (Some farms have an option of paying several installments over the growing season.) This payment, or 'subscription,' lasts over the course of the growing season and yields varying foods as the months progress. In the Midwest for example, a week in May can include peas and lettuce, while August will bring corn, beans, cucumbers, tomatoes, and basil. In fall, the harvest shifts to squashes and cool-tolerant greens.

For farmers, CSAs offer capital upfront, and a guaranteed investment for the season. Farmers use membership money (shares) to purchase seeds, fertilizer, water, for equipment maintenance, and labor. Consumers share in the risks and benefits with the farmer, resulting in greater ties between the producer and the consumer. For this reason, the Japanese translation of CSA ("teikei") is “food with the farmer's face” (Local Harvest, 2008).

Jean Peterson, Delano, Minnesota. Photo by Cynthia Vagnetti from *Voices of Minnesota Farm Women.* (2005).

The CSA concept originated in the 1960s in Switzerland and Japan, where consumers interested in safe food and farmers seeking stable markets joined together. As of 2008 there were more than 1,900 CSAs in the U.S. (Local Harvest, 2008). CSAs tend to be small farms--under 100 acres (Lass et al 2003). The growing popularity of CSAs reflects a larger trend in the increased number of small farms--those from 10 to 49 acres. From 1997 to 2002, the number of such farms increased from 530,902 to 563,772--an increase of over 30,000 (USDA, 2004).

Management: Management can be done by a ‘core’ group of stakeholders that can consist of farmers, growers, distributors, and/or CSA members. A core group creates goals; prepares the budget, handles publicity and outreach, organizes meetings, and deals with legal issues such as liability and labor issues (Local Harvest, 2008). Because CSAs are locally-run, they can respond to the communities that they exist in. The distribution style can vary, and may range from a designated drop-off site once a week to subscribers coming to the farm to help harvest. Some CSAs offer volunteers a discount, or have a volunteer requirement.

Economics: The management team creates an annual farm budget for costs including salaries, distribution costs, investments for seeds and tools, land payments, and machinery maintaince. The budget is then divided by the number of families (usually calculated as four people) the farm can provide for. This equation determines the cost of one “share” in the CSA; a typical share is a week’s worth of vegetables for four. Many CSAs offer additional items such as honey, eggs, dairy products, and some meats (Community Supported Agriculture: An Introduction to CSAs, 2008). Many CSAs also have market or wholesale components, and not all CSAs are collectively owned and operated by stakeholders.

Barriers and Challenges: CSAs can strengthen the local economy and create a regional food supply, but they are not without challenges. Consumers must adjust to eating what is in season, and accept the risks of poor weather or other factors that can impact the harvest. Depending on the year and the conditions, prices for the CSA may be higher than at a grocery store. Farmers must have the capacity to maintain records and effective management practices, all while handling the farming itself.

2008 Michigan State University Museum Voices Project/Creative Change Educational Solutions

Reading Selection 4) Farm to School Programs

Picture taken from: Food System Economic Partnership Newsletter (Spring 2008).

The National Farm to School Program began in 2000 as a collaboration between the Center for Food & Justice (CFJ), a division of the Urban & Environmental Policy Institute at Occidental College (in Los Angeles, CA), and the Community Food Security Coalition (CFSC). Farm to School programs are being created and implemented in many places throughout the U.S. with the goals of healthier food for students while supporting a local economy. In the U.S. 39 states that have these programs have over 8,000 schools involved and over 1,900 districts participating (National Farm to School Online, 2008).

Health and learning

Farm to School programs work to connect schools and local farmers with the purpose of "getting healthy meals at school," and work to decrease the problem of obesity among many U.S. children (National Farm to School Online, 2008). Schools purchase fresh produce from local farms to serve as alternatives in lunch programs. Children are given opportunities to learn about healthy nutrition, visit local farms, and learn from local farmers. Farm to School programs are one solution to improving the health of children, animals, and land within a community. Farmers benefit, too, by gaining "access to a new market through schools and connect to their community through participation in programs designed to educate kids about local food and sustainable agriculture" (ibid).

Barriers and Challenges

While Farm to School programs can be a part of potential solutions to child health problems and supporting local economies, they do not come without the following barriers (Food Systems Economic Partnership conference, 2008):

- Distribution of the fresh food between farmer and schools: There are many state and national food and safety regulations that affect the distribution of foods. These can complicate food pick up, delivery and preparation.
- Preparation: Many lunch programs are supplied with foods that are pre-portioned and individually packaged for easy serving. Farm fresh produce often comes unprocessed and uncooked and requires people, time and money to prepare it. This can be a stressor on an already time-constrained school day and budget.
- State government subsidies for school lunch programs: Most schools receive federal aid for lunch programs that already have contracted distributors, growers, and companies that provide food.
- Need: The frequent acquisition of large quantities of produce from farms can be hard to obtain depending on local supplies.
- Packaging: Farmers face challenges of packaging and portioning expectations, as well as regulations and distribution policies of schools, distributors, and often food service provider policies.

Reading Selection 5) Fair Trade

It's impossible to get locally-grown coffee or chocolate if you live in the continental US. But it is possible to get these products that have been grown in ways that protect the environment while providing a fair wage to growers. The concept is a growing movement called Fair Trade.

Fair Trade products must be made without the use of Genetically Modified Organisms, child labor, or exploitive working conditions. An importer or exporter must meet stringent international criteria, including paying a fair price to farmers. The importer also deals directly with a grower's association or cooperative. This means farmers earn more and keep more of the profits, enabling them to invest in education, health care for their families, and their farming operations. Fair Trade certification also provides technical assistance to small farm operations transitioning to organic farming (more than 90% of fair trade products are organic). In short, Fair Trade enables farmers to stay on their land, have a productive livelihood, and contribute to environmental and social wellbeing in their communities (Fair Trade Labeling Organization International (FLO), 2008).

Currently available Fair Trade products include tea, coffee, chocolate, rice, bananas, crafts, flowers, textiles, personal hygiene products and other items that are typically imported to the US. While approaches vary, Fair Trade crops are typically produced in conditions that involve third-party certification for environmental and social standards by an international group of twenty-three non-government organizations. TransFair USA certifies Fair Trade products within the U.S. (TransFair USA, 2008).

Fair Trade is growing

Fair Trade is drifting into the mainstream. In 2007, worldwide Fair Trade sales reached 2.3 billion Euros--a 47% increase from the previous year. Fair Trade juices, bananas, and sugar are among the products that have doubled (even quadrupled) in sales (FLO-International, 2008). Northfield-based Kraft Foods recently entered into an agreement with the Rainforest Alliance, an international not-for-profit agency. Under pressure from consumer groups, chains such as Starbucks are beginning to offer Fair Trade coffee, and McDonalds will soon start serving fair trade coffee at all its outlets in the United Kingdom; the coffee will be supplied by Kraft (Fair Trade Coffee News, 2007).

Barriers

Although Fair Trade product availability has increased, consumer awareness can remain a barrier to increasing Fair Trade purchases. Fair Trade is often unavailable in mainstream grocery stores and other chains. And, like organic products, Fair Trade can be costly, limiting its market to higher income consumers. Finally, Fair Trade products are often shipped long distances, increasing their carbon footprint.

Important Considerations

Fair Trade raises several important questions: How do we balance the desire for foods we cannot produce (such as coffee or chocolate) with global concerns? What would it take to make Fair Trade more available in mainstream markets? How do we/would we want to influence companies to carry more Fair Trade products? When it is appropriate to purchase imported Fair Trade products over products produced regionally or nationally?

2008 Michigan State University Museum Voices Project/Creative Change Educational Solutions

Reading Selection 6) Organic Agriculture

The word "organic" has become quite popular, but what does it really mean? Organic is a set of agricultural practices that "foster cycling of resources, promote ecological balance, and conserve biodiversity" (USDA, AMS, 2008). Organically produced food cannot be produced using genetic engineering, sewage sludge, or ionizing radiation. These practices are certified by the USDA.

Organically certified products can include food, fibers (cotton), medicinal materials (herbs), and cosmetic materials and applies to the entire food supply chain, from production to handling, quality control and certification, and marketing to trade (FAO, 2007).

Products labeled "organic" must consist of at least 95% organically produced ingredients. Products labeled "made with organic ingredients" must contain at least 70% organic ingredients (USDA, 2008).

Recent U.S. History of Organic food movement

- 1970's: Private organizations begin developing standards as a way to support organic farming.
- 1980's: Some states begin offering organic certification services- patchwork of standards leads to various marketing problems.
- 1990: Congress passes the US Organic Food Protection Act of 1990 to create national standards.
- 2000: The USDA publicized and circulated final rules for legislation
- October 21, 2002: The final USDA legislation goes into effect.

General organic practices can include:

- The use of animal manure and compost as fertilizer.
- Crop rotation to maintain the health of the soil (planting crops such as clover to fix nitrogen).
- Raising animals without growth hormones, and using antibiotics as last resort health treatment.
- Intercropping or companion planting: This is a form of agriculture in which two or more complementary crops are grown in the same place at the same time. For example, planting beans adds nitrogen and is helpful when planted near corn, a "heavy feeder" of this nutrient.
- Integrated pest management (IPM): IPM is a method of controlling pests through the introduction of predator species and/or helpful crops.

Between 1990 and 2005, land used for organic farming in the U.S. grew from 1 million to over 4 million acres (Sooby et al., 2007). Organic agriculture is commercially practiced in over 120 countries in the world and over 31 million acres are used for its production (FAO, 2007). This figure does not include the many subsistence farmers, small scale non-commercial organic farm productions, indigenous farming practices, and urban gardening/agriculture. (Note that many subsistence farmers in "developing" countries already practice organic farming and have done so for generations. For these farmers, many organic practices are considered the norm and not an "alternative.")

Organic farmers may enjoy lower production costs, since synthetic fertilizers and other fossil-fuel based inputs are eliminated (However, as described on the next page, organic may present other costs). Surrounding communities can benefit from organic agriculture through the conservation of healthy farmland and reduction of potential pollutants.

Can organic farming feed the world?

There has been much debate over the ability of organic agriculture to provide enough food to feed the world's growing population. Critics state that GMOs (genetically modified organisms), and industrialized farming is the only way to produce enough food, and that these high-yield technologies can potentially save forests from having to be cleared for farming. Supporters of organic farmer point to different research. For example, an extensive research study on organic agriculture and the global food supply (2006) found that practicing organic agricultural can provide enough food to feed the world, and that "developing" countries can dramatically increase food production by using organic farming (Badgley, et al, 2006). This

2008 Michigan State University Museum Voices Project/Creative Change Educational Solutions

supplements other research showing the environmental, ecological and economic benefits of small- and medium sized farms, especially in the "developing" world. (Rosset, 1999; Altieri et al, 1998).

An emerging issue: Big organic

The organic food movement is growing from both the farming and consumer side. In terms of farming, the number of acres in organic cultivation increased from 1 million in 1990 to over 4 million acres in 2005 (Sooby et al., 2007).

Consumer demand is growing, too, helping to make organic agriculture one of the fastest growing sectors in the food industry (Organic Trade Association, 2007). In 2006, consumer sales of organic products were 17.7 billion dollars. In previous decades, organic products were mainly sold in natural food stores or at farmers' markets, but by 2000, 49% of organic products were sold in "conventional" grocery stores (USDA, 2001). In addition, organic foods are now sold in natural food chain stores such as Whole Foods, and "big box" retailers such as Wal-Mart. This change in production and distribution has led to the phenomenon known as "big organic."

In terms of acreage, the average size of an organic farm has increased, growing from 275 acres in 2000 to 312.5 acres in 2005 (USDA, 2006). Distribution has expanded, too, with stores such as Wal-Mart utilize widespread distribution channels that rival those of "conventional" agribusiness.

Supporters argue that "big organic" makes it possible to bring organic foods and products to a greater range of consumers, and that prices decrease as supplies increase and distribution becomes more "efficient." From an environmental standpoint, supporters point to the thousands of acres now cultivated without pesticides and synthetic fertilizer.

Critics point out that "big organic" can undermine local agriculture, and that the distance between farmer and consumer makes it difficult to assure the safe treatment of animals and produce. They also point out that long-distance transport requires energy and packaging, contributing to carbon emissions and waste.

Despite the growing popularity of organic, challenges still remain for farmers and consumers:

Challenges for Farmers

- Transition from conventional farming to organic can take many years. There can be higher managerial costs as farmers learn new methods.
- There are still barriers to marketing and infrastructure as smaller-scale organic farmers struggle to enter the marketplace.
- Large organic productions can threaten smaller and more localized organic productions (around 80% of organic produce in the U.S. comes from two large organic farm operations (Pollan, 2006).

Challenges for consumers

- Price: Organic products are frequently more expensive then non-organic products.
- Availability: high quality organic products are often targeted at "high-end" markets. There may be a socio-economic and physical barrier to consumers who do not have access to supermarkets that offer organic products.
- "Big organic" can act as a barrier to practices such as eating seasonally and/or eating locally because all types of food are available all year to consumers.

Questions to consider

The benefits and potential challenges of organic raise important questions for everyone involved in a food system:

- What has a lower footprint: long-distance "big organic" or locally-produced foods that use nonorganic methods?
- How can organic become more competitive in a system that often ignores the full environmental costs of heavy pesticide and fertilizer use?

2008 Michigan State University Museum Voices Project/Creative Change Educational Solutions

Reading Selection 7) Pasture Raised Animals

Rufus Kenangy, Albany, Oregan – Lynne County. Photo by Cynthia Vagnetti from "Farming in the 21st Centur" (1997).

Pasture feeding is the grazing of animals on open grass pastures. In a pasture system, the sun is the source of energy, allowing the growth of grass (through photosynthesis), and creating the basis of a food chain (grass, insects, small animals, grazing animals).

In a pasture system, cows and sheep eat biologically diverse grasses, and chickens eat insects and other creatures that live in the grasses. Pasture grazing can support the health of ecosystems, the quality of life for animals, as well as the quality of the meat and dairy they produce (Bartlett, 1998).

An ecological relationship

Ruminants: Any of various hoofed, even-toed (usually horned) mammals such as cattle, sheep, goats, and deer.

Ruminants are characterized by a stomach with four chambers and the chewing of cud (regurgitated, partially digested food.)

Cows, buffalo, and sheep are among a class of animals called ruminants. Ruminants have digestive systems specifically designed to eat grass. Their bodies break down cellulose and turn it into volatile fatty acids. These fatty acids are what energize the cows.

Grasslands and ruminants have coevolved in a mutually beneficial relationship. Grazing helps to maintain the grassland habitat by preventing trees and shrubs from taking root and shading out the grass. The animals also spread grass seed, plant it with their hooves, and fertilize it with their manure, helping to maintain soil quality (Pollan, 2004).

Health benefits to people and animals

Grazed animals get access to sunshine, fresh air, exercise and a natural grass diet. This helps maintain animal health, reducing sickness and the need for antibiotics. This contrasts with concentrated animal feeding operations (CAFOs), in which animals are often given feed made with grain, corn and soy, and additives such as molasses, beet pulp, and farm waste. This can create digestive problems, stomach ulcers, and fatigue, requiring antibiotics as treatment.

This unnatural diet can also impact growth, sometimes requiring the use of hormones to "beef" up animals and increase milk production. The crowded conditions can further spread illness, requiring more antibiotics and supplements. When hormones and antibiotics are released into the environment, potential health impacts include water pollution, increased resistance to antibiotics, or reaction to growth hormones in humans and organisms that live in water (Clancy, 2006; Gurian-Sherman, 2008).

Healthier animals can result in healthier meat for humans. Numerous scientific studies have shown that the meat and milk from pasture-raised animals are higher in healthy Omega-3 fats and Vitamin E than cattle that are fed corn and soy based diet. (Clancy, 2006; Sooby et al., 2007).

For the environment, pasturing animals reduces the need for synthetic fertilizers, decreases the use of fossil fuels to create grain feed and export manure, and reduces the potential for hormones, antibiotics, and nutritional supplements to make their way into water systems.

2008 Michigan State University Museum Voices Project/Creative Change Educational Solutions

Pasture-raised animals: Potential problems

Overgrazing: Overgrazing is a condition in which the amount of grazing exceeds the ability of the rangeland to support it. Causes of overgrazing can include too many animals, or not leaving sufficient time for grasses to recover. Overgrazing degrades the natural habitat, and weakens the plants. Degraded rangelands (especially on public lands in Western states) have become a flashpoint for conflict, feeding misunderstanding about the role of appropriate grazing in maintaining ecosystems. Maintaining appropriate grazing practices amid increasing demands for meat, unpredictable environmental conditions and ever-changing policies is a challenge for ranchers and farmers.

Deforestation: Grazing animals on local and naturally occurring grassland habitats can provide meat in ways that support grassland ecosystems. But what if a "grassland" is created by clearing a forest? This is the case in some areas of Central and South America, where over 60% of rainforest acres destroyed have been for cattle ranching (Rainforest Alliance, 2008). Pasture grazing, depending on how it is executed, can be just as harmful as it is beneficial.

Consumer expectations: Worldwide, meat and dairy consumption is growing, with demand surging in rapidly industrializing countries such as China. In the U.S., the average per-person consumption of beef is 67 pounds per year, and consumers have come to expect inexpensive, abundant meat choices year round (Clancy, 2006). But pasture grazing is a slower process than grain feeding; production of meat takes more time. Currently in 2008, consumers deal with limited access to pasture fed meat and pay higher price. A pasture system thus requires consumers to rethink expectations about cheap and abundant meat "on demand."

Questions to consider

The pressures of a competitive market economy, the great potential for overgrazing and deforestation, and increasing demand for meat raise larger questions about meat production methods and consumption:

- Where do pastures naturally occur? When is pasturing animals supporting the ecosystem, and when does it undermine an ecosystem?
- How much meat is enough?
- Can our meat consumption reflect the capacity of existing pastures?
- What is the true cost of producing meat? What if prices reflected the full environmental and social costs? Would pasture meat be less expensive?
- What policies might help promote a "full cost" view of meat production?

2008 Michigan State University Museum Voices Project/Creative Change Educational Solutions

Researching Policies

Many people hear the names of international and national policies (laws and regulations) or government and corporate agreements and legislations, but how do we find out what all of these policies are about?

Bellow is a list of links to various national and international policies that affect trade, education, food supply, human rights, economy, and international relationships.

U.S. Department of State International Policy information (Policies listed by country and issue)
http://www.state.gov/www/regions/internat.html

Center for International Policy: http://www.ciponline.org/

North American Free Trade Agreement, United States Department of Agriculture Foreign Agricultural Service
http://www.fas.usda.gov/itp/Policy/NAFTA/nafta.asp

NAFTA, An Introduction, text of the agreement, background information and history, and many other links from Duke University Law Library http://www.law.duke.edu/lib/researchguides/nafta.html

United States of America Department of Commerce International Trade Administration http://trade.gov/index.asp

International Forum on Globalization (IFG) Website
http://www.ifg.org/

International Forum on Globalization (IFG) information on the World Trade Organization:
http://www.ifg.org/wto.html

The World Trade Organization Website: http://www.wto.org/

Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives: http://www.policyalternatives.ca/welcome/index.cfm

2008 Farm Bill, United States Department of Agriculture
http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal/farmbill2008?navid=FARMBILL2008

United States Department of Agriculture Natural Resource Conservation Service has information and updates about the conservation programs of the 2008 Farm Bill on their website
http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/farmbill/2008/

The complete text of the Farm bill 2008 can be found at
http://agriculture.house.gov/inside/FarmBill.htm

The Congressional Budget Office has an overview of spending by program area (“title”):
www.cbo.gov/showdoc.cfm?index=9061&sequence=0&from=6 –

U.S. House of Representatives, Farm Bill House Committee on Agriculture
http://agriculture.house.gov/inside/2007FarmBill.html

American Farmland Trust-Farm Bill 2008
http://www.farmland.org/programs/farm-bill/default.asp

American Farm Bureau
http://www.fb.org/issues/docs/farmbill08.pd

National Public Radio, Subsidies Take Different Form with Fruits, Veggies
http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=15891678

Activity 2) What Will I Do?

In Activity 1 you considered what you can do to advance a sustainable food system; in this activity, you will identify what you will do.

The diagram below show different types of actions you can take, from informing policy to changing buying habits to educating others. Choose an area(s) you want to focus on, and record possible goals and actions that you can take at the level(s) you choose. Fill out as many as you feel are achievable for your life. Not every category has to filled in.

Try to be specific when setting personal sustainable food system goals. **Ex**: "I will increase the amount of pasture-fed meat I eat"…or…"I will write a letter to my local grocery store asking them to start carrying more Fair Trade products." Or, I will educate my family about the pros and cons of eating organic foods.

	Local	Regional	National	International
 **Policy**				
 **Community**				
 **Volunteer**				
 **Educating Others**				
 **Changing My Purchasing Choices**				
 **Educating Myself**				

2008 Michigan State University Museum Voices Project/Creative Change Educational Solutions

Session 6 Bibliographic and Resource information:

Farmer's Market

Farmer's Markets. Retrieved March 27, 2008, from Local Harvest Website: http://www.localharvest.org/farmers-markets/

Halweil, B. (2004). *Eat Here: Reclaiming Homegrown Pleasures in a Global Supermarket*. W.W. & Norton Company: New York, NY.

United States Department of Agriculture. (2006). Wholesale and Farmer's Markets: Farmers Market growth 1994-2006. Retrieved February 19, 2008, from http://www.ams.usda.gov/AMSv1.0/ams.fetchTemplateData.do?template=TemplateS&navID=WholesaleandFarmersMarkets&leftNav=WholesaleandFarmersMarkets&page=WFMFarmersMarketGrowth&description=Farmers%20Market%20Growth&acct=frmrdirmkt

United States Department of Agriculture, Agriculture Marketing Services. (2008). Wholesale and Farmer's Markets. Retrieved March, 23, 2008, from web site: http://www.ams.usda.gov/farmersmarkets/

United States Department of Agriculture Food and Nutrition Service. (2008). WIC Farmer's Market Nutrition Program. Retrieved March 31, 2008, from http://www.fns.usda.gov/wic/FMNP/FMNPfaqs.htm

USDA Farmer's Market Hotline: 1-800-384-8704

Urban Agriculture

Boggs, G.L. (Sept.7-13, 2003). *Living for Change: Urban AgriCulture in Detroit* XXV(42): B8. Retrieved April 4, 2008, from The Michigan Citizen Online: http://www.boggscenter.org/ideas/fresh-ideas/fi-09-13-03.shtml

Community Based Food & Farming: Sustaining Cultural and Biological Diversity (date unknown). Retrieved April 26, 2008, from Sustainable Agriculture and Food Systems at Michigan State University Website: http://www.safs.msu.edu/culturaldiv/urbanag.htm

The Ralph J. Bunche School Garden (2008). Co-Lab. Retrieved February 13, 2008, from http://www.co-labstudio.org/pagesportfolio/portfolio_bunche1.html

Community Food Security Coalition's (CFSC) Farm to School Program: www.foodsecurity.org/farmtoschool.html

Englemen, R. (2007). Population and Society. Retrieved March 29, 2008, from World Watch Institute Web site: http://www.worldwatch.org/taxonomy/term/520#notes

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. (2008). Urban Farming Against Hunger: Safe, fresh food for city dwellers. Retrieved April 4, 2008, from http://www.fao.org/newsroom/en/news/2007/1000484/index.html

Green Thumb, New York City http://www.greenthumbnyc.org/

Resource Center on Urban Agriculture and Food Security
http://www.ruaf.org/node/101

Score, M. & Young, J. (2008). Marketplace Perception of Economic Potential Presented by Urban Gardening. Collected at the 2008 Food Systems Economic Partnership conference, April 3, 2008.

Urban Agriculture Notes by City Farmer. Retrieved March 31, 2008, from Canada's Office of Urban Agriculture Web site: http://www.cityfarmer.org/

What is Urban Agriculture? Resource Center on Urban Agriculture and Food Security. Retrieved March 30, 2008, from http://www.rual.org/node/512

Community Supported Agriculture (CSA)

Community Supported Agriculture: An Introduction to CSAs. (2008) Biodynamic Farming and Gardening association Retrieved March 12, 2008 from http://www.biodynamics.com/csa.html

Community Supported Agriculture. University of Massachusetts, Amherst. Retrieved March 19, 2008, from http://www.umassvegetable.org/food_farming_systems/csa/index.html

DeMuth, S. (1993). Defining Community Supported Agriculture. Retrieved March 28, 2008 from the National Agriculture Library: http://www.nal.usda.gov/afsic/pubs/csa/csadef.shtml,

Lass, D., Stevenson, G.W.,Hendrickson, J., Ruhf, K. (2003). *CSA Across the Nation: Findings from the 1999 CSA Survey*. Madison: University of Wisconsin, Center for Integrated Agricultural Systems.

What is Community Supported Agriculture and How Does It Work? (2008). Local Harvest. Retrieved March 3, 2008, from http://www.localharvest.org/csa.jsp

United States Department of Agriculture National Agriculture Library.(2004). Community Supported Agriculture Information Site. Retreived March 18, 2008, from http://www.nal.usda.gov/afsic/pubs/csa/csa.shtml

Farms to Schools

National Farm to School Online: http://www.farmtoschool.org and http://www.farmtoschool.org/files/nationalnetwork.htm

Center for Food & Justice/ Urban & Environmental Policy Institute: www.uepi.oxy.edu and http://departments.oxy.edu/uepi/cfj/

Community Food Security Coalition: www.foodsecurity.org

The Community Food Security Coalition's (CFSC) Farm to School Program www.foodsecurity.org/farmtoschool.html

Fair Trade

Faitrade Labeling Organization International, FLO International Website: http://www.fairtrade.net/

Fair Trade Coffee (2007). Global Exchange. Retrieved April 1, 2008, from http://www.globalexchange.org/campaigns/fairtrade/coffee/

Fair Trade Coffee News (2007). McDonald's UK to switch to fair trade coffee. January 14. Retrieved August 12, 2008 from http://www.fairtradecoffeenews.com/

Fair Trade Federation Web site: http://www.fairtradefederation.org/
Until 1994 The Fair Trade Federation was known as the North American Alternative Trade Organization (NAATO)

Global Fairtrade sales increase by 47% (2008). FLO International Retrieved July 16, 2008, from http://www.fairtrade.net/single_view.html?&cHash=d6f2e27d2c&tx_ttnews[backPid]=104&tx_ttnews[tt_news]=41

Starbucks Fair Trade (2000). The Coffee Research Institute. Retrieved April 1, 2008, from http://www.coffeeresearch.org/politics/Starbucks%20Fairtrade.htm

TransFair USA Web site: http://transfairusa.org/

The Sweet Side of Fair Trade (2008, March/April). Co-op America's *Real Money March/April 2008*. .

Organic

Altieri, M., P Rosset, P, and Thrupp, L.A.(1998). The Potential of Agroecology to Combat Hunger in the Developing World,
Food First Policy Brief No. 2. Institute for Food and Development Policy/Food First. Retrieved January 2, 2008, from http://www.cnr.berkeley.edu/~agroeco3/the_potential_of_agroecology.htm l

Badgley, C., Moghtader, J, Quinteroa, E., Zakema, E., Chappella, M.J., Avviles-Vazqueza, K., Samulona, A., & Perfectoa, I. (2006). Organic agriculture and the global food supply *Renewable Agriculture and Food Systems, 22(2)*: 86-108.

Dimitri, C. & Greene, C. (2001). Recent Growth Patterns in the U.S. Organic Foods Market from USDA Economic Research Service-Journal. Retrieved April 1, 2008, http://www.ers.usda.gov/publications/aib777/aib777.pdf

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. (2007). Organic Agriculture: International Conference on Organic Agriculture and Food Security. May 3-5, 2007. Retrieved April 6, 2008, from http://www.fao.org/organicag/ofs/ and http://www.fao.org/organicag/

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. (2006). State of food security in the world report: Eradicating world hunger- taking stock ten years after the World Food Summit. Retrieved April 2, 2008, from the Web site: http://www.fao.org/SOF/sofi/ and http://www.fao.org/docrep/009/a0750e/a0750e00.htm (direct link to full PDF report)

Halweil, B. (2004). *Eat Here: Reclaiming Homegrown Pleasures in a Global Supermarket*. W.W. & Norton Company: New York, NY.

Lee, M. 2003. *True to its roots Organic food industry wins fight on U.S. standards.* Retrieved April 4, 2008, from Organic Consumers Association Web site: http://www.organicconsumers.org/organic/wewin041903.cfm

Organic Trade Association Website: http://www.ota.com/index.html

Organic Consumers Association Web site: http://www.organicconsumers.org/

Organic Trade Association Manufacturers Survey (2007). Retrieved April 3, 2008 from Organic Consumers Association Web site: http://www.organicconsumers.org/articles/article_5109.cfm

Rosset, P. (1999). The Multiple Functions and Benefits of Small Farm Agriculture in the Context of Global Trade Negotiations, Food First Policy Brief No. 4. Institute for Food and Development Policy/ Food First. Retrieved January 19, 2008, from www.foodfirst.org/media/press/1999/smfarmsp.html;

Sooby, J., Landeck, J. & Lipson, M. (2007). *Organic Farming Research Foundation's 2007 National Organic Research Agenda.* Retrieved March 12, 2008, from Organic Farming Research Foundation Web site: https://ofrf.org/publications/nora_orderform_2007.pdf
This report is based on a series of scientist/producer meetings held by the Scientific Congress on Organic Agricultural Research (SCOAR).

United States Department of Agriculture Agricultural Marketing Service.(2008). National Organic Program: Labeling. Retrieved April 2, 2008, from
http://www.ams.usda.gov/AMSv1.0/ams.fetchTemplateData.do?template=TemplateE&navID=NationalOrganicProgram&leftNav=NationalOrganicProgram&page=NOPLabeling&description=Labeling&acct=nopgeninfo

United States Department of Agriculture. (2008). Labeling Packaged Products. Retrieved April 2, 2008, from http://www.ams.usda.gov/AMSv1.0/getfile?dDocName=STELDEV3004323&acct=nopgeninfo

United States Department of Agriculture, Economic Research Services. (2006). Organic production 1992-2005 (data product: certified organic pasture and cropland). Retrieved March 17, 2008, from http://www.ers.usda.gov/Data/Organic/

Pasture Raised Animals

Bartlett, B. (1998). The ABCs of Pasture Grazing. Michigan State University Livestock and Poultry Environmental Stewardship (LPES). Retrieved May 11, 2008, from http://64.233.167.104/search?q=cache:LNWOcYvnHsoJ:www.puyallup.wsu.edu/dairy/nutrient-management/data/publications/Pasture%2520Grazing.pdf+Pasture+Grazing&hl=en&ct=clnk&cd=1&gl=us

Clancy, K. Dr. (2006). Greener Pastures: How grass-fed beef and milk contribute to healthy eating. Union of Concerned Scientists. Retrieved May 15, 2008, from: http://www.ucsusa.org/food_and_environment/sustainable_food/greener-pastures.html

Gurian-Sherman, D. (2008). *CAFOs Uncovered: The Untold Costs of Confined Animals Feeding Operations*, Union of Concerned Scientists Executive Report. Retrieved July 15, 2008 from Union of Concerned Scientists Web site: http://www.ucsusa.org/assets/redesign-documents/food_and_agriculture/CAFOs-Uncovered-executive-summary.pdf http://www.ucsusa.org/assets/documents/food_and_environment/CAFOs-Uncovered.pdf

Human Pressure on the Brazilian Amazon Forests (2006) World Resources Institute Report. Retrieved May 17, 2008, from http://www.cndwebzine.hcp.ma/cnd_sii/IMG/pdf/human_pressure_amazon.pdf

Learning Site: FAQ about the Rainforest (2008). Rainforest Alliance. Retrieved May 13, 2008, from http://www.rainforest-alliance.org/education.cfm?id=faq

Pollan, M. (2006). *Omnivore's Dilemma: A natural history of four meals.* New York: The Penguin Press.

2008 Michigan State University Museum Voices Project/Creative Change Educational Solutions