

# ***"Building Community through Food"***

## **Illinois Food, Farms, and Jobs Act Public Act 96-0579**

### ***Why Now?***

We have an unprecedented opportunity and need to create jobs, economic opportunity, and revitalize our rural and urban communities by Illinois farmers growing the food and other farm products that Illinois customers buy:

- 95% of the food we eat is imported from outside the borders of Illinois
- Most of our annual \$50 billion consumer food bill is exported to non-Illinois farmers & businesses
- Illinois has the natural resources and agricultural heritage to grow most foods we buy
- Illinois' 12.8 million people increasingly want Illinois-grown products
- Many urban, suburban, and rural communities lack nearby access to fresh, healthy foods

### ***What does the Illinois Food, Farms, and Jobs Act do?***

- Implements an economic development strategy (*Local Food, Farms and Jobs: Growing the Illinois Economy*) to enrich Illinois families, businesses, communities, and the state's treasury
- Makes use of Illinois' abundant natural and built resources: rich farmland, temperate climate, diverse farming heritage, transportation infrastructure, large and diverse eater population
- Implements long-term public health strategies to curb childhood diabetes, obesity, cardiovascular disease, and other chronic illnesses
- Ensures our preparedness in the event of a natural or human created emergency
- Releases the entrepreneurial spirit of every Illinois resident

### ***How will these goals be accomplished?***

- Direct state agencies to align their missions in support of this economic development, public health, and emergency preparedness strategy
- Facilitate reaching local food procurement goals for 2020: 20% for state institutions, 10% for state-funded institutions
- Assemble a team that harmonizes and streamlines rules and regulations affecting local food entrepreneurship (production, processing, marketing, waste management)
- Create Illinois Local Food, Farms, and Jobs Council to coordinate local food networks and to pool funds from federal agencies and private entities to build local farm and food systems
- Expand the statewide network of grassroots local food projects, businesses, and networks into a formal grassroots coalition

**Legislative History**  
**Illinois Food, Farms, and Jobs Act (HB3990)**

- ❖ Introduced by State Rep. Julie Hamos (Evanston) (March 2009)
- ❖ Senate Sponsor: Sen. Jacqueline Collins (Chicago)
- ❖ Illinois Local Food, Farms, and Jobs Council appointed by Gov. Quinn (Dec. 2009)
- ❖ Illinois Local Food, Farms, and Jobs Council held first meeting (March 2010)

***Getting connected***

Read Report  
***Local Food, Farms and Jobs: Growing the Illinois Economy*** (March 2009)

**[www.foodfarmsjobs.org](http://www.foodfarmsjobs.org)**

**Illinois Local Food, Farms, and Jobs Council**

- Attend meetings
- Join a Council committee
- Nominate yourself for Council membership (terms are staggered)

**<http://appointments.illinois.gov/>**

**Illinois Local Food and Farms Coalition**

Yahoo group and list-serv founded in 2007

**<http://tech.groups.yahoo.com/group/IllinoisLocalFoods/>**

Illinois Local Food and Farms Coalition is a statewide rural-urban, grassroots network of individuals and organizations working to create fully functioning local food and farming systems in Illinois -- field to fork, farmer to customer.

- Join list-serv to share news, opinions, policy updates
- Invest in building the coalition

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