

## Food Systems Program: Our Projects

Our team works with communities across Iowa and the US to help them design and build robust local food systems. Tactics include:

Community  
gardens

Farmers  
markets

Donation  
gardens

Edible  
landscapes

Shared-use  
kitchens

Farmers  
markets

Food hubs

Public  
markets

School  
gardens

Processing  
facilities

CSAs

Urban  
farming



*“Assistance from the Food Systems team helped us strengthen our relationships with local schools. Pulling together a visual representation of our team’s ideas for outdoor learning and growing spaces really helped our partner schools visualize all the possibilities for implementing farm to school and make a decision that was right for their needs.”*

## Food Systems Program: Our Services

*Our Food Systems Program supports robust local and regional food systems across Iowa, including community food systems development and farm-to-school/farm-to-institution work.*

### Menu of Services

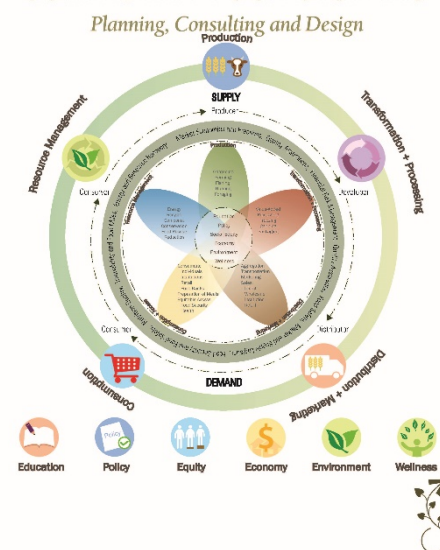
#### Community Food Systems Program (formerly Ag Urbanism)

- **Coalition Development:** We provide review and compilation of a business feasibility study for startups, new product development, or businesses wanting to diversify into another product or marketplace.
- **Community Food System Assessment:** Our team evaluates the existing conditions of the community-based food system sectors and how those aspects relate to community food system program values.
- **Public Input Sessions:** We host a meeting to hear from residents about what food system changes they would like to see in their community. Our creative session includes visual aids and several survey questions.
- **Technical Assistance:** Communities may have already decided on projects that fit with their coalition's values and needs. In partnership with the Iowa State University Community Design Lab, the Community Food Systems Program offers design and technical assistance for projects ranging from market and brand promotion to landscape or building assessment and schematic design.
- **Certifications:** We offer two certification programs that are a combination of in-person workshops and online modules. Local Food Leader provides individual skill development for engagement in food systems. Community Food Systems teaches a strategic process for design and development of food systems.

#### Farm to School/Farm to Institution

- **Local Food Procurement:** Our team assists early childhood and K-12 food service directors in identifying and sourcing locally grown food for their meal programs. Support includes training in food safety, meal planning, and more.
- **School Gardens and Classroom Activities:** In partnership with FoodCorps Iowa and the National Farm to School Network, we work with early childhood and K-12 educators across the state to develop classroom and gardening activities to encourage students to develop healthy eating habits.
- **Iowa CSA Directory and Iowa Food Hub Directory:** Our staff maintains the only statewide directory of Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) farms and a directory of food hubs operating in Iowa. Find these resources and more at [www.extension.iastate.edu/ffed](http://www.extension.iastate.edu/ffed).

## COMMUNITY FOOD SYSTEMS



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