THANK YOU FOR ATTENDING THE 2022 CFS ANNUAL EVENT

Please complete our satisfaction survey by scanning the QR code or by visiting:

bit.ly/22cfseventsurvey

reacting & adapting
Impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on the food system and strategies for moving forward.
Like many others, The Curbside Market program had to be responsive to ever-changing pandemic world, therefore we shifted focus to more online offerings and being accessible the best we could. Healthy Harvest of North Iowa and the Cedar Valley Regional Food and Farm Network piloted an online sales option, Curbside Market, at five farmers markets in North Iowa. The pilot saw mixed responses over the two-year pilot, speaking to the sustainability of some pandemic response programming.

Marie Boyd
Executive Director
Healthy Harvest of North Iowa

Boyd is Director of Healthy Harvest of North Iowa, a small nonprofit that works to connect and educate in support of the local food system in North Central Iowa. They work with producers, consumers, communities, and regional partners to host programing and develop a strong culture around knowing where your food comes from. In collaboration with UNI’s Local Food Program, Healthy Harvest led a pilot project of an online order platform for five local farmers market in North Iowa called Curbside Market in the 2020 and 2021 seasons.

Jodie Huegerich
Local Food Program Manager
University of Northern Iowa

Jodie is the UNI Local Food Program Manager and has been for almost seven years. She is a Registered Dietitian and has completed the Local Food Leader and Community Food System training from Iowa State University Extension and Outreach. She works to develop a local and regional food system that positively impacts local farmers, consumers and businesses through education, collaboration, and economic development. She is on the statewide RFSWG (Regional Food System Working Group) Steering Committee as well as the Iowa Food System Coalition Steering Committee. She leads the local coalition, Cedar Valley Regional Food & Farm Network; manages the College Hill Farmers Market; and works on a variety of grant funded projects including Curbside Market.

Andrea Evelsizer

Andrea Evelsizer has been working within the north Iowa local food system for the past ten years in various capacities, including food system development, marketing, sales, farm to school, agri-tourism and farmers market development. Most recently she managed a food hub in north central Iowa and is the co-chair of the Clear Lake Farmers Market. She lives in Clear Lake with her husband and two teenage children.
Welcome to the eighth annual Community Food Systems Event!

My name is Bre Miller and I have the pleasure to work with amazing people here at Iowa State University Extension and Outreach, including coordinating this conference. I primarily work on our food systems team within Farm, Food and Enterprise Development. Our Food Systems Team supports the development of thriving local food systems statewide, in partnership with county extension staff and many other collaborators. Our team values responsive education, as well as relationships and networking, among others. This gathering is meant to build up our partners and promote collaboration, sharing and networking for creative, collaborative projects. We hope this conference provides a space for learning and engaging with practitioners and professionals.

This year’s Community Food Systems Annual Event’s theme is Reacting and Adapting: Impacts of the COVID-19 on the Food System and Strategies for Moving Forward. Over the past two years, we have faced many challenges, both in food systems and our everyday lives, but we have also faced these challenges head-on, creating innovative solutions, programs, and initiatives. It is my pleasure to welcome you all to the 2022 Community Food Systems Annual Event.

- Bre Miller
Conference Coordinator

MEET YOUR CONFERENCE PLANNING COMMITTEE

BRE MILLER
Extension Education Specialist
millerb@iastate.edu

KALEY HOHENSHELL
Extension Education Specialist
kaleyh@iastate.edu

EMILY PAULL
Extension Education Specialist
eltpaull@iastate.edu

CONCURRENT SESSIONS C

FOOD RECOVERY PIVOT DURING COVID-19

MEANS Database is a food recovery non-profit that sends free, automatic email and text notifications to match local businesses with excess food with nearby non-profits. During the peak of the COVID-19 pandemic, MEANS altered its operations and collaborated with organizations across the country on projects like our Community Meal Program and Native Response. In this presentation, MEANS staff will discuss what led us to pivot, how the pandemic bought new partnerships to life, food recovery during COVID, and MEANS’ path forward. The presentation will close with a discussion with participants about the challenges faced during COVID and sharing potential solutions.

Sammie Paul
Executive Director
MEANS Database

Sammie Paul is currently the Executive Director at MEANS Database, a nation-wide communications platform to reroute excess food from restaurants & grocery stores to local food pantries, soup kitchens and homeless shelters. She has worked with MEANS for more than five years, starting as an Outreach Volunteer and wearing many hats as she continues to work with MEANS to grow and expand its impact nationally. She has a history of service with public health nonprofits both in the United States with SOS Children’s Villages and abroad with Lea Toto in Nairobi, Kenya. Sammie is passionate about food security, community engagement, and public health policy.

Allie Wilson
Senior Program Manager
MEANS Database

Allie Wilson is a Senior Program Manager at MEANS Database. Allie manages food recovery programs across the country and focuses on collaborative community outreach to encourage food donation. She received her Masters of Science in Agroecology from the Federal University of Viçosa, Brazil and has her Bachelors of Science in Global Resources Systems from Iowa State University. Allie is passionate about agroecology, food sovereignty, and supporting resilient food systems across the globe.
Holly Benson Muller
Managing Director
Kitchen Council

Holly Benson Muller is the Managing Director of Kitchen Council, a kitchen incubator that helps food startups start up, located in Council Bluffs, Iowa. Prior to that, she led a community project for the Greater Omaha Chamber. Before relocating to the Greater Omaha region, she spent 11 years in the Bay Area, 8 of those with Google as a Program Manager. Holly was born and raised in Wisconsin where she ate cheese for breakfast, lunch and dinner. On the other side of the Mississippi, she received a Bachelor of Arts in Journalism and Communications from the University of Minnesota-Twin Cities.

After landing in Omaha in 2015, Holly was immediately inspired by the progressive food community from the variety of innovative restaurants to the farmers markets to the emphasis on supporting local. By day, Holly is an urban dweller. By night, she's a rural seeker of anything green or mountain peaked. Lately, she's either house projecting, concert-going, thrifting, eating her way through town or hanging with toddlers. She lives in the Country Club-Benson area (naturally, given her last name) with her husband, three daughters, cat and dog.

Julie Vosilus
US Food and Drug Administration

Julie Vosilus graduated from Baker University, then found herself working with the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) serving as an investigator covering a variety of products including animal drugs, devices, food and medicated feeds. The US Army Reserves provided a life supplement for eight years with deployments to Iraq and the Horn of Africa. Julie worked with the Provincial Reconstruction Team in Kirkuk, Iraq, working on education and health issues. In Ethiopia, she worked as a member of a civil affairs team helping to strengthen animal husbandry practices and healthcare. Julie continues to work for the FDA serving as a state liaison and has done so for the past 10 years.

Kurt Rueber
Iowa Department of Inspections and Appeals

Kurt Rueber is a Senior Environmental Specialist with the Food and Consumer Safety Bureau which is a part of the Iowa Department of Inspections and Appeals. One of Kurt’s tasks is working with small food processing facilities and start-up companies throughout the state of Iowa to help them navigate through and understand Iowa’s food and consumer safety laws. Kurt also works closely with Iowa’s Farmer Market food vendors and is part of the department’s Rapid Response Team during times of disaster or foodborne outbreaks.
FOOD SAFETY CULTURE (FSC): FROM PLAN TO PACKAGE AND IN-BETWEEN

This panel discusses food safety culture and the involvement of an integrated team utilizing resources to promote a successful business. Business practicality and teamwork are the driving forces for developing solid food safety cultures that involve multi-lateral food safety teams, especially for small to medium-sized manufacturers. The teamwork approach builds successful teams across areas of expertise, businesses, and regulatory agencies. To create partnerships to move food safety to more than what is in a plan or package but a holistic food safety culture that looks at the company, product, facility, and people as means to achieve success.

Dr. Shannon Coleman
Assistant Professor and State Extension Specialist
Department of Food Science and Human Nutrition, Iowa State University

Shannon Coleman currently serves as an Assistant Professor and State Extension Specialist in the Department of Food Science and Human Nutrition at Iowa State University. Coleman’s Extension and Outreach work includes developing and disseminating food safety curricula and resources for emerging, very small, and small food manufacturers in Iowa. Her research evaluates food manufacturers’ attitudes, intentions, and behaviors towards following food safety practices using various evaluation theories. In addition, Coleman has expanded her outreach and research to fill gaps in improving food safety and the local food system from farm to table, including developing curriculum and resources for youth, adults, and gardeners.

Kim Anderson
Center for Industrial Research and Service
Iowa State University

Before joining ISU, Kim worked in private industry and at the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) as an investigator with the U.S. Public Health Service. Kim conducted inspections of food and medical device manufacturers, with recognition for her work on recalls and official action cases. Her regulatory experience in manufacturing includes hazard analysis, traceability, recalls, safety/quality systems, environmental sampling, and inspections. Kim is a lead instructor for PCQI, Seafood HACCP, hazard analysis risk-based preventive controls, food safety plans, GMPs, industrial sterilization, and process validation.

Through the CIRAS partnership with Agriculture and Natural Resources Extension, Kim helps food companies obtain compliance through practical methods. Kim’s regulatory experience, coupled with her engineering background, provides a realistic approach in coaching manufacturers to meet compliance with FDA-regulated products. Whether updating to FSMA, just beginning, implementing changes, or training on PCQI, Kim brings a regulator’s reference point to quality system, using her knowledge to help businesses fully succeed and promote their internal food safety culture.

Serving CIRAS from 2017.
IOWA FOOD & FARM DISCUSSION
CONCORD AB

Many new initiatives have started and evolved to support our Iowa food system, including the Iowa Butchery Task Force and Farm to Table Task Force. Each created a set of recommendations that were shared with the Iowa Legislature to support our Iowa Food System. Join Secretary Mike Naig in his review of recommendations and share your thoughts and questions regarding the future of Iowa’s food and farm system.

Secretary of Agriculture Mike Naig

Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship

Secretary Mike Naig was elected to lead the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship in 2018. Through its 12 diverse bureaus, the Department ensures animal health, food safety and consumer protection. It also promotes conservation efforts to preserve our land for the next generation. Naig and his wife, Jaime, have three boys and they spend as much time as possible on their family’s Century farm located in Palo Alto County.

CURBSIDE MARKET: A PILOT OF ONLINE SALES FOR FARMERS MARKETS DURING COVID-19 AND BEYOND
CONCORD AB

Like many others, The Curbside Market program had to be responsive to ever-changing pandemic world, therefore we shifted focus to more online offerings and being accessible the best we could. Healthy Harvest of North Iowa and the Cedar Valley Regional Food and Farm Network piloted an online sales option, Curbside Market, at five farmers markets in North Iowa. The pilot saw mixed responses over the two-year pilot, speaking to the sustainability of some pandemic response programming.

Marie Boyd
Executive Director
Healthy Harvest of North Iowa

Boyd is Director of Healthy Harvest of North Iowa, a small nonprofit that works to connect and educate in support of the local food system in North Central Iowa. They work with producers, consumers, communities, and regional partners to host programing and develop a strong culture around knowing where your food comes from. In collaboration with UNI’s Local Food Program, Healthy Harvest led a pilot project of an online order platform for five local farmers market in North Iowa called Curbside Market in the 2020 and 2021 seasons.

Jodie Huegerich
Local Food Program Manager
University of Northern Iowa

Jodie is the UNI Local Food Program Manager and has been for almost seven years. She is a Registered Dietitian and has completed the Local Food Leader and Community Food System training from Iowa State University Extension and Outreach. She works to develop a local and regional food system that positively impacts local farmers, consumers and businesses through education, collaboration, and economic development. She is on the statewide RFSWG (Regional Food System Working Group) Steering Committee as well as the Iowa Food System Coalition Steering Committee. She leads the local coalition, Cedar Valley Regional Food & Farm Network; manages the College Hill Farmers Market; and works on a variety of grant funded projects including Curbside Market.

Andrea Evelsizer

Andrea Evelsizer has been working within the north Iowa local food system for the past ten years in various capacities, including food system development, marketing, sales, farm to school, agri-tourism and farmers market development. Most recently she managed a food hub in north central Iowa and is the co-chair of the Clear Lake Farmers Market. She lives in Clear Lake with her husband and two teenage children.
FOOD RECOVERY PIVOT DURING COVID-19

MEANS Database is a food recovery non-profit that sends free, automatic email and text notifications to match local businesses with excess food with nearby non-profits. During the peak of the COVID-19 pandemic, MEANS altered its operations and collaborated with organizations across the country on projects like our Community Meal Program and Native Response. In this presentation, MEANS staff will discuss what led us to pivot, how the pandemic bought new partnerships to life, food recovery during COVID, and MEANS’ path forward. The presentation will close with a discussion with participants about the challenges faced during COVID and sharing potential solutions.

Allie Wilson
Senior Program Manager
MEANS Database

Allie Wilson is a Senior Program Manager at MEANS Database. Allie manages food recovery programs across the country and focuses on collaborative community outreach to encourage food donation. She received her Masters of Science in Agroecology from the Federal University of Viçosa, Brazil and has her Bachelors of Science in Global Resources Systems from Iowa State University. Allie is passionate about agroecology, food sovereignty, and supporting resilient food systems across the globe.

Sammie Paul
Executive Director
MEANS Database

Sammie Paul is currently the Executive Director at MEANS Database, a nation-wide communications platform to route excess food from restaurants & grocery stores to local food pantries, soup kitchens and homeless shelters. She has worked with MEANS for more than five years, starting as an Outreach Volunteer and wearing many hats as she continues to work with MEANS to grow and expand its impact nationally. She has a history of service with public health nonprofits both in the United States with SOS Children’s Villages and abroad with Lea Toto in Nairobi, Kenya. Sammie is passionate about food security, community engagement, and public health policy.

COMMUNITY FOOD SYSTEMS RESILIENCY: WHAT DOES IT TAKE TO HAVE A RESILIENT FOOD SYSTEM?

Join Sue Beckwith, Executive Director of the Texas Center for Local Food; Dr. Ronald Rainey, Assistant Vice President and Professor with the University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture; and Sommer Sibilly-Brown, Founder and Executive Director of the Virgin Islands Good Food Coalition in this panel discussion of a recent research project within three place-based communities across the United States to understand the impacts of COVID-19 and natural disasters on food systems. A brief presentation will describe findings from the research study that included cross-sector focus groups and interviews as well as a consumer survey. Additionally, panelists will discuss their reason for the focus on resilience and food systems and their intention for the future regarding the development of resilient food systems in their communities. Come learn about the similarities and differences for resilient response to both COVID and natural disasters as it relates to our farm and food sector. This session will be facilitated by Courtney Long, Program Manager with Iowa State University Extension and Outreach Farm, Food and Enterprise Development.

Sue Beckwith
Executive Director
Texas Center for Local Food

Sue Beckwith is the Executive Director of the Texas Center for Local Food (TCLF). TCLF collaborates with organizations across Texas and the U.S. to develop strong local food economies in Texas that support jobs and healthy Texas grown food for all Texans. Sue has 25 years experience in project management and design. She is a former farmer, past president of Texas Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association and was the start up project manager for Coyote Creek Organic Feed Mill, the first certified organic commercial feed mill in Texas. She lives in Elgin, Texas.

Sommer Sibilly-Brown
Founder and Executive Director
Virgin Islands Good Food Coalition

Sommer A. Sibilly-Brown is a Local Foods System Development Advocate and the Founder and Executive Director of the Virgin Islands Good Food Coalition. Her organization seeks to raise awareness about the importance and impact of a healthy local food system in the territory. She is also the creator of Food Learn a program that exposes youth in the community to food system conversations, an encourages soft skill development, like networking and public speaking. Ms. Sibilly-Brown believes collaboration, partnership, and the creation of a shared vision are the only way we can rectify some of the seemingly insurmountable issues that plague our territory, especially as it pertains to food and food production. She strives to bridge the gap between food producers and entities in the public and private sectors. Her vision is to aid in the revitalization of agriculture in the Virgin Islands and unite local food producers, local businesses, and local consumers to create a sustainable network of local food options.
COMMUNITY FOOD SYSTEMS RESILIENCY: WHAT DOES IT TAKE TO HAVE A RESILIENT FOOD SYSTEM? (cont.)

Dr. Ronald Rainey

Vice President and Professor
University Of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture

Dr. Ron Rainey serves as Assistant Vice President and Professor for the University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture. As an administrator, he provides collaborative leadership to diversity, equity, and inclusion efforts; broadband expansion; value-added entrepreneurship; and enhanced collaboration across research, teaching and extension mission areas. Within the Division, he provides leadership to two academic units — Center for Agriculture and Rural Sustainability and the Southern Risk Management Education Center (SRMEC). SRMEC serves the southern region — 13 states and two territories—delivering education that strives to empower producers to manage agricultural risks.

An Extension Economist, Rainey focuses on enhancing farm and ranch value-added entrepreneurship, risk management and marketing throughout the agricultural sector. He has generated impacts across the food value chain including efforts with farmers, food distribution firms, and retailers. Over his almost 30-year career, his programs, expertise, and leadership have been recognized at the state, regional, and national level. He has demonstrated experience working across disciplines and state lines engaging with public and private partners. His programs have secured in excess of $25 million in grants and contracts.

Rainey believes in the value of education and is a constant advocate and supporter of post-secondary educational opportunities. He currently serves as President of the University of Arkansas’ National Alumni Board of Directors and continues to be active with alumni chapters and societies in Arkansas. He lives in Little Rock with his wife, Jenel, and their daughter.

Courtney Long

Program Manager
Iowa State University Extension and Outreach
Farm, Food and Enterprise Development

Courtney Long is a program manager with Iowa State University Extension and Outreach Farm, Food and Enterprise Development and Community and Economic Development. Courtney manages the Food Systems Team which includes the Community Food Systems Program, Farm to School and Early Care program, Local Food Leader and Community Food Systems certifications, as well as several additional research projects and planning efforts across the state and nation.

Long is also a PhD candidate studying resilient food systems and impacts from COVID and natural disasters within five different states, including: place-based community capacity for responding to disasters; population support for local farm and food businesses; and Land Grant Universities’ roles in supporting efforts for resilient food systems.

COMMUNITY FOOD SYSTEMS ANNUAL EVENT 02.25.22

FOOD SAFETY CULTURE (FSC): FROM PLAN TO PACKAGE AND IN-BETWEEN (cont.)

Holly Benson Muller
Managing Director
Kitchen Council

Holly Benson Muller is the Managing Director of Kitchen Council, a kitchen incubator that helps food startups start up, located in Council Bluffs, Iowa. Prior to that, she led a community project for the Greater Omaha Chamber. Before relocating to the Greater Omaha region, she spent 11 years in the Bay Area, 8 of those with Google as a Program Manager.

Holly was born and raised in Wisconsin where she ate cheese for breakfast, lunch and dinner. On the other side of the Mississippi, she received a Bachelor of Arts in Journalism and Communications from the University of Minnesota-Twin Cities.

After landing in Omaha in 2015, Holly was immediately inspired by the progressive food community from the variety of innovative restaurants to the farmers markets to the emphasis on supporting local. By day, Holly is an urban dweller. By night, she’s a rural seeker of anything green or mountain peaked. Lately, she’s either house projecting, concert-going, thrifting, eating her way through town or hanging with toddlers. She lives in the Country Club-Benson area (naturally, given her last name) with her husband, three daughters, cat and dog.

Julie Vosilus
US Food and Drug Administration

Julie Vosilus graduated from Baker University, then found herself working with the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) serving as an investigator covering a variety of products including animal drugs, devices, food and medicated feeds. The US Army Reserves provided a life supplement for eight years with deployments to Iraq and the Horn of Africa. Julie worked with the Provincial Reconstruction Team in Kirkuk, Iraq, working on education and health issues. In Ethiopia, she served as a member of a civil affairs team helping to strengthen animal husbandry practices and healthcare. Julie continues to work for the FDA serving as a state liaison and has done so for the past 10 years.

Kurt Rueber
Iowa Department of Inspections and Appeals

Kurt Rueber is a Senior Environmental Specialist with the Food and Consumer Safety Bureau which is a part of the Iowa Department of Inspections and Appeals. One of Kurt’s tasks is working with small food processing facilities and start-up companies throughout the state of Iowa to help them navigate through and understand Iowa’s food and consumer safety laws. Kurt also works closely with Iowa’s Farmer Market food vendors and is part of the department’s Rapid Response Team during times of disaster or foodborne outbreaks.
FOOD SAFETY CULTURE (FSC): FROM PLAN TO PACKAGE AND IN-BETWEEN

This panel discusses food safety culture and the involvement of an integrated team utilizing resources to promote a successful business. Business practicality and teamwork are the driving forces for developing solid food safety cultures that involve multi-lateral food safety teams, especially for small to medium-sized manufacturers. The teamwork approach builds successful teams across areas of expertise, businesses, and regulatory agencies. To create partnerships to move food safety to more than what is in a plan or package but a holistic food safety culture that looks at the company, product, facility, and people as means to achieve success.

Shannon Coleman currently serves as an Assistant Professor and State Extension Specialist in the Department of Food Science and Human Nutrition at Iowa State University. Coleman’s Extension and Outreach work includes developing and disseminating food safety curricula and resources for emerging, very small, and small food manufacturers in Iowa. Her research evaluates food manufacturers’ attitudes, intentions, and behaviors towards following food safety practices using various evaluation theories. In addition, Coleman has expanded her outreach and research to fill gaps in improving food safety and the local food system from farm to table, including developing curriculum and resources for youth, adults, and gardeners.

Dr. Shannon Coleman
Assistant Professor and State Extension Specialist
Department of Food Science and Human Nutrition, Iowa State University

Before joining ISU, Kim worked in private industry and at the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) as an investigator with the U.S. Public Health Service. Kim conducted inspections of food and medical device manufacturers, with recognition for her work on recalls and official action cases. Her regulatory experience in manufacturing includes hazard analysis, traceability, recalls, safety/quality systems, environmental sampling, and inspections. Kim is a lead instructor for PCQI, Seafood HACCP, hazard analysis risk-based preventive controls, food safety plans, GMPs, industrial sterilization, and process validation.

Through the CIRAS partnership with Agriculture and Natural Resources Extension, Kim helps food companies obtain compliance through practical methods. Kim’s regulatory experience, coupled with her engineering background, provides a realistic approach in coaching manufacturers to meet compliance with FDA-regulated products. Whether updating to FSMA, just beginning, implementing changes, or training on PCQI, Kim brings a regulator’s reference point to quality system, using her knowledge to help businesses fully succeed and promote their internal food safety culture.

Kim Anderson
Center for Industrial Research and Service
Iowa State University

Serving CIRAS from 2017.

CONCURRENT SESSIONS C

SALON B

CONCURRENT SESSIONS
A FRAMEWORK FOR GROWING LOCALLY FOR DIVERSE COMMUNITIES

Feed Iowa First’s Equitable Land Access program connects landless individuals with a background in agriculture to land and equipment on favorable terms. The program supports marginalized farmers to grow fresh, culturally appropriate vegetables in Linn County. In this breakout session, we will share barriers and successes in the first year of the ELA (Equity Land Access) program, followed by a short workshop on best practices for establishing ELA programming in Iowa communities.

Emmaly Renshaw
Program Manager, Equitable Land Access Program
Feed Iowa First

Emmaly grew up in the hills of NE Iowa and graduated from Iowa State University - Landscape Architecture. She joined Feed Iowa First in 2020 and is responsible for community programming to alleviate food insecurity and expand local food production. She serves on the Cedar Rapids Wellbeing Advisory Committee, Linn County Public Health Diabetes and Healthy Living Coalition, and LAP-AOD. Emmaly lives in Cedar Rapids with her spouse and four kids (high school to kindergarten). In her free time, she enjoys gardening, biking, and backpacking.

CONCURRENT SESSIONS A

YOU ARE WHAT MAKES THIS IOWA FOOD SYSTEM DEVELOPMENT DIFFERENT

SALON A

Iowa’s food system is the key to our health, economic vitality, and community resilience! A convergence of renewed energy for food system collaboration came together in 2020 informed by the “pandemic reveal”, readiness of a new generation of leaders, and emphasis on the system change framework of Collective Impact. These dynamics are guiding the Iowa Food System Coalition - a diverse group of Iowans - to position the local and regional food system as a pivotal part of the Iowa economy. Underscoring this work is a commitment that food system partners and average Iowans are the change makers we are looking for. Join Jan Libbey, co-owner of One Step at a Time Gardens and Coordinator of the Iowa Food System Coalition, for an active and engaging discussion of the process, partnership, and possibilities of Iowa’s food system.

Jan Libbey
Co-owner, One Step at a Time Gardens
Coordinator, Iowa Food System Coalition

Jan Libbey works to blend her love for the land and rural communities through farming and community organizing. She and her husband, Tim Landgraf, have operated One Step at a Time Gardens (OSTG). From 1996-2021 they marketed fresh produce, and pastured poultry for sales through their own Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) and with other producers through North Iowa Fresh, LLC. She helped to found and served as Executive Director for Healthy Harvest of North Iowa, a nonprofit supporting local food system development, from 2011 - 2019. Along with Tim, she has been recognized with the 2012 Spencer Award for Sustainable Agriculture, the 2022 Sustainable Agriculture Achievement Award from Practical Farmers of Iowa, and has been featured in several books related to her vision for the critical importance of community and food relationships. She is currently working with a broad spectrum of local food and farm leaders under the Iowa Food System Coalition to develop a statewide food system plan for Iowa.

“PIVOTING IS EXHAUSTING:” A MIXED-METHODS STUDY OF LOCAL FOOD PRODUCERS RESPONSE TO COVID-19

SALON B, 20-MINUTE SESSION

This presentation will be a brief synopsis of survey (n=100) and interview (n=25) research undertaken with Iowan food producers in early 2021 to understand how COVID-19 impacted local food producers and how they responded to these novel challenges. The data highlights the uneven impacts COVID-19 had on producers in terms of demand and profitability and how the majority of producers turned to personal networks for support rather than government or non-governmental agencies. Taking the view that local food system sustainability needs to also account for producer wellbeing, we also highlight data that demonstrates the different ways COVID-19 added to producers’ stress through both novel challenges and also exacerbating broader concerns around climate, labor, and profitability.

Carly Nichols
Assistant Professor
Department of Geographical and Sustainability Sciences
Global Health Studies, University of Iowa

Carly Nichols (she/her) is an assistant professor in the Department of Geographical and Sustainability Sciences and the Global Health Studies Program at the University of Iowa. She does research on the equity dimensions and health implications of agricultural development programs in Northern and Central India. Her more recent research examines how women-identifying agriculture producers in Iowa experience stress and wellbeing, as well as how to use geographic perspectives to understand resilience and justice within local food systems in the United States.

CONCURRENT SESSIONS C

YOU ARE WHAT MAKES THIS IOWA FOOD SYSTEM DEVELOPMENT DIFFERENT

SALON A

Iowa’s food system is the key to our health, economic vitality, and community resilience! A convergence of renewed energy for food system collaboration came together in 2020 informed by the “pandemic reveal”, readiness of a new generation of leaders, and emphasis on the system change framework of Collective Impact. These dynamics are guiding the Iowa Food System Coalition - a diverse group of Iowans - to position the local and regional food system as a pivotal part of the Iowa economy. Underscoring this work is a commitment that food system partners and average Iowans are the change makers we are looking for. Join Jan Libbey, co-owner of One Step at a Time Gardens and Coordinator of the Iowa Food System Coalition, for an active and engaging discussion of the process, partnership, and possibilities of Iowa’s food system.

Jan Libbey
Co-owner, One Step at a Time Gardens
Coordinator, Iowa Food System Coalition

Jan Libbey works to blend her love for the land and rural communities through farming and community organizing. She and her husband, Tim Landgraf, have operated One Step at a Time Gardens (OSTG). From 1996-2021 they marketed fresh produce, and pastured poultry for sales through their own Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) and with other producers through North Iowa Fresh, LLC. She helped to found and served as Executive Director for Healthy Harvest of North Iowa, a nonprofit supporting local food system development, from 2011 - 2019. Along with Tim, she has been recognized with the 2012 Spencer Award for Sustainable Agriculture, the 2022 Sustainable Agriculture Achievement Award from Practical Farmers of Iowa, and has been featured in several books related to her vision for the critical importance of community and food relationships. She is currently working with a broad spectrum of local food and farm leaders under the Iowa Food System Coalition to develop a statewide food system plan for Iowa.

“PIVOTING IS EXHAUSTING:” A MIXED-METHODS STUDY OF LOCAL FOOD PRODUCERS RESPONSE TO COVID-19

SALON B, 20-MINUTE SESSION

This presentation will be a brief synopsis of survey (n=100) and interview (n=25) research undertaken with Iowan food producers in early 2021 to understand how COVID-19 impacted local food producers and how they responded to these novel challenges. The data highlights the uneven impacts COVID-19 had on producers in terms of demand and profitability and how the majority of producers turned to personal networks for support rather than government or non-governmental agencies. Taking the view that local food system sustainability needs to also account for producer wellbeing, we also highlight data that demonstrates the different ways COVID-19 added to producers’ stress through both novel challenges and also exacerbating broader concerns around climate, labor, and profitability.

Carly Nichols
Assistant Professor
Department of Geographical and Sustainability Sciences
Global Health Studies, University of Iowa

Carly Nichols (she/her) is an assistant professor in the Department of Geographical and Sustainability Sciences and the Global Health Studies Program at the University of Iowa. She does research on the equity dimensions and health implications of agricultural development programs in Northern and Central India. Her more recent research examines how women-identifying agriculture producers in Iowa experience stress and wellbeing, as well as how to use geographic perspectives to understand resilience and justice within local food systems in the United States.

Emmaly Renshaw
Program Manager, Equitable Land Access Program
Feed Iowa First

Emmaly grew up in the hills of NE Iowa and graduated from Iowa State University - Landscape Architecture. She joined Feed Iowa First in 2020 and is responsible for community programming to alleviate food insecurity and expand local food production. She serves on the Cedar Rapids Wellbeing Advisory Committee, Linn County Public Health Diabetes and Healthy Living Coalition, and LAIF-AOD. Emmaly lives in Cedar Rapids with her spouse and four kids (high school to kindergarten). In her free time, she enjoys gardening, biking, and backpacking.
CONCURRENT SESSIONS B

RURAL FRESH MARKETS: SELLING FRESH FOOD IN RURAL COMMUNITIES

SALON C, 20-MINUTE SESSION

The Rural Fresh Markets program is designed to address the issue of the growing number of food deserts in Rural America. It uses a combination of solid business practices, community social capital, and two decades of retail experience to create economically self-sustaining businesses that provide access to fresh food in communities that no longer have a fresh food retailer. These businesses are owned and operated by the community, for the community, and do not require continual financial support in the form of grants or donations. W.I.U.’s Rural Fresh Market’s program acts as a business consultant for the communities’ efforts, providing guidance in board creation, business planning, financial projections, marketing, management, equipment selection and store layout. In addition, the RFM program provides ongoing advisement for store managers and board members to ensure the greatest chance for success. Whenever possible the RFM program incorporates existing community businesses to increase social capital and provide a greater economic impact for the community. And, if a suitable location is available, a historic building is remodeled for the use of the business in order to increase property values, maintain the character of the community, and lessen the burden of dilapidated buildings on small municipalities. This provides another way for the community’s investment to have maximum impact.

REGISTERED AGRICULTURAL APPRENTICESHIPS: WHAT ARE THEY AND WHO ARE THEY FOR?

SALON C, 20-MINUTE SESSION

Iowa non-profit Veterans In Agriculture recently received approval for two Registered Apprenticeship programs by the U.S. Department of Labor. What are registered apprenticeships? Can these programs be used for your operation or agribusiness to mentor the next generation of food producers? Do you know an individual who could benefit from being an apprentice? Learn the requirements and details of this program that is new to both Iowa and agriculture/food production.

TEACHING OTHERS TO GROW FOOD VIA ALTERNATIVE METHODS

SALON C, 20-MINUTE SESSION

ENHANCING IOWA’S AG WORKFORCE

SALON C, 20-MINUTE SESSION

The COVID-19 pandemic has caused a labor shortage across the state including in the agricultural industry. The Agricultural Recruitment System links employers who have seasonal or temporary agricultural jobs with workers who need these jobs and are willing to live temporarily away from their local area. Agricultural Recruitment System can assist in filing this labor shortage in Iowa. Iowa has prided itself in growing pipelines of workers for various occupations. With over 1500 apprentice occupations AG has many options to choose from. Registered Apprenticeships help fill the gaps in training and retention. Come find out more about financial and training benefits of RA occupations.

REGISTRATION AND BUSINESS STRATEGIES FOR SMALL FOOD PRODUCERS

SALON C, 20-MINUTE SESSION

As a Business Marketing Specialist for Iowa Workforce Development, Jennifer has a passion for serving Iowa businesses and has extensive experience locating meaningful workforce solutions. Based out of Waterloo, Iowa, Jennifer serves the entire state as a subject matter expert for Registered Apprenticeship in the sector of Agriculture. Jennifer works one-on-one with Iowa employers to develop and implement Registered Apprenticeship programs. Her focus is to provide support and guidance and ensure that each program is structured to meet the needs of each diverse business.

REGISTRATION AND BUSINESS STRATEGIES FOR SMALL FOOD PRODUCERS

SALON C, 20-MINUTE SESSION

The COVID-19 pandemic has caused a labor shortage across the state including in the agricultural industry. The Agricultural Recruitment System links employers who have seasonal or temporary agricultural jobs with workers who need these jobs and are willing to live temporarily away from their local area. Agricultural Recruitment System can assist in filing this labor shortage in Iowa. Iowa has prided itself in growing pipelines of workers for various occupations. With over 1500 apprentice occupations AG has many options to choose from. Registered Apprenticeships help fill the gaps in training and retention. Come find out more about financial and training benefits of RA occupations.

REGISTERED AGRICULTURAL APPRENTICESHIPS: WHAT ARE THEY AND WHO ARE THEY FOR?

SALON C, 20-MINUTE SESSION

Iowa non-profit Veterans In Agriculture recently received approval for two Registered Apprenticeship programs by the U.S. Department of Labor. What are registered apprenticeships? Can these programs be used for your operation or agribusiness to mentor the next generation of food producers? Do you know an individual who could benefit from being an apprentice? Learn the requirements and details of this program that is new to both Iowa and agriculture/food production.

TEACHING OTHERS TO GROW FOOD VIA ALTERNATIVE METHODS

SALON C, 20-MINUTE SESSION

ENHANCING IOWA’S AG WORKFORCE

SALON C, 20-MINUTE SESSION

The COVID-19 pandemic has caused a labor shortage across the state including in the agricultural industry. The Agricultural Recruitment System links employers who have seasonal or temporary agricultural jobs with workers who need these jobs and are willing to live temporarily away from their local area. Agricultural Recruitment System can assist in filing this labor shortage in Iowa. Iowa has prided itself in growing pipelines of workers for various occupations. With over 1500 apprentice occupations AG has many options to choose from. Registered Apprenticeships help fill the gaps in training and retention. Come find out more about financial and training benefits of RA occupations.

REGISTERED AGRICULTURAL APPRENTICESHIPS: WHAT ARE THEY AND WHO ARE THEY FOR?

SALON C, 20-MINUTE SESSION

Iowa non-profit Veterans In Agriculture recently received approval for two Registered Apprenticeship programs by the U.S. Department of Labor. What are registered apprenticeships? Can these programs be used for your operation or agribusiness to mentor the next generation of food producers? Do you know an individual who could benefit from being an apprentice? Learn the requirements and details of this program that is new to both Iowa and agriculture/food production.

TEACHING OTHERS TO GROW FOOD VIA ALTERNATIVE METHODS

SALON C, 20-MINUTE SESSION

ENHANCING IOWA’S AG WORKFORCE

SALON C, 20-MINUTE SESSION

The COVID-19 pandemic has caused a labor shortage across the state including in the agricultural industry. The Agricultural Recruitment System links employers who have seasonal or temporary agricultural jobs with workers who need these jobs and are willing to live temporarily away from their local area. Agricultural Recruitment System can assist in filing this labor shortage in Iowa. Iowa has prided itself in growing pipelines of workers for various occupations. With over 1500 apprentice occupations AG has many options to choose from. Registered Apprenticeships help fill the gaps in training and retention. Come find out more about financial and training benefits of RA occupations.

REGISTERED AGRICULTURAL APPRENTICESHIPS: WHAT ARE THEY AND WHO ARE THEY FOR?

SALON C, 20-MINUTE SESSION

Iowa non-profit Veterans In Agriculture recently received approval for two Registered Apprenticeship programs by the U.S. Department of Labor. What are registered apprenticeships? Can these programs be used for your operation or agribusiness to mentor the next generation of food producers? Do you know an individual who could benefit from being an apprentice? Learn the requirements and details of this program that is new to both Iowa and agriculture/food production.

TEACHING OTHERS TO GROW FOOD VIA ALTERNATIVE METHODS

SALON C, 20-MINUTE SESSION

ENHANCING IOWA’S AG WORKFORCE

SALON C, 20-MINUTE SESSION

The COVID-19 pandemic has caused a labor shortage across the state including in the agricultural industry. The Agricultural Recruitment System links employers who have seasonal or temporary agricultural jobs with workers who need these jobs and are willing to live temporarily away from their local area. Agricultural Recruitment System can assist in filing this labor shortage in Iowa. Iowa has prided itself in growing pipelines of workers for various occupations. With over 1500 apprentice occupations AG has many options to choose from. Registered Apprenticeships help fill the gaps in training and retention. Come find out more about financial and training benefits of RA occupations.

REGISTERED AGRICULTURAL APPRENTICESHIPS: WHAT ARE THEY AND WHO ARE THEY FOR?

SALON C, 20-MINUTE SESSION

Iowa non-profit Veterans In Agriculture recently received approval for two Registered Apprenticeship programs by the U.S. Department of Labor. What are registered apprenticeships? Can these programs be used for your operation or agribusiness to mentor the next generation of food producers? Do you know an individual who could benefit from being an apprentice? Learn the requirements and details of this program that is new to both Iowa and agriculture/food production.

TEACHING OTHERS TO GROW FOOD VIA ALTERNATIVE METHODS

SALON C, 20-MINUTE SESSION

ENHANCING IOWA’S AG WORKFORCE

SALON C, 20-MINUTE SESSION

The COVID-19 pandemic has caused a labor shortage across the state including in the agricultural industry. The Agricultural Recruitment System links employers who have seasonal or temporary agricultural jobs with workers who need these jobs and are willing to live temporarily away from their local area. Agricultural Recruitment System can assist in filing this labor shortage in Iowa. Iowa has prided itself in growing pipelines of workers for various occupations. With over 1500 apprentice occupations AG has many options to choose from. Registered Apprenticeships help fill the gaps in training and retention. Come find out more about financial and training benefits of RA occupations.
Mary Murphy has been around libraries all her life as a patron herself, as patron with children, and then as a volunteer. It wasn’t until 2006 that she discovered libraries as a profession when she became the Library Director at the DeSoto Public Library. Being a librarian brought together her need to help people, her education, her work and life experience, and her passion about reading and literacy. Through the tools she learned in State Library of Iowa’s Public Library Management courses and the mentoring of several librarians, she blossomed in her new career of Library Director. In 2010 she became the Director of the Perry Public Library where she works currently. Before discovering libraries as a career path, she taught economics, finance, marketing, and managerial economics on the college level. She has a Ph.D. in Business and Economics, and a MS and BS in Agricultural Economics. She has served on the ILA Leadership Committee and is serving currently on the Board of the Iowa Small Library Association as Secretary. She participated in the ILEAD project and is active in Dallas County Library Association. Her passion is to bring the best library services, in all its forms, to the residents of Perry and its surrounding population. She and her husband Jim live in rural northeast Madison County. Their three adult children have been launched; one living in Oregon, one in New York, and one in Iowa. She taught religious education for over 20 years and is now serving on her church’s Finance Committee.

Dr. Dana Danley
Family Medicine Faculty Physician
Broadlawns Medical Center

Dr. Dana Danley is a board certified Family Medicine Faculty Physician at Broadlawns Medical Center. Dr. Danley attended the University of Iowa Carver College of Medicine and completed her residency at Broadlawns Medical Center. Currently, she is the Family Medicine Residency Program Director. She is passionate about addressing the social determinates of health, particularly food insecurity. Dr. Danley has developed and implemented a new food insecurity screening and mitigation process for the patients Broadlawns serves. Broadlawns and Iowa’s Healthiest State Initiative have collaborated on the Polk County Produce Prescription Program to provide produce to patients with diabetes and other health conditions. Dr. Danley oversees this project at Broadlawns.

Brigham Hoegh
Wellness Coordinator
Iowa State University Extension and Outreach, Cass County

Brigham Hoegh is Cass County’s Wellness Coordinator, a position jointly funded by Cass County, Cass County ISU Extension, Cass County Public Health, and the Nishna Valley Family YMCA. In this role, Brigham serves as a connector and bridge-builder between local groups focused on community health and wellness initiatives. Brigham is a member of the Cass County Local Food Policy Council, and manages the group’s Facebook Page: @CassCountyLocalFood. Separately from her Wellness Coordinator position, Brigham manages Produce in the Park, a farmers market in Atlantic, Iowa. She also runs a small non-profit organization, Corn for a Cause, whose mission is to make fresh sweet corn accessible. The only thing Brigham loves as much as sweet corn is her pets.

Aryn McLaren
Double Up Food Bucks Coordinator
Iowa Healthiest State Initiative

Aryn McLaren is the Double Up Food Bucks Coordinator at the Iowa Healthiest State Initiative where she oversees the design, implementation, and evaluation of the Double Up program. In 2016, Aryn helped launch the statewide SNAP-incentive program that has since expanded to over 140 sites including retail grocery stores, farmers markets, farm stands and mobile markets. Double Up Food Bucks helps low-income Iowans eat more fresh fruits and vegetables while supporting family farmers and growing local economies. Aryn received her undergraduate degree in biology from Grandview University and her masters of public health degree at Des Moines University.
FOOD RESCUE AT YOUR LOCAL LIBRARY

Libraries are uniquely situated in communities to extend outreach services to those communities. In 2020, the Perry Public Library in Perry, Iowa started a food rescue program, rescuing or recovering produce headed to the garbage and ultimately landfills. With the guidance of Eat Greater Des Moines and help from a grant from a Dallas County Health Department, Iowa Department of Public Health, and Telligen, the rescue program was initiated in March 2020. As this pilot project was documented thoroughly, it has been repeated in other libraries and communities.

Aubrey Alvarez is co-founder and Executive Director of Eat Greater Des Moines, a nonprofit organization based in Des Moines. Launched in April 2013, Eat Greater Des Moines unites the community in providing quality food access for all through connection, advocacy, and collaboration.

As a natural includer, asker of “why” and the always popular “why not?”, her focus on empowering community partners to connect, support one another, and move ideas into action has been a natural fit.

With an inclination towards action and willingness to “try it out”, Eat Greater Des Moines has quickly been recognized as a leader in food system development.

Aubrey is a graduate of the University of Northern Iowa (bachelor of arts in health promotion) and Drake University (masters in public administration). She is also a member of the board with Les Danes D’Escoffier of Greater Des Moines, Hunger Free Dallas County Coalition, and Wallace Centers of Iowa. She also is active in the OpportUNITY Food Insecurity Work Group, Iowa Hunger Coalition, and Hunger Free Warren County. She was selected as a 2019 Health Connect Fellow and is a 2015 graduate of the Greater Des Moines Leadership Institute.

Abigail Chihak is the Community Health Administrator at the Dallas County Health Department. In service to the residents of Dallas County, Chihak oversees the Health Navigation program, conducts the county needs assessment, develops and implements the county health improvement plan, provides technical assistance to local community groups, and engages the community through various outreach and media efforts. Chihak earned her Bachelors of Science and Bachelors of Social Work from Briar Cliff University. During that time, she found a love for the social determinants of health and soon after enrolled in the Brown School at Washington University in St. Louis where she earned her Masters of Public Health and Masters of Social Work. Chihak strives to address the social determinants of health in her communities so that every resident has the opportunity to make healthy choices.