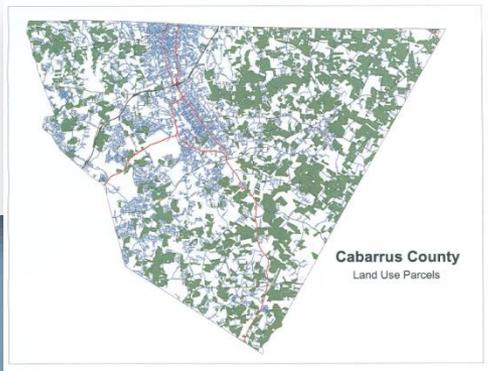
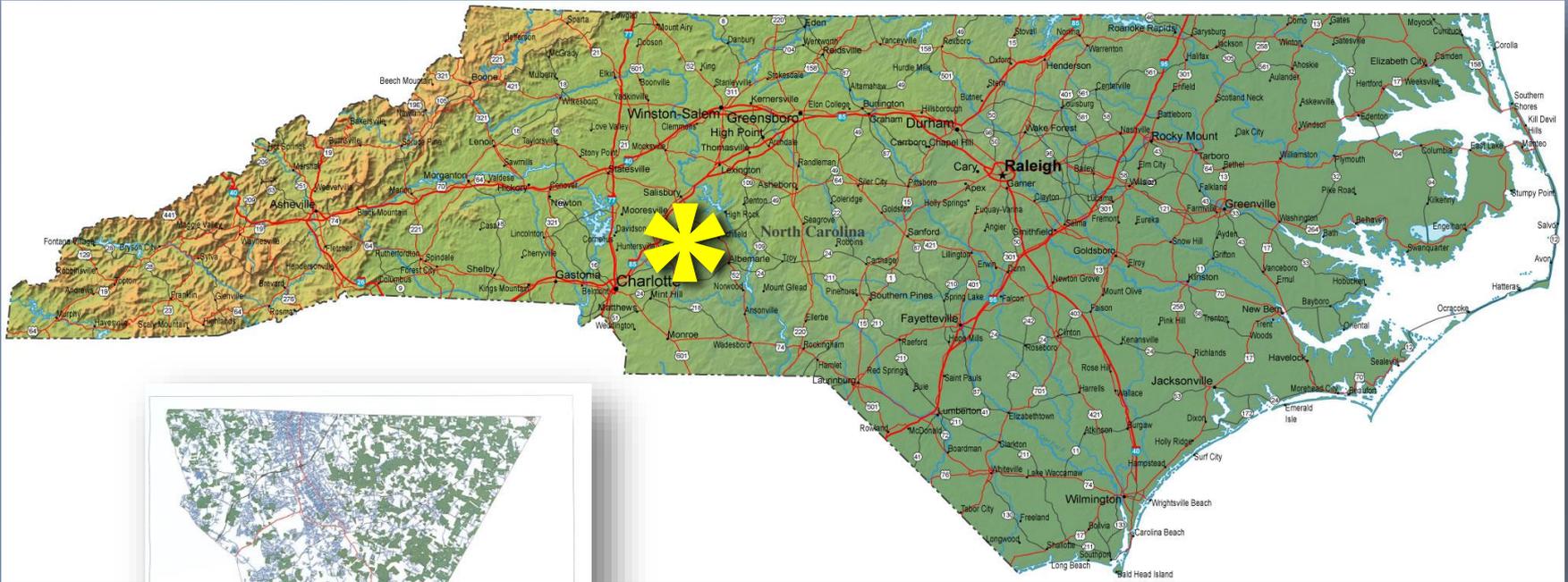


# American Farmland Trust 2014

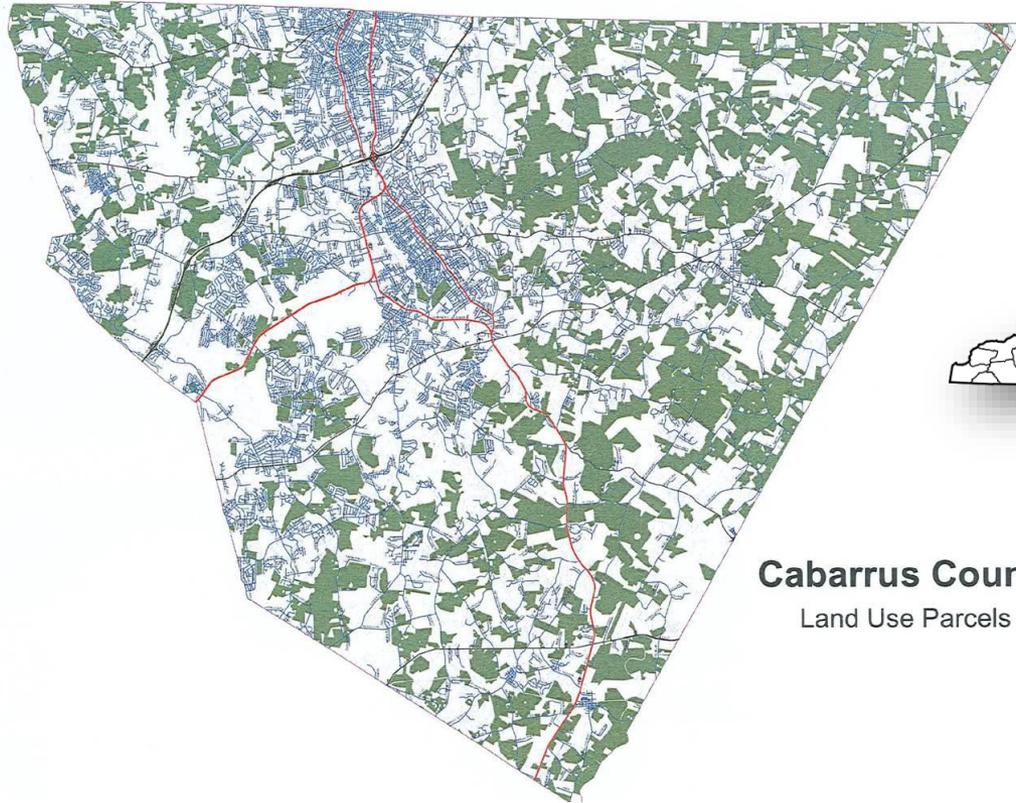
Communities of innovation:  
strengthening local food  
systems through  
public policy

Aaron Newton  
Cabarrus County, NC  
Cultivatis  
[www.cultivatis.com](http://www.cultivatis.com)

# Cabarrus County, North Carolina



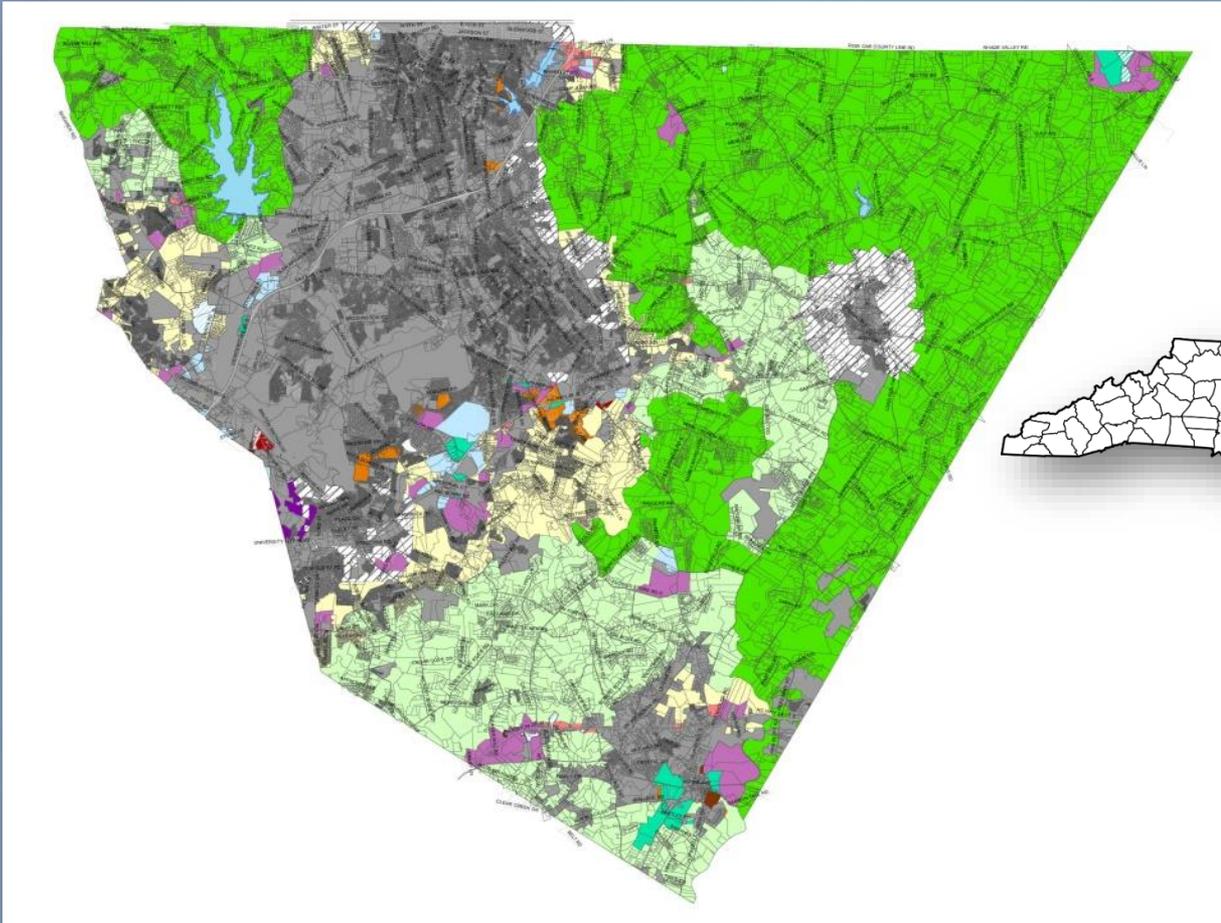
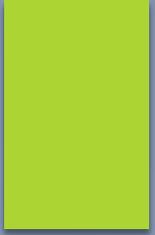
# Cabarrus County, North Carolina



**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



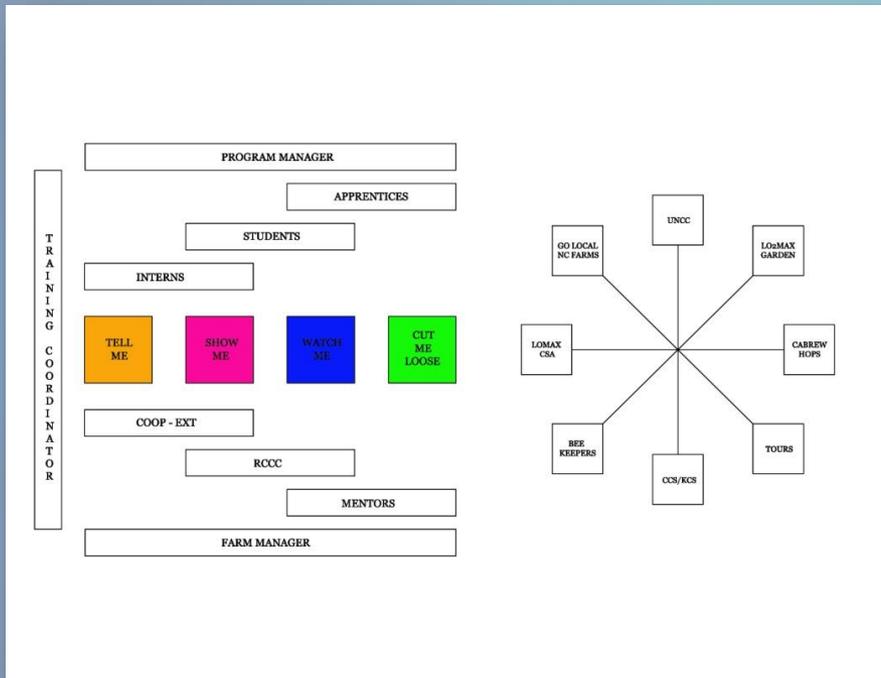
# Elma C. Lomax Incubator Farm

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



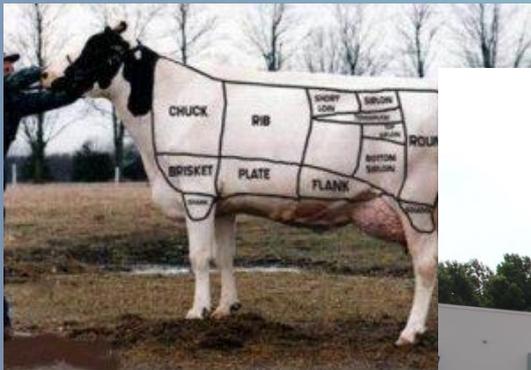
# Elma C. Lomax Incubator Farm

- Continuous improvements through new initiatives:

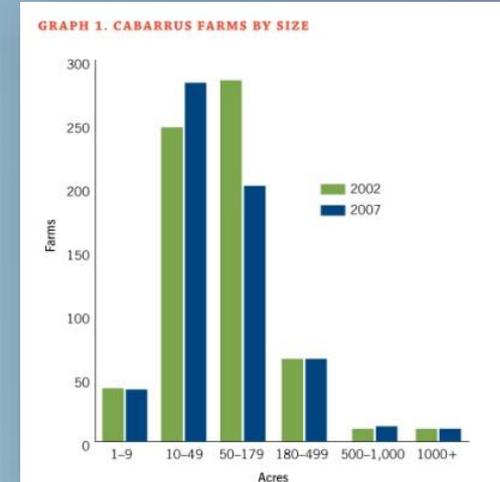
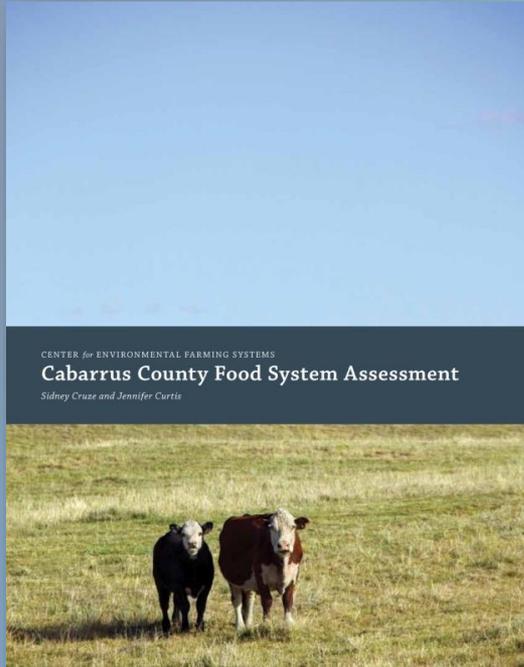


## 2. Cruise Meats Slaughter Facility

- 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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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/>



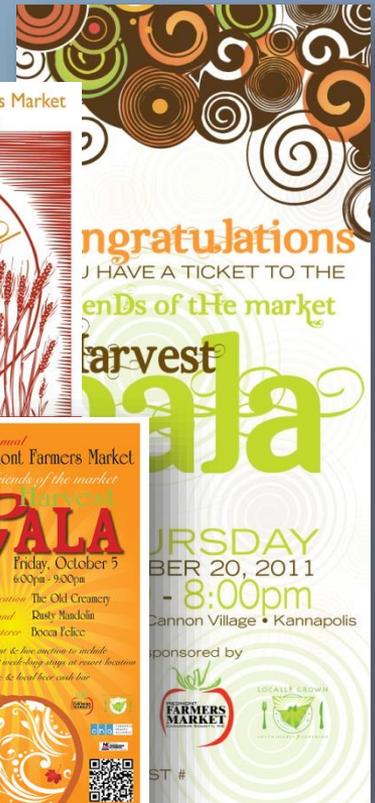
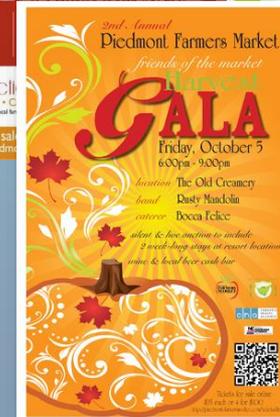
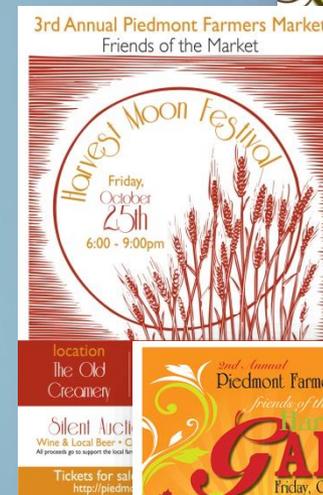
# Collaborative Efforts!

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



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# 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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