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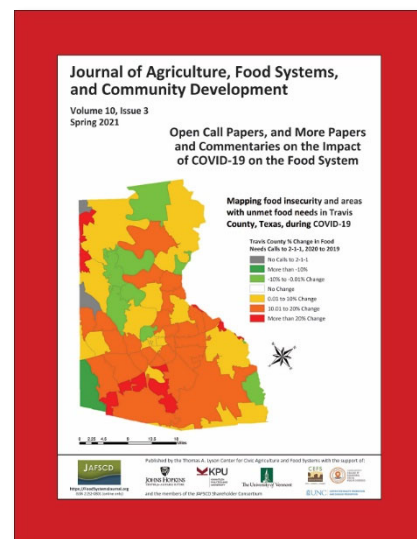
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IN THIS ISSUE DUNCAN HILCHEY

Open call papers, and more papers and commentaries on the impact of COVID-19 on the food system



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Have we finally turned the corner on COVID-19? Just maybe.

The world is still reeling from the pandemic, and the delta variant is taking its toll presently, but the winds of change do seem to be shifting in our favor. After publishing more than a year and a half's worth of research-based papers and commentaries on COVID-19 and its impact on the food system, we are taking a kind of odd pleasure in finally publishing content on a broader range of issues. Food systems work is (or should be) a veritable beehive of activity on all fronts, at all levels, at all times: racial equity, family farm resilience, climate change, building out our food security infrastructure, and so on require constant simultaneous attention, each of these key issues being a piece of an interlocking resilience puzzle.

To that end, our open-call issue of JAFSCD begins with **John Ikerd's** Economic Pamphleteer column, *Local foods: Seeds for social change*. John makes the case that individual and sequential actions to deal with systemic problems are not likely to bring intended outcomes, and, in fact, may do more harm than good. We must advance transdisciplinary systems thinking to move the needle.

This is followed by two general commentaries and one COVID-19-related commentary. In his commentary, *"Treat everybody right": Examining foodways to improve food access*, **Alex Hill** interviews Detroit residents about their food shopping experiences. In *Eating inequity: The injustice that brings us our food*, **Manar Arica Alattar** reminds us that even with the complexity of the food system problem, we must go beyond lifestyle changes and engage in civil discourse and political action to make a difference. This article would make a great introduction to those unfamiliar with the issues in food systems related to humankind. In our final commentary, *COVID-19 and consumer demand for local meat products in South Carolina*, **Steven Richards** and

Michael Vassalos share the results of a consumer survey suggesting that local meat demand may take effort and marketing in order to thrive postpandemic.

Continuing our brief, although still important, COVID-19 theme are two research papers: *Disease and disaster: Navigating food insecurity in a community affected by crises during COVID-19*, by **Andrew S. Pyle, Michelle Eichinger, Barry A. Garst, Catherine Mobley, Sarah F. Griffin, Leslie H. Hossfeld, Mike McGirr, and Helen R. Saunders**, and *Examining food insecurity and areas with unmet food needs during COVID-19: A geospatial, community-specific approach*, by **Kathryn M. Janda, Raven Hood, Amy Price, Sam Night, William Edwin Marty, Amanda Rohlich, Kacey Hanson, Marianna Espinoza, and Alexandra E. van den Berg**. The second paper is the source of our cover for this issue. The GIS map depicts the change in food need calls to the 2-1-1 help line during the early stages of the pandemic, compared with same period the previous year—a clever indicator.

Our open-call papers in this issue cover a wide range of food system–related community development topics in North America and abroad. In *The scope of U.S. state soil health legislation: A mixed-methods policy analysis*, authors **Madison Delmendo, Yona Sipos, David Montgomery, Ryan Cole, and Jennifer Otten** use the health policy triangle framework to examine state legislation that formally recognizes the critical role of soil as a living system that supports public health interests.

In *Food forests: Their services and sustainability*, **Stefanie Albrecht** and **Arnim Wiek** take a snapshot of a global sample of active food forests and find that, while they provide important social and ecosystem services, evidence of their economic contributions to families is lacking.

In a complementary (although not related) study, **Sarah Eissler, David Ader, Sovanneary Huot, Stuart Brown, Ricky Bates, and Tom Gill** find that, while wild gardening in Cambodia shows potential as a rural livelihood strategy, little is understood about its real contribution to food security, in *Wild gardening as a sustainable intensification strategy in northwest Cambodian smallholder systems*.

In *Indicators of readiness and capacity for implementation of healthy food retail interventions*, **Jennifer Sanchez-Flack, Kakul Joshi, Eunice E. Lee, and Darcy A. Freedman** use an expert panel to develop a protocol for evaluating the realistic potential for corner stores to improve local food security.

Next, **Zeenat Kotval-K, Shruti Khandelwal, and Kendra Wills** present a nuanced approach to measuring urban food security in *Access to foods using Grand Rapids, Michigan, as a case study: Objective versus subjective issues*.

In *Cost-benefit analysis as a tool for measuring economic impacts of local food systems: Case study of an institutional sourcing change*, **Zoë T. Plakias** uses Monte Carlo simulation to model the cost-benefit of sourcing local food—with surprising results.

Melissa Parks, Gabrielle Roesch-McNally, and Amy Garrett then look at the effectiveness of novel engagement and information-sharing strategies in *Bridging scientific and experiential knowledges via participatory climate adaptation research: A case study of dry farmers in Oregon*.

Next, *Exploring differences in communication behaviors between organic and conventional farmers*, by **Fallys Masambuka-Kanchewa, Joy Rumble, and Emily B. Buck**, highlights the different foci and language used by farmers in describing their production practices, as well as their use of social media and other tools.

In *Nested risks and responsibilities: Perspectives on fertilizer from human urine in two U.S. regions*, **Tatiana Schreiber, Shaina Opperman, Rebecca Hardin, Julia Cavicchi, Audrey Pallmeyer, Kim Nace, and Nancy Love** typologize the responses of residents and progressive farmers in this qualitative study of the potential for utilizing human urine in food production.

Ernest Nkansah-Dwamena next presents a comparative case study in Africa in which land-grabbing has negative impact on farm families, in his paper *Can large-scale land acquisition deals improve livelihoods and lift people out of poverty in Sub-Saharan Africa? Empirical evidence from Tanzania*.

Heather L. Elliott, Monica E. Mulrennan, and Alain Cuerrier explore the aftermath of an extraordinary exercise of speaking truth to power by people of color in *Resurgence, refusal, and reconciliation through food movement organizations: A case study of Food Secure Canada's 2018 Assembly*.

In *Visitors and values: A qualitative analysis of agritourism operator motivations across the U.S.*, **Lindsay Quella, David Conner, Travis Reynolds, Weiwei Wang, and Doolarie Singh-Knights** use Allport's contact hypothesis to gain a more nuanced understanding of the benefits of agritourism beyond economic ones.

We wrap up the issue with two book reviews. **Alissa Boochever** reviews *Deep Agroecology: Farms, Food, and Our Future*, by Steven McFadden, and **Emily Nink** reviews *The Devil's Fruit: Farmworkers, Health, and Environmental Justice*, by Dvera I. Saxton.

We will continue to publish applied research related to issues of COVID-19 and its aftermath. However, we are very pleased about our forthcoming issue on **Food as Tool for Social Change**, a tribute to the late scholar-activist Dr. Evan Weissman. It is being guest-edited by a team of his colleagues and is sponsored by the Department of Nutrition and Food Studies, Falk College, Syracuse University.

As always, the JAFSCD community is as interested in understanding unsuccessful programs and policies, as well as successful ones. So, please keep in mind, objective post-mortem analysis is highly valued and appreciated.

Keep up your scholar-activism on all fronts!



Duncan Hilchey
Publisher and editor in chief