



Planning for Agriculture and Food Systems

Communities that are Leading the Way

American Farmland Trust National Conference

Tuesday, October 21 at 11:15am – 12:45pm

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Growing Food Connections is made possible with a grant
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Session Outline

- **Introductions (5 minutes)**
- **Communities of Innovation Research Overview (10 minutes)**
- **Minneapolis, MN (25 minutes)**
- **Cabarrus County, NC (25 minutes)**
- **Audience Q&A (25 minutes)**





Goal

Enhance food security while ensuring sustainable and economically viable agriculture and food production

Approach

Build capacity of **local governments** to improve community food systems to **benefit small and mid-sized farmers** and **underserved community residents** through **planning and policy**

Lead Investigator

- **Samina Raja, University at Buffalo**

Co-Investigators

- **Jill Clark, Ohio State University**
- **Julia Freedgood, American Farmland Trust**
- **Kimberley Hodgson, Cultivating Healthy Places**

Team and Partners



Three Integrated Strategies



EDUCATION



RESEARCH



POLICY AND PRACTICE

Communities of Innovation

Communities where local governments are...

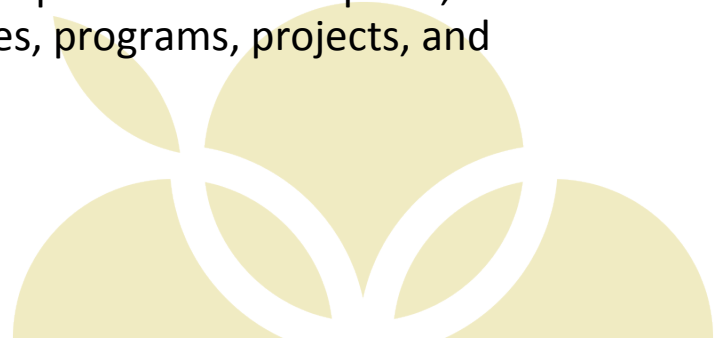
- Supporting agriculture and community food production
- Promoting community food security
- Connecting farmers with community residents to improve agricultural viability AND community food security

...through planning, public policy and public funds



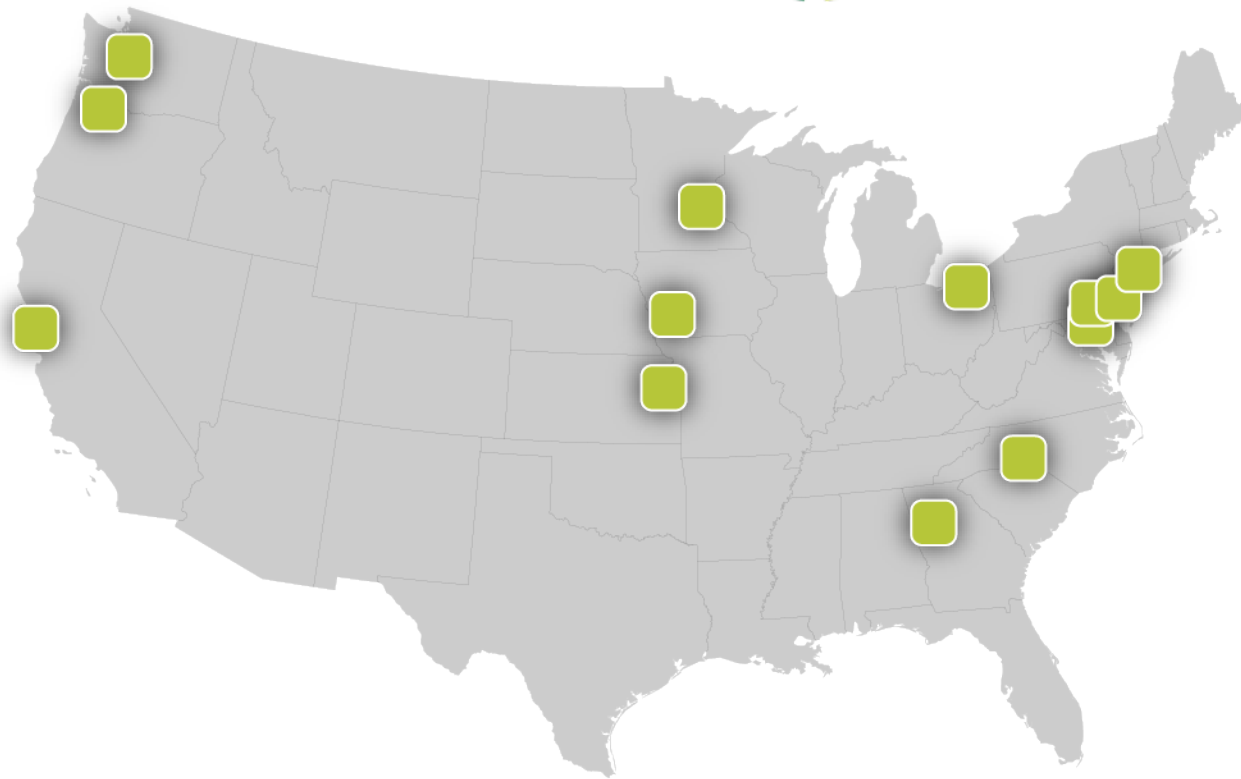
Definitions

- **Community food production**
 - efforts to grow, raise, and harvest crops, raise animals, fish, hunt, or forage food for human consumption in urban, suburban and rural areas
- **Community food security**
 - the availability, access, affordability, and supply of healthy and culturally acceptable food for residents within a community, particularly underserved residents in urban, suburban, and rural areas.
- **Public policy**
 - a course of government action or inaction in response to public problems, including the development, adoption and implementation of plans, regulations, resolutions, charters, guidelines, programs, projects, and funding decisions





COMMUNITIES *of*
INNOVATION



Communities of Innovation – 12 Urban

Jurisdiction	State	Census Region	Government Type
Lancaster County	PA	Northeast	County
Philadelphia	PA	Northeast	Municipality
New York	NY	Northeast	Municipality
Atlanta	GA	South	Municipality
Baltimore	MD	South	Municipality
Cabarrus County	NC	South	County
Cleveland/Cuyahoga County	OH	Midwest	Municipality/County
Lawrence/Douglas County	KS	Midwest	Municipality/County
Minneapolis	MN	Midwest	Municipality
Multnomah County	OR	West	County
San Francisco City & County	CA	West	Municipality/County
Seattle	WA	West	Municipality/County

Communities of Innovation – 6 Rural

Jurisdiction	State	Census Region	Government Type
Cass County	IA	Midwest	County
	VT	Northeast	
	CO	West	
	MI	Midwest	
	WV	South	
	MN	Midwest	



Preliminary Observations

- **Local governments are strengthening their local food systems using a variety of tools:**
 - Plans
 - Laws and ordinances
 - Resolutions, motions, orders, and directives
 - Standards and guidelines
 - Public programs and projects
 - Public funding decisions (including staffing)
 - Public-private partnerships

- **Plans**
 - Comprehensive, sustainability, food system, agriculture, food security
- **Laws and ordinances**
 - food policy and agriculture councils, coalitions, advisory committees
 - farm sales, farm stand, farmers market, and mini market ordinances
 - transfer of development rights ordinances
 - mobile market and vending ordinances
 - urban agriculture zoning and animal control ordinances
- **Resolutions, motions, orders, and directives**
 - city council/board of commissioners local food initiatives
 - food procurement policies
- **Standards and guidelines**
 - public agency food procurement standards and guidelines (purchasing, preparation and serving)

- **Public programs and projects**
 - community gardening and urban agriculture programs
 - farmers market double value redemption programs
 - farm to institution programs and technical assistance
 - food hubs (and other food infrastructure)
 - community supported agriculture local government staff programs
 - watershed agricultural programs
- **Public funding decisions**
 - specialized funds (sustainable agriculture, community garden, irrigation)
 - grants (infrastructure, technical assistance, etc.)
 - staff positions (agricultural economic development, food policy coordinator, urban farming program)
 - tax and other financial incentives (reduced property taxes; property tax exemptions; etc.)
 - public-private partnerships (farms and food)

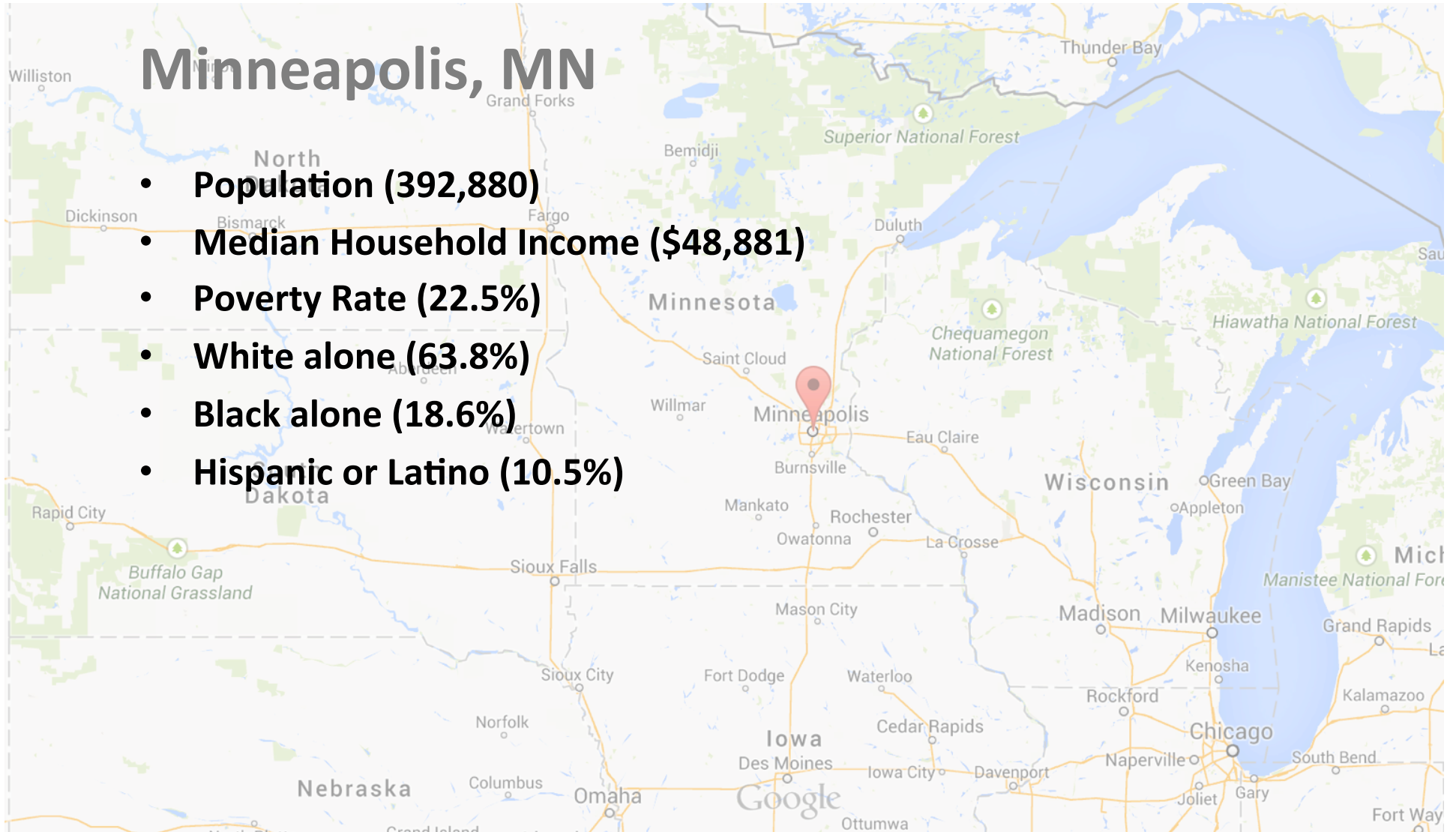
Communities of Innovation | Deep Dive

- **Minneapolis, MN (Jane Shey)**
 - Context – food system opportunities & challenges
 - Public policy solutions
 - Lessons learned
- **Cabarrus County, NC (Aaron Newton)**
 - Context – food system opportunities & challenges
 - Public policy solutions
 - Lessons learned



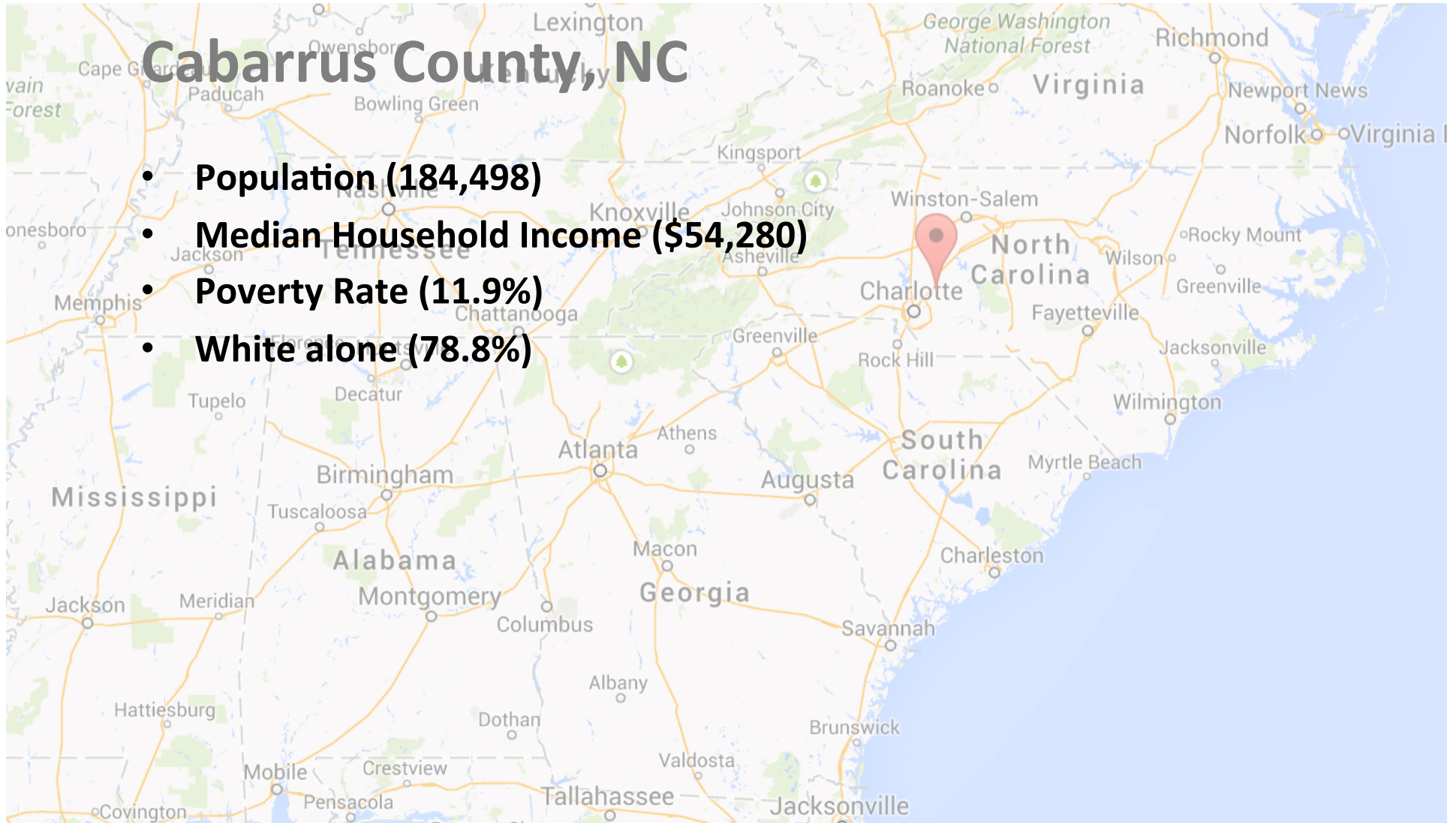
Minneapolis, MN

- **Population (392,880)**
- **Median Household Income (\$48,881)**
- **Poverty Rate (22.5%)**
- **White alone (63.8%)**
- **Black alone (18.6%)**
- **Hispanic or Latino (10.5%)**



Cabarrus County, NC

- **Population (184,498)**
- **Median Household Income (\$54,280)**
- **Poverty Rate (11.9%)**
- **White alone (78.8%)**



Growing Food Connections Policy Database

<http://growingfoodconnections.org/tools-resources/policy-database/>

[Home](#) / [Resources](#) / Policy Database



Search the Database

Use the search tools below to find one or more policies.

GENERAL SEARCH by a keyword. Or for a more ADVANCED SEARCH, you can choose from a pre-determined set of terms listed in the drop-down menus.

GENERAL SEARCH

ADVANCED SEARCH

Policy Database

The **Growing Food Connections Policy Database** is a searchable collection of local public policies that explicitly support community food systems. This database provides policymakers, government staff, and others interested in food policy with concrete examples of local public policies that have been adopted to address a range of food systems issues: rural and urban food production, farmland protection, transfer of development rights, food aggregation and distribution infrastructure, local food purchasing and procurement, healthy food access, food policy councils, food policy coordination, food system metrics, tax reductions and exemptions for food infrastructure, and much more.

Local Public Policy

The Growing Food Connections team defines local public policy as: a course of municipal, county or regional government action in response to public problems or issues.

Policy Types

This database includes a range of policies such as local laws, ordinances, resolutions, motions, orders, and directives, as well as plans, standards, guidelines, tax exemptions and other public financing policies. Policies span different geographic regions, sizes of government, rural and urban contexts, and public issues. In addition to general information about policy type, topic and adoption date, the database includes policy documents, or the adopted policy language for each policy. When available, this database also lists information about the adopting, implementing, and supporting public agencies and non-governmental organizations; funding amount and sources; and policy outcomes – initiatives, programs, projects and other actions enabled, established or supported by the policy.

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Growing Food Connections Announces Launch of New **Policy Database**



The Growing Food Connections Policy Database is a searchable collection of over 100 local government policies that **explicitly support community food systems**. This database provides policymakers, government staff, and others interested in food policy with **concrete examples of local public policies** that have been adopted to address a range of food systems issues: rural and urban food production, farmland protection, transfer of development rights, food aggregation and distribution infrastructure, local food purchasing and procurement, healthy food access, food policy councils, food policy coordination, food system metrics, tax reductions and exemptions for food infrastructure, and much more.

- Includes a range of ordinances, resolutions, motions, orders, and directives, as well as plans, standards, guidelines, tax exemptions and other public financing policies.
- Policies can be **shared and adapted** across the country.
- Designed to help local governments enact the kind of policies that will **positively impact their local food systems**.
- Represents **various geographic regions**, sizes of government, rural and urban contexts, and public policy issues.

Check out the database to find policies that could be adapted for your community.

www.growingfoodconnections.org/tools-resources/policy-database

For more information, follow us:



The Growing Food Connections (GFC) is made possible with a grant from the USDA/NIFA AFRI Food Systems Program NIFA Award # 2012-68004-19894