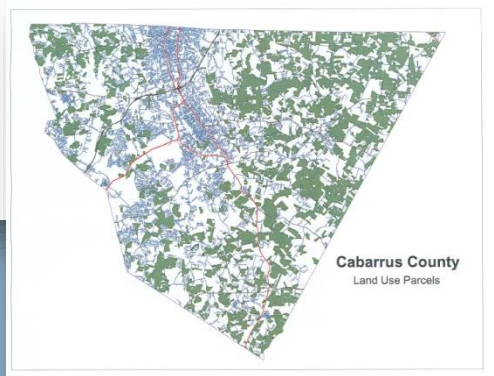
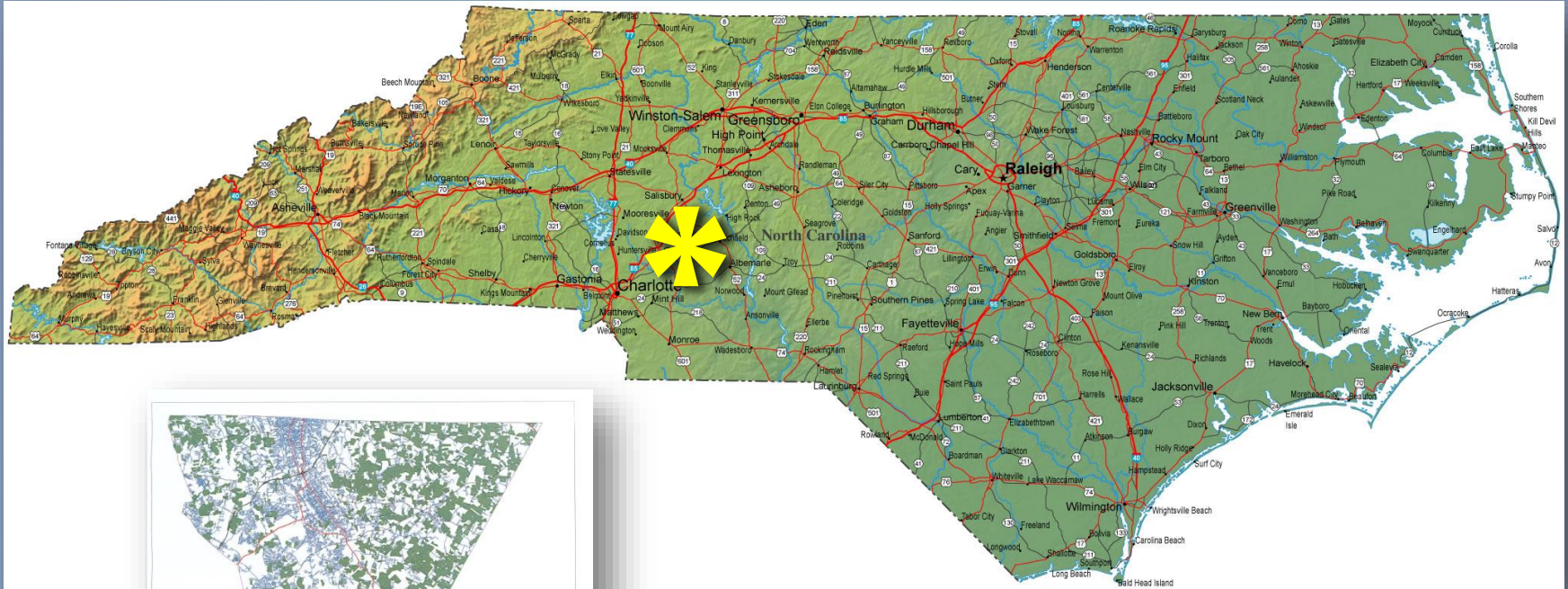


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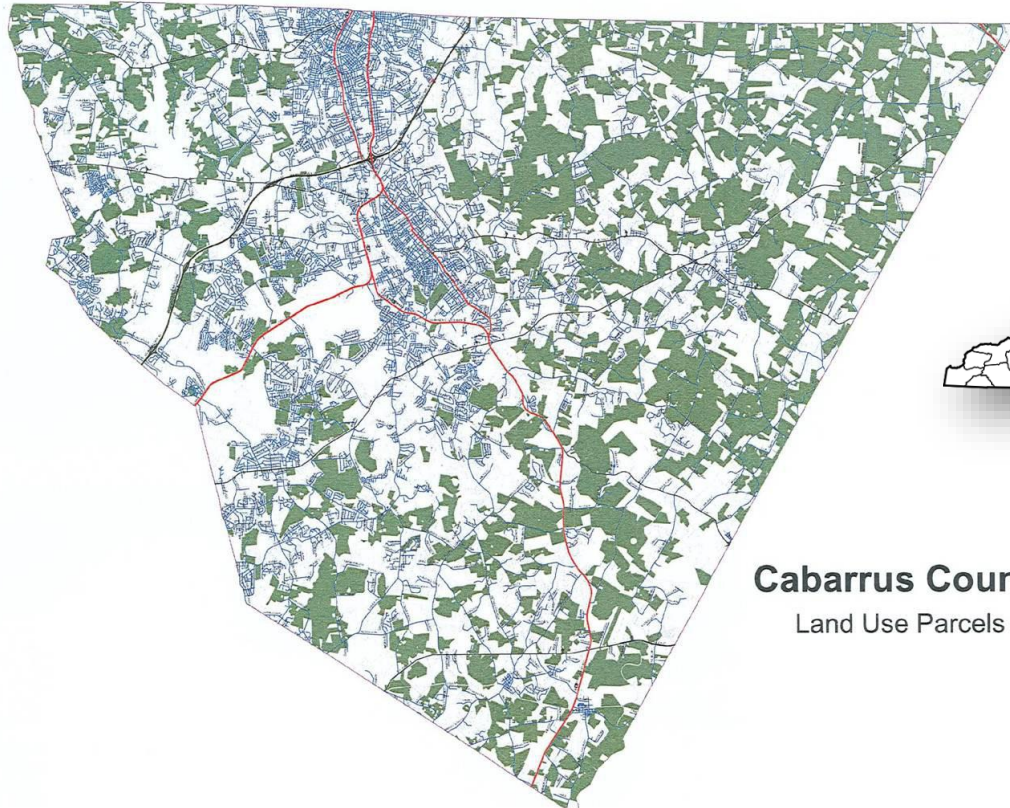
Communities of innovation:
strengthening local food
systems through
public policy

Aaron Newton
Cabarrus County, NC
Cultivatis
www.cultivatis.com

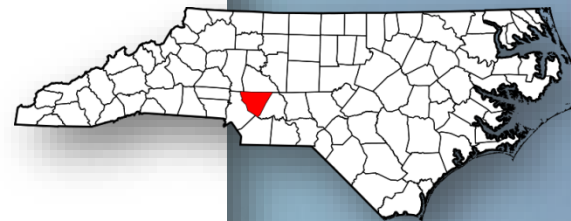
Cabarrus County, North Carolina



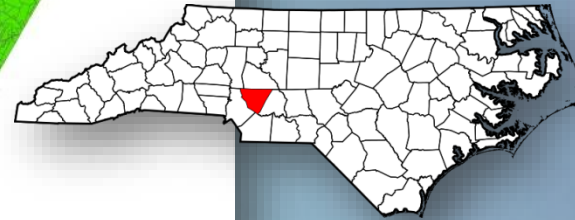
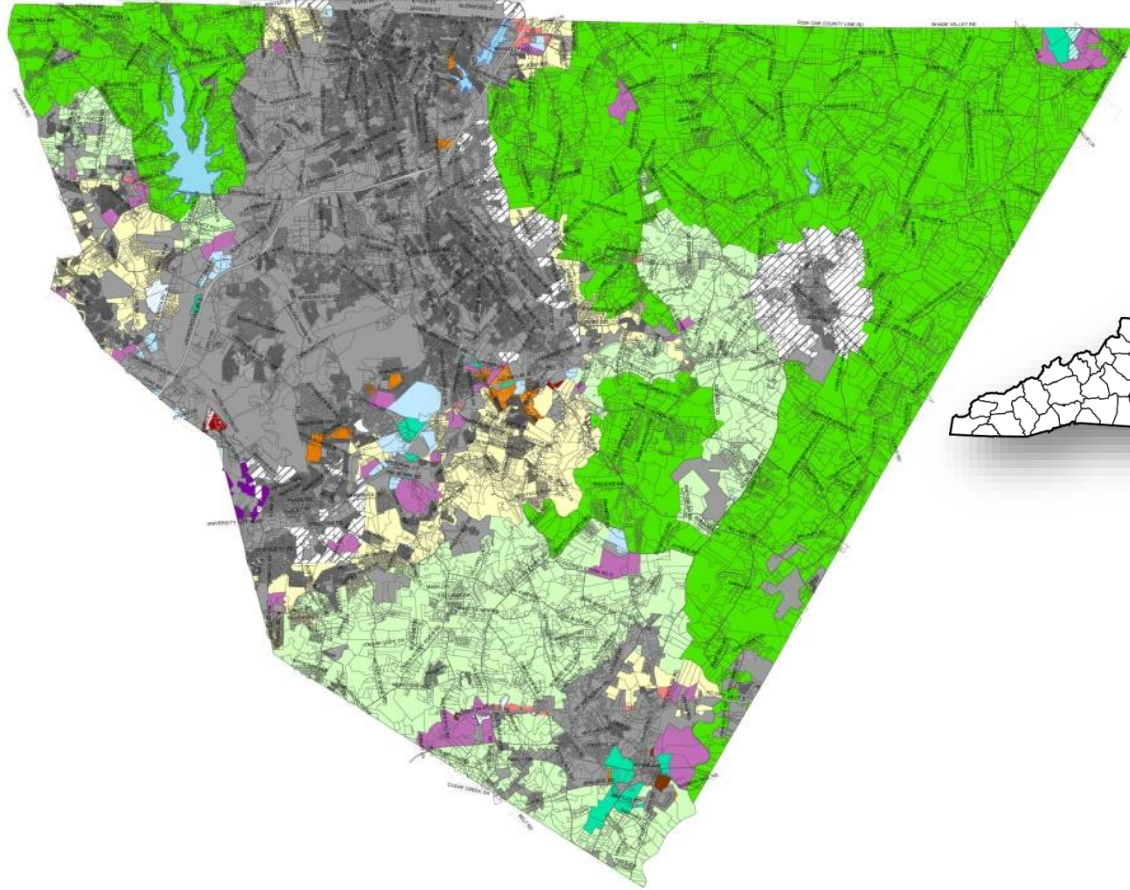
Cabarrus County, North Carolina



Cabarrus County
Land Use Parcels



Cabarrus County, North Carolina



● What are the needs?



1. Elma C. Lomax Incubator Farm

- 30 acre farm
- Training New Farmers
- Shared Access to Resources and Equipment



Elma C. Lomax Incubator Farm

- Certified organic operation teaching sustainable agriculture techniques



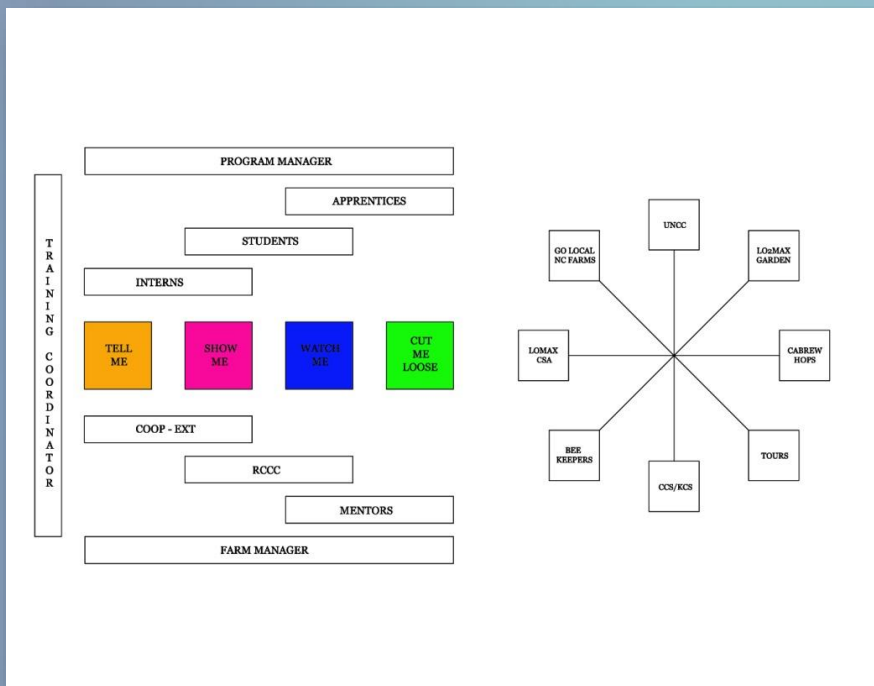
Elma C. Lomax Incubator Farm

- Community Garden Program added in 2012
- Farm Tours throughout the year
- Ongoing education opportunities of all kinds



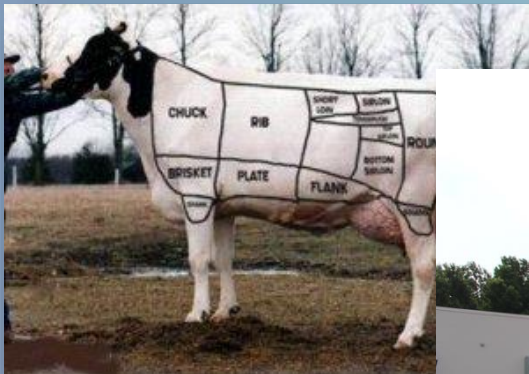
Elma C. Lomax Incubator Farm

- Continuous improvements through new initiatives:

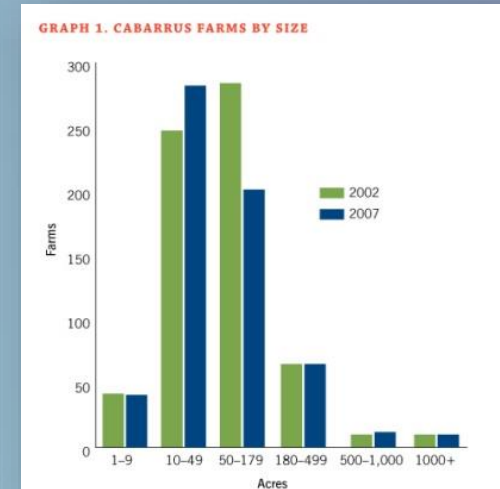
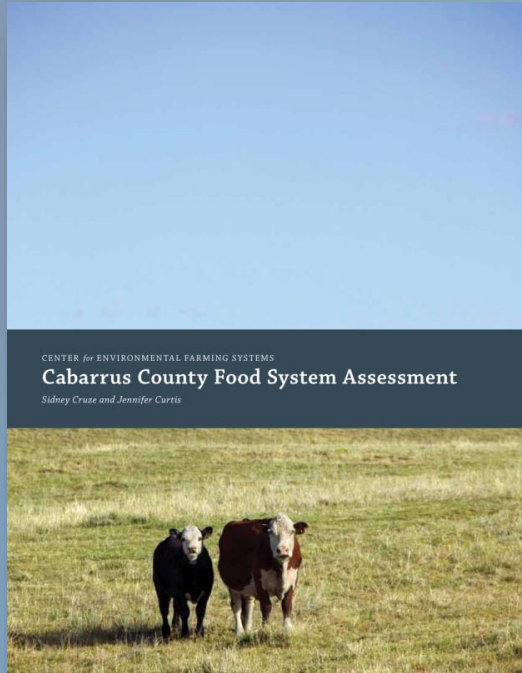


2. Cruise Meats Slaughter Facility

- Offers farmers access to a local slaughter and processing facility.
- NCDA inspected offering value-added products



3. Food System Assessment



- Conducted by Center for Environmental Farming Systems and Food Policy Council - Two Phase analysis



4. Cabarrus Farm & Food Council



- The group charged with continuous improvement of the effort
- 23 Members holding 3 years terms
- Diverse group of stakeholders



4. Cabarrus Farm & Food Council

- Open meetings every 2nd Thursday
- County assistance includes staff support, meeting space, business cards, a website, etc.



Locally Grown Campaign

- Food Policy Council early achievement
- Open for use by local food business
- Banner for the cause



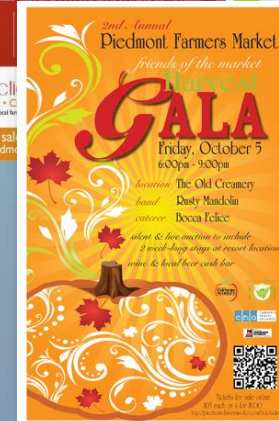
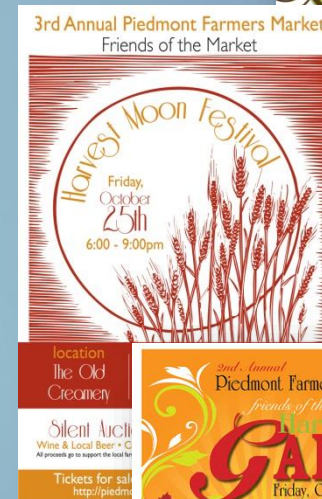
Cabarrus County-focused Local Food Website & Facebook

- Food Policy Council early achievement
- Features information regarding multiple components of the food system
- <http://www.cabarrusfpc.org/>



Collaborative Efforts!

- 4 local organizations and private citizen volunteers, led by the Food Policy Council working together to raise funds for the local farmers market



Rotary Square - 2014



Rotary Square - 2014



Multi-use Space - New Home for Downtown Farmers Market

PARTNERSHIPS!

- Concord Rotary Club
- Piedmont Farmers Market
- Cabarrus County Food Policy Council
- Cabarrus County Government
- City of Concord
- Water and Sewer Authority of Cabarrus County
- Concord Downtown Development Corporation



Funding Phases:



1. Start Up

2. Present Use Valuation (PUV)

3. Diverse Funding Streams



Elma C. Lomax Incubator Farm



July 2014 :: Problem!!!

100% Funding Cut

4 Days Notice of Closure

8 Days Without Refrigeration,
Bathrooms, etc.

Chaos!



July 2014 :: Solution

Learning Opportunity

1. Politics happen.
2. Friends Are Awesome.
3. The Media Loves Us.
4. Diversify Funding Streams!



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