

RURAL FARMS

Rural farming is an integral part to the existing food system and directly impacts the affordability of our food. A strong agricultural economy is critical in creating a strong national and rural economy. Current programs exist to assist and support small and medium size farms to diversify and scale up in order to improve access to healthy food for consumers. The Farm Bill directly affects the opportunity to develop farming business and rural development as well as the availability and resources to source local and organic products. Rural, sustainable agriculture contributes vast amount of products into the local and regional food system with practices that are typically environmentally conscious practices, socially equitable, and humane to animals. Rural and Sustainable farms are most often operating at a larger scale than urban settings and can thus provide larger quantities into the food system through various means of retail and wholesale marketing, aggregation, or direct sales.

Public Input Sessions:

- Galena, IA: All our food is imported! Tourist industry would also benefit from produce, farm tours, etc.
- Land ownership from "retiree" farmers: connect to SILT

CENSUS DATA:

Number of Farms and Average size: (USDA)

	2012			2007		
CENSUS OF AGRICULTURE 2012 -	NUMBER OF FARMS	AVERAGE FARM SIZE IN ACRES	MEDIAN SIZE OF FARM IN ACRES	TOTAL ACRES IN FARMS	NUMBER OF FARMS	AVERAGE FARM SIZE IN ACRES
FARMS OR ACRES	1462	199	123	291,441	1483	210
TOTAL FOR STATE:		345				331

NUMBER OF FARMS SMALLER THAN 50 ACRES: (USDA)

	2012			
CENSUS OF AGRICULTURE 2012	NUMBER OF FARMS: 1-9 ACRES	NUMBER OF FARMS 10-49 ACRES	NUMBER OF FARMS 50-179 ACRES	NUMBER OF FARMS 180-499 ACRES
FARMS	100	314	488	409

FARM BY VALUE OF SALES (VALUE OF SALES)

COUNTY SUMMARY HIGHLIGHTS- 2012	LESS THAN \$2500	\$2500-\$4,999	\$5,000-\$9,999	\$10,000-\$24,999	\$25,000-\$49,999	\$50,000-\$99,999	OVER \$100,000
FARMS	334	61	80	110	117	180	580

FARM EMPLOYMENT: (IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY EXTENSION)

REGIONAL ECONOMIC ACCOUNTS- UNITS NUMBER OF JOBS CLASSIFIED SIC OR NAICS	1980	2000	2010	2013	NUMBER OF JOBS LOST BETWEEN 1980-2013
DUBUQUE	2,741	940	1,976	1,515	1226

HIRED FARM LABOR: (USDA)

WORKERS AND PAYROLL- 2012	FARMS	WORKERS	PAYROLL (\$1,000)
DUBUQUE	468	1,304	6,472

Average farmworker wage (payroll divided by # workers)

\$4,963 PER WORKER

HIRED FARM LABOR: (USDA)

WORKERS AND PAYROLL- 2012	1	2	3-4	5-9	10 or more
FARMS	156	141	100	55	16
NUMBER OF WORKERS	156	282	343	312	211

HIRED FARM LABOR: (USDA)

MIGRANT LABOR	TOTAL MIGRANT WORKERS	FARMS WITH MIGRANT WORKERS	Unpaid workers	Farms with unpaid workers
DUBUQUE	414	3	1,097	458

SELECTED PRACTICES INVALID SOURCE SPECIFIED.

COUNTY SUMMARY HIGHLIGHTS- 2012- UNITS IN FARMS	RECEIVED IRRIGATION WATER FROM US BUREAU OF RECLAMATION	ALLEY CROPPING	BIOMASS FOR ENERGY	ROTATIONAL OR INTENSIVE GRAZING	DIRECT MARKET TO RETAIL	VALUE-ADDED	CSA	VEAL OR CALF	ON FARM PACKING FACILITY
FARMS		1	7	115	9	41	1	14	2

LIVESTOCK AND POULTRY (USDA)

COUNTY SUMMARY HIGHLIGHTS: 2012 - UNITS FARMS	BEEF CATTLE	DAIRY CATTLE	HOGS + PIGS	SHEEP + LAMBS	GOATS	LAYERS	PULLETS	BROILERS	TURKEYS	MISC.: DUCKS, GEESE	BEEES
FARMS	378	195	87	33	23	52	1	10	8	5	3
INVENTORY					*1303 TOTAL GOATS*			380	53		
1-9	71	11	3 *INVENTORY 1-24*	22 *INVENTORY 1-24*		45 *inventory 1-49*					
10-19	58	6				4					
20-49	159	29	2	11 *INVENTORY 25-99*		2					
50-99	67	75				1					
100-199	23	56	5								
200-499		18	18								
500 +			28								
1000 +			31								

CROPS (USDA)

COUNTY SUMMARY HIGHLIGHTS: 2012 -	BARLEY FOR GRAIN	RYE FOR GRAIN	SORGHUM FOR GRAIN	CORN FOR GRAIN	CORN FOR SILAGE	SUNFLOWER SEEDS	FORAGE	OATS FOR GRAIN	SOYBEANS FOR BEANS	WHEAT FOR GRAIN
FARMS	4	2	1	840	52	1	726	154	371	2
ACRES	199			123,628	3,017		34,767	2,926	26,179	

FRUITS & VEGETABLES (USDA)

COUNTY SUMMARY HIGHLIGHTS: 2012	VEGETABLES	ORCHARDS	FRUITS AND NUTS	BERRIES	FLORICULTURE
FARMS	18	28	27	7	1
ACRES	57	129	122	2	

Education

AUDIENCE:		REGIONAL/STATE NETWORKS
Farmers	<p><u>Production</u> (Best Management Practices for different crops/enterprises)</p> <p><u>Food Safety Training</u> Iowa State University: GAP training several times per year Market Ready Program</p> <p><u>Cost Support:</u> GAP Audits have an average cost of around \$900.00 (source: NSAC) Group GAP cost-share grant opportunities are also available to offset costs of GAP certification. Producers working with Organic Valley are provided with complementary GAP certification services.</p> <p><u>Management and Logistics Mentorship & Internship Opportunities:</u></p> <p>PFI - Practical Farmers of Iowa Savings Incentive Program offers mentorship opportunities to beginning farmers</p> <p><u>Record Keeping & Third Party Audits</u> FSA programs</p> <p>Equipment:</p> <p>Financial Aspects: Marketing Contracts Lending Grants</p> <p>Taxes: Understanding State and Federal Requirements</p>	<p>Practical Farmers of Iowa - Field Days, Webinars, Beginning Farmer Development Program WFAN Women Farming & Agriculture Network - Harvesting our Potential program Fairshare</p>
Meat/Forage Producers	<p>Iowa Beef Center/Denise Schwab, Extension beef specialist: training in all aspects of beef production and management, record keeping, nutrition, facility design, pasture and grazing management, and pasture design. Programs are offered throughout the year, but focus mostly on winter and summer to avoid spring calving and field work and fall harvest.</p>	

Equity:

PERCENTAGE OF PRINCIPAL FARM OPERATORS: (USDA) (USDA) (USDA) (USDA)

CENSUS OF AGRICULTURE 2012 - UNITS IN NUMBER OF FARMS	FEMALE FULL OWNER	SPANISH, HISPANIC OR LATINO	AMERICAN INDIAN OR ALASKA NATIVE	ASIAN	BLACK OR AFRICAN AMERICAN	MORE THAN ONE RACE	WHITE
FARMS	40	4	2	2	0	3	1460
ACRES	3,321	673	N/A	N/A		735	N/A

CROP LAND USED FOR VEGETABLE, FRUIT, AND TREE NUT PRODUCTION: 188 (Iowa State University Extension)

POVERTY AND FOOD NEEDS: PRODUCTION / 1000 RESIDENTS	ACRES
CERRO GORDO	1.5
FLOYD	6.9
FRANKLIN	2.4
HANCOCK	3.8
KOSSUTH	61.3
MITCHELL	28.2
WINNEBAGO	23.2
WORTH	22.5
WRIGHT	1.7
TOTAL FOR REGION:	151.5

Natural Systems: Preserves family and natural heritage of the land

CATFISH CREEK & PM 2.5

Agriculture is damaging to natural resources (Scherf)

CHNA & HIP PRIORITY GOALS:
(DUBUQUE COUNTY HEALTH), (IOWA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH)

PROMOTE HEALTHY ENVIRONMENTS:

By 2016 the air quality in Dubuque County will be in compliance with the Clean Air Act standards by the number of days of moderately unhealthy and unhealthy air days being reduced (from 22 and 2) and by maintaining attainment standards for PM 2.5.

Current air quality is poor: Dubuque County Particulate Matter days=4 days; State of Iowa=2 days

Increase Environmental Health Community Education for general public.

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

Improve surface water protection.

Explore mass transit options and promote use of public transportation.

Promote/explore use of alternative energy including ways to reduce carbon footprint; expand/promote for sustainable community and energy efficiency.

SOIL EROSION- ESTIMATED AVERAGE SHEET AND TILL EROSION ON CROPLAND: 33,797 TONS/YEAR (USDA), (SCHERF)

ORGANIC ACRES (FEEDING AMERICA)

COUNTY SUMMARY HIGHLIGHTS: 2012 -	USDA CERTIFIED ORGANIC FARMS	USDA ORGANIC PRODUCTION EXEMPT FROM CLASSIFICATION	FARMS WITH SALES FROM \$1,000-\$4,999	FARMS WITH SALES OVER \$5,000
FARMS	10	2	2	10

ADDITIVE STATISTICS: FERTILIZER AND CHEMICALS APPLIES (FEEDING AMERICA)

COUNTY SUMMARY HIGHLIGHTS: 2012 - UNITS ACRES	COMMERCIAL FERTILIZER, LIME + SOIL	MANURE	CONTROL-INSECTS	WEEDS, GRASS, BRUSH	NEMATODES	DISEASES IN CROPS AND ORCHARDS	CHEMICALS USED TO CONTROL GROWTH: THIN FRUIT-RIPEN, ETC.
FARMS	948	552	656	940	97	95	2
ACRES	18,478	55,475	110,926	171,109	13,117	16,995	

AGRICULTURAL LAND

Predicted future land use changes show that the largest loss of current land use/land cover is expected to occur on agricultural land where approximately 6,919.1 acres of the existing 21,590.6 acres (**15% decrease**) **is expected to be converted to mostly residential and industrial land uses**. The majority of these changes are expected to occur in the northern half of the watershed within the City of Dubuque and the areas surrounding the Southwest Arterial extension. In addition, existing **open space is also expected to decrease from 10,060.4 acres to 9,107.6 acres** in the future, a 952.8-acre decrease. **111.4 acres of public parks/golf courses are expected to be created.** (Scherf)

- Agricultural land use in the watershed is the single largest contributor of nitrogen (58%), phosphorus (64%), and sediment (57%) to streams, followed by streambank erosion and urban land use.
- 71% of stream reaches in the watershed are at least moderately eroded.
- Where livestock is kept, they are often allowed free access to streambanks, contributing to sediment and phosphorus loading.
- While some farms in the watershed utilize conservation practices, much more prevalent use of these practices needs to be implemented throughout the watershed in order to achieve water quality targets.

Land Use

- The region's karst topography makes the watershed more vulnerable to both surface and groundwater contamination.
- Overall development policy among the watershed communities does not adequately protect green infrastructure.
- Two mulch processing facilities within the watershed drain directly to adjacent streams without additional filtration.

(Source: Catfish Creek Watershed Management Plan)

GOVERNMENT CONSERVATION PROGRAMS

The federal government, the State of Iowa, and Dubuque County have several different conservation programs in which landowners and/or cities can participate. These programs often provide financial assistance for conservation practices, and are listed below. Dubuque Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) office, located in Epworth, IA, has more information on the following programs:

STATE PROGRAMS

- Conservation Cost-Sharing
- State Revolving Fund (SRF)
- Water Quality Projects

- Stormwater Best Management Practices Loan
- Resource Enhancement & Protection (REAP)

FEDERAL PROGRAMS

- Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)
- Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP)
- Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)
- Mississippi River Basin Initiative (MRBI)
- Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program (WHIP)



Figure 6: Agriculture

To include all community projects, businesses, etc. that involve transformation (processing, packaging, labeling and marketing) of food

COMMUNITY CONCLUSIONS:

Transformation:

No projects were determined as priorities within transformation.