

FOOD BOXES

Food Boxes aggregate products from producers or farmers (meat, vegetables, fruit, etc.) into a box that allows customers to have easy access to local and regional food. Boxes are typically offered on a weekly basis for customer. This type of program allows for community members of in all income levels to enjoy fresh, healthy, regionally-sourced products at a retail rate. Food Boxes generally are delivered and packaged for work-site pickups or drop-off sites within major cities. Many programs are set-up for online ordering with the choice of various boxes; newsletters or recipes are then received via email or with the box each week. Many programs also offer an opportunity to customize the box each week for an upcharge which allows for customers to try new and unique options produced locally.

Public Input Sessions:

- DBQ Community Gardeners: Package for transport to Foodbank
- Advantage to have consistent format, easily identified source, may support consistent donations, may further develop in scheduled or regular pickup vs. having to deliver,
- Have designated food rop locations based on garden location or preferred organization

Economy:

Opportunity to build new business and source from multiple farmers within the region
In 2007, nearly 3,000 farmers sold \$16.5 million of local products direct to consumer; compared to 2,455 farmers who sold \$11.6 million in products in 2002
Additional markets allow for job growth: A Leopold Center at Iowa State University evaluation found that 74 bulk food buyers that purchased \$8,934,126 of local food in 2012 also reported 36 new jobs related to food systems work

IOWA FOOD HUB:: FOOD BOX PROGRAM

- Include milk, eggs, bread, meat, and/or vegetables
- Weekly distribution; picked up by buyers

Equity:

ASSISTS FAMILIES TO ACCESS FRESH, HEALTHY FOOD IN AN ECONOMICALLY FRIENDLY MANNER

Health:

CHNA & HIP PRIORITY GOALS:

(Dubuque County Health), (Iowa Department of Public Health)

PROMOTE HEALTHY ENVIRONMENTS:

Provide safe storage of food to increase safety of food from producer to consumer.