

IN THIS ISSUE
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Organic research networks and more!



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This fall 2023 issue of JAFSCD (volume 13, issue 1) includes open-call papers on a wide range of topics spanning the three main domains of a food system: production, marketing, and consumption. It also includes additional articles in response to our special call for papers on “Fostering Socially and Ecologically Resilient Food and Farm Systems Through Research Networks,” sponsored by INFAS, eOrganic, and USDA National Institute for Food and Agriculture.

On our cover we see Michael Gavin, owner and operator of Root and Regenerate Urban Farms, using a seeder to plant a spring crop in one of the SPIN (Small plot IN-tensive) back yard plots in Calgary, Alberta, Canada. He collaborated with co-author Chelsea Rozanski, who is Ph.D. candidate in anthropology at the University of Calgary, on the article in this issue mentioned below.

We begin the issue with John Ikerd’s Economic Pamphleteer column. In this first in a new series of columns he has titled “Perspectives on Agriculture, Food Systems, and Communities,” Ikerd calls for reforms requiring “changes in culture that prioritize resourcefulness, resilience, and regeneration over extraction, exploitation, and extermination.” I have more to say about John’s new series at the end of this editorial.

We follow the column with a number of commentaries and a Voices from the Grassroots essay. In our first commentary, *Nutrition education centers: A community-based approach to management of malnutrition*, **Samuel Ikendi, Francis Owusu, Dorothy Masinde, Ann Oberhauser, and Carmen Bain** share details about a

On our cover: Farm owner (and article co-author) Michael Gavin uses a seeder to plant a spring crop in one of the SPIN (Small plot IN-tensive) back-yard plots in Calgary, Alberta, Canada. See more in the article in this issue, [Growing in relation with the land: Experiential learning of Root and Regenerate Urban Farms](#).

Photo by article co-author Chelsea Rozanski and used with permission

unique and successful capacity-building program in Uganda that provides comprehensive support for families in need.

In the commentary that follows, **Ishwari Singh Bisht** explores the role of agroecology-based community kitchens and culinary agri-ecotourism in *Engaging rural youth in strengthening the local food movement in India*.

In *Assessing food systems funders' use of data and evidence to make funding decisions*, **Lesli Hoey, Lilly Fink Shapiro, Catherine Diggs, Duncan Hilchey, Kim Hines, and Fally Masambuka-Kanchewa** share results of their survey of a sample of foundations regarding their use of JAFSCD content and other sources of factual information.

In our final commentary for this issue, **Philippe Jeanneaux** presents an example of how one group of disparate onion growers could change their stars in *Toward a more profitable value chain for New York state onions*.

Next, in their Voices from the Grassroots essay, *Examining the history of trust within Appalachian coal camps*, **Angel Smothers, Kristen Goins, Tanner Cole, Jaylyne Morgan, Erin Young, and Kylie Young** provide a fascinating look into the unique food security challenges of an American rural food desert.

In our ongoing special topic call for papers on “Fostering Socially and Ecologically Resilient Food and Farm Systems Through Research Networks,” we have two new papers: first, **Chelsea Rozanski and Michael Gavin** present a reflective essay featuring their work utilizing SPIN farming in *Growing in relation with the land: Experiential learning of Root and Regenerate Urban Farms*.

Next up in the special section, in *The evolution of a partnership-based breeding program for organic corn*, **Walter A. Goldstein** presents a case study of the advent of a bottom-up approach to developing an organic corn variety that has competitive yield, better nutritional value, and environmental benefits—and is not patented.

Our open-call papers then delve into a broad range of food systems-based community development. **David Conner, Claire Whitehouse, Neishaly Serrano-Cortés, Robinson Rodríguez-Pérez, Naomi Cunningham, Travis Reynolds, Kerry Daigle, Valery Desravin, and Jane Kolodinsky** proffer an asset mapping exercise that utilizes the community capitals framework in *Food Resilience Toolkit in action*.

In *Developing a food system indicators database to facilitate local food systems assessments: Using a scoping review approach*, **Abiodun T. Atoloye, Sophie Schouboe, Caitlin Misiaszek, Jamie Harding, Kristen Cooksey Stowers, Karen Bassarab, and Larissa Calancie** present a set of metrics for use by food policy councils (FPCs) to measure progress in the local food system over time.

Then, *Exploring the implications of the Fair Trade USA certification for farmworker health and well-being at the first certified farm in the U.S.*, by **Alissa Bilfield and Edmundo Hernandez**, provides a first look at the impacts of a global north fair trade program.

Lianna Gomori-Ruben and Chantal D. Reid next present their use of the FAO’s “Tool for Agroecology Performance Evaluation” to find that a sample of female operators in the United States generally tended to be ecological in their farming practices in their article, *Using TAPE to assess agroecology on women-led farms in the U.S.: Support for environmental and social practices*.

In *Peasants' land rights and the hollowing out of communal property management in rural China*, **Xiaoyu Yu** discovers that China’s land privatization policy has not fulfilled in its intended outcomes.

In *More than procurement: Examination of a farm-to-early-care and education pilot*, **Meagan K. Shedd and Rachel Kelly** present a case study of a farm-to-ECE procurement pilot program that features purchasing, gardening, and nutrition and education practices.

Next, **Sheridan Rabbitt, Ian Lilley, Simon Albert, Joelle Albert, and Ian Tibbetts** explore the tension between human nutritional needs and environmental limitations in *The importance of nutrition-sensitive fisheries management: Women's dietary diversity in Marovo Lagoon, Solomon Islands*.

In *A feasibility evaluation of the community health worker model for garden-based food systems programming*, **Maria DeNunzio, Elena Serrano, Vivica Kraak, Melissa Chase, and Sarah Misyak** conclude that with the proper fit, cultural humility, and logistics, utilizing trained lay public health workers can be effective in garden-based program delivery.

Samuel Ikendi, Francis Owusu, Dorothy Masinde, Ann M. Oberhauser, and Carmen Bain then

report the results of their extensive evaluation of a unique development strategy in *Does participation in livelihood education programs impact household food security? A comparative study in rural Uganda*.

In *Northeastern bakers' views on organic and regeneratively certified flours*, **Karen Hiniker Simons** presents the results of a survey of bakers in the Northeast U.S., revealing the challenges of purchasing, utilizing, and selling produces with environmentally responsible ingredients.

This is followed by a set of papers focused on community food security. In *Non-market distribution serves society in ways markets cannot: A tentative defense of food charity from small-town New England*, **Sam Bliss, Ava Hill, Alexandra Bramsen, Raven Graziano, Saharay Perez Sahagun, and Flora Krivak-Tetley** show that distributing food for free strengthens relationships, fosters resilience, puts edible-but-not-sellable food to use, and aligns with an alternative, non-market vision of a desirable food future.

In *Nourishing student success and wellbeing: Unveiling the impact of food environments on student food security challenges through a case study from Montana*, **Teresa Warne, Roland Ebel, and Selena Ahmed** look at environmental factors contributing to food insecurity at U.S. colleges and universities.

Sara McPhee-Knowles and **David Gatensby** next find there's no one-size-fits-all approach to solving hunger in *Food insecurity in Yukon communities during COVID-19: A qualitative study*.

Finally, we share one book review. In her review entitled "The *spia* who loved food," **Natasha Bernstein Bunzl** provides a critique of Valeria Siniscalch's *Slow Food: The Economy and Politics of a Global Movement*.

I want to wrap up my editorial with a few words about **Professor Emeritus John Ikerd**. He has contributed "Economic Pamphleteer" columns to the *Journal of Agriculture, Food Systems, and Community Development* since its inaugural issue in 2010. His columns have provided economic perspectives on a wide variety of agricultural, food systems, and community development issues. He offers a perspective that comes from someone who has lived through the transition from small, independent family farms, local food systems, and vibrant rural and urban communities to a corporately controlled agriculture, a global food system, and economically and socially desolate rural and urban communities. His point of view is informed by spending the first half of his 30-year academic career as an advocate for the extractive, exploitative system of economic development that brought about these changes—and in the years since as one of its most outspoken critics. He has been a relentless advocate for sustainable family farms, community-based food systems, and an economic and social renaissance of rural and urban communities.

In his next few columns, John will continue to share his unique perspectives on changes in farms, foods, and communities over the past 70 years, and why understanding the past is relevant in planning and preparing for the future.

Stay tuned for more of his thoughtful and razor-sharp columns!



Wishing you happy holidays with friends and loved ones,

Duncan Hilchey
Publisher and editor-in-chief