

Prepared by Debbie Hillman
Evanston Food Council (co-founder and chairperson)
Illinois Local Food and Farms Coalition (co-founder)
Illinois Local Food, Farms, and Jobs Council (co-founder)

ILLINOIS FOOD AND FARM SYSTEM SCHEMATIC
as Described in ***Local Food, Farms, and Jobs: Growing the Illinois Economy*** (2009)

A Report to the Illinois General Assembly as commissioned by the
Illinois Food, Farms, and Jobs Act of 2007

A. Production

- Farmers
- Farm labor
- Farmland
- Diversified farm production (food and non-food products)

B. Infrastructure

- Aggregation, processing, distribution, storage, packaging

C. Customer Access

- Farmer knowledge of, access to, and trust in markets
- Consumer access to retail outlets selling a variety of high-quality foods
 - Neighborhood stores
 - Co-ops
 - Gardens
 - Farmers markets
 - Farm stands
 - Food assistance programs (SNAP, WIC, Senior coupons)
 - Food banks, pantries, soup kitchens

D. Food Waste Management*

E. Systems Building (interconnections)

- Public awareness
- Financing
 - Local financial institutions
 - State farm financing programs
 - Create public-private lending
 - Federal financing resources
- Regulations (local, state, federal, inter-state)
 - Consistency
 - Transparency
 - Training
 - Outreach
 - Appropriateness to local scale
 - Value of local farms to local economy (farmland taxes in urban and suburban jurisdictions)
- Data and information
 - Relevant
 - Coordinated
 - Accessible
- Resource centers: Knowledge bases
 - Schools, colleges, universities
 - University of Illinois Extension
- System coordination: Network of networks
 - Local farm and food action groups
 - Statewide communities of practice
 - Statewide food council (Illinois Local Food, Farms, and Jobs Council)

**Food waste management* was erroneously omitted in the iFFJA report. It is a core component of any complete food and farm system