Kane County: Food and Farms: Forging New Partnerships

Presentation by Janice Hill, AICP
Executive Planner and Farmland Protection Manager
Kane County Food and Farm Program
Agriculture should continue to be a desired and preferred land use...

50% or more of Kane County in Agriculture and Open Space
“People say farming isn’t valuable enough to trump development prices,” says Atina Diffley. “I would say the opposite is true. The money generated from development feeds a family once, then its gone. Farming feeds people Repeatedly. Food production is priceless.”
Early Motivators for Farmland Protection:
- Land Consumption Patterns
- Family Heritage and Estate Issues
PROTECTED AG/LIMITED DEVELOPMENT
400 acre development on a protected eco-farm equestrian development. 40% of land area under donated Agriculture Conservation Easement.
Healthy Weight for All Children—In 2007, RWJF announced that it would dedicate $500 million to reversing the childhood obesity epidemic in America. The relentless rise in childhood obesity rates has abated, and in some areas has even decreased. Moving forward, RWJF will stress the importance of achieving a healthy weight for all of our nation’s children, especially in poor communities and those of color.

We (RWJF) have focused on the quality of care, its measurable outcomes, the equity of access to it and how to avoid getting sick in the first place.
Gardening in Kane County (2014)

Garden Plots for Lease
Individual/Family Growing
From 800-1410 since 2010

Total Plots for Lease: 1,398
Health Impact Assessment Training: Focus - Increasing Local Food Production

$125,000 Grant!

The Pew Charitable Trusts is driven by the power of knowledge to solve today's most challenging problems. Pew applies a rigorous, analytical approach to improve public policy, inform the public and stimulate civic life.
GROWING FOR KANE

HEALTH - ECONOMY - FRESH FOOD
Farmland Protection now eligible to parcels in all locations in Kane County expanded to include:

URBAN AGRICULTURE AND FARMS THAT PRODUCE:

- FRUITS,
- VEGETABLES,
- MEATS AND
- DAIRY
What we learned:

- Expand production of locally grown fruits & vegetables in order to meet local _and_ regional demand

- Increase ability to capture funds currently available from public _and_ private sources directed toward local food projects

- Support our **existing** producers and the **next generation** of Kane County producers
The economic portion of this report shows that by adding approximately 1,000 acres of fruit and vegetable production to the already existing base of specialty crops grown in Kane County, more than $7 million dollars and 103 jobs will be added each year to the county’s overall economy and will support the regional market. The retail and institutional markets for locally grown food include farmers’ markets; local schools; corner stores; restaurants; grocers; Northern Illinois Food Bank and the pantries it serves.
Core Partners

- Fit for Kids – Funders Consortium
- Northern Illinois Food Bank (NIFB)
- Kane County Farm Bureau

Additional Supporters

- Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning
- University of Illinois Extension
- Illinois Specialty Growers Association
A rising demand for locally-grown food is good news for Kane County farmers, who are scrambling to meet the demand from county residents and their urban neighbors, too. See page 130

- Conventional Vegetable Farms
- Organic and sustainable farms
- Small specialty farms
- CSAs
- Community Gardens
- Personal gardens
- Urban commercial agriculture
- Hydroponics
- Hybrid developments (part farm part subdivision)
- School, church and workplace gardens
- Learning and teaching farms
- Farm history museums
- Agri-tourism
Locally Grown

2014

J & J Dill

Coming from three generations of farmers, James Goebbert started farming as a high school freshman and now, at 21, employs 40 people to farm over 300 acres in peak season. His herbs, greens and pumpkins are sold locally so he can deliver the freshest possible produce.

visit meijer.com/LocallyGrown.
“… a (food hub) is a means of helping farmers reduce the cost of distribution and marketing and providing a way for them to reach larger markets by filling a void in the current food distribution system.”

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Funding</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fit for Kids Consortium</td>
<td>$10,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kane County Farm Bureau</td>
<td>$5,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State of Illinois</td>
<td>$7,500</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Northern Illinois Food Bank

Snapshot

- Nonprofit organization
- 71,000 people served each week
- 13 county service area
- Network of 800 food pantries & feeding programs
Growing Project

Joint effort with Greater Chicago Food Depository using dedicated acreage, donated inputs and volunteer labor

Purchase Agreements

Written agreements through which Food Bank agrees to purchase specified amount of product during season

Food Forest

Planting in Spring 2015 – the ultimate sustainability project of a fully edible forest
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Elgin Harvest Market</th>
<th>2012</th>
<th>2013</th>
<th>2014</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Link</td>
<td>$596</td>
<td>$7,135</td>
<td>$7,396</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Double Value Bonus</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>$6,323</td>
<td>$6,777</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sponsored by BMO Harris</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Credit/Debit</td>
<td>$1,897</td>
<td>$3,753</td>
<td>$5,884</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>$2,493</td>
<td>$17,211</td>
<td>$20,057</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>$39,761</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Jane Maxwell, MS RDN LDN
### Aurora Farmers’ Market Link Revenue

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2011</th>
<th>2012</th>
<th>2013</th>
<th>2014</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Link Sales</strong></td>
<td>$1,474</td>
<td>$3,751</td>
<td>$5,441</td>
<td>$8,395</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Double Value Bonus</strong></td>
<td>$1,350</td>
<td>$3,500</td>
<td>$3,065</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Fresh Exchange Bonus</strong></td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>$1,300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Fresh First Program</strong></td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total** $2,824 $7,251 $8,506 $9,695

Jane Maxwell, MS RDN LDN
Challenge: Find new local funding match palatable to taxpayers and elected officials.
For further Questions and Comments:
Janice Hill, Executive Planner
Kane County Farmland and Local Foods Manager
Kane County, IL
hilljanice@co.kane.il.us
630.232.3483