

IN THIS ISSUE DUNCAN HILCHEY

The forefront of food systems policy and practice

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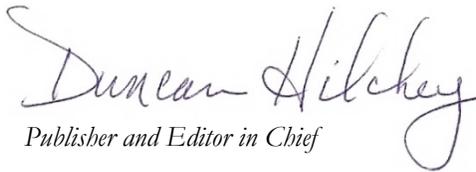
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Though completely coincidental, this issue has a strong theme of food systems policy and practice. If we'd actually formally announced a special topic call on this subject, I don't think we would have gotten a better set of submissions! In this issue we offer a collection of papers that provide both depth and breadth across a wide range of issues related to food system policy and practice: land use, farm viability, food assistance, urban agriculture, public engagement, and others.

In *Exploring Food System Policy: A Survey of Food Policy Councils in the United States*, **Allyson Scherb, Anne Palmer, Shannon Frattaroli, and Keshia Pollack** report the results of a survey of a sample of food policy councils and find the need for more rigorous evaluation of the processes, outcomes, and impacts of their work. **Nathan McClintock, Heather Wooten, and Alethea (Harper) Brown** provide a highly detailed account of one food policy council's efforts in *Toward a Food Policy "First Step" in Oakland, California: A Food Policy Council's Efforts To Promote Urban Agriculture Zoning*. **Nathaniel Roth, James Thorne, Robert Johnston, James Quinn, and Michael McCoy** utilize urban growth modeling to identify the farmland loss and economic impact of sprawl on the agriculture community near Fresno, California, in *Modeling Impacts to Agricultural Revenue and Government Service Costs from Urban Growth*. **Lydia Oberholtzer, Carolyn Dimitri, and Gus Schumacher** identify the types of farmers' markets and vendors most likely to benefit from federal nutrition benefit and incentive usage in *Linking Farmers, Healthy Foods, and Underserved Consumers: Exploring the Impact of Nutrition Incentive Programs on Farmers and Farmers' Markets*. **Howard Rosing** challenges conventional wisdom about town-gown relationships in *Demystifying the Local: Considerations for Higher Education Engagement with Community Food Systems*. **Sima Patel and Rod MacRae** wrap up a three-part series of papers on Toronto's urban food productive capacity with *Community Supported Agriculture in the City: The Case of Toronto*.

In *More Than Counting Beans: Adapting USDA Data Collection Practices To Track Marketing Channel Diversification*, **Alan R. Hunt and Gary Matteson** offer recommendations for changes to the quinquennial Census of Agriculture to better reflect emerging farming trends and the needs of data analysts. **Kristine Hammel** and

Thorsten Arnold explore the challenges and opportunities in revitalizing a still productive, traditional European farming landscape in *Understanding the Loss of Traditional Agricultural Systems: A Case Study of Orchard Meadows in Germany*. **Cathy Rozel Farnworth** and **Mette Vaarst** provide a remarkable case study of the complex and often frustrating relationships of researchers and their intended beneficiaries in *Making It Too Simple? Researchers, Recommendations, and NGOs in the Sundarbans, Indian West Bengal*. Finally, wrapping up this issue's theme on food and agriculture policy is *Safe Re-use Practices in Wastewater-Irrigated Urban Vegetable Farming in Ghana*, by **Bernard Keraita**, **Robert C. Abaidoo**, **Ines Beernaerts**, **Sasha Koo-Oshima**, **Philip Amoah**, **Pay Drechsel**, and **Flemming Konradsen**, who provide a thorough list of research-based best practices for producers using wastewater irrigation. 


Publisher and Editor in Chief