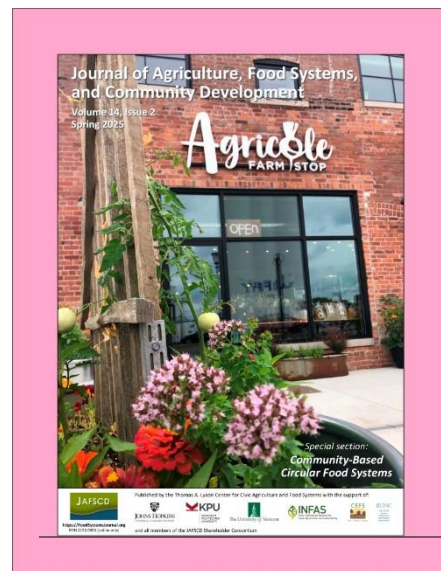


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Community-based circular food systems



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Our spring 2025 issue features a special section of articles in response to our call for papers on **community-based circular food systems**. One example of an innovative C-B CFS, the farm stop, increases community resilience and adds to a circular economy. On our cover is Agricole Farm Stop, a farmers market that’s open every day in historic downtown Chelsea, Michigan, USA. The store opened in July 2019 with the mission to grow the local food economy and cultivate community connection. Agricole is passionate about supporting nearby farmers, increasing local food access, and connecting its community members with fresh, sustainably grown food. Nearly 200 farmers sell their goods on consignment (with a 75/25 split between the farmer and Agricole). Since 2019, Agricole has returned US\$5.8 million to local farmers and food businesses. (The cover photo is by Agricole and is used with permission.)

I extend a special thanks to the community-based circular food systems editorial team made up of **María Alonso Martínez, Jacob Park, Jim Worstell, Anna Davies, WariNkwī Flores, and Sarah Rocker**. Please read their excellent thematic editorial to get the background and full scope of all the articles in the special section.

The issue begins with **John Ikerd’s** The Economic Pamphleteer column, “Why not food-based communities?” in which he argues we should think about the opportunities for creating food-based communities “because it is right and good” and not necessarily politically or economically expedient.

Following Ikerd’s column, we offer five non-peer-reviewed articles—three policy and practice briefs (on pork processing plant line speeds by **Kelsey Crawford and Patti Truant Anderson**, Oaxaca coffee by **Jesica Ariadna Jiménez-Mendoza, Norma Francenia Santos-Sánchez, Iván Antonio García-Montalvo, Marco Antonio Sánchez-Medina, and Alma Dolores Pérez-Santiago**, and improving the affordability of produce in Missouri by **Erica Williams, Participants of the 2024 Fruit and Vegetable Policy Convening, Lyndsey Ellis, Sagata Chatterjee, Thi Nguyen, and Sarah Anderson**), one commentary (on pesticide labeling in Spanish to accommodate farmworkers by **Catherine E. LePrevost, Joseph G. L. Lee, and**

Modjulie A. Moore), and one *Voices From the Grassroots* essay by **Gabriel T. Salah-Pfeiffer** (on communal gardening). We greatly value these non-academic contributions to JAFSCD and we hope they inform and inspire researchers, professionals, and practitioners in their work.

Next, we offer 12 open call papers.

In *Scaling up local food systems in context: Understanding and navigating constraints in the Palouse region*, **Soren Newman, Darin Saul, Steven Peterson, Colette DePhelps, Felix Haifeng Liao, Robert Heinse, Jodi Johnson-Maynard, Jane Kolodinsky, and Hannah Smith** explore the potential of small-scale local food production in a largely industrial agricultural region of the Pacific Northwest, U.S.

Catherine Horwitz and **Teresa Mares** examine the effectiveness of youth food justice programs in the Northeastern United States in *Empowering teens through food justice: An exploration of youth development programs*. And **Mecca E. Howe** and **Jennifer Meta Robinson** then explore the impacts of a “farm camp” for at-risk children in *Urban agriculture education for teens: A multidimensional study of positive psychosocial and metacognitive outcomes*.

In *How to address resource inequity in collaborative work: Reflections on partnerships between Vermont and Puerto Rico*, **David S. Conner** presents a reflective essay on the institutional barriers in building relationships with stakeholders outside the U.S. mainland.

Similarly, **William Schanbacher, Dhalia Bumbaca, Luciana Jones, Ana Vidal, Christiane Barros-Adwell, Anthony Olivieri, and Jennifer Kue** offer a reflection of the collaboration between a university and community partners utilizing community-based research methods in *Setting tables for community food sovereignty: Building a food sovereignty toolkit*. They find that flexibility, adaptability and openness to new ideas are essential to successful engagement.

Next, in *Assessing the existence of food deserts, food swamps, and supermarket redlining in Saginaw: A small, racially segregated Mid-Michigan City* **Dorceta E. Taylor, Ashley Bell, Abdeali Saherwala, Storm Lewis, Greg Rybarczyk, and Richard Wetzel** call for a more nuanced categorization of food-insecure communities and more significant efforts to ensure that residents can find places to purchase food when they want to.

In *Failure to launch: An analysis of an attempted central kitchen pilot program to serve childcare meals*, **J. Dara Bloom, David Yates, Gizem Templeton, Emma Brinkmeyer, and Caroline Hundley** identify the four key factors leading to the demise of a farm-to-childcare project, including the underlying power dynamic between the funder and recipient, reliance on a single project champion, lack of buy-in from community stakeholders, and failure to involve the county health department early in the planning process.

In *Crafting a grassroots introduction to food policy course*, **William Schanbacher, Joe Bon, and Erica Hall** present a reflective essay providing insights from a pilot, public-facing virtual course that they developed and delivered in collaboration with a statewide food policy council.

Next, in *Unpacking innovation demands for climate-resilient mixed farming systems in sub-Saharan Africa: A case of northern Ghana*, **Abena Ofose, Thai Thi Minh, and Birhanu Zemadim Birhanu** find that climate-resilient innovations in sub-Saharan African contexts require multiple pathways, including innovation platforms, innovation bundling, multi-actor partnerships, inclusive finance, and multistakeholder dialogues.


Md Mahbul Alam, Sharjana Akter Shaba, and S. M. Ashik-Uz-Zaman then identify the factors in selecting in *What does matter most for farmers' choice of marketing channels? Evidence from coastal Bangladesh*, concluding that direct marketing is favored by smaller limited-resource operators, especially women.

Next, in *Understanding smallholder dairy productivity and poverty reduction in Eritrea: An A-WEAI approach*, **Stephen Onakuse, Lilian Treasure, Okbasilassie Msghina, and Kahsay Negash** use the innovative Abbreviated Women Empowerment in Agriculture Index (A-WEAI) to inform strategies to simultaneously boost productivity and market access and reduce poverty among female farmers.

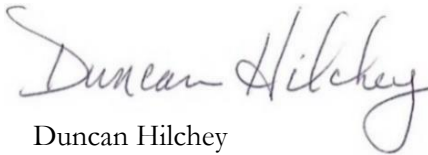
In our final open-call paper, entitled *Measuring community power: A scale to measure collective self-determination, Embodied Earth Care, and Ubuntu among urban farmers and gardeners*, **Ashley B. Gripper and Tori L. Cowger** report on the application of an innovative tool called Agriculture Community Power Scale (AgCPS), which breaks from more traditional methods of measuring well-being such as BMI and plant food consumption metrics.

We wrap up the issue with a review by **Christopher Shane Elliott** of the recent book *Handcrafted Careers: Working the Artisan Economy of Craft Beer* by Eli Revelle Yano Wilson.

Between the special issue focus on community-based circular food systems, the open-call articles, and the non-peer-reviewed articles, the spring 2025 issue is one of our biggest issues ever. I want to express my appreciation to all the volunteer reviewers, mentors, copyeditors (both volunteer and contract), and associate editors who contribute to the production of JAFSCD. It never ceases to amaze me how generous this group is, month after month.

We are aware that some of our volunteers may be deeply affected by the current political and economic climate. Managing Editor Amy Christian and I extend our best wishes in navigating these turbulent times. We stand with you, and if there is any way we can contribute to your professional development (such as writing a letter of support or serving as a reference), please do not hesitate to ask. 

In solidarity,



Duncan Hilchey
Publisher and editor-in-chief