

Local Food Related Bills from the 96th IL General Assembly Spring 2010 Session

Farmers' Market Technology Improvement Program Act (Public Act 096-1088; HB4756) – This Public Act created a program that offers financial support to farmers' markets and other non-traditional food markets to implement the necessary infrastructure for recipients of federal food stamps to use their Illinois issued LINK cards. Public Act 096-1088 will help low income individuals and families gain access to fresh healthy locally grown and produced foods; as well as creating expanded markets for local producers in Illinois. <http://www.ilga.gov/legislation/publicacts/fulltext.asp?Name=096-1088>

The Farmers' Market Taskforce (HJR 57) – Introduced in response to a series of incidences regarding inconsistent *interpretation of the laws* regulating what can and can't be sold at farmers' markets. HJR 57 creates a taskforce to review the implementation of acts that define which products and practices are permitted and which products and practices are not permitted at farmers' markets and other outdoor food sale events. Adopted by both Houses 5/4/2010
<http://www.ilga.gov/legislation/BillStatus.asp?DocNum=0057&GAID=10&DocTypeID=HJR&LegID=48061&SessionID=76&SpecSess=&Session=&GA=96>

Chemical Drift Specialty Crop Farm Registry (SJR 105) – SJR 105 announced the creation of the geographic information system (GIS) website registry for organic and specialty crop farms. The website will be used to help conventional farmers and chemical applicators avoid damaging sensitive crops. The address of the website is www.driftwatch.org. It is still in the development phase at the moment, but officials from the Illinois Department of Agriculture and the agrichemical industry are hopeful that it will be fully operational by the 2011 growing season. SJR 105 was introduced following an Illinois Senate Agriculture & Conservation Committee subject matter hearing on the extent and impact of chemical drift from the aerial application of pesticides that occurred in the fall of 2009. Adopted by both Houses 5/5/2010
<http://www.ilga.gov/legislation/BillStatus.asp?DocNum=0105&GAID=10&DocTypeID=SJR&LegID=52650&SessionID=76&SpecSess=&Session=&GA=96>

Recent Local Food Related Bills Passed by the 96th Illinois General Assembly and Signed Into Law by Governor Pat Quinn:

Health Departments & Local Foods (SB 574) - SB 574 was passed in response to various county and city health departments discouraging locally grown food based on health and safety concerns. SB 574 was signed into law by Governor Quinn on 8/24/2009. SB 574 states health departments may not discourage the purchase or consumption of locally grown foods in relation to foods that are not locally grown, except in emergency situations.
<http://www.ilga.gov/legislation/publicacts/fulltext.asp?Name=096-0620>

Farm Fresh Schools Program Act (HB 78) - This bill creates a competitive grant program to link schools with local and regional farms to provide schools with fresh and minimally processed foods for school meals. The grant program would enable six schools - three rural and three urban - to implement a farm-to-school program. The Farm Fresh Schools Program was signed into law by Governor Quinn on 8/7/09. Unfortunately, in order to have enough money to match federal stimulus funds and secure those stimulus funds regarding education no money was appropriated to the provide money for the grant program for the 2010 fiscal year. However, there is good reason to believe that the Farm Fresh School Program will be funded next year. <http://www.ilga.gov/legislation/publicacts/fulltext.asp?Name=096-0153>

Illinois Food, Farms and Jobs Act (HB 3990) -

HB 3990 created the Illinois Local and Organic Food and Farms and was signed into law by Governor Quinn on August 18th 2009 on Agriculture day at the Illinois State Fair! The Local Food Council will be responsible for facilitating the growth of an Illinois-based local farm and food economy. To read the full report of the Illinois Local and Organic Food and Farm Task Force and to find more information about the Task Force and HB 3990 go to <http://www.foodfarmsjobs.org/>. To read the final version of the bill go to <http://www.ilga.gov/legislation/publicacts/fulltext.asp?Name=096-0579>

Illinois Composting Bill (SB 99) - Signed into law by Governor Quinn on August 13th, 2009, SB99 makes it possible for food scraps to be composted in Illinois. Previously under Illinois law, composting facilities were treated by the IEPA with the same kind of regulatory scrutiny that landfills received. Because of this much of the commercial composting of waste in Illinois was done in neighboring states. SB 99 created regulatory standards specifically for composting facilities eliminating one of the larger hurdles to setting up commercial composting facilities in Illinois. To read the full bill as signed by Governor Quinn, go to <http://www.ilga.gov/legislation/publicacts/fulltext.asp?Name=096-0418>.

LOCAL FOOD RESOURCES

IL Local Food, Farms & Jobs Council

<http://www.foodfarmsjobs.org/>

Contact: Jim Braun, Council Member; Jbraun2525@yahoo.com

Listserv: IllinoisLocalFoods@yahoo.com

Contact: Debbie Hillman, Moderator; DLHillman@sbcglobal.net; (847) 328-7175

Illinois Stewardship Alliance (ISA)

<http://www.ilstewards.org/>

ISA promotes ecologically sustainable, economically viable, socially just local food systems through policy development, advocacy and education.

Contact: Lindsay Record, Exec Dir.; (217)-528-1563; lindsay@ilstewards.org

IL Farm to School

<http://www.farmtoschool.org/IL/>

Contact: Julia Govis, Volunteer Coordinator; (773)-288-0822; govisjulia@yahoo.com

IL Farmers' Market Coalition

Contact: Pat Stieren, Chairperson; 217/725-5156; pstieren@gmail.com

Central IL Farm Beginnings & Central IL Sustainable Farming Network

<http://central.illinoisfarmbeginnings.org/central/>

Contacts:

Cathe Capel, Dir. Farmer Programming, The Land Connection; (217) 688-2570;

cathe@thelandconnection.org

Deborah Cavanaugh-Grant, Extension Specialist, Small Farm & Sustainable Ag.; University of Illinois Extension; Central Illinois Farm Beginnings Co-Facilitator; (217) 968-5512; cvnghgm@uiuc.edu

The Land Connection (TLC)

<http://www.thelandconnection.org/>

Healthy Farms, Healthy Food, Healthy Communities

TLC works to preserve and protect our agricultural heritage by educating farmers and the public about the value of farmland and the need for more local food production and consumption.

Contact: Cathe Capel, Dir. Farmer Programming, The Land Connection; (217) 688-2570;

cathe@thelandconnection.org

Heartland Local Food Network (HLFN)

<http://www.hlfn.org/>

Working to build a food system that is sustainable, local and accessible.

Contact: Marsha Veninga, President; (309)530-0430; marsha.veninga@hlfn.org

APA Policy Guide on Community and Regional Food Planning

Final Policy Guide, April 11, 2007

<http://www.planning.org/policy/guides/adopted/food.htm>

The following are excerpts taken from the above-noted APA Policy Guide:

"Food is a sustaining and enduring necessity. Yet among the basic essentials for life — air, water, shelter, and food — only food has been absent over the years as a focus of serious professional planning interest. This is a puzzling omission because, as a discipline, planning marks its distinctiveness by being comprehensive in scope and attentive to the temporal dimensions and spatial interconnections among important facets of community life." (p. 1; Introduction)

"The American Planning Association, its chapters and divisions, and planners in general can use their professional knowledge, skills, and relationships to develop community and regional food planning, and advocate for state and federal policies to support it." (p. 7; General and Specific Policies)

Michael Pollan, Author of books *In Defense of Food*; *Omnivore's Dilemma*

Website: <http://michaelpollan.com/resources/>

This website includes resources and FAQs in six categories: Sustainable Eating & Nutrition, Growing Food, Politics & Policy, Animal Welfare, Journalism & Writing, and For Parents & Kids. Under each category Michael Pollan has included his answers to the questions he's most often asked on that topic. Also listed are links to organizations, publications, individuals and companies doing useful or interesting work in these areas.

Fresh Taste

"...encouraging diverse local agriculture and healthy eating for all in the greater Chicago region."

Illinois Local Food, Farms, and Jobs Council

"...making local farm or food products available to all Illinois citizens." Public Act 96-579

April 28, 2010

Illinois Fact Sheet to "Selected Measures of the Economic Values of Increased Fruit and Vegetable Production and Consumption in the Upper Midwest"

Overview of Study

The Leopold Center for Sustainable Agriculture at Iowa State University, in collaboration with regional partners in the upper Midwest,¹ conducted a multi-state economic impact study on increases in fruit and vegetable production in a six-state area (Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota, and Wisconsin). Fresh Taste, a collaboration of funders encouraging diverse local agriculture and healthy eating in the Chicago region, was the lead partner and sponsor of the Illinois data.

Expanding the fruit and vegetable industry in the upper Midwest could have a huge economic impact in the region, particularly in Illinois. The study shows the potential statewide and regional economic values that might accrue to farmers and regional economies in six states if there was an increase in the production and marketing of 28 types of fresh fruits and vegetables for local consumption.

Illinois Agricultural Facts²

Illinois has over 23.7 million acres of cropland. The average size of a farm is 348 acres and there are a total of 76,860 farms in Illinois. However, the majority of farms in Illinois are less than 50 acres. Corn and soybeans are the main agricultural crops produced, and over 13 million acres are devoted to corn and 8.29 million acres to soybeans. Illinois has almost 1400 farms producing vegetables, melons, potatoes, and sweet potatoes. Over 600 farms produce fruits, tree nuts, and berries. However, Illinois has the lowest current level of fresh vegetable acres per 1,000 persons in the Upper Midwest (only 1.4 acres in 2007). Illinois also has extremely low levels of non-citrus fruit and berry production. In terms of indicators for regional production competitiveness, based on acreage (not productivity of those acres), Illinois has the lowest of all six Upper Midwest states [0.15 acres for fresh vegetables, 0.05 for fruit bearing acres, and 0.06 acres for berries].

Leopold Study: An Illinois Perspective

Two separate scenarios were investigated by David Swenson, Department of Economics, at Iowa State University and it must be emphasized that the economic values from the two scenarios should *not* be added together. Regional partners in the study included the Leopold Center for Sustainable Agriculture (who coordinated the study), Fresh Taste, Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy, the Minnesota Institute for Sustainable Agriculture at the University of Minnesota, Land Stewardship Project, Center for Integrated Agricultural Systems at University of Wisconsin, the Michael Fields Agricultural Institute, Indiana Cooperative Development Services, Michigan Food and Farming Systems and the C.S. Mott Group for Sustainable Food Systems at Michigan State University.

¹ The Good Food Network of the Upper Midwest is a working group of regional NGOs and universities in a six-state region that convened in 2008-2010 to share best practices and develop a research agenda to ramp up sustainable food production and marketing in the upper Midwest.

² Source: 2007 USDA Census of Agriculture, Illinois State Profile.

First scenario:

The first scenario provided state-only estimates with economic values compiled from each state's farmers and each state's consumption. A major finding was that the equivalent of cropland in one of Iowa's 99 counties (270,025 acres) would be needed to produce the partial-year demands of 28 fresh fruits and vegetables in the six-state region. Though some conversion may be necessary, the production of these 28 fruit and vegetable crops would not require extensive conversion of many acres currently dedicated to commodity production. The amount of Illinois acres for Scenario 1 is 69,387, which is just 0.3% of the state's 23.7 million acres of cropland.

An estimated increase in fruit and vegetable production in Illinois would mean:

- \$988.6 million in retail sales for farmers from 28 crops.
- \$263.9 million generated in farm-level sales.
- 2,600 farm-level jobs and \$120.53 million in labor incomes (as compared to 635 jobs currently generated under corn and soybean production). The net job trade off per converted acre from fruit and vegetable production to corn and soybean production is 4 to 1.
- Estimated labor income per job would be \$46,320 in Illinois.
- 420 fruit and vegetable establishments would be needed, requiring 2,887 jobs, if 50% of this production were marketed directly in-state.
- Jobs related to sales of 50% of the locally produced crops would produce a total of \$91.1 million in labor income and \$130.9 million in value-added.

Second scenario:

The second analysis evaluated individual counties within the six-state region and their capacity and potential to produce fresh fruits or vegetables, and was indifferent to state boundaries. The acres required for Scenario 2 are 49,596, which represents 0.2% percent of Illinois cropland.

To meet the demands for regional metro areas (which include Chicago, Peoria, Rockford, Quad Cities, and St. Louis for Illinois), increased fruit and vegetable production in Illinois would result in:

- \$188.7 million in Illinois farm sales.
- \$391.58 million generated in retail sales.
- 1,859 farm-level jobs (compared to 454 jobs currently generated from same acreage under soybean and corn production) requiring \$86.1 million in labor income.
- Farmer-retail direct economic impact would generate an additional 2,287 jobs.

This study estimates the total value of fruit and vegetable production in each scenario, and does not account for existing production. To determine a net increase in jobs or labor incomes, additional research would be needed. Swenson noted that the region has the capacity to grow enough fruits and vegetables to reach targets outlined in the study. Scenario 2 is a much more realistic depiction of a potential producer-to-consumer relationship in space and in overall farm values.

The full report, "Selected Measures of the Economic Values of Increased Fruit and Vegetable Production and Consumption in the Upper Midwest," is on the Leopold Center web site at:

www.leopold.iastate.edu/research/marketing_files/midwest.html

For more information, contact:

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- Laura Miller, Leopold Center Communications, (515) 294-5272, lwmill@iastate.edu
- [Read the full report](#)