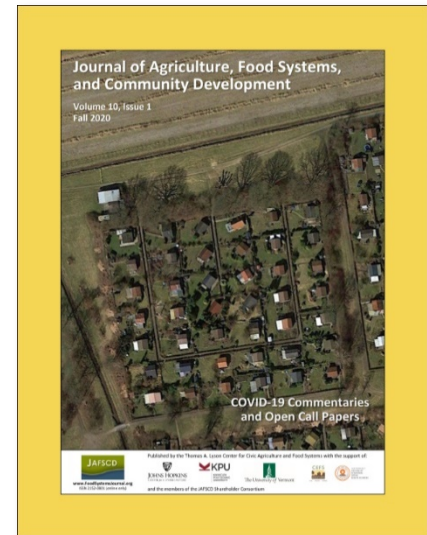


**IN THIS ISSUE**  
**DUNCAN HILCHEY**

**COVID-19 commentaries and open call papers**



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**JAFSCD**  
**Responds to**  
**the COVID-19**  
**Pandemic**



The cover of this open call issue of JAFSCD is a Google Earth shot of the Schrebergartens outside Mannheim, Germany. Schrebergartens are named for Dr. Moritz Schreber, a Leipzig University professor who specialized in pediatric health. He is infamous for advocating that children strictly obey adults, but he also suggested that city children should have access to fresh air and green space. Schrebergartens are similar in some respects to the Russian dacha, often including “tiny houses,” raised beds, perennials—and lots of garden gnomes. Entire colonies of Schrebergartens have been established since WWII.

While Schrebergartens have been seen as quaint and outdated by some, there are about one million gardens and a five-year waiting list to obtain one. They have traditionally been the haunt of retirees or lower-income residents, but the current uptick in demand seems to be driven by millennials looking for refuge from the hectic pace of modern German life. Could we see this type of urban garden culture leap the Atlantic? After all, we have plenty of millennials looking for a respite from their phones, laptops, and gaming systems. More importantly, we have under-privileged urban residents who might enjoy having their own tiny house and the serenity of a food and flower garden.

**John Ikerd** starts off our issue with his Economic Pamphleteer column, *A Fair Deal for rural America*. Building on his series of columns analyzing America’s food and farm policy agenda, Ikerd argues that the U.S. government’s approach to rural development is not only woefully inadequate but, in fact, contributes to persistent poverty.

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*On our cover:* A Google Earth view of a Schrebergarten colony near Mannheim, Germany (49° 29' 43.42" N, 8° 30' 39.66" E). Schrebergartens, Germany’s version of community or allotment gardens, provide fresh air, produce, flowers, and respite from intensive urban life.

Following Ikerd's column, appropriately, is a fresh set of perspectives from grassroots food system practitioners and professionals in four Voices from the Grassroots essays:

- *How CARES of Farmington Hills, Michigan, responded to the COVID-19 pandemic*, by **Thomas Schoenfeldt**,
- *Community gardening during times of crisis: Recommendations for community-engaged dialogue, research, and praxis*, by **Angie Mejia, Manami Bhattacharya, Amanda Nigon-Crowley, Kelly Kirkpatrick, and Chandi Katoch**,
- *Operation Community Impact responds to food insecurity and challenges faced by dairy producers*, by **Stacey F. Stearns, William P. Davenport, and Jennifer E. Cushman**, and
- *Observations and suggestions during COVID-19: Harnessing pre-existing elements to increase food security*, by **Neil Cox and Zoe Beynon-MacKinnon**.

For our open call, peer-reviewed papers, we start off with *Multi-objective optimization identifies trade-offs between self-sufficiency and environmental impacts of regional agriculture in Baden-Württemberg, Germany*, by **Christian Buschbeck, Larissa Bitterich, Christian Hauenstein, and Stefan Pauliuk**, in which the authors present an innovative study examining how social and environmental benefits in regional food systems might be balanced.

Next, **Naudé Malan** presents a reflective essay of his work in a university-based “social lab” focused on agroecology and food systems in *iZindaba Zokudla: A conversation about food systems change in South Africa*. In *Evaluating food hubs: Reporting on a participatory action project*, **Erin Nelson** and **Karen Landman** report on their critical work to develop and encourage the use of participatory food hub evaluation tools.

In *A gap analysis of farm tourism microentrepreneurial mentoring needs in North Carolina, USA*, **Bruno Ferreira, Duarte B. Morais, Adriana Szabo, Becky Bowen, and Susan Jakes** use self-efficacy measures of both farmers and cooperative extension to identify training-the-trainer needs in supporting rural microenterprises. In *Oregon farmers' perspectives on motivations and obstacles to transition to certified organic*, **Deanna Lloyd** and **Garry Stephenson** present the results of an exploratory study into the motivations and obstacles of farmer transition to certified organic production.

**Jennifer E. Gaddis, Amy K. Copen, Molly Clark-Barol, Allea Martin, Claire K. Barrett, and Lauren Lubowicki** then use photovoice to explore how low-income families are affected by diet-related health programs in *Incorporating local foods into low-income families' home-cooking practices: The critical role of sustained economic subsidies*.

In *Is the college farm sustainable? A reflective essay from Davidson College*, **Amanda Green, David Martin, and Gracie Gharthey-Tagoe** shed light on the challenges of institutionalizing a liberal arts-based college farm. Next, **Cody Gusto** and **John M. Diaz** review the literature and call for a more significant effort to document farmers market managers' perceptions and motivations, and the barriers they face, in administering SNAP-based incentive programs in *Toward a framework for assessing managerial intentions: A review of support for market managers' engagement with nutrition incentive programs*.

In the final peer-reviewed paper, *Making seafood accessible to low-income and nutritionally vulnerable populations on the U.S. West Coast*, **J. Zachary Koehn, Emilee Quinn, Jennifer Otten, Edward Allison, and Christopher M. Anderson** used a “positive deviant” approach to explore how to close the gap in supplying healthy seafood to vulnerable populations.

Next, we offer another large batch of commentaries reflecting on COVID-19's effects on food systems around the world, including:

1. *Providing planetary health diet meals to low-income families in Baltimore City during the COVID-19 pandemic*, by **Richard D. Semba, Rebecca Ramsing, Nihaal Rahman, and Martin Bloem**

2. *Communication helped UConn Extension address the needs of agricultural producers*, by **Stacey F. Stearns** and **Joseph A. Bonelli**
3. *Leveraging informal community food systems to address food security during COVID-19*, by **Lindsey Haynes-Maslow**, **Annie Hardison-Moody**, and **Carmen Byker Shanks**
4. *COVID-19 amplifies local meat supply chain issues in South Carolina*, by **Steven Richards** and **Michael Vassalos**
5. *Community-led food resilience: Integrating grassroots food access into municipal emergency planning*, by **Sasha Avrutina**, **Hanah Murphy**, and **Eesha Patne**
6. *Vulnerabilities of the craft chocolate industry amidst the COVID-19 pandemic*, by **Jeana Cadby**
7. *COVID-19 responses: Food policy councils are “stepping in, stepping up, and stepping back,”* by **Anne Palmer**, **Abiodun T. Atoloye**, **Karen Bassarab**, **Larissa Calancie**, **Raychel Santo**, and **Kristen Cooksey Stowers**
8. *Interventions and compliance: How the response to COVID-19 reflects decades of retail food protection efforts*, by **Girvin L. Liggans**, **Devin K. Dutilly**, **Komita J. Carrington-Liggans**, **Mary B. Cartagena**, **Charles E. Idjagboro**, **Laurie B. Williams**, **Glenda R. Lewis**, **Mia B. Russell**, **Veronica S. Moore**, and **Robert Sudler, Jr.**
9. *Iteration, innovation, and collaboration: Supporting farmers markets' response to COVID-19*, by **Diana Broadway** and **Darlene Wolnik**
10. *ICT solutions to support local food supply chains during the COVID-19 pandemic*, by **Anuj Mittal** and **Jason Grimm**
11. *An initiative to develop 21st century regional food systems (Jump-started, by a US\$10 billion federal stimulus COVID package)*, by **Larry Yee** and **Jamie Harvie**
12. *Community Capitals Policing merges food economy and public safety, repairing decades of harm*, by **Martin J. Neideffer**
13. *Fostering food equity in an immigrant neighborhood of New York City during COVID-19*, by **Valerie Imbruce**
14. *Providing menu and shopping toolkits to improve food access and security during a pandemic*, by **Kelly Kunkel**, **Abby Gold**, and **Betsy Johnson**
15. *The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on food insecurity*, by **Maha Almohamad**, **Dania Mofleh**, and **Shreela Sharma**
16. *Food systems resilience through dialogue: Localizing a food systems approach in pandemic response*, by **Angela R. Hansen**, **Eilif Ronning**, and **Katie Collier**
17. *“Let us be small”: A case study on the necessity for intentionally small producers*, by **Alexandria G. Huber**

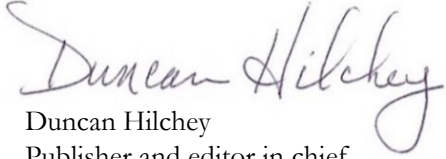
Wrapping up this last issue of 2020 are four book reviews:

- **David Everson** reviews *Indigenous Food Systems: Concepts, Cases, and Conversations*, edited by Priscilla Settee and Shailesh Shukla;
- **Joeva Rock** reviews *Food Security for Rural Africa: Feeding the Farmers First*, by Terry Leahy;
- **Jess Gerrior** reviews *Food Fights: How History Matters to Contemporary Food Debates*, edited by Charles C. Ludington & Matthew Morse Booker; and
- **Paul Lasley** reviews *Green, Fair, and Prosperous: Paths to a Sustainable Iowa*, by Charles E. Connerly.

As 2020 comes to a close, we again send our condolences to those who have lost loved ones, or lost jobs, or been affected in other ways by the pandemic. We have appreciated the opportunity to play a role by publishing these and previous commentaries as rapid responses to the pandemic. Our winter 2020–2021 issue will publish peer-reviewed papers and more commentaries on COVID-19. At this writing, the vaccine to

prevent infection is beginning to be distributed throughout the world. On behalf of the JAFSCD staff, I share our fervent belief that better days are ahead and that our shared movement to create an equitable and resilient food system will emerge stronger.

Happy holidays,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Duncan Hilchey". The signature is written in a dark ink and is positioned to the right of the typed name.

Duncan Hilchey  
Publisher and editor in chief