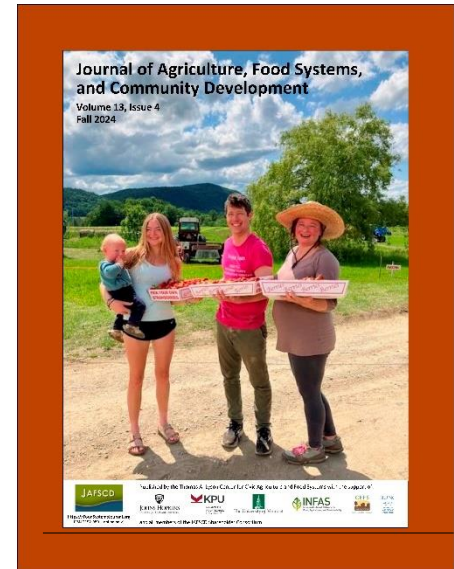


IN THIS ISSUE DUNCAN HILCHEY

Open call papers on a wide range of food systems topics



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On the cover of this fall 2024 issue is a family of happy strawberry pickers at Last Resort Farm in Monkton, Vermont (photo by farmner Eugenie Doyle). Such pictures may seem a bit cliché, but they serve to remind us of the tremendous value of getting out and getting a bit of dirt under our nails from time to time. I believe that as a part of self-care, agritourism can be particularly important during these turbulent times that are fraught with toxic politics, war, and environmental challenges that keep us on edge. It is easy for those of us involved in food systems work to forget that we are quite privileged to know farmers and local food businesses on a personal basis. And so, on this issue's cover we take the opportunity to celebrate agritourism as a contributor to community development. Later in this issue, **Chadley R. Hollas** and colleagues take a close look at farm-based recreation and hospitality data in the U.S. Census of Agriculture and find the USDA definition wanting.

In this issue's The Economic Pamphleteer column, **John Ikerd** shares his perspectives on the past and future of *communities*, with a focus on how we need to get back to traditional norms of reciprocity and dwelling on what neighbors have in common as opposed to what they do not—also an incredibly

On our cover: This issue's cover features a family of happy strawberry pickers at [Last Resort Farm](#), a diversified farm with a large u-pick component in Monkton, Vermont, USA. See the article [Insights and oversights: Behind the data on agritourism and direct sales in the United States](#) in this issue for an analysis of how the U.S. Department of Agriculture gathers data on agritourism activities, and how its definitions can lead to misleading results.

Photo by Eugenie Doyle (co-founder and co-owner of Last Resort Farm); used with permission.

important sentiment to keep in mind during this contentious political era.

In our only commentary in this issue, entitled *Socio-economic impact of food insecurity on vulnerable population in Nigeria*, **Oyinbolaji Akinwande Ajetunmbi** summarizes the state of the food system in Nigeria, and the key production, distribution, and consumption strategies for reducing food insecurity.

As always, our peer-reviewed papers in this issue reflect the depth and breadth of food systems policy and practice. In *Creating a municipal-level emergency food plan: Lessons from Thunder Bay, Ontario*, **Charles Z. Levkoe** and **Courtney Strutt** present a case example of the development of an emergency food plan by a regional food policy council.

Next, in their article, *Big ambitions, modest beginnings: Civil society participation in food system governance in Australia*, **Nicholas Rose, Bethany Ciesielski, Amy Carrad, Rebecca Smits, Belinda Reeve, and Karen Charlton** present case studies of seven food-related civil society organizations, revealing that, while their ability to influence food system governance Down Under has been modest, there is great potential for more participatory forms of local food system governance.

In *Resilience strategies for centers and institutes focused on food systems transformation*, **Lauren Gwin, Michelle Miller, Erin B. Lowe, Casey Hoy, Nancy Creamer, Nevin Cohen, Rich Pirog, Tom Kelly, and Thomas P. Tomich** shed light on the operations and challenges of applied research centers in the agrifood space, and proffer recommendations on how these centers can maximize their contributions to food system resilience.

Sara Shostak then interviews foundation program officers in New England (USA) and spotlights opportunities for partnerships between community-based organizations and foundations in the context of “trust-based philanthropy” in *Making and measuring change in the food system: The perspectives of funders*.

In *“Doing more good”: Exploring the multidisciplinary landscape of regeneration as a boundary concept for paradigm change*, **Alayna Paolini, Iqbal S. Bhalla, and Philip A. Loring** make the case for why “regeneration” should be a leading watchword, arguing that “its conceptual fluidity allows it to adapt and resonate across domains while maintaining a core ethos of holistic, proactive care, and stewardship.”

In *“What does Ferguson mean for the food justice movement?”: Reading Black visions of food justice in times of social unrest*, **Bobby J. Smith II, Jamila Walida Simon, Candace Star Gwin, and Desirée Y. McMillion** explore how Black food activists view food justice through three lenses: Black agrarianism, radical Black mothering, and Black futures. This article was published on the date marking 10 years since unarmed teenager Michael Brown was murdered by police officers in Ferguson, Missouri.

Next, **Susan T. Guynn, Kirby W. Player, and Matthew G. Burns** conducted a series of focus groups of underserved farmers about adopting climate-smart practices and find that key barriers include (1) lack of program clarity and visibility, (2) lack of accountability, and (3) lack of NRCS support in *Underserved farmers’ barriers to adoption of the U.S. Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service climate-smart agricultural practices in South Carolina*.

Sara Jean Whelan, Duncan Orlander, Julia Balsam, and Carolyn Dimitri then identify the institutional, cultural, and programmatic barriers that prevent organic farmers from participating in USDA’s Organic Cost Share, EQIP, CSP, and crop insurance programs, and offer suggestions for improving outreach and access in *Fitting a square peg in a round hole: Applying U.S. farm policy to organic farms*.

In *Navigating organic farming challenges with farmer-led entrepreneurial innovations in the U.S. Mid-South*, **Stephen C. Mukembo, Garima Srivastava, Mary K. Hendrickson, Kerry M. Clark, and David**

Redhage conduct a literature review and thematic analysis of entrepreneurial innovations used by certified organic farmers to address regional-specific challenges affecting their operations. They suggest an “entrepreneurial ecosystems” approach that includes public policy and regional networks is needed to support organic farming growth in the region.

Next, **Cody Gusto, Catherine Campbell, Annie Wallau, and Wendy Wood** explore the potential for workplace community supported agriculture and find employees generally receptive to online lunchtime educational programming on accessing and preparing local food in *Bringing local food education to workplaces: Assessing needs for a health and wellness program*.

In *Insights and oversights: Behind the data on agritourism and direct sales in the United States*, **Chadley R. Hollas, Claudia Schmidt, Zheng Tian, Stephan J. Goetz, and Lisa Chase** discuss the lack of a clear definition for agritourism and use two cases studies to demonstrate the need for a more thoughtful and systematic means for measuring the agritourism sector.

In *Promoting small-scale maple syrup production on Facebook: A field experiment testing emphasis message frames*, **Scott Hershberger, Bret Shaw, Steven Moen, Tony Johnson, and Tricia Gorby** test four different thematic topics in Wisconsin and find that “working the land” was the most effective promotion message in terms of link clicks and post reactions. However, “food self-sufficiency” resonated more with older Facebook users.

In their exploratory study entitled *Mexican sending region and workplace experience: A preliminary study of agricultural guestworkers in Ohio*, **Anisa Kline and Megan Lindstrom** find higher risk of predatory recruitment practices for men from Chiapas, Oaxaca, and Guerrero.

Matthew Chrisman, Andrea N. Cullers, Candace Rodman, Allene Gremaud, Gil Salgado, and Kelsey Gardiner find a high reported prevalence of food insecurity among Missouri college students, but also a lack of knowledge of SNAP in general, in *SNAP for U: Food insecurity and SNAP use among college students, including institution type differences*.

In their Zimbabwean study entitled *Factors affecting rural youth participation in the smallholder farming sector*, **Bright Mukwedeza and Maxwell Mudhara** find that 70% of young people are not interested in farming and suggest that ensuring a successful agriculture sector will require a shift from the traditional siloed food policy approach to an interdisciplinary strategy that includes comprehensive planning, investment, and decision-making.

We wrap up our peer-reviewed content in this issue with *Developing children’s local food programs: One volunteer’s perspective* by **Jeffrey K. O’Hara**, who offers a reflective essay on his experience as a parent developing a youth-targeted local food program. O’Hara calls for more research on the roles and motivations of adult volunteers in local food programming.

Our final item in this issue is a book review by **Anna Marchessault**, who shares thoughts on *Reinventing Food Banks and Pantries: New Tools to End Hunger* by Katie S. Martin.

Coming back to our cover story, I would like to remind all of us that (whether we realize it or not) being part of a food system is an everyday, lifelong journey for humans. And while there are incredibly difficult challenges, local and regional food systems can also be an enormous source of joy, good health, and education. As we lose small and family farms, and local food enterprises, getting an immersion into alternative production practices on a farm, sampling fresh food and local cuisine, and seeing, smelling, and perhaps even touching a farm animal is an increasingly rare treat. I believe the respite and repast

provided by the folks who connect us with nature and food are an antidote to the crazy world we live in. It is certainly critical for my own personal resilience and sense of wellbeing. For those of us feeling the stresses and strains of writing, crunching numbers, Zooming, presenting, teaching, or sitting in class, I'm betting you know just what to prescribe yourself.



Yours in regeneration,

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Duncan Hilchey".

Duncan Hilchey

Publisher and editor-in-chief