Feeding Kansas

Statewide Farm & Food System Assessment with a Plan for Public Action

November 2014

KRC
KANSAS RURAL CENTER
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Partnering Organizations through the Kansas Health Foundation Statewide Partnership Initiative:

The Kansas Rural Center is proud to serve as one of five organizations participating in the Statewide Partnership for a Healthier Kansas, an initiative of the Kansas Health Foundation to advance the goal of making healthful foods the routine, easy choice for all Kansans.

Through our Community Food Solutions Initiative, KRC is advancing what may seem like an obvious solution to this challenge: engaging our own farms in feeding our own people, thereby potentially improving economy, community, environment, and health for us all.

*Feeding Kansas: Statewide Farm & Food System Assessment with a Plan for Public Action* is our first step in this three-year initiative and represents the coming together of grassroots Kansans from across the state to examine the barriers and opportunities in our farm-to-fork system.

With this report, we follow the lead of several fellow farm states by providing an in-depth look at these issues. After a year of engagement across our state, we conclude that **Kansans from all walks of life, including policymakers, communities, and farmers, must work together to take critical action for local and statewide farm and food systems development.** Our lives, our communities, and our economic prospects for the future depend on it.

It is fitting that we are releasing this report in 2014, which marks the 35th anniversary of the Kansas Rural Center. KRC has been working on the questions presented within this report since 1979, together with many partners laying the groundwork leading to this landmark initiative. Indeed, as the credits and appendices reveal, many of those involved in this report have worked on these questions for years, if not decades.

As we have learned over the years, many issues must be addressed to achieve a Kansas farm-to-fork vision for the future. In fact, food is a community endeavor, and as the title of our project states, it’s the community that must ultimately join its farmers at the table to be part of Kansas farm and food solutions.

In *Feeding Kansas*, it is our sincere pleasure to join our partners in providing this roadmap for farmers, policymakers, and communities to chart a path forward that will yield the most successes, most quickly, in providing Kansans with an abundance of healthful food. We hope you will join us on this journey toward ensuring that our own farmers are a part of the solution to feeding Kansas.

Julie Mettenburg, Executive Director
Kansas Rural Center
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For more information about the Community Food Solutions Initiative or the Feeding Kansas report, contact: Kansas Rural Center; info@kansasruralcenter.org; 866-579-5469; 4021 SW 10th Street #337, Topeka, KS 66604
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