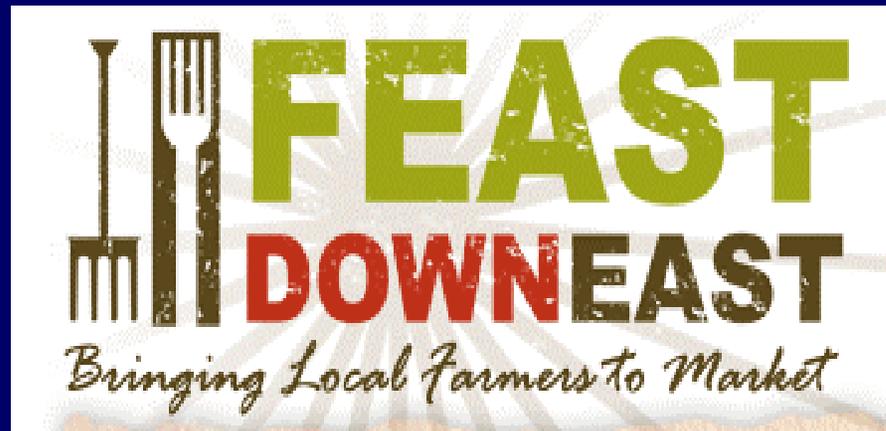
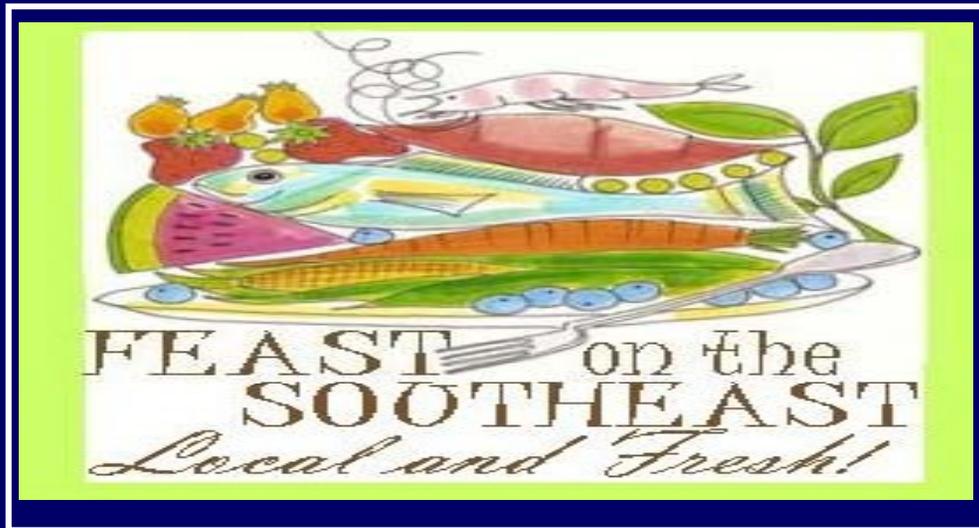


Southeastern NC Food Systems Program



Food Councils

- **Wilmington Area Food Council**
- **Robeson County Food, Farm,
and Family Council**



**Eight County Region: New Hanover,
Brunswick, Pender, Duplin, Sampson,
Columbus Bladen, and Robeson**



Council Components: Five “P’ s”

1. Production of Local Food

**2. Processing, Distribution, Marketing,
and Branding of Local Food**

3. Purchasing [Retail and Wholesale]

4. Public Engagement and Consumption

**5. Poverty Reduction – Harvest and
Health Focus with Limited Resource
Farmers and Consumers**

Food Council Characteristics



Public/Private Partnerships

Regular Monthly Meetings

Focus on Systems

Development – the “Forest”

**Food Systems Education
and Training**

**Support Specific Projects –
the “Trees”**

FOOD SYSTEM COMPANIONS

Farmers

**Food Purchasers – Retail and
Wholesale**

**Food Distributors
Public Partners**

**Businesses
Consumers**



Lessons Learned

Lesson #1

Our Councils need to focus on building the infrastructure and entire food system and not get too caught up in the work and logistics of individual projects



Lesson #2:

Developing and Supporting an Effective Processing and Distribution Center is the key link between the farmers (producers) and the retail and wholesale purchasers.

Lesson #3:

Aging farmers and farm loss is one of the most critical food system issues in N.C.

A major Transitional Ownership Program is most needed.



Lesson #4: For most people, the word “policy” is a more conceptual and intangible term and image so we decided not to use it in the name of our council.

“Food, Farm, and Family Council” describes the constituencies represented.

“What we can’t do alone, we can do together”

Lesson #5: Food Councils can assemble local food, food security, health/wellness/lifestyle, food safety, business, government, consumer, hunger, poverty, entrepreneurship, tourism, faith, and economic development interests to work together to create new, viable and profitable local and rural economies with jobs and careers that won’t leave

Lesson #6: The opportunities for developing new programs with new partners are endless, including:

- **Farm to School Initiatives**
- **Healthy School Nutrition and Nutrition Education**
- **Gardens – Community Gardens, School Gardens, Backyard Gardens**
- **Retail Outlets – Farmers Markets, Buying Clubs, CSA Programs**
- **Wholesale Outlets – Restaurants, Grocery Stores, Schools, Universities/Colleges, Hospitals, Jails and Prisons, Residential Homes, military bases**
- **Food Safety – GAP Certification, Food Handling**
- **Farm to Chef Programs**

[Continued]

- Organic Farming
- Greenhouse Development
- Seed Exchange
- Distribution of Garden/Farm Resources – tools, seeds, compost, literature
- Purchase and Use of Flash Freeze and Cold Storage Units for Year-Round Processing and Distribution
- Healthy Food Access – eg. Food Deserts, Farmers Markets and Buying Clubs in Low-Income Communities, EBT and WIC usage for purchasing local, healthy, affordable food
- Soil Development – eg. Composting, Worm Farms
- Food Security – Food Pantries, Food Banks, Food Baskets, Soup Kitchens, Meals on Wheels, Gleaning, Transportation Services, Emergency Food Programs, EBT and WIC usage

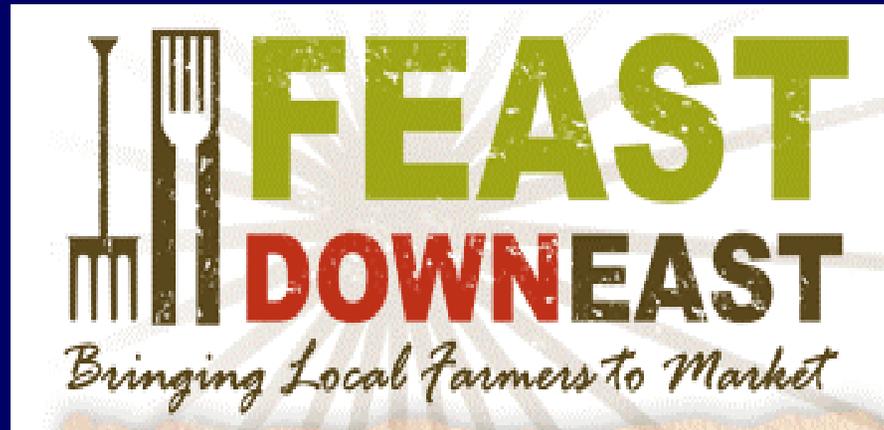
[Continued]

- Farm Labor – Migrant Protection/Advocacy; Immigrant Farmer Support
- Culturally based food production and promotion
- Medicinal Plants
- Sustainable Agriculture Curriculum and Certification Programs at the Community College and University/College Level
- Land Use Policy – Planning, Zoning, Ordinances,
- Farm/Garden Incubators
- Farming and Gardening Education and Training Programs
- Youth Engagement in all food system components
- Health, Wellness, Exercise, and Lifestyle Programs [eg Obesity reduction
- Farmland Preservation

[Continued]

- Transitional Farm Ownership
- Entrepreneurship/new farmer programs
- Farmer Cooperatives
- Pick and Pay Farming Support
- Commercial Kitchens
- Small Scale Slaughtering Facilities
- On-line information services
- Culinary Programs
- Hunger Reduction and Prevention
- GIS and Community Mapping and Inventory of Farmers growing local food, retail outlets for purchasing local food, restaurants and institutions serving local food, and access points for emergency food

Numerous examples on this list were referenced in : “Advisory Memorandum, NC Food Policy Council, Kellyn Shoecraft, Nicholas School at Duke University and ELPC Intern”



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