

MOBILE PROCESSING UNITS

Mobile slaughter units (MSUs) go directly to farms and can generate creative, niche markets for both animal and produce. Since Mobile Processing Units go directly to farm or specific locations, they offer locally processed, locally raised products (Long, Agricultural Urbanism Toolkit 54).

Economy:

- Processing facilities assist in increasing product value and offer niche products. There are also opportunities for multiple scales of businesses and incubator opportunities.
- Typically there are limited slaughter and processing capacity in states, and this is a key barrier for meat and poultry, as well as value-added produce producers.
- The number of slaughter plants has decreased significantly in the past 10 years (Long, Agricultural Urbanism Toolkit 54).

Education:

Several mobile processing units have opened across the county for poultry and red meat. (eXtension)

5 EXAMPLES FROM THE SITE INCLUDE:

-SIERRA FOOTHILLS (CA): ALL POULTRY | INSPECTION: PRODUCERS UNDER 20,000 BIRDS – OR 1,000 BIRD EXEMPTION | CAPACITY 100-125 BIRDS/ DAY | OWNED BY HIGH SIERRA RESOURCE CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

-KENTRUCKY MOBILE POULTRY PROCESSING UNIT (KY) | SPECIES: POULTRY, AQUACULTURE, RABITS | STATE APPROVED INSPECTION | CAPACITY: 200-250 BIRDS | OWNED BY KENTUCKY STATE UNIVERSITY RESEARCH FARM

-ISLAND GROW MARTHA'S VINEYARD (MA): SPECIES: POULTRY | INSPECTION: PRODUCER OPERATES UNDER 20,000 BIRD EXEMPTION

-MASSACHUSETTS MOBILE POULTRY PROCESSING UNITS (MA): SPECIES: POULTRY | INSPECTION: STATE APPROVED- OPEN AIR; PRODUCERS REQUIRED TO HAVE STATE SLAUGHTER LICENSE | CAPACITY: UP TO 300 BIRDS | OWNED BY NEW ENGLAND SMALL FARM INSTITUTE

-NEW ENTRY SUSTAINABLE FARMING PROJECT, EASTERN MASSACHUSETTS: SPECIES: POULTRY | INSPECTION: STATE APPROVED, ENCLOSED BUT UNINSPECTED | CAPACITY: UP TO 400 BIRDS | OWNED BY NEW ENTRY SUSTAINABLE FARMING PROJECT

To include all community projects, businesses, etc. that involve distribution and retail (wholesaling, distribution, warehousing, transportation, restaurants, and retail markets) of food

Community Conclusions/ Priority Project Determined:

- **Farm to Institution Evaluation and Network:**

Distribution + Retail:

Each year institutions including universities, hospitals and grocery stores spend hundreds of thousands of dollars on food. What would the economic impact be if those institutions committed a portion of those dollars to local purchases?

The goal of the Farm to Institution Project Team is to understand the potential for institutional local purchases and quantify the benefits of institutional purchases if made at the local level. Additionally, this team will help connect and develop a network between producers, aggregators and institutional buyers through events and meetings to understand the current constraints and potential possibilities for increasing our local purchases at the institutional level.

- **Double Up Bucks Promotion and Awareness**

Double Up Food Bucks (DUFb) is a healthy food incentives program that matches every SNAP dollar spent at Farmers' Market with an additional \$1 for fresh fruits & vegetables up to \$10 per week. Successfully piloted in over 140 communities nationwide, In 2016, Dubuque Farmers' Market joined 5 other markets and Healthiest State Initiative to pilot the first Iowa DUFb program.

The goal of the Double Up Food Bucks Promotion Project Team is to increase awareness and support of the program among potential participants and sponsors. This will also include the development of a "kit of parts" that articulates the process and steps Dubuque has gone through for a successful program. This can be used as a transferable tool for communities who seek to utilize the Double Up Bucks program in the future.