

V(A). Planned Program (Summary)

Program # 12

1. Name of the Planned Program

Global Food Security and Hunger - Local Food Systems

Reporting on this Program

V(B). Program Knowledge Area(s)

1. Program Knowledge Areas and Percentage

KA Code	Knowledge Area	%1862 Extension	%1890 Extension	%1862 Research	%1890 Research
112	Watershed Protection and Management	10%	10%	10%	0%
604	Marketing and Distribution Practices	10%	10%	10%	0%
703	Nutrition Education and Behavior	10%	10%	10%	0%
704	Nutrition and Hunger in the Population	70%	70%	70%	0%
	Total	100%	100%	100%	0%

V(C). Planned Program (Inputs)

1. Actual amount of FTE/SYs expended this Program

Year: 2012	Extension		Research	
	1862	1890	1862	1890
Plan	7.3	2.0	7.8	0.0
Actual Paid Professional	9.9	0.5	11.3	0.0
Actual Volunteer	867.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

2. Actual dollars expended in this Program (includes Carryover Funds from previous years)

Extension		Research	
Smith-Lever 3b & 3c	1890 Extension	Hatch	Evans-Allen
205680	118791	205829	0
1862 Matching	1890 Matching	1862 Matching	1890 Matching
291011	201229	462873	0
1862 All Other	1890 All Other	1862 All Other	1890 All Other
863675	3430	2549728	0

V(D). Planned Program (Activity)

1. Brief description of the Activity

- Conduct consumer education workshops and training on food budgeting, the cost effectiveness of local and regional foods, healthy eating and cooking skills
- Conduct educational programs on crop and livestock production specific to local marketing channels
- Conduct research on the economic and environmental impacts of local or regional food system to communities
- Conduct research on local or regional food system impact on the dietary and health of consumers
- Encourage collaboration and partnerships to improve food availability, food access, and consumption of fresh, nutritious local foods
- Provide educational programming on whole farm planning, marketing, food safety, and other educational needs to improve supply and availability of local foods.
- Develop and conduct a Virginia food system assessment and farm-to-table plan
- Organize and conduct, local regional and state conferences

2. Brief description of the target audience

The program's target audience is all residents of Virginia and those most susceptible to food insecurity and hunger, but with specific emphasis on producers, consumers and local food system stakeholders that can improve food availability and affordable access.

Consumers

Producers

Educators pre-K - 12

Governmental officials

Extension educators

Food-based business owners

Farm-related business owners

Environmental professionals

Health and nutrition professionals

Retail and institutional food service

Distributors

Community advocates

3. How was eXtension used?

eXtension was used in this program to answer questions and help people network with others working in the area of local foods and food security.

V(E). Planned Program (Outputs)

1. Standard output measures

2012	Direct Contacts Adults	Indirect Contacts Adults	Direct Contacts Youth	Indirect Contacts Youth
Actual	33914	61473	10131	0

2. Number of Patent Applications Submitted (Standard Research Output)

Patent Applications Submitted

Year: 2012
 Actual: 0

Patents listed

3. Publications (Standard General Output Measure)

Number of Peer Reviewed Publications

2012	Extension	Research	Total
Actual	3	3	6

V(F). State Defined Outputs

Output Target

Output #1

Output Measure

- Number of programs offered regarding community food systems.

Year	Actual
2012	181

Output #2

Output Measure

- Number of non-peer reviewed publications and outreach materials such as journal articles, extension publications, presentations at professional meetings, newsletters, newspaper articles, websites, guides and reports.

Year	Actual
2012	78

V(G). State Defined Outcomes

V. State Defined Outcomes Table of Content

O. No.	OUTCOME NAME
1	Increase the number of local communities partnering with Virginia Cooperative Extension faculty to strengthen the connection between local agriculture producers and growers with local food-related businesses and purchasing institutions.
2	Number of community gardening programs implemented to address food insecurity/hunger issues.
3	Meeting the Educational Needs of Amish and Mennonite Communities and Strengthening the Region's Food System and Farm Economy.
4	Ending Hunger Now: Extension Master Gardeners Partner with Foodbank of Southeastern Virginia to Fight Hunger
5	Healthy Food for the Common Wealth and Common Good: Consumers, Low-income Populations, and Farmers Benefit From a Farmers Market in Spotsylvania
6	Combatting Obesity in Children and Adults through Community Gardening
7	Cleaning up the Chesapeake Bay: One Home Landscape at a Time
8	Farmers Markets as the New Public Square and Hub for Community-based Economic Development

Outcome #1

1. Outcome Measures

Increase the number of local communities partnering with Virginia Cooperative Extension faculty to strengthen the connection between local agriculture producers and growers with local food-related businesses and purchasing institutions.

2. Associated Institution Types

- 1862 Extension
- 1890 Extension
- 1862 Research

3a. Outcome Type:

Change in Action Outcome Measure

3b. Quantitative Outcome

Year	Actual
2012	63

3c. Qualitative Outcome or Impact Statement

Issue (Who cares and Why)

Virginia's overall food system directly impacts the economic development of rural and urban communities; the care, restoration and resilience of ecological resources; and critical health issues. Virginia is recognized as an emerging leader in the Nation's local food movement. This recognition provides an opportunity for communities to better connect producers with local food-related businesses and purchasing institutions in their area.

What has been done

New business enterprises and community initiatives have been incubated and expanded across the Commonwealth. These businesses and initiatives include farmers markets, food hubs, cooperatives, produce auctions, online farmers markets and Community Supported Agriculture (CSAs), urban and community gardens, food policy councils and working groups, Buy Fresh Buy Local chapters, crop mobs and gleaning clubs, farm-to-school, university, hospital and institutional procurement programs. Virginia Cooperative Extension has partnered with communities across the state to strengthen and enhance these initiatives.

Results

Virginia Cooperative Extension, through local food programming and a broader farm-to-table initiative, has worked with 63 communities to encourage more direct connections with producers, consumers and institutions. To make it easier for schools, universities, hospitals and other large volume buyers of food to purchase and procure locally-grown Virginia food, Extension has worked on aggregation and cooperative models that can help producers and communities address this issue. In 2012, Extension worked to help form the Southside Produce Auction, and strengthen

models such as the Shenandoah Valley Beef Cooperative, Local Food Hub, Sustain Floyd, Friendly City Food Cooperative. Additionally, Extension worked with more than 80 school districts on farm-to-school programs and more than 11 universities on local food procurement efforts.

4. Associated Knowledge Areas

KA Code	Knowledge Area
604	Marketing and Distribution Practices
703	Nutrition Education and Behavior
704	Nutrition and Hunger in the Population

Outcome #2

1. Outcome Measures

Number of community gardening programs implemented to address food insecurity/hunger issues.

2. Associated Institution Types

- 1862 Extension
- 1890 Extension
- 1862 Research

3a. Outcome Type:

Change in Condition Outcome Measure

3b. Quantitative Outcome

Year	Actual
2012	18

3c. Qualitative Outcome or Impact Statement

Issue (Who cares and Why)

Nationally, 32 million people live in low income families, and 21%, almost 16 million, live in poor families, according to the National Center for Children in Poverty. Poverty has a significant impact on children. Poor nutrition in infancy can lead to poor brain development, academic difficulties in school, and long-term effects on the trajectory of a person's employment and career. Infants that experience hunger and poor nutrition are more likely to be obese and have a lower life expectancy. It is crucial that children receive proper diet, nutrition and exercise in their developing years. Community gardening can be positive experience, lead to more exercise and consumption of more fruits and vegetables.

What has been done

Virginia Cooperative Extension has worked across disciplines to provide community gardening training and coordination of gardening efforts across the state. Community garden participants applied for the use of garden plots, agreed to participate in educational programs, and maintained their gardens. Garden handbooks were developed and distributed to garden families who attended a required garden orientation. Workshops were offered for gardening families and residents to prepare them for a productive gardening year, introduce them to new vegetables to expand their food palette, how to prepare and preserve food.

Results

As Virginia Cooperative Extension worked with diverse communities across the state such as Henrico County, and the cities of Portsmouth, Danville, and Arlington, some immediate outcomes of these efforts in these communities include: 1) Greater consumption of vegetables among gardeners and participating families, 2) greater levels of physical activity, and 3) a greater frequency of participating gardeners and families eating and preparing a balanced diet with more vegetables and whole foods.

4. Associated Knowledge Areas

KA Code	Knowledge Area
604	Marketing and Distribution Practices
703	Nutrition Education and Behavior
704	Nutrition and Hunger in the Population

Outcome #3

1. Outcome Measures

Meeting the Educational Needs of Amish and Mennonite Communities and Strengthening the Region's Food System and Farm Economy.

2. Associated Institution Types

- 1862 Extension
- 1890 Extension
- 1862 Research

3a. Outcome Type:

Change in Condition Outcome Measure

3b. Quantitative Outcome

Year	Actual
2012	0

3c. Qualitative Outcome or Impact Statement

Issue (Who cares and Why)

Food is a great connector and the food system that makes food available and accessible from farm-to-table is an important component of community economic development and indicator of social well-being within a community and region. Yet, food and the food system is often overlooked as a connector and undervalued as a means and strategy for building health, wealth, connection and capacity where food is produced and most needed. U.S. families and households spend over \$1.2 trillion on food each year. In 2008, food purchases were the third largest household expenditure after housing and transportation. Households in Virginia alone spend more than \$19 billion each year on food purchases, close to \$12 billion for foods eaten at home. Another \$6 - 7 billion is purchased by tourists coming to Virginia.

What has been done

"With this framework and context, Virginia Cooperative Extension has specifically focused programming on local and regional food system development and Virginia Farm to Table initiatives to help Virginia farmers and communities capture and retain a larger portion of available food dollars, while also addressing other social, economic and environmental challenges facing communities such as food insecurity, obesity, watershed cleanup, and loss of small and mid-sized farms.

The aggregation of farmers and farm products to facilitate logistics and distribution of food continues to be critical for developing local and regional food systems, particularly to make it easier for schools, universities, hospitals and other large volume buyers of food to purchase and procure locally-grown Virginia food. "

Results

Produce auctions, along with food hubs, are a means for aggregating farmers and farm products. Produce auctions are common in Amish and Mennonite communities, and have been successful in diversifying farm economies. In 2012, its seventh year of operation, the Shenandoah Valley Produce Auction had more than \$1.8 million dollars of sales, and continues to have many direct, indirect and associated impacts locally and regionally. In 2011 and 2012, Virginia Cooperative Extension worked closely with Amish farmers and other produce growers in Southside Virginia to facilitate the development of another wholesale produce auction in Charlotte County, Virginia. Extension served as a liaison to 25 to 30 Amish producers in Charlotte Court House and worked closely with the Shenandoah Valley Produce Auction (SVPA) to arrange meetings for sharing the background and history of SVPA and the lessons learned as an educational exchange. A community-wide meeting was held in January 2012, where members of the Shenandoah Valley Produce Auction and other resource people shared insights and encouraged the growers and broader community in their efforts to develop the Southside Produce Auction (SPA). In its initial year, over 60 growers representing 13 different counties in Southside Virginia participated in the auction and had over \$270,000 of product sales in 2012.

4. Associated Knowledge Areas

KA Code	Knowledge Area
604	Marketing and Distribution Practices
703	Nutrition Education and Behavior
704	Nutrition and Hunger in the Population

Outcome #4

1. Outcome Measures

Ending Hunger Now: Extension Master Gardeners Partner with Foodbank of Southeastern Virginia to Fight Hunger

2. Associated Institution Types

- 1862 Extension
- 1890 Extension
- 1862 Research

3a. Outcome Type:

Change in Condition Outcome Measure

3b. Quantitative Outcome

Year	Actual
2012	0

3c. Qualitative Outcome or Impact Statement

Issue (Who cares and Why)

Virginia's poverty rate has not decreased substantially over the last 30 years. More than 10% of Virginians (768,000, including 260,000 children) currently live below the poverty level. Poverty affects urban and rural residents, with highly concentrated in inner cities and along the state's southern and southwest borders, with growing clusters in our suburban areas. Beyond income, a more complete understanding of economic deprivation or quality of life is reflected by access to health care, labor market opportunities and hunger. During the month of October, 2012, an all time high of 933,462 individuals received assistance to purchase groceries in Virginia through the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). SNAP-Ed was recently cut to pay for the extension of current dairy programs by over 25% (\$110 million), threatening the commonwealth's ability to educate its residents concerning nutrition.

What has been done

Under the guidance of Agriculture and Natural Resources Horticulture Extension Agents in the Chesapeake, Norfolk, Virginia Beach and Portsmouth units, Extension Master Gardener volunteers addressed the food shortage through a multi-faceted approach to end hunger: direct donation of fresh garden produce; canned goods and monetary contributions to the Foodbank of Southeastern Virginia; creation of demonstration gardens to teach people how to grow their own food; participation in the Plant a Row for the Hungry Program and healthy food preparation information to area residents. Donations of food and money were collected at Master Gardener events, and produce was grown and regularly donated to the Foodbank. Demonstration gardens were cultivated in each city, where volunteers solicited and received donations for seeds and other essential supplies.

Results

In 2012, food donations exceeded 12,000 pounds. This contribution to the foodbank helped provide nutritious canned, boxed, fresh frozen and prepared food to over 414,000 individuals, allowing for the assembly of nutritious meals for less than \$.32. Each dollar contributed allowed the foodbank to assemble and distribute up to \$6.00 worth of food and groceries.

4. Associated Knowledge Areas

KA Code	Knowledge Area
604	Marketing and Distribution Practices
703	Nutrition Education and Behavior
704	Nutrition and Hunger in the Population

Outcome #5

1. Outcome Measures

Healthy Food for the Common Wealth and Common Good: Consumers, Low-income Populations, and Farmers Benefit From a Farmers Market in Spotsylvania

2. Associated Institution Types

- 1862 Extension
- 1890 Extension
- 1862 Research

3a. Outcome Type:

Change in Condition Outcome Measure

3b. Quantitative Outcome

Year	Actual
2012	0

3c. Qualitative Outcome or Impact Statement

Issue (Who cares and Why)

Agriculture is Virginia's largest industry with an annual economic impact of \$55 billion. And yet, Virginia farmers are struggling with economic profitability, uncertainty and viability. At the same time, individuals and Virginia communities are experiencing increased incidences of obesity, diabetes, diet-related diseases and in some instances, food insecurity. Expanding good, local fresh healthy food opportunities throughout the local food system can improve local agricultural economic vitality and strengthen community health and well-being. Economic data and projections that Virginia Cooperative Extension (VCE) developed in 2007 show that if each household in Virginia were to spend \$10 per week for a year on local Virginia products, a

significant economic impact would be generated. At a state level, this spending pattern would generate over \$1.65 billion dollars in direct economic impact.

What has been done

A farmers market was started in Spotsylvania County in 1999 to connect local farmers and consumers. This market started with a handful of vendors in 1999. This farmers market is a Virginia Grown market and allows producers of agricultural products, baked goods, jams and jellies and similar products produced within a 100 mile radius of the market. The market secured grants to help attract Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) recipients to the market by being able to offer a \$10.00 matching bonus for \$10.00 of SNAP funds used at the market, thus doubling part of their SNAP purchasing power at the market. The SNAP and bonus purchases are supported by market tokens which carried specific values and could only be used at the market. In 2012 a mid-week market was opened.

Results

In 2012, the Spotsylvania Farmers Market opened a Wednesday afternoon market. This provided two market days for local farmers, bakers and others. Forty-seven farmers and vendors had market stalls at the Saturday market and 15 farmers and vendors had stalls at mid-week market. Consumers were able to purchase local products and farmers were able to enhance their gross incomes through retail sales. The Saturday and Wednesday markets averaged 2,700 and 500 shoppers per week during peak vegetable season respectively.

In 2012, 884 SNAP recipient transactions were processed at the market for a total value of \$21,843. There were 273 first time SNAP purchasers at the market in 2012. SNAP shoppers have been introduced to a wide variety of fruits and vegetables and 37% reported purchasing many new or different kinds of fruits and vegetables and an additional 53% report purchasing some new or different kinds of vegetables and fruits.

A customer survey indicated that 59% of the customers shop at the market 3 or more times a month and that 31% of the customers shop 1 or 2 times a month. The consumption of fresh fruits and vegetables is important to a healthy diet and 31% and 40% of the customers from the two sample groups reported purchasing all or most, respectively, of these items at the market. As a result of shopping at the farmers market 66% and 28% of the shoppers from the two survey groups indicated that they have increased greatly or increased some the amounts of fresh fruits and vegetables purchased.

4. Associated Knowledge Areas

KA Code	Knowledge Area
604	Marketing and Distribution Practices
703	Nutrition Education and Behavior
704	Nutrition and Hunger in the Population

Outcome #6

1. Outcome Measures

Combatting Obesity in Children and Adults through Community Gardening

2. Associated Institution Types

- 1862 Extension
- 1890 Extension
- 1862 Research

3a. Outcome Type:

Change in Condition Outcome Measure

3b. Quantitative Outcome

Year	Actual
2012	0

3c. Qualitative Outcome or Impact Statement

Issue (Who cares and Why)

Center for Disease Control and Prevention data indicates that in Virginia, 26% of adults are obese. Excess weight increases the risk of developing conditions such as diabetes, heart disease, osteoarthritis, and some cancers, while reducing life span. The U.S. spent an estimated \$190 billion on obesity-related illnesses in 2005. The total cost of diabetes for people in Virginia was estimated at \$4.4 billion in 2006. This estimate includes medical costs in excess of \$2.8 billion attributed to diabetes, and lost productivity valued at \$1.6 billion (American Diabetes Association, 2008; 2011).

In addition, obesity now affects 17% of all children and adolescents in the United States.

Between 1980 and 2008, the percentage of overweight or obese children in the United States tripled. In 2008 alone, more than one third of U.S. children and adolescents were overweight or obese. Statistics show that children and adolescents who are obese have a 70% to 80% chance of becoming overweight or obese adults.

Risk factors contributing to obesity include: lack of physical activity; unhealthy diet; sedentary lifestyle and environmental factors. According to Dr. Kevin Davy, professor of Family Medicine in the Virginia Tech Carilion School of Medicine, the complexity of obesity expands beyond the simple etiology of energy imbalance to include genomic, molecular, cellular, and organic

components that interact with individual preferences, family and community contexts, work life, economics, and the local, state, and national policy landscape.

VCE's Strategic Plan (2011-2016) has established a need for the development of comprehensive local food systems, and recommends response to increased public interest in local foods, home food production and community gardening.

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What has been done

To address the obesity epidemic, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention have developed strategies to promote healthy eating and physical activity, which include:

1. Enhanced school-based physical education to improve student's flexibility, muscular endurance, physical activity-related knowledge and overall physical fitness.
2. Community-scale urban design and land-use policies that support physical activity.
3. Creation of or enhanced access to places for physical activity combined with informational outreach activities.
4. Initiation or expansion of community supported agriculture programs in all settings.
5. Support and promotion of community and home gardens.

The Horticulture Extension Agent, and Master Gardeners, in collaboration with Norfolk City, Norfolk Environmental Commission and Bon Secours Health System, has integrated services in response. A Regional Master Gardener Training Seminar was specifically organized to address planning, management and benefits of community gardens and a Community Gardens Task Force was initiated to facilitate community partnerships, bring people and resources together, and support long-term viability of community garden programs.

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Results

Immediate and emerging outcomes of these efforts include: the establishment of 4 new community gardens in 2012; identification and pooling of existing resources; reaching targeted audiences; imparting knowledge that will encourage/facilitate physical activity and consumption of superior, locally grown and affordable produce.

The long-term outcomes and benefits will be aesthetic improvements; the potential for increased property values near newly established gardens; and social benefits such as stronger community fabric and reduction in crime, and environmental benefits where community gardens serve as models for stewardship of natural areas.

4. Associated Knowledge Areas

KA Code	Knowledge Area
604	Marketing and Distribution Practices

- 703 Nutrition Education and Behavior
- 704 Nutrition and Hunger in the Population

Outcome #7

1. Outcome Measures

Cleaning up the Chesapeake Bay: One Home Landscape at a Time

2. Associated Institution Types

- 1862 Extension
- 1890 Extension
- 1862 Research

3a. Outcome Type:

Change in Condition Outcome Measure

3b. Quantitative Outcome

Year	Actual
2012	0

3c. Qualitative Outcome or Impact Statement

Issue (Who cares and Why)

Homeowners, green industry professionals and the Chesapeake Bay sustain significant financial and quality losses due to incorrect selection, planting and maintenance of landscape materials.

As one example, the EPA states that "Homeowners tend an estimated 40 million acres of turf ? and lawns rank as the fifth largest crop in the country, on the basis of area, after corn, soybeans, wheat and hay." The report goes on to say that, "The fertilizer amounts applied to lawns are roughly equivalent to the application rates for row crops and lawns produce significant amounts of nutrient-rich stormwater runoff which can potentially cause eutrophication in streams, lakes and estuaries.

Uninformed homeowners frequently use excessive and inappropriate amounts of lawn and garden chemicals & fertilizers. These practices not only cost homeowners and professionals time and money, but are harmful to the Chesapeake Bay, whose health is directly tied to our own health and well-being.

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What has been done

Through the Master Gardener Volunteer Program, the agent and volunteer coordinator recruits, trains and manages a volunteer staff of 125 active volunteers. These volunteers serve the general public & landscape professionals by educating them about the proper selection, planting and maintenance of landscape materials.

Master Gardener Volunteers are recruited from the general public, county and city employees and the green industry. These volunteers are given rigorous instruction initially via a 50 hour Master Gardener course that the agent plans & conducts with the help of guest instructors from Virginia Cooperative Extension and local communities.

Results

The Master Gardeners conducted programs based on the Landscape Best Management Practices (BMPs) developed by the Northern District Horticulture Agents. Centered on landscape BMPs, the 125 Master Gardeners contributed 7,899 contributed hours & contacted 7,360 clients while serving the horticultural needs in the Albemarle community. The financial impact of the volunteer's work, at \$21.36/hour, was valued at \$168,723. The clients exercise management control and the ability to make fertilizer recommendations for more than 2,400 acres in Albemarle County.

4. Associated Knowledge Areas

KA Code	Knowledge Area
112	Watershed Protection and Management
604	Marketing and Distribution Practices
704	Nutrition and Hunger in the Population

Outcome #8

1. Outcome Measures

Farmers Markets as the New Public Square and Hub for Community-based Economic Development

2. Associated Institution Types

- 1862 Extension
- 1890 Extension
- 1862 Research

3a. Outcome Type:

Change in Condition Outcome Measure

3b. Quantitative Outcome

Year	Actual
2012	0

3c. Qualitative Outcome or Impact Statement

Issue (Who cares and Why)

Virginia experienced a 13% increase in the number of farms selling direct to consumers from 2002 to 2007. The value of these direct-to-consumer sales increased 72% over the same time period, from \$16.8 million to 28.9 million. Today, Virginia has over 200 farmers markets and 135 Community Supported Agriculture (CSAs) operations and the number continues to grow. For many people, farmers markets are the starting point for more direct farm to table connections.

What has been done

Farmers markets are now considered the new public square of civil society and hubs for community-based economic activity. Virginia Cooperative Extension is an educational resource for markets and communities to strengthen these public squares and economic hubs. As an example, Chesapeake VCE helped to reorganize and manage a Chesapeake Farmers Market which has been operated continuously for the past twelve years. Chesapeake VCE helped to establish rules which require vendors to be producers of what they offer to sell. Additionally, Extension has provided training on marketing, food handling, and the promotion and acceptance of Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits.

Results

The patronage of the Chesapeake Farmers Market has increased each year since 2000 and brought more farmers to the market. A survey conducted by Chesapeake VCE revealed 78% of people surveyed at the market made frequent visits; 48% patronized the market at least once a week spending at least \$20 per visit. Because this market has been so successful, the City constructed a permanent Farmers' Market pavilion in 2012, which will be an economic engine and gathering place for the community and region. Harrisonburg Farmers Market, in its fourth year under a permanent structure has experience three to four-fold increase in sales and reached nearly \$1.5 million in sales in 2012. Additionally, farming vendors had a combined sales of over \$640,000, and the market has we have a healthy SNAP program with a matching grant to offer a double-value incentive program toward SNAP benefits.

4. Associated Knowledge Areas

KA Code	Knowledge Area
604	Marketing and Distribution Practices
703	Nutrition Education and Behavior
704	Nutrition and Hunger in the Population

V(H). Planned Program (External Factors)

External factors which affected outcomes

- Natural Disasters (drought, weather extremes, etc.)
- Economy
- Public Policy changes
- Competing Programmatic Challenges

Brief Explanation

On overall goal of this planned program is to address food security and hunger at the local level. An important aspect of this goal is fostering community resilience and capacity to address these issues. The current economic situation and possible weather extremes may be a challenge for rural and urban communities over the next 5 years. Our planned program team will focus on building understanding and awareness of how foundational and necessary a strong local and regional food system is from a social, economic, and environmental perspective.

The economic and political situation continues to be tenuous, and this situation could affect funding for some programs and personnel. Additionally, the economic and political situation could also exacerbate food insecurity issues if employment opportunities do not increase statewide and localities continue to face dwindling financial resources.

V(I). Planned Program (Evaluation Studies)

Evaluation Results

Local food systems work continues to be an evolving and dynamic movement and process. A comprehensive analysis of the social, economic, and environmental impact of these systems on food security to understand the collective needs and results would be beneficial.

Key Items of Evaluation

A comprehensive analysis of the social, economic, and environmental impact of these systems on food security to understand the collective needs and results would be beneficial..