

Resolution No. 2015-14

A Resolution Creating a Food Council for the Purpose of Promoting a Local Food Policy to Promote Access to and Consumption of Healthy Food Options in Jefferson County.

WHEREAS, the availability of nutritious food for all citizens is essential to the health and well-being of the community, and whereas, local government has a proper role to play in ensuring that all citizens have access to an adequate and nutritious food supply;

WHEREAS, we recognize that there is tremendous opportunity for economic development in local food production for farmers, restaurant owners, food processors, distributors, and institutions.

WHEREAS, we recognize that access to high quality, locally produced food helps to improve the health and food security of the residents of the County.

WHEREAS, a robust and healthy local food economy will help preserve our agricultural heritage and encourage a new generation to become involved in agricultural endeavors.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF JEFFERSON COUNTY, KANSAS:

Section 1: Goals (Priority Areas for Study, Communication, and Action)

The Food Council seeks to identify the benefits, challenges and opportunities for a successful, sustainable local food system in Jefferson County. The JCFC will serve as a forum for discussion and coordination for community-wide efforts to improve the Jefferson County community's access to local food supply and distribution networks. Therefore, the JCFC will focus on the following priority areas:

- A. Invite and encourage local economic development and entrepreneurial opportunities related to food production and consumption
- B. Support for local producers, processors, and distributors of food products
- C. Increased education and awareness on the part of Jefferson County residents regarding the benefits of locally produced foods, leading to:
- D. Improved health outcomes
- E. Increased access to, and distribution of healthy, local food
- F. Identification, preservation, and/or sustainable development of local resources including soil, agricultural land, important breeds/cultivars, water, skilled labor, capital, and markets
- G. Positive environmental quality impacts
- H. Increased independence and community resiliency in our food system

Section 2: Membership

- A. Identify and invite local stakeholders to participate in meetings and commit to a three year term of involvement.
- B. Members shall be appointed by the Jefferson County Commission. Members shall be appointed the first year in a “staggered” manner – one third for a one-term year, one third for a two-year term, and one third for a three-year term.
- C. Nominations for vacant seats would be taken from the community at large and approved by the standing Council, according to a simple majority. These recommendations will then be taken to the County Commission for appointment.
- D. Our goal is to have as diverse an array as possible of stakeholders from all districts of the county and from the full socioeconomic spectrum, related to the local food system.
- E. Some examples of this diversity are:
 - i. Farmers
 - ii. City and State Officials
 - iii. Youth
 - iv. Senior Citizens
 - v. Community and Faith Based Organization
 - vi. Restaurants
 - vii. Food Security Representatives
 - viii. Food Processor and Distributors
 - ix. Economic Development Representatives
 - x. Health Professionals
 - xi. Agriculture Organizations
 - xii. Schools and Institutions
 - xiii. Grocery Stores
 - xiv. Consumers
 - xv. Banking Representatives

Section 3: Duties and Responsibilities

- A. Consider existing community policies which impact the goals of the Council
- B. Propose and advocate for policies which further the goals set forth by the Council
- C. Propose and promote projects within the community that advance the goals of the Council

Section 4: Jefferson County Food Council may actively seek funding for its activities.

We, the members of the Board of County Commissioners of Jefferson County, Kansas, do hereby support the Jefferson County Food Council.

PASSED AND APPROVED THIS 4TH DAY OF MAY, 2015.

/s/Richard Malm, Chair, Jefferson County Commission Board

/s/Lynn Luck, First District Commissioner

/s/Wayne Ledbetter, Second District Commissioner

Attest

/s/Linda M. Buttron, Jefferson County Clerk