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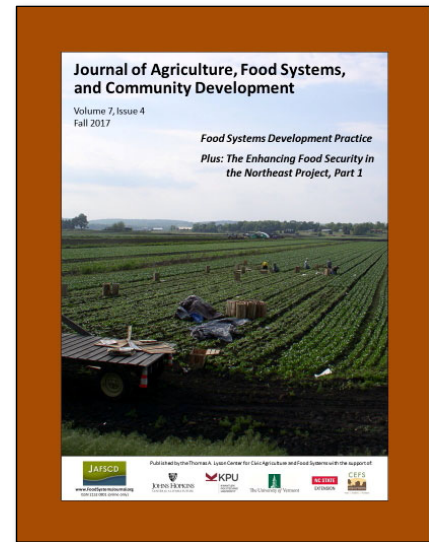
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IN THIS ISSUE DUNCAN HILCHEY

Food systems development practice and the Enhancing Food Security in the Northeast (EFSNE) project, part 1



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In this issue of JAFSCD, we wrap up our 7th volume of JAFSCD with a group of papers that focus on food systems development as a professional practice, plus our first of two installments of the Enhancing Food Security in the Northeast (EFSNE) project. EFSNE has completed what is perhaps the most exhaustive analysis ever conducted of a single regional (multistate) food system in North America.

We start out the issue with our columnists, who take a crack at understanding food systems through four different lenses. In *The Soul of the Local Food Movement*, **John Ikerd** argues that the resilience of the local food systems depends on peoples' willingness to give "purpose priority over profits."

In *Cacao Fields and Dairy Cows: The Interdependencies between Mexican Workers and the U.S. Food System*, **Teresa M. Mares** explores the irony of Vermont's brand as a bastion of good food, while employing untold numbers of immigrant farm workers.

In *Transdisciplinary and Systems Approaches to Food Security*, **Kate Clancy** calls on food systems development researchers and practitioners to pay close attention to the interdisciplinary food systems development work in the Global South and adapt models that may work elsewhere.

And in *Collective Agency and Community Resilience: A Theoretical Framework to Understand Agricultural Resistance*,

On our cover: Farmworkers pick a field of callaloo (also known as Chinese spinach) in the Black Dirt region of Orange County, New York. Traditionally a bulk onion production region, the Black Dirt region has been gradually shifting to an ever greater variety of truck crops for sale particularly to the diverse markets (including ethnic markets) in New York City. Such diversification by more traditional midscale, single-crop farmers will need to happen if the Northeastern U.S. is to significantly increase its overall food self-sufficiency.

(Photo copyright © 2007 by Duncan Hilchey.)

Monica M. White once again delves into the history of African American activist farmers to inform the current interest in black empowerment through the act of self-provisioning.

Next, we offer three commentaries from the field. In *Urban Agricultural and Sustainability Program at Houston's Downtown University: Combining New Curriculum, Hands-on Projects, and a Hurricane*, **Lisa Morano** and **Vassilios Tzouanas**, both at University of Houston–Downtown, share their experience of rebuilding an urban agriculture program after its virtual destruction by Hurricane Harvey.

In *Interdisciplinary Food-Related Academic Programs: A 2015 Snapshot of the United States Landscape*, **Jennifer Hartle**, **Schyler Cole**, **Paula Trepman**, **Benjamin Chrisinger**, and **Christopher Gardner** provide a look at the range of food systems-related degree programs in the U.S. during a time of expansion.

Henry Blair of GrowNYC and **Carolyn Dimitri** of New York University then team up to comment on the need for expanding grain production for human consumption into field crop rotations in the Northeastern U.S. in *Bridging Crop Diversity and Market Development in the Northeast Grain Renaissance*.

A unifying theme of several of our open call papers in this issue is food systems development practice. In *Community Food Work as Critical Practice: A Faith-Based Perspective through Narratives* **Rebecca Ligrani** and **Kim Niewolny** use narrative inquiry and collective reflection to explore the intersection of religion and social justice through a food lens.

Christy Anderson Brekken, **Melissa Parks**, **Matthew Lundgren**, all at Oregon State University, then use consumer and producer data in tandem to more fully appreciate the feasibility of a statewide food initiative in *Oregon Producer and Consumer Engagement in Regional Food Networks: Motivations and Future Opportunities*.

Next, in *Participatory Praxis for Community Food Security Education*, **Kim Niewolny**, **Michelle S. Schroeder-Moreno**, **Garland Mason**, **Amanda McWhirt**, and **Susan Clark** use the process of developing a graduate-level course on community food security to explore best practices in participatory action research and programming that fosters a mutually beneficial relationship between students and community members.

Rachel J. Weil, **Erin M. Silva**, **John Hendrickson**, and **Paul D. Mitchell** then explore issues of efficiency as an oft-neglected component of food system resiliency in *Time and Technique Studies for Assessing Labor Productivity on Diversified Organic Vegetable Farms*.

In our last open call paper, **Nathan A. Rosenberg** provides seminal exploration of farms that do not sell farm products but which may still contribute significantly to the rich and diverse agricultural economy, finding that they are disproportionately female and minority operated, in *Farmers Who Don't Farm: The Curious Rise of the Zero-Sales Farmer*.

We next present the first group of papers from the Enhancing Food Security in the Northeast (EFSNE) project. EFSNE researchers have submitted papers to both JAFSCD and to the *Journal of Renewable Agriculture and Food Systems* showcasing their ground-breaking work on understanding how regional food system approaches—which are larger and more complex than a local approaches—can affect food security. In this issue, we provide an introduction, a commentary, and two peer-reviewed papers accepted and published thus far. More papers will be published in Part 2 in the forthcoming winter issue (volume 8, issue 1). Please see *Introduction to the EFSNE Collection of Papers*, by **Christian J. Peters**, **Kate Clancy**, **C. Clare Hinrichs**, and **Stephan Goetz**, for more about each of the following papers:

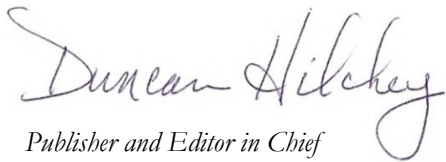
- *Using a Market Basket to Explore Regional Food Systems*, by **Kate Clancy**, **Alessandro Bonanno**, **Patrick Canning**, **Rebecca Cleary**, **Zach Conrad**, **David Fleisher**, **Miguel Gómez**, **Timothy Griffin**, **Ryan Lee**, **Daniel Kane**, **Anne Palmer**, **Kristen Park**, **Christian Peters**, and **Nicole Tichenor**.
- *Engaging Multiple Audiences: Challenges and Strategies in Complex Food Systems Projects*, a commentary by **Kathryn Ruhf**, **Kristen Devlin**, **Kate Clancy**, **Linda Berlin**, and **Anne Palmer**.
- *Exploring Public Perceptions of Regional Food Systems: Insights from Six Communities in the U.S. Northeast*, by **Anne Palmer**, **Raychel Santo**, **Linda Berlin**, **Alessandro Bonanno**, **Kate Clancy**, **Carol Giesecke**, **C. Clare Hinrichs**, **Ryan Lee**, **Philip McNab**, and **Sarah Rucker**.

And finally, we wrap up the issue with four book reviews:

- **Michelle M. Wander** reviews *Farm to Table: The Essential Guide to Sustainable Food Systems for Students, Professionals, and Consumers* by Darryl Benjamin and Lyndon Virkler.
- **Parke Troutman** reviews *Supersizing Urban America: How Inner Cities Got Fast Food with Government Help*, by Chin Jou.
- **Susan Valentino** reviews *Making Local Food Work: The Challenges and Opportunities of Today's Small Farmers*, by Brandi Janssen.
- **Emily Nink** reviews *No Table Too Small: Engaging in the Art and Attitude of Social Change*, by Laura Titzer.

Finally, please note that as we complete seven full volumes of JAFSCD, managing editor Amy Christian and I would like to express our heartfelt appreciation for the condolences we received this year after the loss of our beloved son Tom in June. While this will have a lifelong impact on our family, we continue to be fortified by the kindness and support of the JAFSCD community.

With appreciation,



Publisher and Editor in Chief