

IN THIS ISSUE

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Surf and turf: JAFSCD looks at both land and seafood systems

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Again we run the gamut of food systems issues in this open call issue of JAFSCD, with our first paper focusing exclusively on seafood (I couldn't resist this kitschy title). Despite their fragile state and enormous contribution to the protein intake of people around the world, fisheries are a neglected topic in the food systems literature. We haven't tackled the research gap in this issue, but we may take a crack at it in the future. Please let me know if you think local fisheries and food systems are a good special topic call.

Loring et al.'s *Seafood as Local Food* provides another superlative: our first **JAFSCD Open Choice** publication. JAFSCD Open Choice allows papers to be published as freely accessible (not limited to subscribers). To ensure the broadest distribution of their paper, the authors have paid a fee that allows free access to the public. In addition, we're also sending out a press release promoting the topic and the authors. We hope other authors will consider this option as well. Learn more about [JAFSCD Open Choice](#).

We begin this surf-and-turf issue with our columnists. In her *Digging Deeper* column, **Kate Clancy** applies the concept of feedback loops to food systems work as an efficient method of tracking progress and making program adjustments. And in *Metrics from the Field*, **Ken Meter** looks at a new trend among food banks in working with local farmers (and perhaps even operating a farm!) to promote healthy food, farms, and communities.

Our first papers in the issue focus on food and farming systems in northern climes: *Seafood as Local Food: Food Security and Locally Caught Seafood on Alaska's Kenai Peninsula*. Using data collected in Alaska, **Philip A. Loring**, **S. Craig Gerlach**, and **Hannah L. Harrison** argue that responsibly managed fisheries can continue to be a sustainable source of food for locally oriented communities.

Meanwhile, on the other side of the continent (but only a slightly lower latitude), **Rebecca Schiff** and **Fern Brunger** identify the factors that have led to the success of food security projects in remote and extreme conditions, in *Northern Food Networks: Building Collaborative Efforts for Food Security in Remote Canadian Aboriginal Communities*.

Shifting even further east we come to Scotland, where **Bryan J. Hains**, **Ronald Hustedde**, and **Kristina G. Ricketts** have studied island-based small-scale land-holders (crofters) who are managing to maintain and even expand a long-standing way of life despite limited resources and markets, in *21st Century Crofting: Strengths and Opportunities for Community Development*.

Next is a set of quantitative papers that offer new and improved methods for understanding food systems economics. In *An Economic Impact Comparative Analysis of Farmers' Markets in Michigan and Ontario*, **Richard C. Sadler**, **Michael A. R. Clark**, and **Jason A. Gilliland** use customer surveys and kernel density analysis to explore the special distribution of farmers' market customers in two different marketscapes and to suggest ways of targeting critical new customers, especially in food-insecure neighborhoods.

David Conner, **Florence Becot**, **Doug Hoffer**, **Ellen Kahler**, **Scott Sawyer**, and **Linda Berlin** follow up with a new and improved methodology for local consumption estimates in *Measuring Current Consumption of Locally Grown Foods in Vermont: Methods for Baselines and Targets*.

In *Toward an Informative and Applied Methodology for Price Comparison Studies of Farmers' Markets and Competing Retailers at the Local Scale* by **Joshua Long**, **M. Anwar Sounny-Slitine**, **Katherine Castles**, **Jillian Curran**, **Harrison Glaser**, **Ellen Hoyer**, **Whitney Moore**, **Lisa Morse**, **Molly O'Hara**, and **Ben Parafina** improve upon previous methods of local food price comparisons. They offer their system as a replicable and adaptable method for doing farmers' market customer analysis.

In a nod to our forthcoming summer issue on food systems research priorities, **David C. Campbell**, **Ildi Carlisle-Cummins**, and **Gail Feenstra** demonstrate how bibliographic research can help guide future research and practice in *Community Food Systems: Strengthening the Research-to-Practice Continuum*. We will be making the paper open access for two months this summer to encourage use by researchers and practitioners and will be spreading the word about it through a press release.

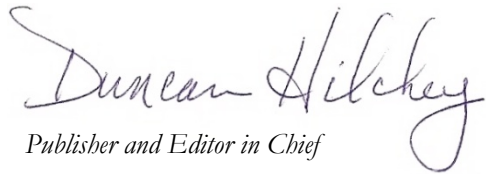
In *Strengthening Informal Seed Systems To Enhance Food Security in Southeast Asia*, **Thomas B. Gill**, **Ricky Bates**, **Abram Bicksler**, **Rick Burnette**, **Vincent Ricciardi**, and **Laura Yoder** present the two-step approach they used for strengthening such systems as a food security strategy in rural Cambodia and Thailand.

Sheila R. Castillo, **Curtis R. Winkle**, **Stephen Krauss**, **Amalia Turkewitz**, **Cristina Silva**, and **Edie S. Heinemann** identify seven perceived barriers to urban and peri-urban agriculture in and around Chicago in *Regulatory and Other Barriers to Urban and Peri-urban Agriculture: A Case Study of Urban Planners and Urban Farmers from the Greater Chicago Metropolitan Area*.

Returning us to the seafood system, **Jennifer S. Evans-Cowley** and **Angel Arroyo-Rodríguez** present a case study of an innovative three-step planning process used to engaged stakeholders in assessing food waste through a regional foodshed in *Integrating Food Waste Diversion into Food Systems Planning: A Case Study of the Mississippi Gulf Coast*.

And finally, food systems practitioner and author **Bethann G. Merkle** reviews the Community Food Security Coalition's monograph *Whole Measures for Community Food Systems* (2009), and finds that its companion publication, *Whole Measures for Community Food Systems: Stories from the Field*, published in 2012, fills some of the original's critical gaps.




Publisher and Editor in Chief