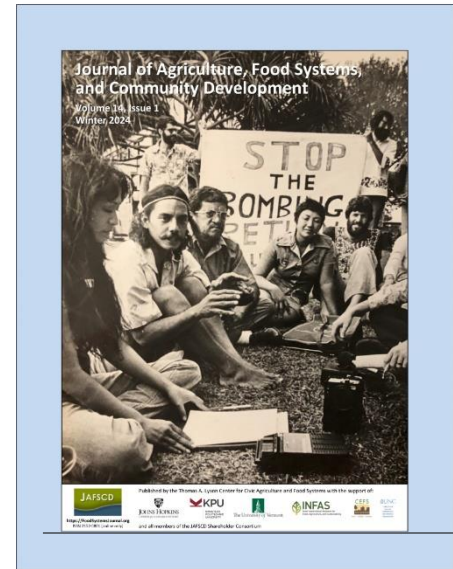


IN THIS ISSUE
DUNCAN HILCHEY

**Indigenous knowledge at the
 food systems forefront**



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Welcome to the winter 2024–2025 issue of JAFSCD! On our cover, we share a photo from the article *Hāloa: The long breath of Hawaiian sovereignty, water rights, and Indigenous law*, by Puanani Apoliona-Brown. The historical photo depicts a Protect Kaho‘olawe ‘Ohana (aka PKO or ‘Ohana) press conference at the Bishop Museum in Honolulu, Hawaii, on January 31, 1977. PKO was a small group of Native Hawaiian activists who organized to stop the bombing of a sacred island that the U.S. Navy had used for target practice since World War II. Featured in the foreground are Leimomi Apoliona (at the left) and Dr. Emmett Aluli (at the right). The article’s author, Ms. Apoliona-Brown, is the daughter of Leimomi Apoliona and one of the research fellows whose work is shared in this issue.

We are pleased to feature a special section of articles produced by the Tribal Food Systems Research Fellows of the First Nations Development Institute. These emerging Indigenous scholars include **Danya Carroll, Lynn Mad Plume, Nicole Redvers, Puanani Apoliona-Brown, Daniel Hayden, Amber Hayden, Stafford Rotehrakwas Maracle, Jennifer Tewathahá:kwa Maracle, Stephen Lougheed, and Jasmine Jimerson.**

A thematic analysis of this special collection of papers is provided in our first Indigenous Food Sovereignty column, authored by **Mapuana Antonio, Joseph Brewer, Richard Elm-Hill, Michael Kotutwa**

On our cover: A photo from the article *Hāloa: The long breath of Hawaiian sovereignty, water rights, and Indigenous law*, by Puanani Apoliona-Brown. The historical photo depicts a Protect Kaho‘olawe ‘Ohana (aka PKO or ‘Ohana) press conference at the Bishop Museum in Honolulu, Hawaii, on January 31, 1977. Featured in the foreground are Leimomi Apoliona (left) and Dr. Emmett Aluli (right). The article’s author, Ms. Apoliona-Brown, is the daughter of Leimomi Apoliona and is a Tribal Food Systems Research Fellow with the First Nations Development Institute.

Photo by Terry Luke that appeared in the Honolulu Star-Bulletin story about the press conference. The original photo was given to Leimomi Apoliona by the photographer and is used with her permission.

Johnson, Tabitha Robin, A-Dae Romero-Briones, Lois Stevens, and Keith Williams. We see this column and the first special collection of papers as the beginning of an ongoing effort to solicit and publish the work of Indigenous food system researchers, and we are grateful for the support of First Nations Development Institute to make this happen. A special debt of gratitude goes to **Keith Williams** for his Herculean work serving as associate editor for this special section, including mentoring authors and editing their manuscripts. Keith is very generous with his time and values helping young and emerging Indigenous researchers. We are privileged to have him engaged with JAFSCD!

Our regular content for this issue begins with **John Ikerd's** Economic Pamphleteer column, *Government regulation: Too much or too little*, in which he explores farm scale and government regulation. Next are two commentaries: *Policy implications for nutritional health and food security among transgender and gender-diverse individuals in the United States*, by **Heather Schier** and **Carolyn Gunther**, and *Food recalls: An unnecessary and preventable factor of food waste*, by **Rubén Morawicki**.

These are followed by two policy and practice briefs: *Sustainable agriculture impacts in urban settings make the case for federal investments*, by **Hagan Capnerhurst, Hannah Quigley, and Jason Hawes**, and *Racial equity and the USDA's Office of Urban Agriculture granting program and urban offices*, by **Kristin Reynolds, Cédric Gottfried, and Tamarra Thomas**.

Our open call papers cover the gamut of food system issues. We start with a group of papers focused on value chains. In our first value-chain paper, **Caroline Krejci, Amy Marusak, Anuj Mittal, Narjes Sadeghiamirshahidi, and Sue Beckwith** explore the formation of regional transportation cooperatives and the development of information and communication technology infrastructure to help facilitate collaboration in *Transportation barriers in local and regional food supply chains*.

Next, **'Erali' Tracie Miller, Kathleen Schroeder, Bhuwan Thapa, and Elizabeth Shay** identify eight specific challenges to the value chains that could link food producers to early childhood programs in *Barriers to access to local produce in an early childhood setting in rural Appalachia*.

In *Exploring barriers and facilitators to direct-to-retail sales channels: Farmers' perspectives on wholesaling produce to small food retailers in Charles County, Maryland*, **Audrey Thomas, Emma Lewis, Lisa Poirier, Stacey Williamson, Yutong Xie, Alexis Lightner, and Joel Gittelsohn** highlight the scale and logistical challenges of linking local farmers to small grocers. They conclude that the mobile app they piloted, Baltimore Urban food Distribution (BUD), that facilitates value-chain relationships, may prove feasible.

Next, **Micaela F. Lipman, Domonique Griffin, Erik Woyciesjes, Gabriella Hall, and Samina Raja** draw on community coalition action theory (CCAT) to explore the critical need for addressing underlying structural racism, in *Equitable food value chains through collaborative action [in an inequitable landscape]: Insights from Buffalo, New York*.

In *U.S. farmers market attendance and experiences: Descriptive results from a national survey* **Laura Witzling, Bret Shaw, and Darlene Wolnik** explore consumer motivations and challenges in attending farmers markets and discover the top challenge for farmers markets is that consumers simply forget to regularly patronize them.

In our final value-chain paper, **Zeynal Topalcengiz, Sujata Sirsat, Jennifer Acuff, and Kristen Gibson** identified various barriers to implementing farmers market food safety standards and practices in their scoping review entitled *Farmers market food safety: A comprehensive review of training needs in the U.S.*

Next, we offer several papers on community gardens. In *Garden access and barriers for low-income community members*, **Cherish Duerst, Robert Williams, Jose Lopez, and Douglas LaVergne** identify the challenges food pantry users face in growing their own food and find that there are public policies and actions by local government that could make it easier.

Similarly, in *Growing together or growing apart? A study of food donation community garden programming during the COVID-19 pandemic*, **Moses Timbiti Wanyakha, Nancy Grudens-Schuck, and Ann Oberhauser** find that not only did the pandemic impact the flow of food, but government restrictions that impacted critical volunteer engagement compounded the challenges.

Supporting new gardeners: Perspectives of gardeners and garden leaders, **Alyssa Beavers, Rebekah Ray, Kristin Lacy, Eva Coringrato, Ashby Lavelle Sachs, Za'Nyia Kelly, Hannah Buchenau, Erin Decker, Lara Wirtz Fahnestock, Pallas Quist, James Hébert, Jill Litt, and Katherine Alaimo** identify the gulf between the needs of new gardeners and the bandwidth of garden managers to support them.

Next, we have several papers drilling down into community food security and food system planning. In *Empowering local food security: A systematic review of community grain banks*, **Vaishali Sharma** concludes that community grain banks (largely found in the Global South) not only offer immediate relief during food shortages but also empower women, stabilize farmers' income, reduce debt burdens, foster social trust, and enhance community resilience.

Joshua Gruver, Kimberly Lee, and Emily Hayes then present the struggle Virgin Islanders are experiencing in adapting to the challenges of climate change, politics, and a difficult economic climate in *Food insecurity in paradise: An exploration of food system resilience in the U.S. Virgin Islands*.

In *Formative assessment of community health center Food is Medicine programs during COVID-19 in Northern California*, **Cristina Moraga Franco, Edye Kuype, and Reina Engle-Stone** explore the barriers and facilitators of Food is Medicine (FIM) programs during the pandemic and identify options for improving the same.

Lailà Lokosang, Leonard Kirui, Joyce Maru, Joseph Karugia, Sirak Bahta, and Dolapo Enahoro found a lack of coherence in responding to the pandemic and call for immediate reformulation of national strategies across multicountry regions in *Research brief: Analysis of policy responses to seed, fertilizer, food and fuel shocks in three African Regional Economic Communities*.

In *Setting the table for rural food access: Models from Appalachia and the Deep South*, **Abigail Darwin, Nicole Nunoo, Jung Sun Lee, Abigail Borron, and Jennifer Jo Thompson** identify four program archetypal models being implemented in the region: the charity model, support model, restructure model, and market model, each with unique opportunities and challenges.

Tianzhu Liu next explores the differences in small local and larger regional agrifood initiatives and find critical strengths and weaknesses of each in *What scale for local food system planning? Insights from French case studies*.

In their reflective essay entitled *Regional food system sustainability: Using team science to develop an indicator-based assessment framework*, **Serge Wiltshire, Brian Beckage, Chris Callahan, Lisa Chase, David Conner, Heather Darby, Jane Kolodinsky, Jana Kraft, Deborah Neher, Walter Poleman, Taylor Ricketts, Daniel Tobin, Eric von Wettberg, and Meredith Niles** proffer a new approach to assessing the sustainability of food systems.

In *Experiences from a land-based learning project focused on local food interventions*, **Abbey Palmer, Phil Warsaw, Aaron McKim, R. Bud McKendree, Maezie Nettleton, Tiffany Marzolino, and Haley Brasier** find that delivering farm-to-school content within a land-based learning framework allows for greater flexibility in the construction of the program, along with additional educational benefits not commonly discussed in the farm-to-school literature.

Next, **Tanu Altomare and Colleen Payton** present a case example of a student-led food waste project in *A research brief describing a logic model framework for planning a Food Recovery Network chapter at an undergraduate university*.

And in our only nonfood content paper, entitled *First-year hemp farmers' motives and resources to cultivate hemp*, **Blake Colclatur, Jason Caldwell, Tyler Granberry, Christine Rost, and Bailey Gasseling** conducted interviews with a sample of growers to explore their motivations and sources of information and to identify the need to develop more effective hemp training programs.

In our single book review, **Anna Marchessault** reviews *Agroecology and Regenerative Agriculture: Sustainable Solutions for Hunger, Poverty and Climate Change*, by Vandana Shiva.

We would like to recognize **Matthew Hoffman**, JAFSCD Associate Editor for book reviews, for his management starting in March 2020 of JAFSCD book reviews— a surprisingly complicated process! He also provides valuable guidance and feedback to book review authors to make the reviews informative to our readers.

In wrapping up, let me reiterate JAFSCD's commitment to empowering new and young Indigenous scholars. We are very proud to now place a special emphasis on Indigenous food sovereignty and look to these researchers to provide leadership in finding ways our food systems can contribute to a more resilient world. JAFSCD endeavors to be a leading publishing vehicle for this critical new and yet time-tested knowledge.



Yours in regeneration,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Duncan Hilchey". The signature is written in a dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Duncan Hilchey

Publisher and editor-in-chief