Building Wealth in Our Health, Community and Economy: Developing a Local Food System in the Springfield Area

January 2011
The Springfield Area Local Food Task Force

• History
  – Steering Committee: Spring 2009
  – Public Meeting: July 2009
  – Meetings/Assessment: July 2009 – August 2010
  – Ken Meter Presentations: March 2010 and October 2010
The Springfield Area Local Food Task Force

The goals of the Task Force are:

– Conduct an assessment of the current food system

– Initiate dialogue about local food systems with key stakeholders in the area

– Write a comprehensive report providing recommendations to improve and strengthen local food systems
What is a “Local Food System”?
Why “Local Food Systems”?
Assessing the Springfield Area Local Food System

- Group Meetings
- Farmer Focus Group
- Restaurant Survey
- Identified Existing Pertinent Programs & Initiatives
- Identified Barriers to Development
- Identified Opportunities to develop the local food systems through current as well as new programs and initiatives
Community Programs & Initiatives

Farm-to-School Community Gardens

Access to Fresh Food

Production
Barriers to Development

- Limited Access to Fresh Food
- Infrastructure
- Production
Moving Forward:
Opportunities to Develop the Springfield Area Local Food System
Establish a Local Food Policy Council

• Evaluate
• Education
• Communicate
• Cooperate
• Shape Public Policy
Provide Support for Existing Programs

- Local Food Access Programs
- Farmers Market Nutrition Program
- Springfield Urban League
- Lincoln Land Community College
- Farm-to-school Initiatives
Support Urban Agriculture

- Support community gardens and school gardens
- Urban land inventory
- Urban Agriculture Ordinances
  - "Honey & Egg" ordinance
Integrate Local Food with Planning & Economic Development

• Incorporate local food and food security in:
  – Comprehensive Plans
  – Economic Development Plans
  – Natural Hazard Plans
Streamline Food Safety Regulations

- Local Food & Farmers Market Food Safety Liaison:
  - Build Relationships
  - Consistent Voice
  - Best Practices
  - New Emerging Business Models
Conduct and In-depth Community Food Security Assessment
Develop an Educational Guide for Restaurants