



Junction City & Geary County, KS Community Food System Assessment

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This report was prepared by Barbara LaClair, of LaClair Consulting Services, under contractual agreement with the LiveWell Geary County and the Food Policy Council of Junction City.



LaClair Consulting Services

From Data to Information

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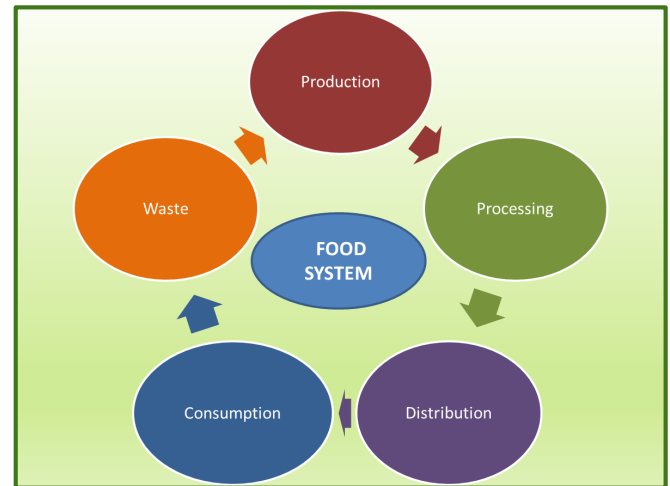
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Healthy and robust community food systems help to support and sustain healthy communities and strong local economies. The types and amounts of food that are available within a community, and the ways in which that food is presented and made available to members of the community population can exert profound influence on eating behaviors of community members and, in turn, community health outcomes. Food, and the many processes involved in producing it and eventually bringing it to a consumers' table, also generates significant economic activity and jobs within the community.

One of the key steps to understanding a community food systems' current strengths and gaps is to conduct a comprehensive assessment of the food system, looking at all aspects of how food moves through a community, from farm to consumer's table and beyond. A community food assessment may also examine inputs needed to support a local food system, such as access to farmland and water, and community impacts such as economic and environmental impacts of the food system. In conducting a community food system assessment, data may be assembled from multiple secondary data resources, and combined with new data and input collected within the community of interest.



Model of a Food System

This reports summarizes the results of an assessment of the Geary County food system. It brings together data and information from numerous secondary data sources with input from community members and stakeholders to create a description of the current food system in the county. Highlights of assessment findings include:

Demographics - Geary County is a semi-rural county in Kansas, with a total population of approximately 36,000 people. The county's population is relatively young (median age = 26.4 years) compared to most of Kansas, and rich in cultural diversity. The presence of Fort Riley at the northern edge of the county exerts strong influence on the county in many ways, including the culture of the community, high rates of population diversity, high rates of mobility among the population, and significant contributions to the local economy. Junction City, the county seat, is the only city in Geary County with a population greater than 2,000 people.

Farming and Food Production - Outside of Junction City, the remainder of Geary County is mostly rural in makeup, and has a strong agricultural presence. In 2012, there were 238 farms operating within the county, on nearly 146,000 acres of farmland. Sales from those farms totaled \$30,357,000 in 2012. Farming is dominated by production of grain crops, hay, and beef cattle. In 2012, only 5 farms reported growing vegetables, and 2 reported having acreage in orchards. Fruit and vegetable production accounted for less than 0.02% of all cropland in the county.

Food Processing and Distribution Infrastructure - Currently, there is limited food processing or manufacturing infrastructure operating within Geary County. Armour-Eckrich, a division of Smithfield Meats, operates a plant in Junction City that produces processed meat and fresh pork products.

The Retail Food Environment - Residents of Geary County are served by seven retail grocery stores, including the Commissary at Fort Riley and three specialty ethnic groceries. In addition, there are three Farmers' Markets in the County (all in Junction City), and numerous restaurants including 26 fast food outlets.

Access to Healthy Foods - Consumers' access to healthy food options may be limited by either of two factors - 1) challenges getting to a retail location that sells healthy foods, or 2) not having enough money to be able to purchase healthy foods. Both types of access limitations exist in Geary County. Based upon 2015 data, USDA has identified four census tracts in Geary County that meet the definition of a "food desert," defined as a location where a significant portion of residents are low-income and must travel 1 mile or more to a grocery store if they live in an urban area, or more than 10 miles in a rural area. All of the food desert tracts are located in Junction City. Significant numbers of Geary County residents also have limited access to healthy food options because they cannot afford to purchase the food. This condition is often referred to as "food insecurity." In, 2014, an estimated 19.1% of Geary County households experienced food insecurity at some time during the year. Nearly one in four (23.9%) of children lived in a household that experienced food insecurity. Many Geary County residents rely upon Federally-sponsored food assistance programs to help meet their nutritional needs. About 4,800 K-12 students in Geary County were eligible to receive either free or reduced-priced school meals during the 2015-2016 school term. About 3,100 Geary County residents received assistance through the SNAP program in 2015.

Consumer Eating Behaviors - Across the nation and in Kansas, the diets of consumers are poorly aligned with current dietary guidelines. Most adults tend to eat more than recommended amounts of grains and protein foods, and too little fruit, vegetables and dairy foods. In Geary County, available data indicate that about one-quarter (24.5%) of adults eat vegetables less than one time per day, and more than four in ten (42.9%) eat fruits less often than once per day.

Economics - Food is big business, and the local food system is a major contributor to the local economy. Geary County residents spend about \$93 million per year on food purchases. Sales from Geary County farms totaled more than \$30 million in 2012. The Kansas Department of Agriculture estimates that the agricultural and food sectors employ about 800 people in Geary County and contribute about \$198 million annually to the local economy.

Community Member Perspectives - Through the Geary County FEAST event and a Community Survey, community residents and stakeholders were invited to share their perspectives and thoughts about current assets, gaps and priorities in the Geary County food system. They

responded generously, with approximately 40 individuals participating in the FEAST event and more than 300 completing the survey, and they provided valuable input. The results suggest that Geary County consumers are engaged and interested in seeing positive changes in their community's food system. Although current levels of satisfaction with the local food system are reasonably high, many suggestions for change were offered. Concern about food prices was a recurrent theme throughout the survey results. The cultural diversity of the community population was also evidenced by the range of responses to questions about foods that are currently hard to find in the community and changes that community members would like to see. Interest in both community gardening and food-related learning opportunities was strong, suggesting areas that the new Food Policy Council might consider tackling early-on.

Conclusion

The results and findings from this community food assessment provide many data points that help to describe the community food system in Geary County, and begin to identify current assets and gaps within that food system. In addition to the substantial amounts of data and information pulled together from multiple secondary data sources, engaged community members have shared their thoughts and perspectives on what is currently working well and what they would like to see changed. The challenge for the Junction City Food Policy Council and LiveWell Geary County will be to study and digest all of this information, and then use it to establish priorities and formulate action plans that lead to a stronger community food system that serves the needs of all members of the community.



INTRODUCTION

Food is a basic human need. Healthy diets that provide appropriate levels of calories and nutrients are essential for good health and active lifestyles. In the United States, there is a plentiful supply of food to meet the nutritional requirements of the population. Despite that plentiful supply, however, many Americans do not eat balanced and healthy diets. Obesity rates have steadily increased over the past several decades. At the same time, a significant segment of the population worries about not having access to enough food. The reasons for this disconnect are complex. Individual eating choices and behaviors are influenced by a variety of factors including cultural backgrounds, taste, food availability and prices, food marketing, food preparation requirements and time constraints, nutritional knowledge and more. In recent years, a growing number of research studies have shown that the food context or environment in which an individual lives can exert profound influence upon that person's eating behaviors. This growing awareness of the importance of community-level food environments, coupled with emerging concerns about food production methods and nutritional quality of available foods, has resulted in growth in the numbers of community-level food policy councils established for the purpose of building more robust and self-sustaining local food systems that offer access to healthy food choices for all community members.



For many newly-established food policy councils or food coalitions, completion of a community food assessment (CFA) is an important early step. A CFA is a process that systematically examines a broad range of community food issues and assets, with the focus usually at a systems level. The purpose of a CFA is to provide an objective basis for developing action plans to build and strengthen the community's food system. A community food assessment can be an important tool to gain a deeper understanding of the community's current food environment. The CFA can help in identifying what is currently working well and where there are gaps or opportunities to strengthen the food system and ensure that all members of the community have access to healthy food options.

The scope and content of a community food assessment may vary from one community to the next depending upon the interests, priorities, and resources of the community stakeholders who commission the process. While some assessments may be comprehensive and include all aspects of a food system, others may be more narrowly focused on specific aspects of the overall food system. This report summarizes findings of the first food system assessment conducted by the Junction City Food Policy Council.

HISTORY AND PURPOSE OF THE FOOD COUNCIL

The Junction City Food Policy Council was established by the City Commission in May of 2016. The stated goal of the Food Policy Council is to identify the benefits and challenges of and opportunities for a successful, sustainable local food system in Junction City. The Junction City Food Policy Council serves as a permanent work group under Live Well Geary County.

In August of 2016, the Junction City Food Policy Council contracted with Barbara LaClair of LaClair Consulting Services for assistance in completing their first Community Food Systems Assessment. In preparation for the Community Food Assessment, members of the Food Policy Council identified a number of questions that they were particularly interested in investigating as part of the Assessment process. Those questions are outlined in the box below.

Goals for the Geary County Community Food Assessment Identified by the Food Policy Council of Junction City

Food Insecurity in Junction City

- Causes
- Availability/ desire for a healthier diet
- Has the bus system helped?
- What solutions have worked for other counties?
- Are food-insecure individuals aware of the resources out there?
- Why else may they not seek out help?
- What resources, if any, are they currently using?
- Potential motivating factors to create change in their diet/ way of life?
- Why is there a SNAP enrollment gap?—69% of residents are eligible, 10% participate.

Farmers' Market

- Does the community want another location? We know that stakeholders do.
- What are the problems with the Saturday morning market? It has low attendance, is not attractive to vendors, has previously excluded large farms.
- Feasibility of a mobile farmers' market. We currently have a mobile food pantry, Wheels of HOPE.
- Why are SNAP participants not using their benefits at the farmer's market? We are starting a dollar-for-dollar matching program in July of 2016.
- How can we make the senior voucher system more accessible to both vendors and customers?

Food and Education

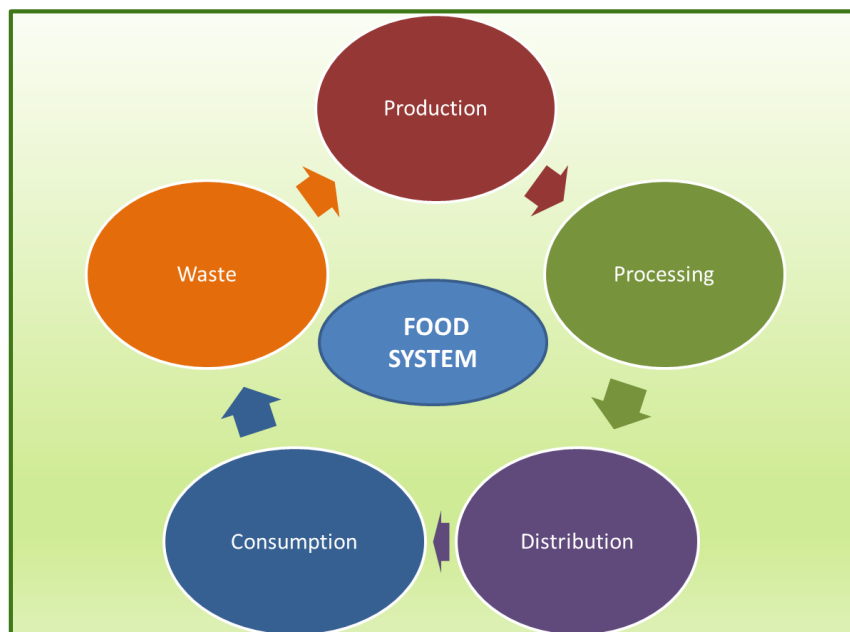
- Expanding the capacity of the backpack program
- How can we increase attendance at the adult education program?
- Would increasing food and nutrition education of families increase healthy food consumption?
- What type of education do we even need to provide?

Multiculturalism

- How can we tap into the numerous cultures that we have in Junction City through food?

THE CONCEPT OF A FOOD SYSTEM

Most Community Food Assessments are structured around the concept of food systems, taking a systems-level perspective on the ways that food moves and cycles through a community. In the words of the Oregon Food Bank, a food system is “the sum of all activities required to make food available to people.” A food system includes all of the processes and infrastructure that are involved in feeding a population: growing or food production, harvesting, processing and packaging, transportation and distribution, marketing and retail sales, consumption, and disposal of food-related wastes. A simplistic model of a food system is shown in the figure below. While not explicitly depicted in this illustration, a food system would also include all of the inputs needed and outputs generated in each step of the cycle, such as natural resources, human resources and labor, and economic impacts. Considerations such as access to healthy food options within a community, and food justice and equity issues are also frequently included in a Community Food Assessment. A food system operates within the context of its community, and may be influenced by the social, political, and economic environments.



FOOD ASSESSMENT METHODOLOGY

This community food system assessment was conducted using three approaches: 1) secondary analysis of existing, publicly available data that describe or measure various characteristics of the current food system in Geary County, 2) primary data collection through a survey of community residents, and 3) primary data collection using the FEAST approach to gathering community input and perspectives. Secondary data sources and measures used in the first portion of the assessment are identified in more detail in the body of the report and in the references section. Results from the community survey and FEAST events are summarized in subsequent sections of the report.

FEAST, which stands for Food, Education, Agriculture Solutions Together, is a community organizing process that was developed by staff of the Oregon Food Bank. FEAST events bring together selected community stakeholders to engage in an informed and facilitated discussion about food, education and agriculture in their community and begin to work toward solutions together to help build a healthier, more equitable and more resilient local food system. The Junction City Food Policy Council hosted a FEAST event on October 15, 2016 in Junction City. Approximately 40 community stakeholders representing various sectors of the local food system participated in a facilitated dialog to identify current assets and gaps in the local food system, and to prioritize needs.

To gather input from a wider cross-section of community members, a community survey was developed by representatives of the Junction City Food Council, working in collaboration with a consultant. Survey participation was invited through multiple convenience sampling strategies. Approximately 350 Geary County residents participated in the community survey.

Information from Secondary Data

GEARY COUNTY DEMOGRAPHICS

Geary County, Kansas is located in the northeast quadrant of Kansas, at the junctions of the Smoky Hill and Republican rivers. In terms of total land area, it is the 2nd smallest county in Kansas. Nearly 5 percent of the land area in Geary County is taken up by water. A substantial portion of Milford Lake, the state's largest man-made lake, is located within the county. In total, Milford Lake covers approximately 15,700 acres in water and a total of 33,000 acres of land resources.

The southern end of the Fort Riley Military Reservation is also located within Geary County, and adjacent to the community of Junction City. Junction City is the largest city in Geary County, and is the County Seat. Its population is drawn from many nationalities, and it is one of the most culturally diverse communities in Kansas. Two other smaller cities, Milford and Grandview Plaza, are located within Geary County borders. Milford is located in the northwestern corner of the county, on the east side of Lake Milford, and had a population of 530 in 2010. Grandview Plaza, located just east of Junction City along Interstate 70 Highway, had a population of 1,560 in 2010.

The presence of the Fort Riley military base at the northern border of Geary County exerts strong influence on both the culture and economy of the region. A recent report from the Fort Riley Public Affairs office shows that Fort Riley had a total economic impact to the Flint Hills region of \$1.7 Billion in Fiscal Year 2016 (United States Army Garrison, Fort Riley, Public Affairs Office, 2016). The same report indicated that Fort Riley contributed more than 67,000 people to the regional population, including 5,700 veterans and 1,700 retirees in Geary County. Families of Fort Riley military members enrolled 5,502 students in USD 475 (Junction City) schools, bringing in more than \$26 million in payments in Federal Impact Aid. The presence of the Fort also contributes to the rich cultural diversity of the region.



Population

According to U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey 2010-14 5-year estimates, a total of 36,458 people live within the 384.62 square mile area of Geary County. The county’s population density is estimated at 94.79 persons per square mile. Between the 2000 and 2010 decennial census enumerations, the Geary County population grew by about 6,400 individuals, or nearly 23 percent.

Geographic Area	Total Population	Total Land Area (Square Miles)	Population Density (Per Square Mile)
Geary County	36,458	384.62	94.79
Kansas	2,882,946	81,758.24	35.26
United States	314,107,083	3,531,932.26	88.93

Data Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey. 2010-14. Source geography: Tract

Geographic Area	Total Population, 2000 Census	Total Population, 2010 Census	Total Population Change, 2000-2010	Percent Population Change, 2000-2010
Geary County	27,947	34,362	6,415	22.95%
Kansas	2,688,419	2,853,118	164,699	6.13%
United States	280,405,781	307,745,539	27,339,758	9.75%

Data Source: US Census Bureau, [Decennial Census](#). 2000 - 2010. Source geography: Tract

Race/ethnicity of the Population

The population of Geary County is culturally diverse, with nearly one-third of the county residents self-identifying as a non-white race. In addition, nearly 14 percent of county residents self-identified as Hispanic or Latino ethnicity between 2010 and 2014. Although individuals who identify as Hispanic or Latino may be of any race, the majority in Kansas would usually be White. In comparison to the state-wide population of Kansas, the Geary County population reflects a higher level of overall cultural diversity, particularly with higher proportions of Black and Hispanic community members.

Total Population by Race Alone, Percent

Geographic Area	White	Black	Asian	Native American/ Alaska Native	Native Hawaiian/ Pacific Islander	Some Other Race	Multiple Races
Geary County	69.36%	16.74%	2.94%	0.49%	0.79%	1.23%	8.45%
Kansas	85.25%	5.8%	2.52%	0.82%	0.06%	2.25%	3.3%
United States	73.81%	12.6%	5%	0.82%	0.17%	4.7%	2.91%

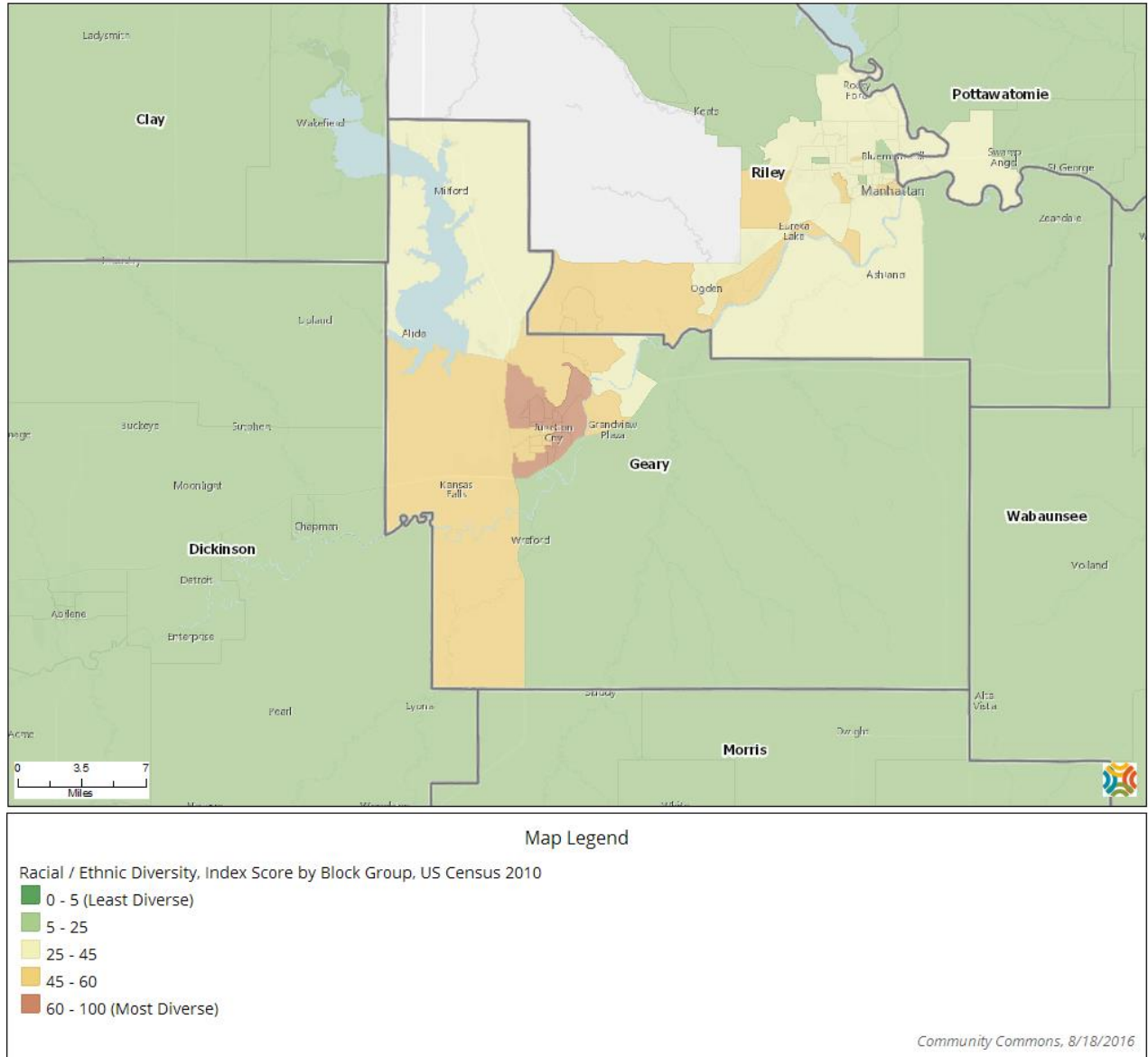
Total Population by Ethnicity Alone

Geographic Area	Total Population	Hispanic or Latino Population	Percent Population Hispanic or Latino	Non-Hispanic Population	Percent Population Non-Hispanic
Geary County	36,458	5,028	13.79%	31,430	86.21%
Kansas	2,882,946	316,141	10.97%	2,566,805	89.03%
United States	314,107,072	53,070,096	16.9%	261,036,992	83.1%

Data Source: US Census Bureau, [American Community Survey](#). 2010-14. Source geography: Tract

When looking at geographic distribution, the highest levels of racial/ethnic diversity are located within the city of Junction City, and along the western border of Geary County.

Geary co race/ethnic diversity 2010



Map generated using the Community Commons data system.

Foreign-Born Population

Approximately 7.2 percent of the Geary County population is foreign-born, a slightly higher percentage than the 6.9 percent statewide. The foreign-born population includes anyone who was not a U.S. citizen or a U.S. national at birth. This includes any non-citizens, as well as persons born outside of the U.S. who have become naturalized citizens. The native U.S. population includes any person born in the United States, Puerto Rico, a U.S. Island Area (such as Guam), or abroad of American (U.S. citizen) parent or parents.

Geographic Area	Total Population	Naturalized U.S. Citizens	Population Without U.S. Citizenship	Total Foreign-Birth Population	Foreign-Birth Population, Percent of Total Population
Geary County, KS	36,787	1,488	1,165	2,653	7.21%
Kansas	2,892,987	71,844	128,438	200,282	6.92%
United States	316,515,021	19,448,227	22,269,193	41,717,420	13.18%

Data Source: Community Commons. Original data source - US Census Bureau, [American Community Survey](#). 2011-15.

Languages Spoken

The cultural diversity of the Geary County population is also reflected in the number of different languages spoken by community residents. Approximately 4 percent of Geary County residents have limited English proficiency, a slightly lower percentage than the 4.5 percent statewide. Within that 4 percent of non-English speakers, however, there is considerable diversity in their native languages.

Geographic Area	Total Population, Age 5 years and older	Population with Limited English Proficiency	Percent of Population with Limited English Proficiency
Geary County, KS	32,483	1,327	4.09%
Kansas	2,692,267	120,838	4.49%

Data Source: Community Commons. Original data source - US Census Bureau, [American Community Survey](#). 2011-15.

Of the 1,327 Geary County residents who had limited English proficiency, more than fifteen different languages were spoken:

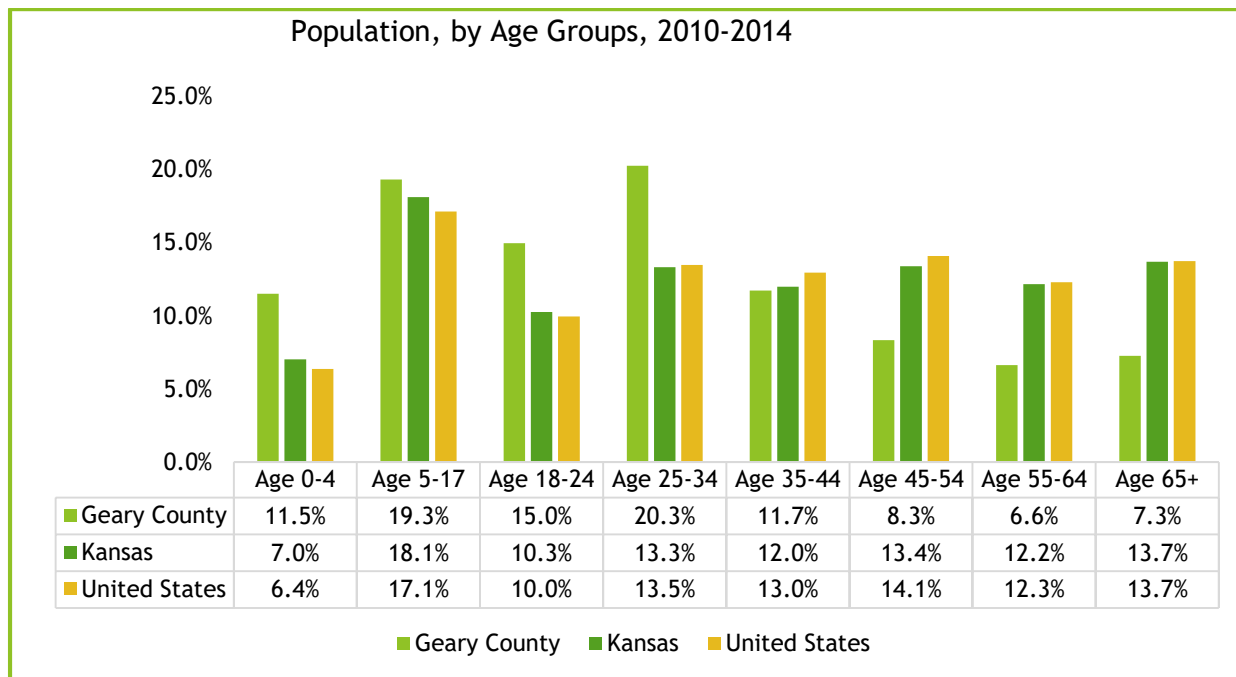
Language Group	Language	Number of Individuals
Spanish	Spanish	772
Indo European	Armenian	103
	Other Indic	7
	German	8
Asian/ Pacific Islander	Chinese	39
	Japanese	5
	Korean	121
	Vietnamese	65
	Thai	9
	Tagalog	16
	Laotian	18
	Other Pacific Islander Language	118
	Other Asian Language	9
Other Languages	Native North American, not Navajo	9
	Arabic	11
	African	10

Age of the Population

The population of Geary County is significantly younger than that of Kansas, or the United States. Between 2010 and 2014, the median age of Geary County residents was 26.4 years, compared to 36.0 years for all Kansans. Two-thirds (66.1 percent) of the Geary County population was less than 35 years old, compared to about one-half (48.7 percent) of the Kansas population. Only 13.9 percent of the Geary County was 55 years or older, compared to 25.9 percent of all Kansans.

Total Population by Age Groups

Geographic	Age 0-4	Age 5-17	Age 18-24	Age 25-34	Age 35-44	Age 45-54	Age 55-64	Age 65+
Geary County	4,196	7,043	5,457	7,389	4,274	3,036	2,417	2,64
Kansas	202,749	522,222	296,081	384,162	345,769	386,309	350,595	395,05
United States	19,973,712	53,803,944	31,273,296	42,310,184	40,723,040	44,248,184	38,596,760	43,177,96



Median Age

Geographic Area	Total Population	Median Age
Geary County	36,458	26.4
Kansas	2,882,946	36
United States	314,107,072	37.4

Data Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey. 2010-14.

Population by Gender

Geographic Area	Male	Female	Percent Male	Percent Female
Geary County, KS	18,745	17,713	51.42%	48.58%
Kansas	1,433,243	1,449,703	49.71%	50.29%
United States	154,515,152	159,591,920	49.19%	50.81%

Data Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey. 2010-14.

Households with Children

According to 2010-2014 American Community Survey estimates, 40 percent of all occupied households in Geary County were family households with one or more child(ren) under the age of 18. This is higher than the statewide proportion of 32.5 percent, reflecting the younger age of the Geary County population.

	Total Households	Total Family Households	Families with Children (Under Age 18)	Families with Children (Under Age 18), Percent of Total Households
Geary County	12,782	8,872	5,117	40.03%
Kansas	1,112,335	730,983	361,834	32.53%
United States	116,211,088	76,958,064	37,554,348	32.32%

Data Source: US Census Bureau, [American Community Survey](#). 2010-14.

Veteran Population

Between 2010 and 2014, nearly one-quarter (23.15%) of adult Geary County residents were Military Veterans, compared to 9.6 percent of Kansans. This difference is likely attributable to the presence of Fort Riley in Geary and Riley Counties. For the purposes of this measure, veteran status is defined as the percentage of the population age 18 and older that served (even for a short time), but is not currently serving, on active duty in the U.S. Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, or the Coast Guard, that served in the U.S. Merchant Marine during World War II.

Geographic Area	Total Population Age 18 and Over	Total Veterans	Veterans, Percent of Total Population
Geary County	21,182	4,903	23.15%
Kansas	2,140,767	204,538	9.55%
United States	239,305,216	20,700,712	8.65%

Data Source: US Census Bureau, [American Community Survey](#). 2010-14.

Geographic Mobility

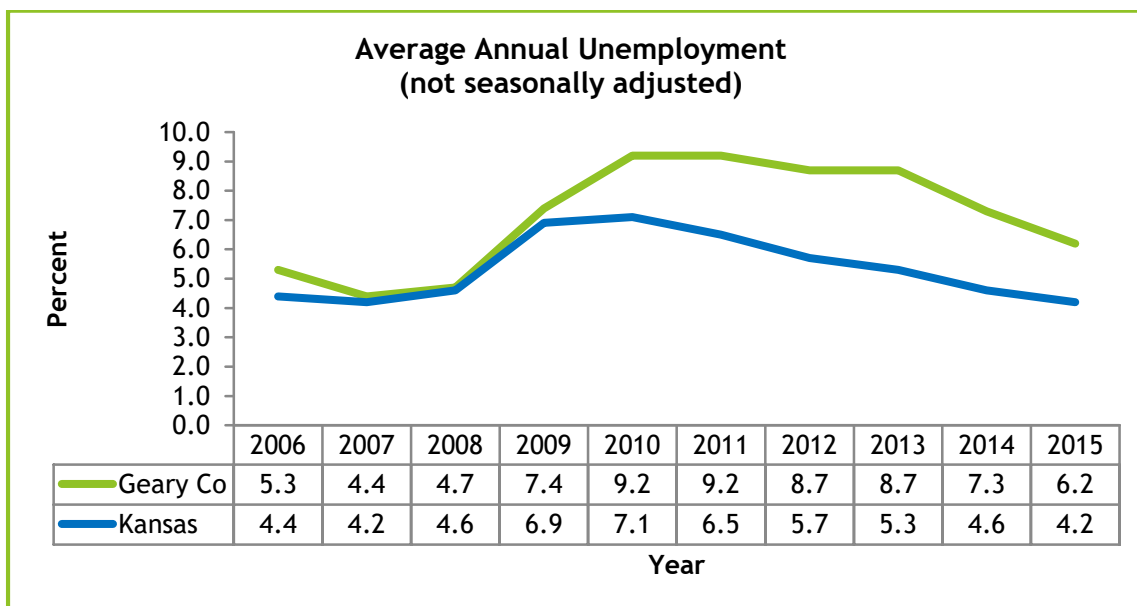
The Geary County population is also significantly more transient than Kansans as a whole, or the national population. According to the 2010-2014 American Community Survey, 18 percent of the Geary County population had relocated to the area from outside of the county during the previous year (residents who moved to different households within the county are not included in this measure). Frequent deployments from Fort Riley contribute to the high mobility rates of the Geary County population.

Geographic Area	Total Population	Population In-Migration	Percent Population In-Migration
Geary County	35,572	6,453	18.14%
Kansas	2,844,693	201,221	7.07%
United States	310,385,248	18,809,316	6.06%

Data Source: US Census Bureau, [American Community Survey](#), 2010-14.

Unemployment

During 2015, the estimated unemployment rate in Geary County was 6.5 percent, compared to 4.2 percent statewide. Although rates of unemployment in Geary County were similar to statewide rates between 2007 and 2009, they increased during 2010, and have remained higher than statewide rates through 2015. Unemployment rates consider only working-age adults who are actively seeking employment; those that are not currently in the workforce or have given up trying to find jobs are not reflected in these statistics.



Data source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, *Local Area Unemployment*

Poverty

Poverty is a condition defined by household income levels that are insufficient to support a modest standard of living. In the United States, the Census Bureau sets annual poverty level thresholds, based upon household size and income levels. These poverty thresholds are used to monitor poverty conditions in the U.S., and to define eligibility for numerous social welfare programs. In 2015, Federal Poverty Levels were set as shown below:

Household Size	Income
1	\$11,880
2	\$16,020
3	\$20,160
4	\$24,300
5	\$28,440
6	\$32,580
7	\$36,730
8	\$40,890

Overall rates of poverty in Geary County were estimated at 11.9 percent of the population during 2015, a rate that was slightly below the statewide rate of 12.9 percent. Among children age 0 to 17 years, 20.1 percent of children in Geary County lived in poor households, compared to 16.9 percent statewide.

	Percent in Poverty, All ages		Percent in Poverty, Under age 18		Median Income	
	Geary Co.	Kansas	Geary Co.	Kansas	Geary Co.	Kansas
2015	11.9%	12.9%	20.1%	16.9%	\$45,590	\$53,803
2014	13.9%	13.5%	20.4%	17.6%	\$41,193	\$52,392
2013	15.8%	13.9%	24.2%	18.4%	\$41,048	\$50,892
2012	13.0%	14.0%	25.1%	19.0%	\$46,008	\$50,140
2011	15.8%	13.8%	26.3%	18.8%	\$40,224	\$48,884
2010	12.1%	13.5%	15.7%	18.1%	\$43,691	\$47,888

Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates

Housing

The availability of affordable housing is also an important consideration in community access to healthy food, because households that are burdened with high housing costs may have less money available for purchasing food. Households that spend more than 30 percent of their household income on housing costs are considered to be cost-burdened. In Geary County, more than one-third (35.5%) of households spend more than 30% of their incomes on housing, compared to 26.4 percent of all Kansans. The majority (69.7%) of Geary County households with high housing costs are renters.

	Total Households	Cost-Burdened Households	Percent of Households That Are Cost-Burdened
Geary County	12,723	4,515	35.49%
Kansas	1,113,472	293,940	26.4%

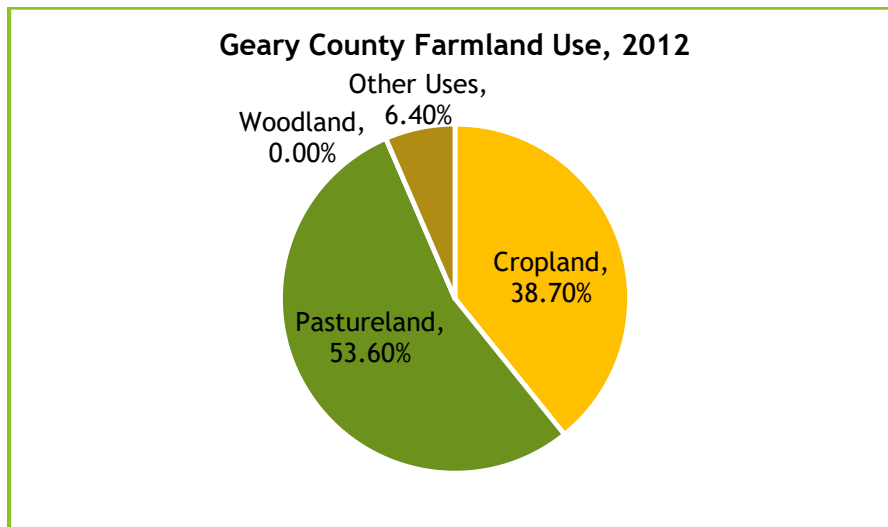
Data Source: Community Commons. Original data source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2011-2015.

NATURAL RESOURCES

Agriculture and food production are dependent upon having access to sufficient land, high-quality soils, and water to support crop or livestock production. This section examines the availability and use of these natural resources as it relates to food production.

Land Availability and Use

Geary County boundaries enclose an area approximately equal to 404 square miles, with 246,157 acres of land. Of that land, 145,694 acres (59 percent) was in use for farming in 2012.



Data Source: U.S. Census of Agriculture, 2012

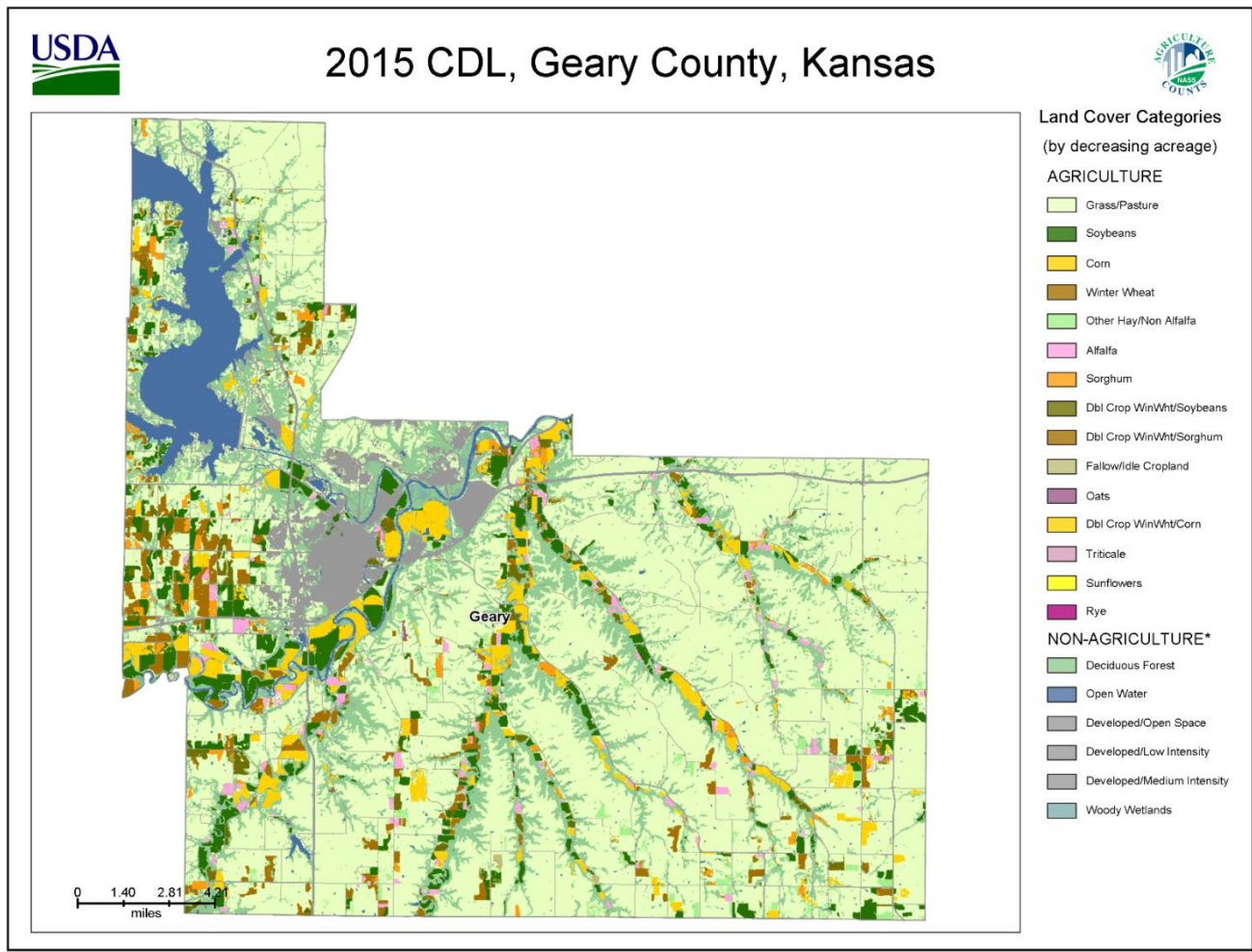
Geary County Cropland Data, 2012

Total Cropland Acres	Total Harvested Cropland	# of Farms with Cropland	# of Farms with Harvested Cropland	Idle Cropland or used for cover crops but not harvested or grazed, in Acres	Cropland – summer fallow in Acres	Other Pasture and Grazing Land that could be used for crops, in Acres	Land enrolled in CRP, WRP, or CREP, in Acres
57,871	48,029	209	155	6,421	180	2,670	6,333

In 2012, there was a total of 57,871 acres of cropland available in Geary County. About 83 percent of cropland acres were harvested in that year. Most of the remaining acres were out of production for conservation or management practices (fallow seasons, cover crops and conservation programs) that help to build soil quality, manage water quality and availability, provide wildlife habitat and protect sensitive

environments. About 2,600 acres were in use for pasture or grazing, but had soils that could be suitable for crop production.

The map below shows the locations where various types of crops were under production during 2015.



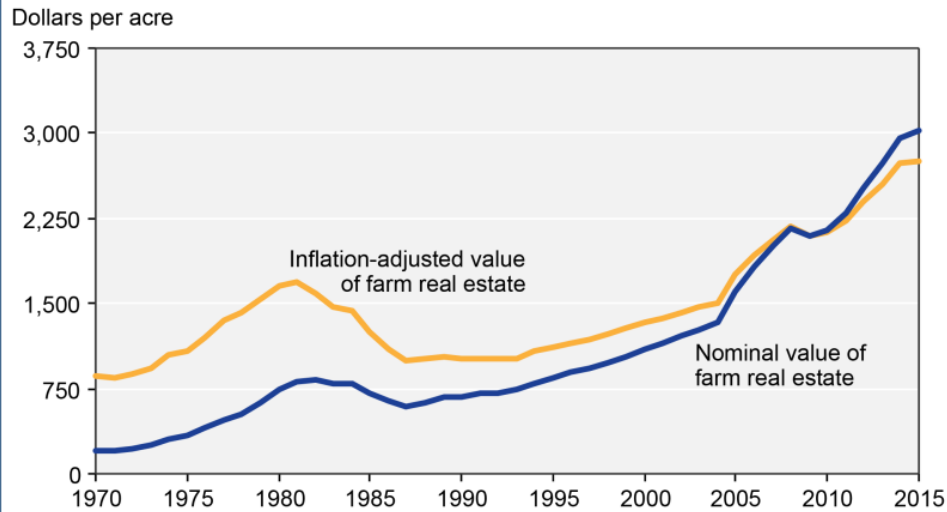
Source: USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Services, Cropscape system, <https://nassgeodata.gmu.edu/CropScape/>

Land Values

Access to land is essential for farming operations, and land holdings represent a significant asset on the farm balance sheet. When land values become too high, however, there may be negative impacts on the local food system. When land values are high and farming incomes are low, farm owners may be tempted to sell off land and essentially 'cash out', taking the capital gains from the high land prices. High land prices may also be a barrier for new farmers that lack the capital needed to purchase good farmland. Nationally, farmland values have risen steadily since the mid-1980s. Farmland values vary significantly by location, and may be influenced by factors such as the general economy, local farm economies, policies, and development pressures.

Within the state of Kansas, there is significant variation in farmland values by region and by county. Values are generally higher for cropland than pastureland, with irrigated croplands bringing higher prices than non-irrigate lands.

Average U.S. farm real estate value, nominal and real (inflation adjusted), 1970-2015



Note: Farm real estate includes land and buildings. Data reflect values as of June 1 of each year. Excludes Alaska and Hawaii. The GDP chain-type price index is used to convert NASS current-dollar statistics to 2009=100 equivalents (Bureau of Economic Analysis, Department of Commerce).
Source: USDA, Economic Research Service using data from USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS).

Kansas Farmland Values (\$/acre), 2014*

	Non-irrigated Cropland	Irrigated Cropland	Pasture
Kansas	\$2,990	\$5,195	\$1,802
Geary County	\$2,739	Data not available	\$1,651

*Values shown are for bare land, minimum 40 acres in size. Values are estimated by the Kansas Property Valuations Department

Data Source: (Taylor, 2014)

Farmland Cash Rents Values (\$/acre), 2012

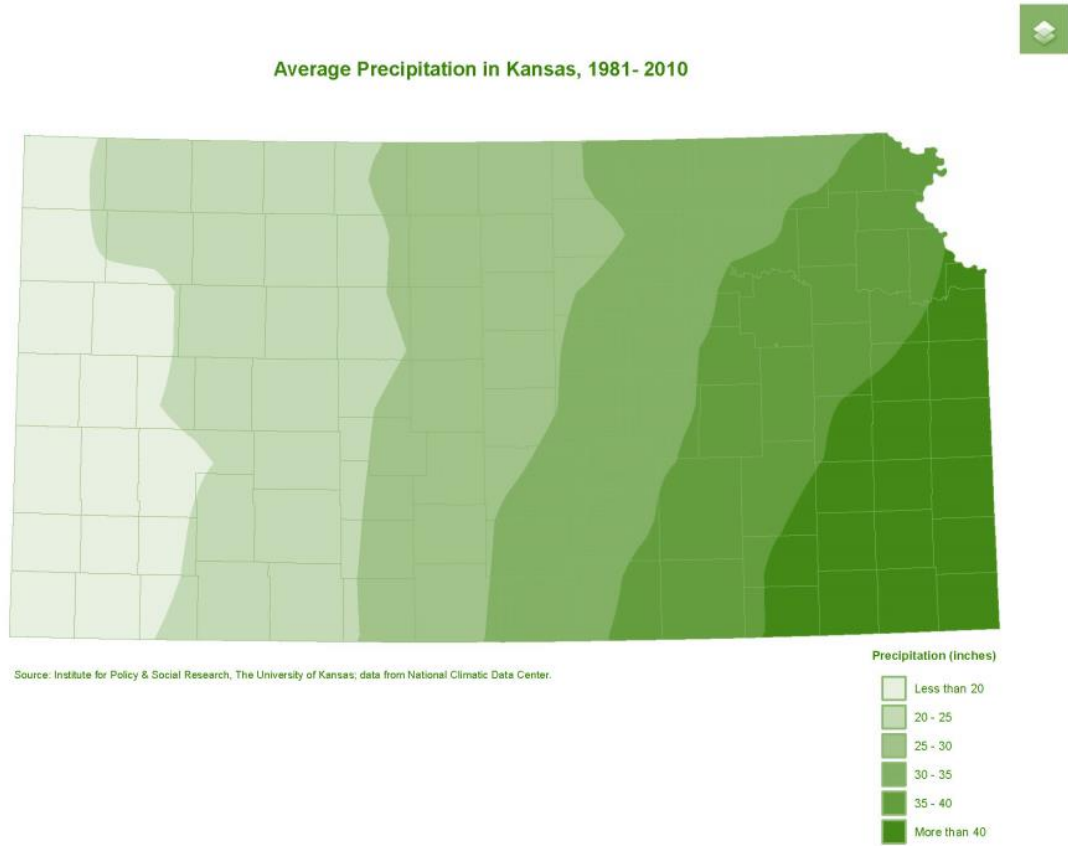
	Non-irrigated Cropland	Irrigated Cropland	Pasture
Kansas	\$52.50	\$119.00	\$16.50
Geary County	Data not available	Data not available	\$19.00

Data Source: (USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service, Kansas Field Office, 2012)

Water

In addition to quality soils, water is the other primary resource necessary to support crop and livestock production. In Western Kansas, where rainfall is less abundant and much of the water used in agriculture is obtained from aquifers, declining aquifer levels has become a significant concern. Eastern Kansas

counties typically experience higher annual precipitation levels, and are less dependent upon irrigation and surface or groundwater reservoirs for agricultural needs. During 2012, only 18 of the 238 farms in Geary County reported that they irrigated their farmlands.



Source: *Kansas Statistical Abstract, 2014*

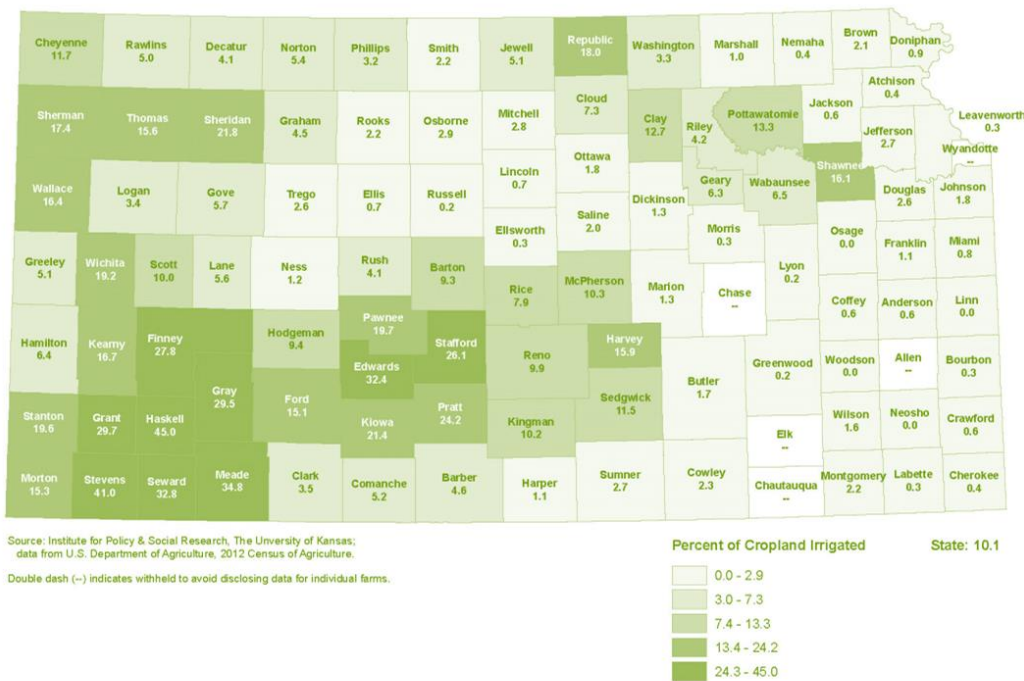
Irrigated Farmland in Geary County

Only a small number of Geary County farms use irrigation. Although the number of farms using irrigation was the unchanged from 2007 to 2012, then number of acres irrigated decreased by approximately 25 percent.

	2007	2012
Farms	18	18
Land in irrigated farms	44,842	33,032

Data Source: U.S. Census of Agriculture

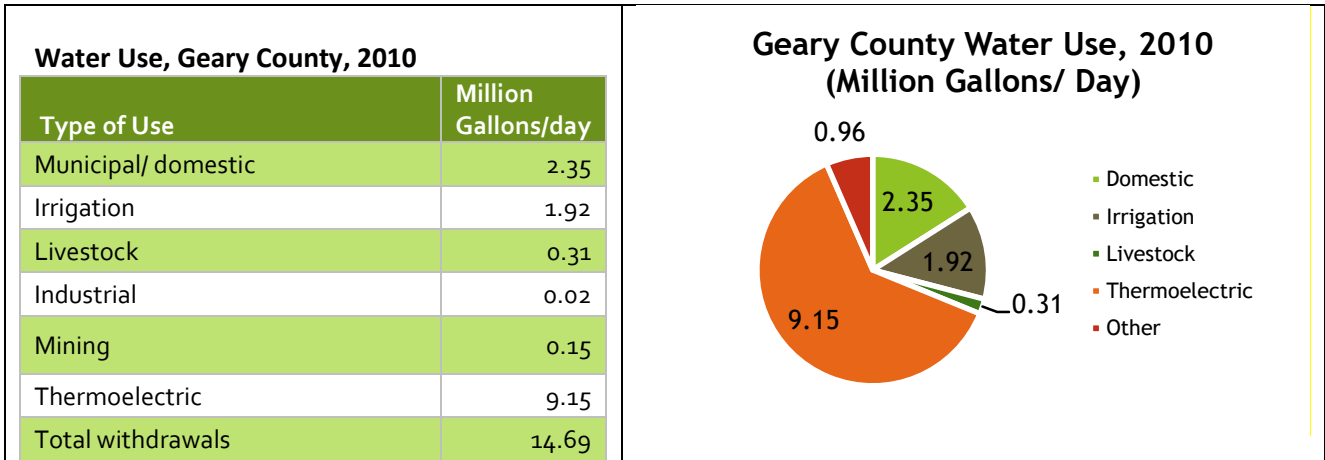
Percent of Cropland Irrigated in Kansas, by County, 2012



Source: Kansas Statistical Abstract, 2014

Water use

Water use statistics for Geary County reflect the low use of crop irrigation. Total agricultural water use in 2010, for crop irrigation and livestock combined, was less than the amount of water used for municipal and domestic purposes.



Data Source: U.S. Geologic Survey, Water Data

Definitions of water use categories:

- **Municipal/ domestic** - Household use (indoor or outdoor), and municipal water supply use
- **Irrigation** - Water applied by an irrigation system to support crop and pasture growth, or to maintain vegetation on recreational lands such as parks and golf courses
- **Livestock** - Water used for livestock watering, feedlots, dairy operations, and other on-farm needs
- **Industrial** - Water used for fabrication, processing, washing and cooling
- **Mining** - Water used for the extraction of naturally-occurring minerals (such as coal, sand and gravel), liquids (such as crude petroleum) and gases (such as natural gas)
- **Thermoelectric** - Water used in the process of generating electricity with steam-driven turbine generators

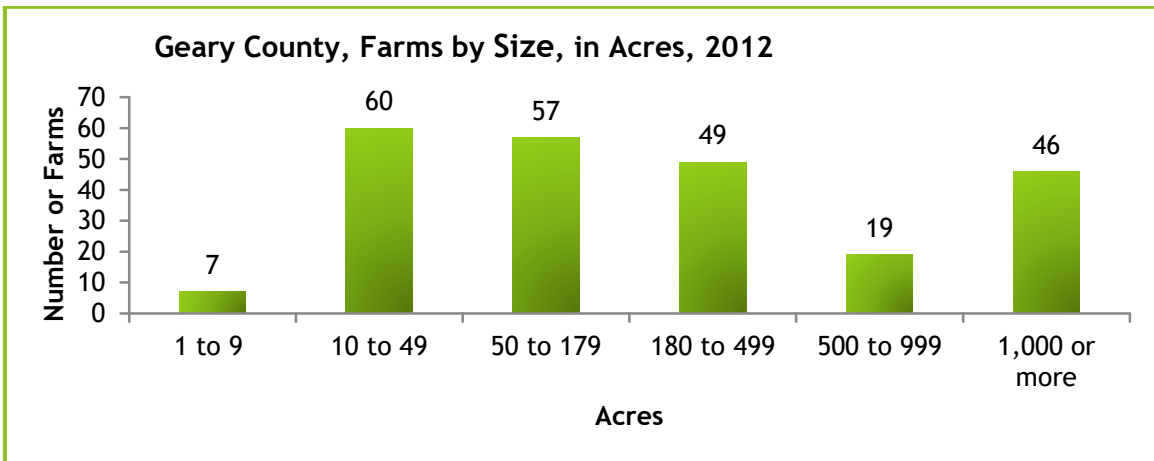
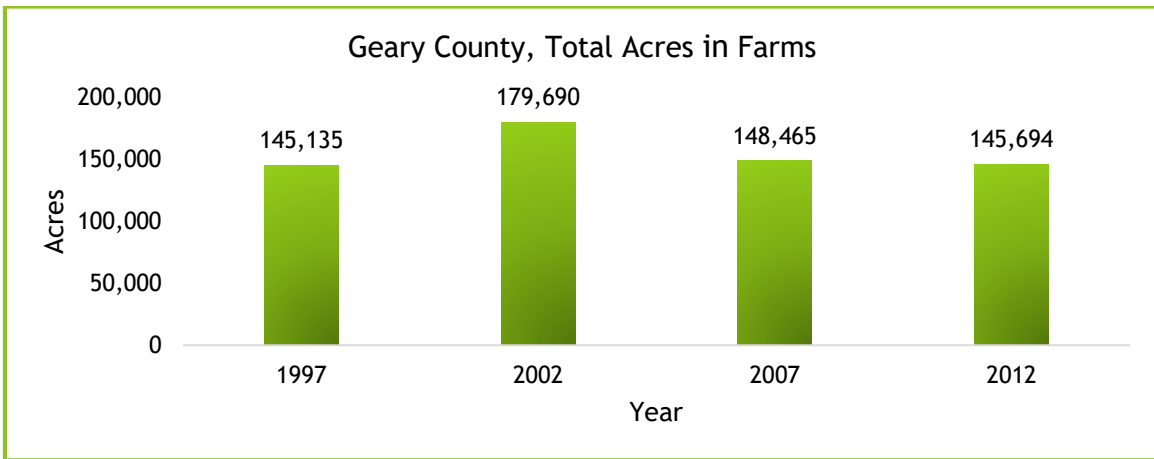
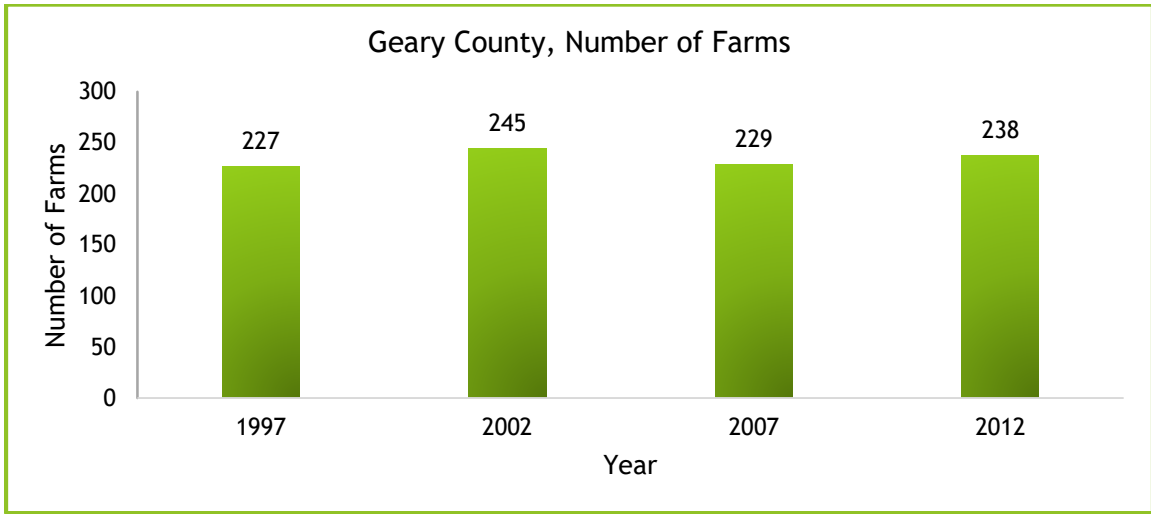
FARMING AND FOOD PRODUCTION

Farms

In 2012, there were 238 farms in Geary County that were enumerated in the USDA Agricultural Census, occupying a total of 145,135 acres of land. The average farm size was 639 acres. Although both national and state trends have shown reductions in the numbers of farms and increases in average farm size in recent years, the number and size of farms in Geary county has remained relatively stable since 1997.

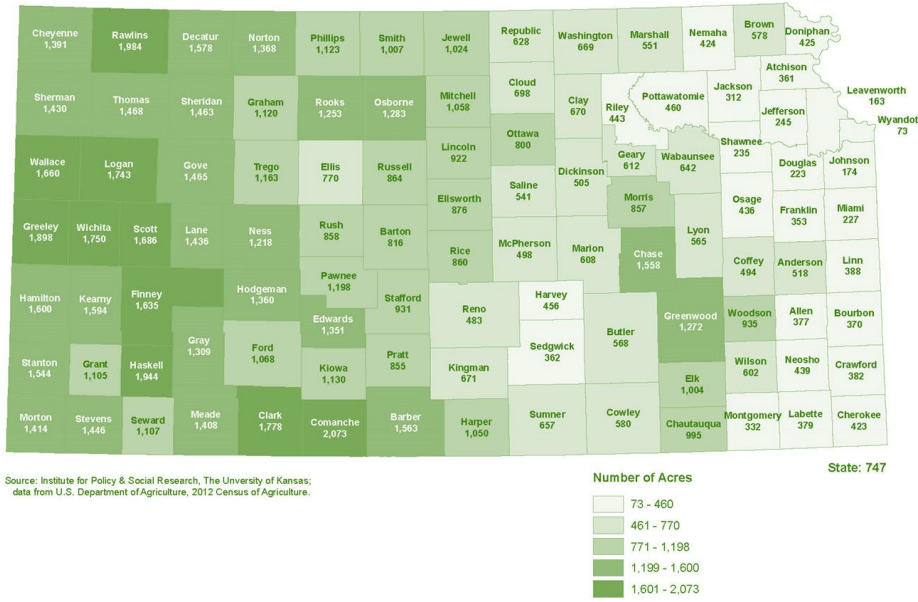
Year	Farms	Land in Farms (acres)	Avg. Farm Size (acres)	Total Cropland (acres)	Harvested Cropland (Acres)
1997	227	145,135	639	73,709	51,680
2002	245	179,690	733	76,322	57,235
2007	229	148,465	648	60,488	53,511
2012	238	145,694	612	57,871	48,029

Data source: U.S. Census of Agriculture, 2012



Data Source: U.S. Census of Agriculture

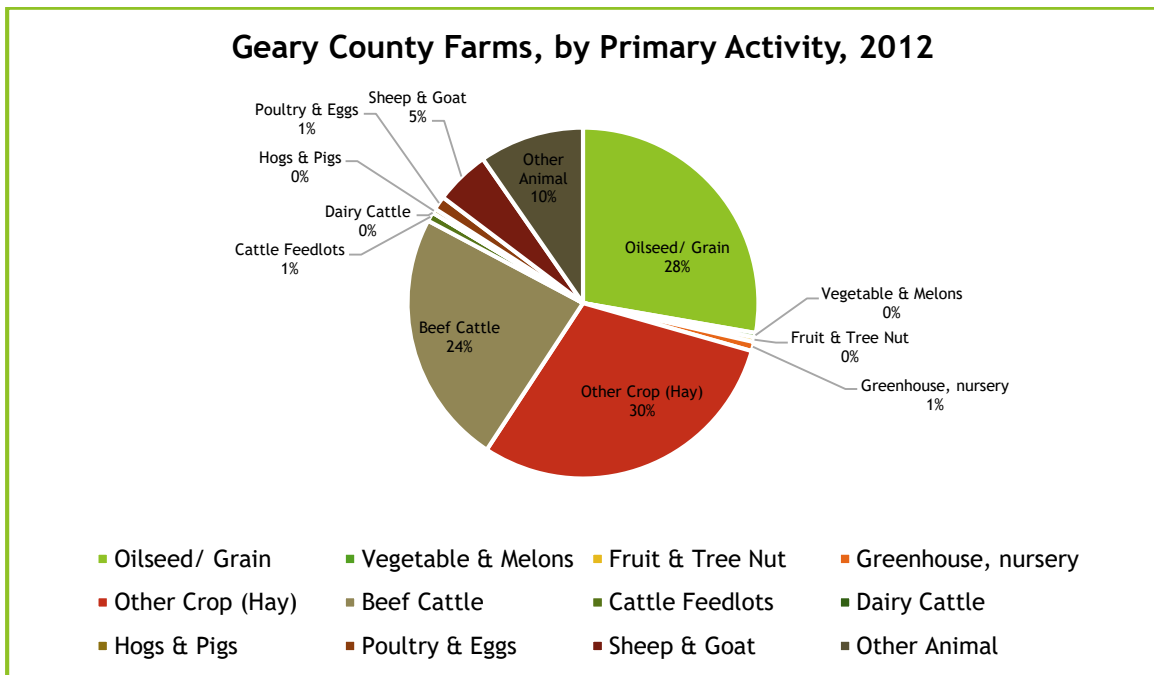
Average Size of Farm in Kansas, by County, 2012



Source: Kansas Statistical Abstract, 2014

Farm Production

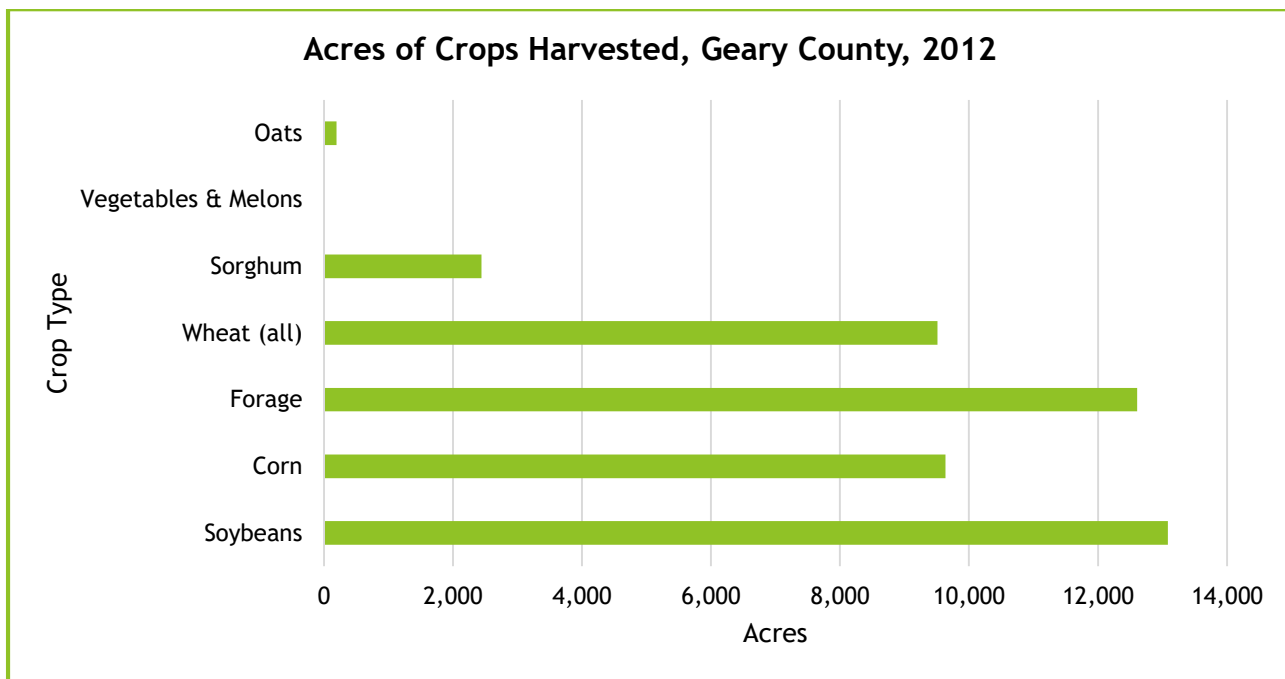
Farming in Geary County is dominated by grain crops, hay and beef cattle production. Less than 1 percent of all Geary County farms reported fruit or vegetable production as their primary activity in 2012.



Data Source: 2012 U.S. Census of Agriculture

	Quantity	State Rank
Top Crop Items (acres)		
Soybeans for beans	13,082	66
Forage-land for hay, silage, greenchop	12,605	80
Corn for grain	9,634	87
Wheat for grain, all	9,513	88
Top Livestock Inventory (number)		
Cattle and Calves	13,082	101
Hogs and Pigs	(D)	32
Layers	546	55
Sheep and Lambs	537	34
Goats, all	289	51

Data Source: U.S. Census of Agriculture. (D) = data suppressed to avoid disclosing information about individual farms



Data Source: 2012 U.S. Census of Agriculture

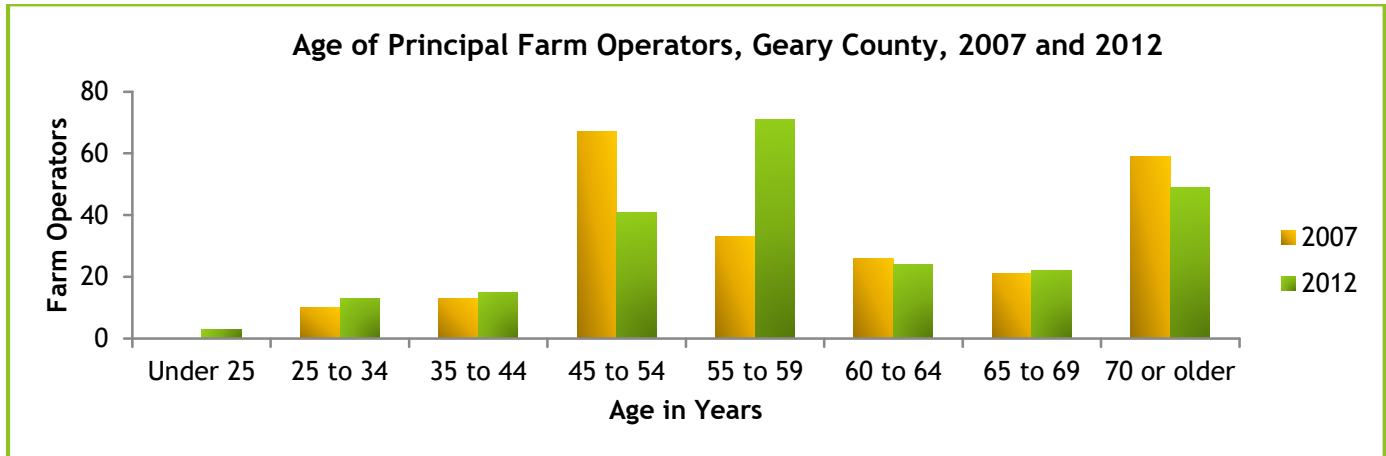
Fruit and Vegetable production

Commodity crops (corn, soybeans, and wheat) dominates overall crop production in Kansas, and the same is true in Geary County. During 2012, a total of *five Geary County farms* reported harvesting vegetables for sale. Those farms harvested a total of *eight acres* of vegetables. Two farms reported having land in orchards; data on the number of acres harvested was not available. Fruit and vegetable production accounted for less than *0.02 percent* of all cropland harvested in Geary County in 2012.

Farm Operators

Age of Farm Operators

Across Kansas, the average age of farmers has been increasing for many years. The average age of Geary County Farm Operators in 2012 was 58.7 years, compared to 59.5 years in 2007. The average age of all Kansas principal farm operators in 2012 was 58.2 years. The graph below illustrates the aging of Geary County farm operators between 2007 and 2012, with the largest shift being in farmers between 45 and 59 years of age.

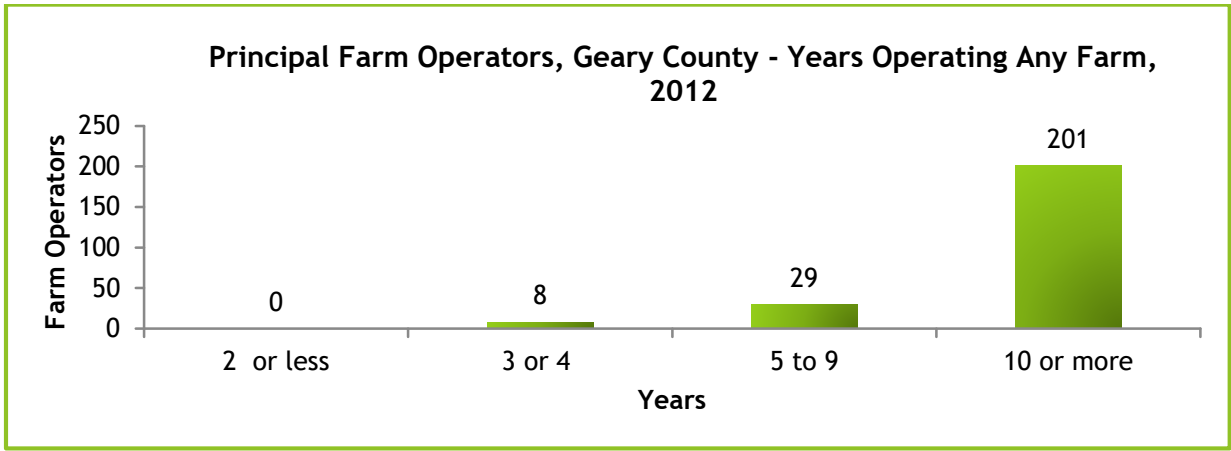


Data Source: U.S. Census of Agriculture

Farm Operator Experience

Across Kansas, and in Geary County, the vast majority of principal farm operators have 10 or more years of experience as farm operators. The numbers of new farmers entering the profession are small. This data, coupled with the data on aging of farm operators is worrisome, as it suggests that many farmers are approaching or reaching retirement age and there may not be sufficient numbers of new farmers coming on board to sustain current farming operations.

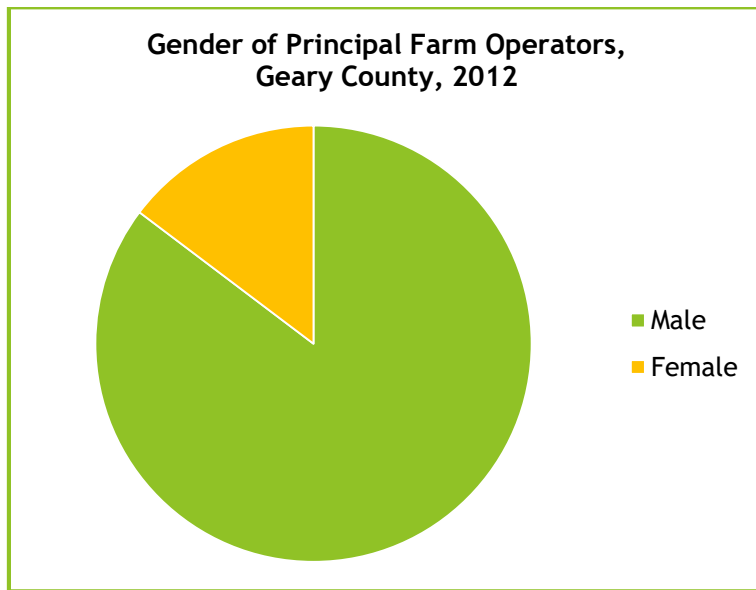
In 2012, Kansas farmers reported an average of 27.1 years of farm operator experience; Geary County farmers averaged 26.5 years.



Data Source: U.S. Census of Agriculture

Gender of Principal Farm Operators

Across Kansas, and in Geary County, a significant majority of principal farm operators are male. In 2012, there were 35 female principal farm operators in Geary County, accounting for 15 percent of all farms.



Data Source: U.S. Census of Agriculture

Principal Farm Operators, by Race and Ethnicity

Only a small percentage of Kansas farms have principal operators that are non-white, or of Hispanic/Latino ethnicity. The same is true in Geary County. In 2012, 234 principal farm operators in Geary County self-identified as White; only 29 identified themselves as Hispanic or Latino, and four as American Indian or Alaskan Native and one as Asian. None self-identified as Black or African American.

This disparity is especially notable when considering the high level of racial and cultural diversity among the Geary County population.

Off-Farm Employment

The majority of farm operators find it necessary to supplement income from farming operations with other sources of income. In 2102, more than half (54.6 percent) of principal farm operators in Geary County reported that their primary occupation was something other than farming. Nearly two-thirds (63 percent) worked at least some days off the farm. Nearly half of principal farm operators (49 percent) worked off the farm for 200 days or more during 2012.

Farm Sales

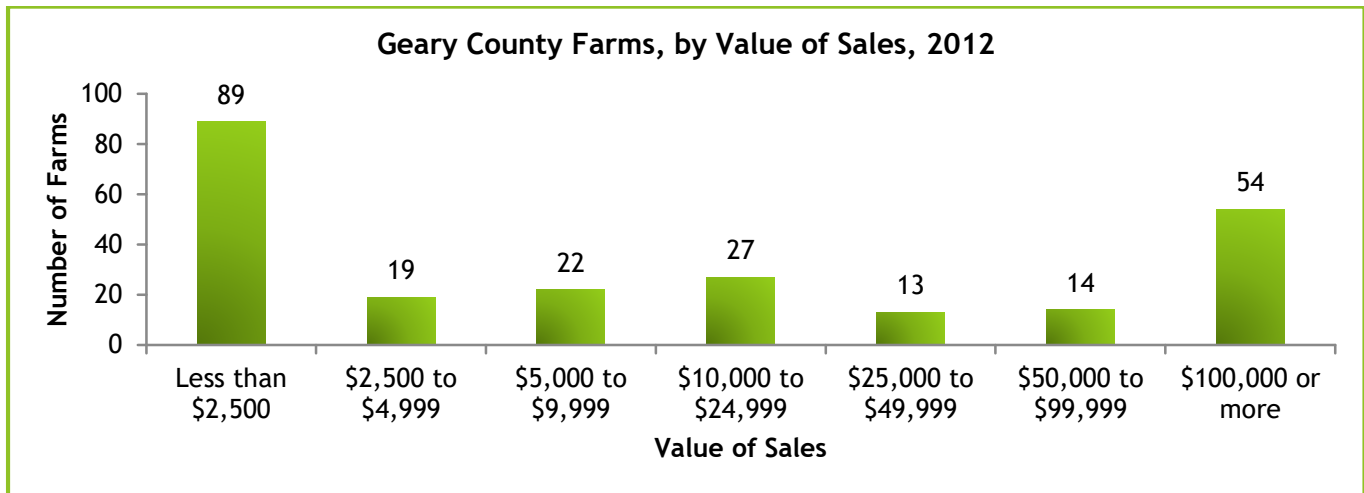
During 2012, Geary County farms reported total sales of farm products valued at more than \$30 million. Sales were divided almost equally between crops and livestock. The per farm average market value of farm products sold by Geary County farms was \$127,549 in 2012.

Year	Farms	Market Value of Products Sold			
		Total Sales	Crop Sales	Livestock Sales	Average per farm
1997	227	\$18,245,000	\$7,010,000	\$12,002,000	\$80,375
2002	245	\$16,706,000	\$6,373,000	\$10,333,000	\$68,187
2007	229	\$25,594,000	\$11,039,000	\$14,555,000	\$111,764
2012	238	\$30,357,000	\$15,493,000	\$14,863,000	\$127,549

Data Source: U.S. Census of Agriculture

Farms, by value of sales

When farms are grouped by the total value of their sales, an interesting pattern is emerges. More than one-third (37.4 percent) of Geary County farms were operating on a very limited scale, having sales valued at less than \$2,500 in 2012. At the opposite end of the scale, 23 percent of Geary County farms had sales that exceeded \$100,000 in value in 2012. The numbers of farms in the mid-range groupings in terms of value of sales were significantly smaller.



Data Source: U.S. Census of Agriculture

Sales through Alternative Market Channels

Although traditional commodity farming dominates the Kansas farm scene, small numbers of farms are attempting to market their products through alternative marketing channels.

Market Approach, 2012	Kansas		Geary County	
	Farms	\$ Value	Farms	\$ Value
Direct sales to individuals, for human consumption	2,044	\$8,957,000	5	\$11,000
Sales directly to retail outlets	406	No data	1	No data
Sales of value-added commodities	1,615	No data	2	No data
Sales through Community-Supported Agriculture program	144	No data	0	No data
Agritourism Services	1,000	\$8,271,000	7	(D)

Data Source: 2012 U.S. Census of Agriculture

(D) = Data suppressed to avoid disclosing information about individual farms

Net Farm Income

On average, net incomes (after expenses) from farming in Geary County are modest. In 2012, net farm income averaged only \$27,533. By comparison, 2012 net farm income for all farms in Kansas averaged \$50,903.

	2012	2007	2002
Net cash farm income (total)	\$6,553,000	\$6,378,000	\$3,442,000
Average per farm	\$27,533	\$27,851	\$13,937

Data Source: U.S. Census of Agriculture

Local Food Producers

Several farms and small-scale producers currently grow food in Geary County and sell their products locally. Three of the larger producers are highlighted in this section.

Oatie Beef - Dwight, KS (Morris County)

Oatie Beef is a small family-owned farm located in the Kansas Flint Hills. They raise heart-healthy beef, from Angus cattle that are started on grass and finished on oats. Cholesterol testing performed by Kansas State University has shown Oatie beef products to have heart-healthy ratios of Omega-6 to Omega-3 fatty acids. The farm sells their Oatie Beef at the Geary Community Hospital Farmers' market. In addition to beef, the farm raises a variety of crops that include alfalfa, oats, soybeans, brome grass hay and barley.



Munson Angus Beef

Fifth-generation ranchers at Munson Angus Beef produce grass-fed and grain (corn) finished Angus beef. No growth hormones, antibiotics, color/flavor enhancers, or preservatives are used in production and processing. Each cut of meat is USDA or State of Kansas inspected, dry aged a full 2 weeks, and trimmed by hand to create custom cuts. Animals are processed at the Clay Center Locker plant and state inspected there. The Munson family also owns and operates Munson's Prime restaurant in JC, where they serve meals featuring their beef.



Hildebrand Farms Dairy - Junction City

Hildebrand Farms Dairy is owned and operated by third-generation family farmers. All milk sold by Hildebrand Farms comes directly from the family's dairy herd and is bottled in their on-site bottling plant. They currently bottle seven varieties of milk in glass bottles: whole, 2 percent, skim, creamline (which is not homogenized), chocolate, strawberry and root beer. In addition, they bottle whipping cream, vanilla ice cream mix, and during the holidays, eggnog. The farm's products are available for purchase at an on-farm store or at more than 120 retail outlets across Kansas.



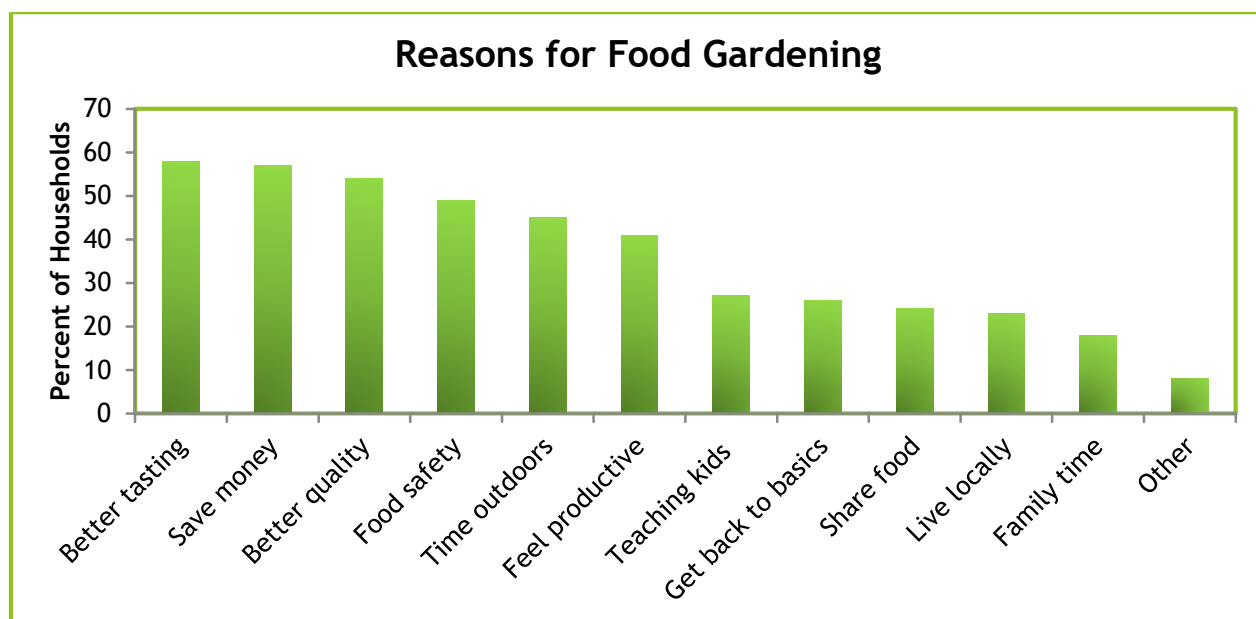
Other Local Food Production

The U.S. Census of Agriculture is helpful in understanding conventional agriculture, but does not capture some smaller scale specialty food producers or foods grown by individual community members in home or community gardens. Many community residents may supplement their food supply by growing fruits and vegetables, or by hunting, fishing and foraging activities. Quantitative data documenting the extent of these activities is hard to come by, but some national sources suggest that food gardening is enjoying a resurgence in popularity, and in importance as a part of the local food system.

Home Gardening

Although most communities lack reliable information about the numbers of community residents that grow at least some of their own foods, national studies tell us that interest in home gardening has enjoyed a strong resurgence in recent years. A study published by the National Gardening Association in 2014 (National Gardening Association, 2014) found that more than one-third (35 percent) of U.S. households had grown food for their own use during 2013. That finding indicates the highest overall participation levels seen in the U.S. in a decade, and an increase of 17 percent over five years. The study found that there had been an increased interest in food gardening among millennials (age 18-34 years old), with a 63 percent increase in participation in food gardening among that group between 2008 and 2013. The report also estimated that more than 2 million U.S. households participated in community gardens in 2013, a 200% increase in five years.

Participants in the same study were asked about the reasons why they participated in food gardening. Their responses may be helpful in understanding what factors are driving the increased interest. Results are shown in the chart below.



Source: National Gardening Association, Special Report. "Garden to Table: A 5-Year Look at Food Gardening in America." 2014

Community Gardens

Community Gardens are also growing in popularity - new gardens are being established in many Kansas Communities. Community Gardens are garden sites that offer growing space to multiple community members. Although rules and policies may vary, garden participants are assigned one or more plots upon which they may grow food plants, herbs or flowers of their choosing. Community Gardens are frequently organized by non-profit organizations or groups of community volunteers. Many gardens offer instruction and educational programming and access to shared tools and equipment. In addition to the obvious benefits of healthy foods and physical activity, community gardens provide social interaction that helps to build community. Because Community Gardens are often established on abandoned lots or other un-space within the community, they may also help to increase the attractiveness of a neighborhood by eliminating eyesores or hazardous conditions.

In Geary County, The 12th Street Community Garden, located adjacent to the 12th Street Community Center in Junction City, opened in 2016. The Garden project was initiated by the Flint Hills Regional Leadership Class of 2015-2016 in collaboration with the 12th Street Community Center.



The Fort Riley Community Victory Garden is a community garden located in the Colyer Forsyth neighborhood on the Fort Riley Military Reservation. Plots are available to all Corvias Military Living residents on a first come, first served basis.



Hunting, Fishing, and Food Foraging

In addition to home gardening, households may also supplement their food supply by hunting, fishing or foraging for edible wild plants. Unfortunately, no data are available describing the extent to which these sources are a routine part of the community food supply.

FOOD SYSTEM INFRASTRUCTURE

Most food consumed by humans does not go directly from harvest in the field or livestock operation to a home dinner table. It is far more common to have many intermediate steps in transporting, processing, packaging and distribution before foods reach retail outlet shelves or restaurant kitchens. Once there, most foods undergo additional preparation before being eaten by consumers.



Source: Adapted from Nathan Pachal, South Fraser Blog, <http://sfb.nathanpachal.com/2015/08/kpu-researcher-studying-future-of-food.html>

One of the most frequently-cited barriers to increasing sales of locally-grown foods to businesses and institutions within a community is the challenge of aggregating foods produced in small quantities by small-scale producers and adding the processing and packaging that is needed to transform the raw products into forms and quantities that are better-matched to the needs of those potential purchasers. Many smaller-scale farmers lack on-farm capacity for washing and packaging fruits and vegetables, and few have the food safety certifications that may be required by institutional buyers. Institutional purchasers need the convenience of being able to fill all their needs with purchases from a small number of vendors; procuring products from multiple farms is cumbersome and time consuming. Some institutional food purchasers have become heavily reliant upon pre-processed foods like baby carrots or apple slices, and no longer have access to the staff and equipment that would be necessary to do all processing of raw foods in-house.

To address this gap between small-scale producers and larger-scale potential purchasers, some form of centralized aggregation, processing, order fulfillment and distribution system may be indicated. Many communities have recognized that the market for locally-produced foods will be limited until this infrastructure gap is adequately addressed. Some communities have undertaken feasibility studies to explore options for creating food hubs to meet the needs. In Kansas, two food hub studies have been completed in Northeast Kansas, and development of a regional food hub, operating under the name Fresh Farm HQ, has begun.

There is currently only limited food processing or manufacturing infrastructure operating within Geary County. Armour-Eckrich, a division of Smithfield Meats, operates a plant in Junction City that produces processed meat and fresh pork products.

THE RETAIL FOOD ENVIRONMENT

The food that is available in our environment, and the ways in which it is presented to us, exerts strong influences on our eating choices. No matter how well-intentioned and knowledgeable a person might be, maintaining healthy eating behaviors and supporting a local food system can be difficult if healthy and local food options are not readily available, accessible, convenient or affordable in the community. When we consider the fact that, at times, an abundance of less healthy or non-local food options is more available, easier to find and cheaper to buy, we better understand the challenge individual consumers face when choosing what to buy. Even when consumers are deliberately trying to maintain healthy diets, a barrage of subtle and not-so-subtle cues and messages in the food environment may derail their good intentions. Factors as varied as product placement and pricing, the words used to describe a menu offering, plate sizes, and ambient lighting in the dining environment have all been shown through research to influence eating choices and behaviors (Wansink, 2014).

The term ‘**food environment**’ describes the array of food options and environmental influences within a neighborhood or community. The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 2016) defines the food environment as:

- The physical presence of food that affects a person’s diet,
- A person’s proximity to food store locations,
- The distribution of food stores, food service, and any physical entity by which food may be obtained, OR,
- A connected system that allows access to food.

Both the private and public sectors shape our food environment. Businesses seek to locate in neighborhoods where they hope to make a profit. Restaurants and grocery stores remain where they find a reliable customer base. For local government and public agencies, zoning regulations influence where different types of commercial businesses can locate, while purchasing decisions can influence what foods are available in places like schools and city parks.

The factors that shape our food environment range from common to quite subtle factors:

- The physical availability to access food
- Where various stores and food outlets are located
- The pricing of healthy or local food offerings
- Product placement on store shelves
- Plate size in restaurants
- The words used to describe a menu offering

Each of these factors, and many more, come into play as consumers select the food that they eat.

Grocery Stores

Traditionally, most families have purchased most of their food for home use at community grocery stores. That tradition is changing, however, as more large-scale ‘big-box’ stores like Walmart and Target devote

significant sections of their store floor space to grocery items, and smaller convenience and discount stores also expand their offerings of food items.

Grocery store choices in Geary County reflect the cultural diversity of the community, with both traditional and specialty offerings. Currently, there are seven retail grocery stores operating within Geary County:

- Dillon's - 618 W 6th , Junction City
- Walmart Supercenter - 521 E. Chestnut Street, Junction City
- Walmart Neighborhood Store - 1723 McFarland Road, Junction City
- Fergis Latino Market, 914 Grant, Junction City
- Seouli Oriental Supermarket and Restaurant, 204 Grant, Junction City
- Kabayan Sari-Sari Store (Asian), 835 W. Ash Street, Junction City
- Fort Riley Commissary - 2210 Trooper Drive, Fort Riley

For more discussion of geographic locations of grocery stores in Geary County, please refer to the Food Access section of this report.

Farmers' Markets

Farmers' markets offer consumers the opportunity to purchase fresh, locally grown foods directly from the farmers that produced them. This direct marketing approach is beneficial to both farmers and consumers in many ways. Farmers may retain more of the sales value for their products than they would if products were marketed through conventional food distribution systems, and farmers' markets provide an ideal outlet for products that are only available in small quantities. Consumers gain access to products that are freshly-harvested, and the opportunity to build relationships with the farmers that grow their food. Interest in farmers' markets has grown in recent years, both nationally and across Kansas.

There are currently three Farmers' Markets operating in Geary County:

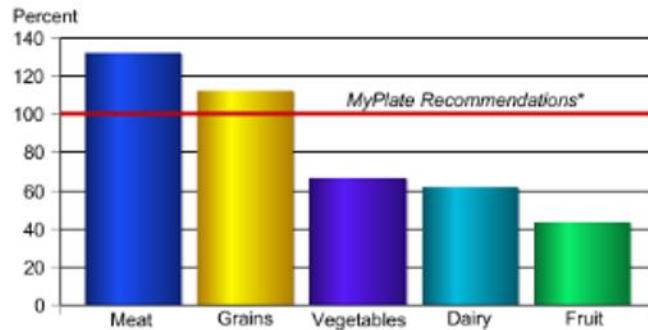
- Junction City Farmers' Market I - 8th & Jefferson, Junction City
- Junction City Farmers' Market II - 6th & Adams, Junction City
- Geary Community Hospital Farmers' Market - 1102 St. Marys Road, Junction City. Thursdays, 4-7pm

CONSUMER EATING BEHAVIORS AND FOOD PURCHASES

Eating Behaviors

Across the nation, and in Kansas, studies have repeatedly found that consumers' diets are not well-aligned with current dietary recommendations. According to recent information from the *Dietary Guidelines for Americans* (U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, and U.S. Department of Agriculture), about three-quarters of Americans consume too little fruits, vegetables, dairy products and oils, and more than half eat more than the recommended amounts of grains and protein foods.

American diets are out of balance with dietary recommendations
In 2014, Americans consumed more than the recommended share of meat and grains in their diets but less than the recommended share of fruit, dairy, and vegetables



*Data based on a 2,000-calorie-per-day diet.

Note: Rice and durum flour data were discontinued and thus are not included in the grains group. Food availability data serve as proxies for food consumption.

Source: Calculated by ERS, USDA, based on data from various sources (see Loss-Adjusted Food Availability Documentation).

Data as of February 2016.

At the state and county levels, information about consumers’ fruit and vegetable consumption are monitored as part of the annual Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) survey. State-level results are available for most years; county-level results are available only in years where the survey sample was enlarged sufficiently to produce reliable estimates for most counties in Kansas. The way in which questions about fruit and vegetable intake were asked and reported was changed between 2009 and 2010, which makes comparisons between pre-2010 and later-year results invalid. Because the questions report two very different measures of fruit and vegetable consumption, both are included below.

In 2009, nearly 4 out of 5 Geary County adults (78.5 percent) reported eating less than the recommended 5 daily servings of fruits and vegetables. In 2013, about 43 percent of Geary County adults said that they ate fruits less often than once a day, and about 24 percent said that they ate vegetables less than once per day.

Fruit and Vegetable Consumption

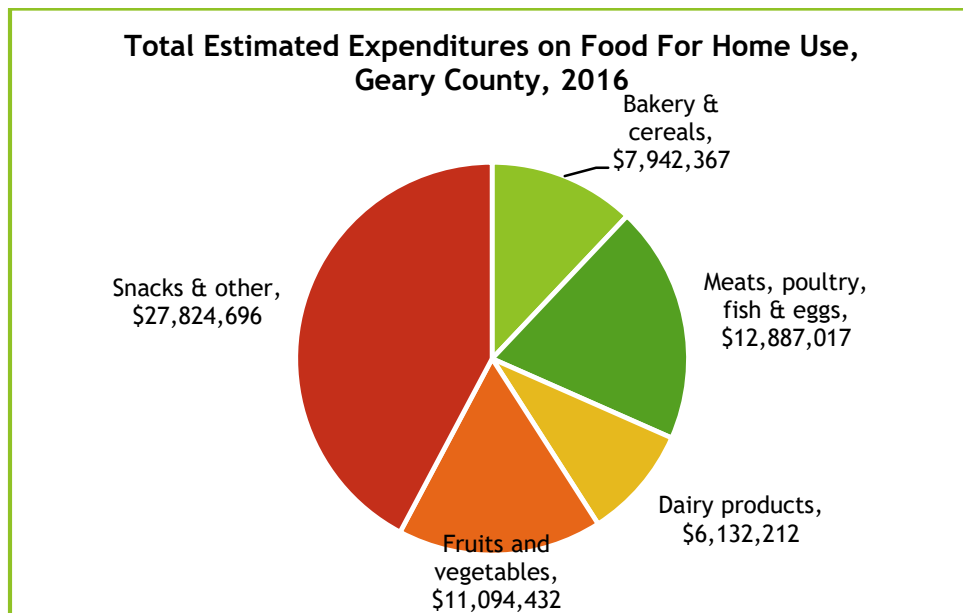
Measure	Kansas	Geary County
% of Adults consuming fruits & vegetables less than 5 times/ day (2009)	81.4%	78.5%
% of Adults consuming vegetables less than one time/ day (2013)	22.9%	24.5%
% of Adults consuming fruits less than one time/ day (2013)	41.7%	42.9%

Data source: Kansas Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance Survey, 2013, Kansas Department of Health and Environment

Food Expenditures

Data from the national Consumer Expenditure Survey provide regional estimates of consumer spending patterns for an array of goods and services. A proprietary company (Synergos Technologies) has combined those regional estimates with local-level demographic data to produce statistical estimates of consumer spending patterns at the county level.

As illustrated in the charts below, Geary County residents spend an estimated \$93 million annually on food purchases. Approximately \$34.4 million of that is spent on foods prepared away from home. Of the foods purchased for home use, more than 40 percent of spending is on snacks and other processed food items; just 17 percent is spent on fruits and vegetables. Broken down, that amount calculates out to 82 cents per person per day spent on fruits and vegetables. *(It should be noted that these data reflect the actual dollars spent by Geary County residents - the purchases may have taken place outside of Geary County borders.)*

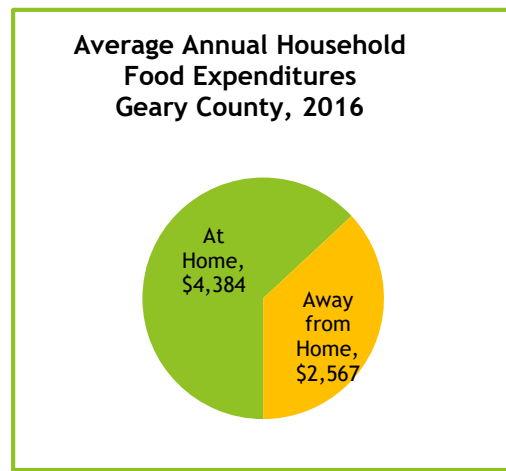
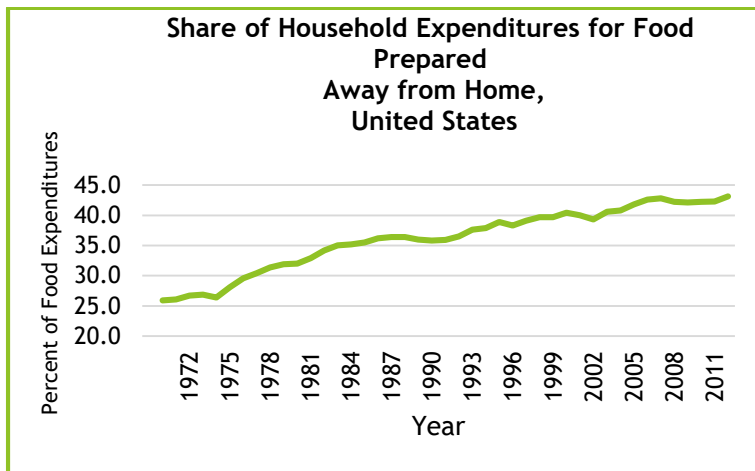


Geary County Population, 2015	37,030
Total Geary County Food Spending 2016	\$93,073,131
Total Annual food spending per capita	\$2,513.45
Total Daily food spending per capita	\$6.89
Total spending on fruits and vegetables (at home)	\$11,094,432
Total annual fruit and vegetable spending per capita	\$299.61
Daily per capita spending on fruits and vegetables	\$0.82
Total spending on meats, poultry, fish & eggs (at home)	\$12,887,017
Total annual per capita spending on meats, poultry, fish & eggs	\$348.01
Daily per capita spending on meats, poultry, fish & eggs	\$0.95

Data source- Expenditure estimates from Business Decision data system

Dining Away from Home

Restaurants comprise another important component in most community food systems. The share of total food dollars that U.S. households spend on food prepared away from home has risen steadily since the 1970s. A number of factors have contributed to this trend, including more women employed outside of the home, higher household incomes, and more affordable and convenient fast food outlets (USDA Economic Research Service, 2016). Research conducted by USDA has found that meals and snacks based on food prepared away from home contained more calories per eating occasion than those based on at-home food. Away-from-home food was also higher in nutrients that Americans overconsume (such as fat and saturated fat) and lower in nutrients that Americans underconsume (calcium, fiber, and iron). (USDA Economic Research Service, 2016)



Data Source: USDA Economic Research Service

Geary County's cultural diversity is reflected in the array of restaurant dining opportunities present in the area. The website *Urban Spoon* lists 70 restaurants located in Junction City. Among those are three Korean, six Chinese and four Mexican, one Italian and one Caribbean restaurants. Results from the National Consumer Expenditure Survey estimate that Geary County residents spend approximately 37 percent of their food budgets on food prepared away from home (\$2,567/ household/year). Multiplied by the 12,782 households in Geary County (American Community Survey, 2010-2014), that would total to approximately \$32,811,000 in annual spending in Geary County for foods prepared away from home.

Fast food restaurants

Just as a lack of access to healthy food options may influence individual’s eating behaviors, an over-abundance of less healthy food options may also negatively influence eating choices. Menu offerings at fast food restaurants are frequently filled with unhealthy choices that are high in calories, fats and salt levels. (Fast food restaurants are defined as limited-service food establishments where patrons generally order or select items and pay before eating.) Environments in which there are high concentrations of fast food restaurants may tempt consumers toward unhealthy food choices, especially if access to healthier food options is limited or more difficult.



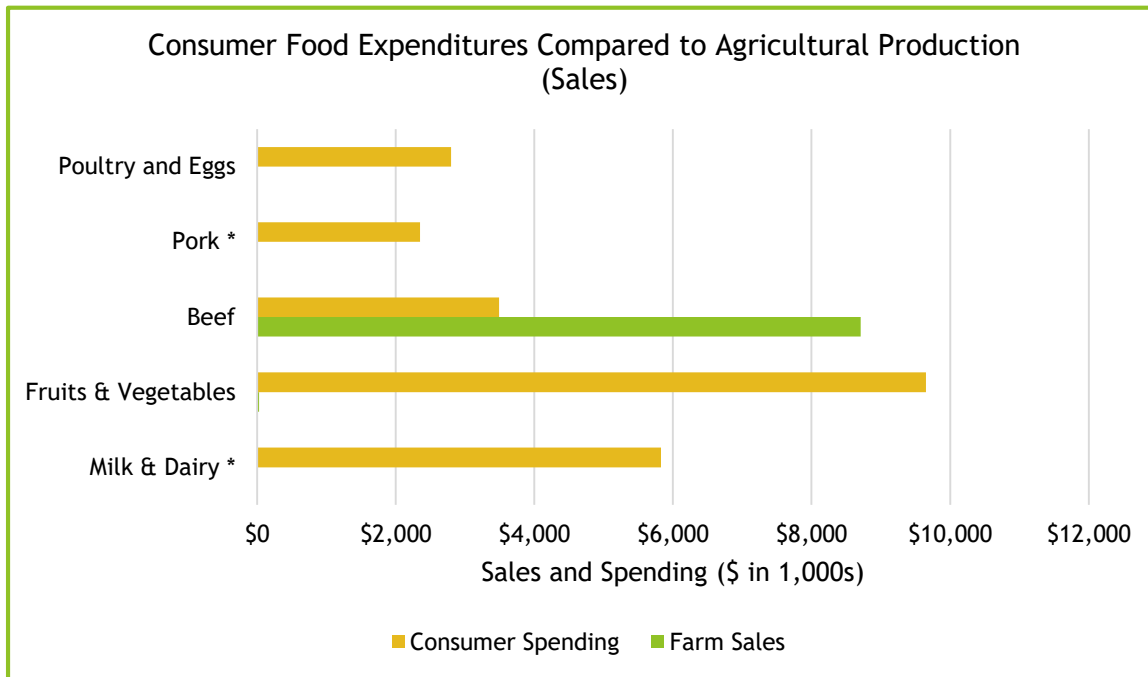
In 2013, there were twenty-six fast-food outlets located within the borders of Geary County. On a per person basis, the density of fast food outlets in Geary County is slightly higher than the Kansas and U.S. averages.

Geographic Area	Total Population	Number of Establishments	Establishments, Rate per 100,000 Population
Geary County	34,362	26	75.67
Kansas	2,853,118	2,062	72.3
United States	312,732,537	227,486	72.7

Data Source Community Commons. Original data from US Census Bureau, [County Business Patterns](#). Additional data analysis by [CARES](#). 2013.

COMPARISON OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION TO CONSUMER SPENDING

Very little of the food consumed by Geary County residents is produced in the County. For most types of foods, local production would not be adequate to meet community consumer's needs. A comparison of the value of agricultural products sold by Geary County farms to estimates of food expenditures by Geary County residents illustrates the disparity between what is produced, and what would be needed to feed community members. The one exception is beef, where local production significantly exceeds local consumption demand.



Data Source: Farm sales from 2012 U.S. Census of Agriculture; Consumer Spending based upon regional expenditure estimates from the Consumer Expenditure Survey. *Geary County data on sales of Pork and Dairy products were suppressed to avoid disclosure of information for individual farms.

NUTRITION-RELATED HEALTH CONDITIONS

Overweight and Obesity (Adult)

Maintaining a healthy weight is an important factor in maintaining overall health. Body weight is closely associated with two primary factors --- nutrition and physical activity. Excess body weight, which occurs when caloric intake exceeds the number of calories expended, places individuals at increased risk for many health issues, including heart disease, diabetes, some forms of cancers, and joint problems and physical disability. Obesity has become a widespread problem in the United States, with rates steadily increasing over the last several decades.

Rates of overweight and obesity in the population are routinely measured as part of the national Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System coordinated by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and state health agencies. In Kansas, the Kansas Department of Health and

Environment periodically includes an expanded sample size to make it possible to produce county-level results.

For the measures of overweight and obesity, survey respondents are asked to self-report their height and weight. In 2013, 34.6 percent of Geary County adults aged 18 and older self-reported that they had a height and weight that would calculate to a Body Mass Index (BMI) between 25.0 and 30.0 (overweight); 31.0 percent of Geary County adults reported height and weights that would classify them as obese (BMI > 30).

Rates of Overweight and Obesity, 2013

Area	% of Adults who are Overweight (BMI between 25.0 and 30.0)	% of Adults who are Obese (BMI >30)	% of Adults who are Overweight or Obese
Geary County	34.6%	31.0%	65.7%
Kansas	35.3%	30.0%	65.3%

Data Source: Kansas Department of Health and Environment, Kansas Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System

Other Diet-Related Health Conditions

The Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance Survey also asks survey participants whether or not they have ever been told by a doctor or other health professional that they have any of several health conditions.

Health Condition	Geary County	Kansas
% of Adults Diagnosed with Diabetes, 2013	8.3%	9.6%
% of Adults Tested and Diagnosed with High Cholesterol, 2013	30.7%	38.1%
% of Adults Diagnosed with Hypertension, 2013	33.5%	34.8%
% of Adults who had Angina or Coronary Heart Disease, 2011-2012	2.4%*	4.5%*

*Data Source: Kansas Department of Health and Environment, 2013 Kansas Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance Survey; * Heart disease data from Community Commons because 2012 BRFSS data for Geary County was not available from the KS BRFSS.*

ACCESS TO HEALTHY FOODS

Access to healthy food options is essential to healthy eating habits which are, in turn, essential to good health. When we talk about access to healthy food options, there are two considerations. First, a consumer must be able to physically get to places where healthy foods are available for purchase. Second, the consumer must be able to afford to buy the healthier food options, or must be able to obtain assistance that enables her/him to do so. These are minimum requirements for food access. In addition, it is desirable that community residents have access to foods that are culturally appropriate, and are able to access food through socially acceptable means that respect and preserve individuals' dignity.

“Community food security is a condition in which all community residents obtain a safe, culturally acceptable, nutritionally adequate diet through a sustainable food system that maximizes community self-reliance and social justice.” - Mike Hamm and Anne Bellows, Community Food Security Coalition

The 2014 Geary County Community Health Assessment identified a lack of available and affordable healthy foods as a community challenge and priority.

Physical Access

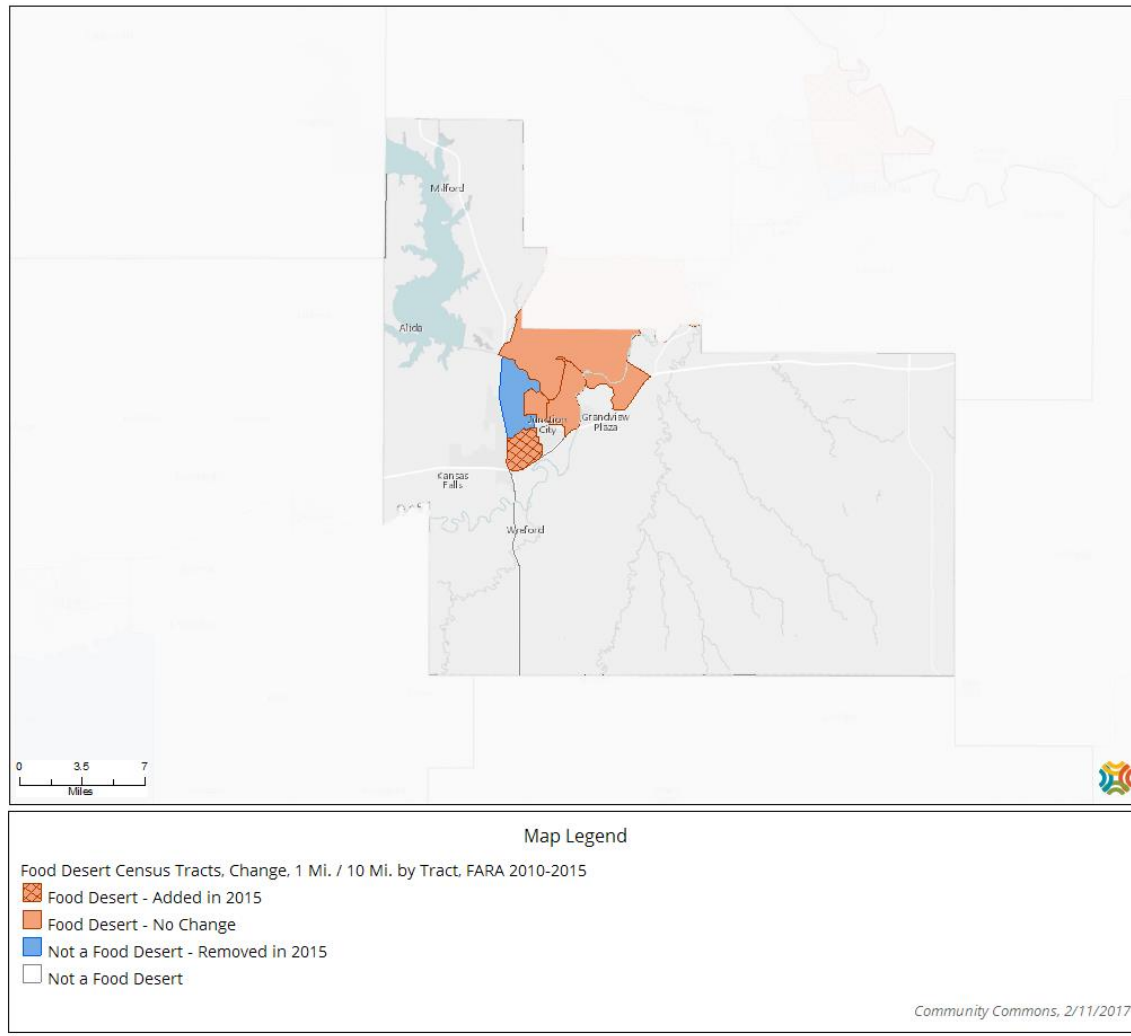
Physical access to healthy food options is commonly measured by considering two factors - the distance that the consumer must travel to the nearest retail grocery store and the consumer's access to reliable transportation to travel to that closest store. In urban areas, a distance of one mile or less to the nearest grocery store is commonly considered to be adequate; in rural areas a distance of 10 miles or less is commonly considered adequate. The proportion of low-income household in an area is often used as a proxy indicator of less access to reliable transportation. Geographic areas in which a substantial portion of the population is low income (a poverty rate of 20 percent or higher), and one-third or more of households live further than one mile (in urban areas) or ten miles (in rural areas) from the closest full-service grocery stores are designated as '*food deserts*' to denote challenges with getting to a grocery store that offers a variety of healthy food options

Population with Limited Food Access

The U.S. Department of Agriculture recently released updated data which identify locations where the population has limited food access. Based upon 2015 population and income data, USDA Agriculture determined that four census tracts located within Geary met the definition of a food desert (low income and low access at a distance of 1 mile in urban areas or 10 miles in rural areas). Those tracts, shown on the map below, were all located in the Junction City area. The total population in residing in those census tracts was 17,929 in 2015. The map below shows areas in Geary County that met the definition of a food desert in 2015, compared to previous designations based upon 2010 data. One census tract has been newly designated as a food desert, and one that was previously identified as a food desert no longer meets the definition.

Food Deserts, (Low income and Low access, 1 and 10 miles)

Geary County Food Desert Locations, 2010 and 2015



Affordability of Healthy Food Options

Affordability is the second component of access to healthy foods. It does little good to have an abundant supply of healthy food options if consumers in the community lack the financial means with which to purchase the food. The term '*food insecurity*' is commonly used in the United States to describe the lack of consistent access to enough food to maintain a healthy lifestyle, because of a lack of resources. Households that express anxiety or uncertainty about their ability to consistently obtain enough food are termed '*food-insecure*'. Rates of household food insecurity are measured annually at the national and state level as a component of the Current Population Survey administered by the U.S. Census Bureau.

At the National level, rates of household food insecurity increased sharply with the onset of the economic recession, and have remained elevated since that time. Only since 2012 have the national rates of food insecurity begun to decrease slightly. In Kansas, rates of food insecurity exceeded national rates prior to the onset of the 2008 recession, and increased further with the recession's onset. Although national food insecurity rates appear to have decreased slightly in recent years, rates of Kansas appear to be increasing.

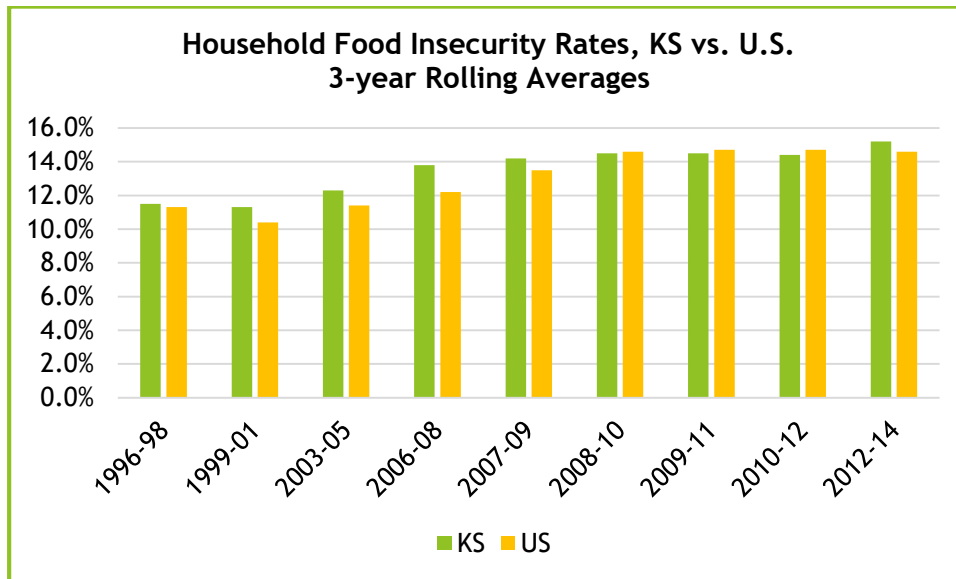


Figure 1 Food Insecurity Rates, Kansas vs. U.S.

Data Source: USDA ERS analysis of annual CPS Food Security Surveys

Statistical estimates of county-level food insecurity rates have been produced by the national food assistance organization Feeding America. The most recent estimates, from 2014, show that approximately 19 percent of Geary County residents (6,970 individuals) were food-insecure. More than one in five children (23.9 percent, or 2,690 children) in Geary County lived in households which were food-insecure.

Although risk for food-insecurity is highest among lower-income households, food insecurity is not always limited to the very poor. Many working families with incomes above the poverty level still struggle to meet basic needs such as food, housing, medical care, transportation and childcare on their earnings. The Feeding America estimates suggest that nearly one-third (32 percent) of food-insecure households in Geary County have income levels high enough that they would not be eligible for any of the food assistance programs sponsored by the Federal Government. Similarly, about one-third (32 percent) of food-insecure children in Geary County live in families where the household income would be too high for them to be eligible for free or reduced-price school meals or for assistance through the Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC) program. For these families, when help is needed, it must come from privately-funded assistance programs like Harvesters, or other food assistance or emergency meal programs in the community.

Overall Food Insecurity Rate

Geographic Area	Food Insecure Individuals, Total	Overall Food Insecurity Rate
Geary County, KS	6,970	19.1%
Kansas	413,560	14.2%
United States	48,135,000	15.4%

Food-Insecurity among Children

Geographic Area	Food Insecure Children, Total	Child Food Insecurity Rate
Geary County, KS	2,690	23.9%
Kansas	153,940	21.3%
United States	15,323,000	20.9%

Data Source: Feeding America, Map the Meal Gap 2014

Food Insecurity - Food Insecure Population Ineligible for Assistance

Food insecurity is not limited to only low-income households. Data from Feeding America’s Map the Meal Gap study estimate that about one-third (32 %) of food-insecure households in Geary County have incomes high enough that they are not eligible for State or Federal nutrition assistance. Assistance eligibility is determined based on household income of the food insecure households relative to the maximum income-to-poverty ratio for assistance programs (SNAP, WIC, school meals, CSFP and TEFAP). These families must rely upon private sector food assistance programs such as food pantries for help when they need it.

Geographic Area	Food-Insecure Population, Total	Percentage of Food-Insecure Population Ineligible for Assistance	Food-Insecure Children, Total	Percentage of Food-Insecure Children Ineligible for Assistance
Geary County, KS	6,970	32%	2,690	32%
Kansas	413,560	37%	153,940	34%
United States	48,135,000	26%	15,323,000	21%

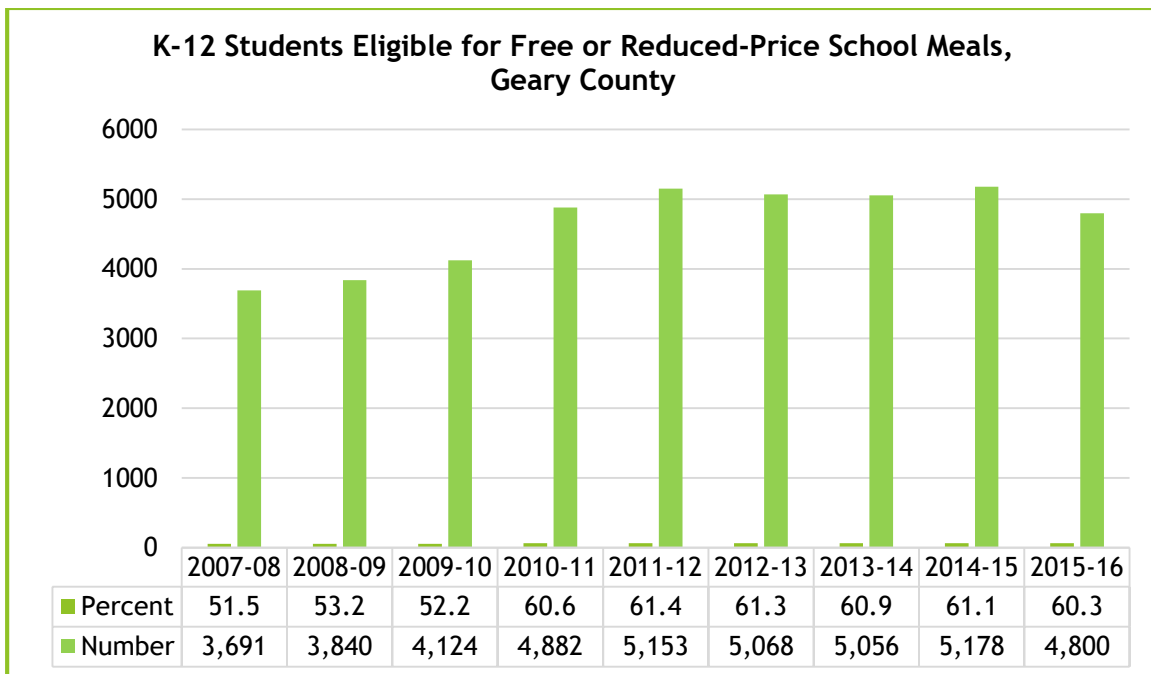
Data Source: Feeding America, Map the Meal Gap 2013

Food Assistance Programs

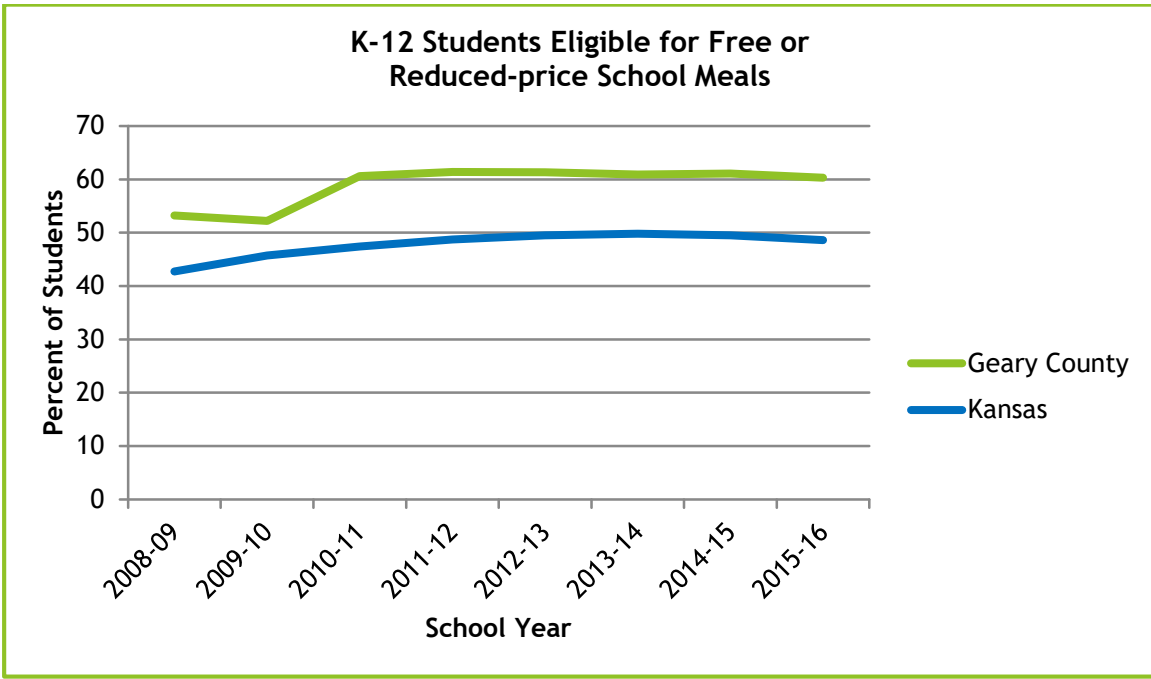
In the United States, and in Kansas, a patchwork quilt of public- and private-sector programs and agencies provide food assistance to low-income families in need. Aid is provided through a variety of mechanisms, including prepared meals at schools, distribution of foods for home preparation, and vouchers or electronic benefits that may be used to purchase grocery items. These programs play a vital role in preventing food insecurity from progressing to full-blown hunger and malnutrition.

Children Eligible for Free/Reduced Price School Meals

For many low-income families, school meals provide an important source of food for children. In addition to lunches, many schools also offer breakfasts and some offer after-school snack or supper programs. Children from households where earnings are less than 130 percent of the Federal Poverty Level are eligible to receive free meals; those from households where income is between 130 and 185 percent of the poverty level qualify to purchase meals at reduced prices. In Geary County public schools, 60.3 percent of K-12 students enrolled for the 2015-2016 school term were eligible for either free or reduced-price school meals. In comparison, 48.6 percent of all Kansas K-12 students were eligible for free or reduced-price school meals during the same timeframe.



Data Source: Kansas State Department of Education, K-12 Statistics



Data Source: Kansas State Department of Education, K-12 Statistics

Summer Meals for School Aged Children

For families that rely upon free or reduced-price school meals to help feed their children, summer recess periods may create additional food hardship. The federally-sponsored Summer Food Service Program is designed to help fill that need. Under this program, all children aged 18 years and younger may receive free meals (usually lunches) at participating community sites located in areas where at least half of children qualify for free or reduced-price meals during the school year. During the summer of 2016, Summer Meal programs operated in six locations in Junction City. There were no Summer Meal sites in outlying areas of Geary County.

Summer Picnic Parties

May 31st - August 12th
Weekdays from Noon to 1 pm
Rain or Shine!

Games! Free lunch! Friends! Fun in the sun!

SIX LOCATIONS AROUND TOWN!

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▼ Playground Park: 1001 West 5th Street ▼ Dorothy Bramlage Public Library: 230 West 7th ▼ Heritage Park: 5th and Washington St. (near the gazebo) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▼ Regency Trailer Court: 948 Grant Avenue (swimming pool) ▼ Washington Elementary School*: 1500 N. Washington Street (south side) ▼ 12th Street Community Center**: 1002 West 12th (inside)
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*Eat hot lunches at Washington Elementary until July 1st and then join us at Picnic Parties beginning July 5th.
** Eat hot lunches until July 29th and then join us at Picnic Parties beginning August 1st.



Sponsored by:

Kansas Food Bank
Live Well Geary County
LiveWellGearyCounty.org

Summer Picnic Parties is an equal opportunity provider



Site Name	Location
Washington Elementary School	1500 N. Washington Street
First Presbyterian Church	113 W. 5 th Street
5 th Street Park	1001 W. 5 th Street
12 th Street Community Center	1002 W. 12 th Street
Regency Trailer Park	948 Grant Avenue
Dorothy Bramlage Public Library	230 W. 7 th Street

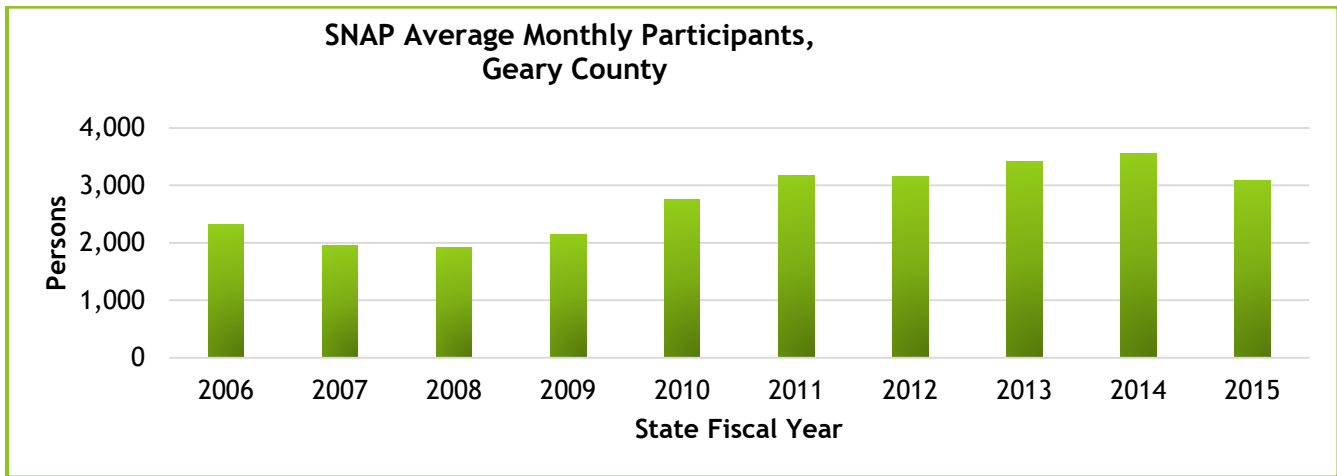
Source: Map from USDA Summer Meal Site Finder, 2016 Meal Site Detail from the Kansas Department of Education, Child Nutrition and Wellness, Summer Food Service Program.

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)

The SNAP program, formerly referred to as ‘food stamps’, is a federally-funded program that provides qualifying low-income families with monthly benefits in the form of a debit card that can be used to purchase foods for home use. Benefits may also be used to purchase seeds or plants to be used for growing food at home. Households must have incomes below 130 percent of the Federal Poverty level (approximately \$31,500 for a family of four) and meet other eligibility guidelines to qualify for benefits.

Many households that would be eligible to receive snap benefits do not apply and participate in the program. There are many reasons, including stigma of participating, burdensome paperwork associated with application, and a lack of understanding of eligibility requirements. Participation rates vary considerably between states, ranging from 51 to 100 percent in 2013. Compared to other states, SNAP participation rates (the number of participants divided by the number of eligible) in Kansas have historically been low. The U.S. Department of Agriculture estimated that in 2013, the SNAP participation rate in Kansas was 71 percent, ranking Kansas 40th among the states (Cunnyham, 2016).

During state fiscal year 2015 (July 2014 to June 2015), an average of 3,093 Geary County residents received SNAP benefits each month. The number of SNAP participants in Geary County has declined since reaching a high in Fiscal Year 2014 - these declines are similar to what has happened across Kansas in the same time period. Average monthly benefits were approximately \$113 per participant during Fiscal Year 2015, meaning that the SNAP program provided \$4,217,975 in food purchasing dollars to low-income families in Geary County during 2015.



Data Source: Kansas Department of Children and Families, Annual County Packet Reports

SNAP benefits may only be redeemed at retail locations that have been approved by the USDA as SNAP retail vendors. As of August 2016, there were twenty-five (25) SNAP retailers operating in Geary County— one Walmart supercenter, two other supermarket/grocery stores, eleven gas and convenience stores, three dollar stores, four specialty food stores, one County Farmers’ Market, one take-and-bake pizza business, one pharmacy and the Fort Riley Commissary.

The Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC)

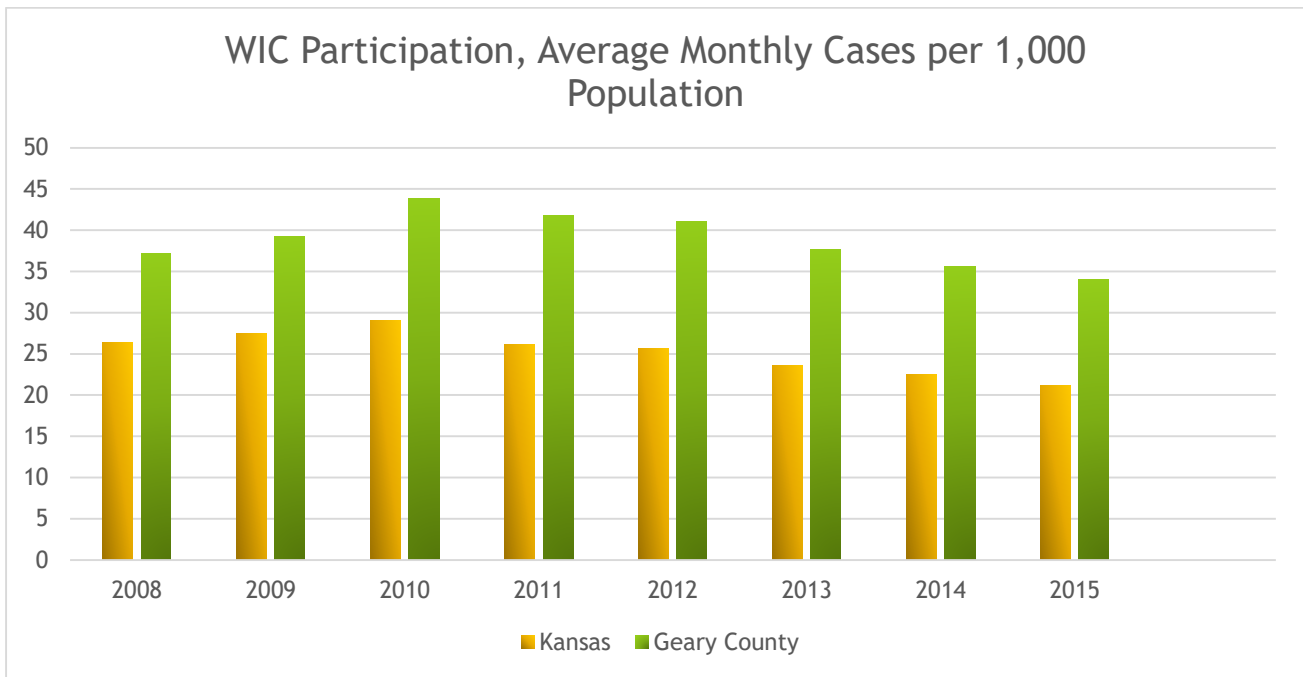
The Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children- better known as the WIC Program- is a federally-funded program that serves to safeguard the health of low-income (household incomes up to 185 percent of the Federal Poverty Level) women, infants, and children up to age 5 who are at nutritional risk by providing nutritious foods to supplement their diets, information on healthy eating, and referrals to health care. Program participants are given monthly coupons or vouchers that may be redeemed at participating retail locations for specified foods. The program serves low-income pregnant, post-partum, and breastfeeding mothers as well as infants and children age 0 through 4 years. Foods that may be purchased with WIC vouchers include milk, juice, cereals, cheese, eggs, fruits and vegetables (fresh, canned or frozen), whole-grain bread, canned fish, beans, peanut butter, baby foods, and baby formula.



Photo Credit: USDA Photo Gallery

In Geary County, approximately 300 women and children participated in the WIC program each month during 2015 (Kansas Health Matters, 2015). In terms of WIC participants per 1,000 population, participation rates are significantly higher in Geary County than for the state overall. This likely reflects the significantly younger population in Geary County. There are four retail grocery vendors in Geary County where WIC participants may use their vouchers to obtain food: the WalMart Supercenter, the Walmart Neighborhood Store and the Dillon’s store (all in Junction City), and the Fort Riley Commissary

(Kansas Department of Health and Environment, 2015). The average monthly number of participants in the WIC program in Geary County has decreased in recent years; this trend is similar to those at the state and national levels.



Data Source: Kansas Health Matters, www.kansashealthmatters.org

Commodity Food Distribution

The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP) provides free USDA commodity foods to low-income households. TEFAP food is shipped five to six times per year to participating organizations for distribution. Participant organizations determine when and how often food is distributed. The foods may include canned vegetables, fruit, juice, meat, cereal, peanut butter, nonfat dry milk, and pasta. Each shipment provides a minimum of four and a maximum of 10 foods per household.

Persons who work but have low income, as well as those who do not work, are eligible for this program. Individuals seeking assistance from the TEFAP program must apply in their home county, provide proof of their amount of income and household size (if asked), and must sign a form stating that they qualify for the program. Participants may pick up food at only one location in their community.

There is one TEFAP distribution location in Geary County: The Geary County Food Pantry at 136 W. 3rd Street in Junction City.

Senior Farmers' Market Nutrition Program

The Senior Farmers' Market Nutrition Program offers low-income seniors in participating locations (including Geary County) checks or vouchers that can be used to purchase locally-grown fresh fruits and vegetables, honey, or herbs at participating farmers' markets or farm stands. Seniors are eligible to receive checks if their individual income is less than \$1,800/month and their age is 60 years or older. Seniors participating in the Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP) or The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP) automatically qualify for the Kansas Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program.

A Senior Shopping at Farmer's Market

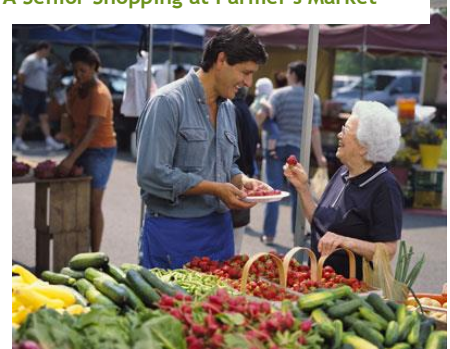


Photo Credit: USDA Photo Gallery

Private-sector Food Assistance

Food-insecure households that do not qualify for Federally-sponsored food assistance programs such as SNAP or free school meals (because their incomes are too high or they do not meet other eligibility criteria) must rely upon private-sector charitable organizations for help. In addition, many low-income families who do receive government food assistance find that the benefits are not sufficient to meet all of their food needs, and seek to supplement those benefits with aid from charitable organizations.

Federal and state policy changes in recent years have tightened eligibility requirements and reduced benefits for many government-sponsored food assistance programs, resulting in increased numbers of people seeking charitable help to meet their food needs.

In Geary County, a network of several local organizations offer food assistance to community members. Most operate on a part-time schedule, and may set their own rules and restrictions related to what clients they serve, and with what frequency.

The Geary County organizations that offer charitable food assistance are shown in the table on the following page.

A Client Receives Assistance at a Food Pantry



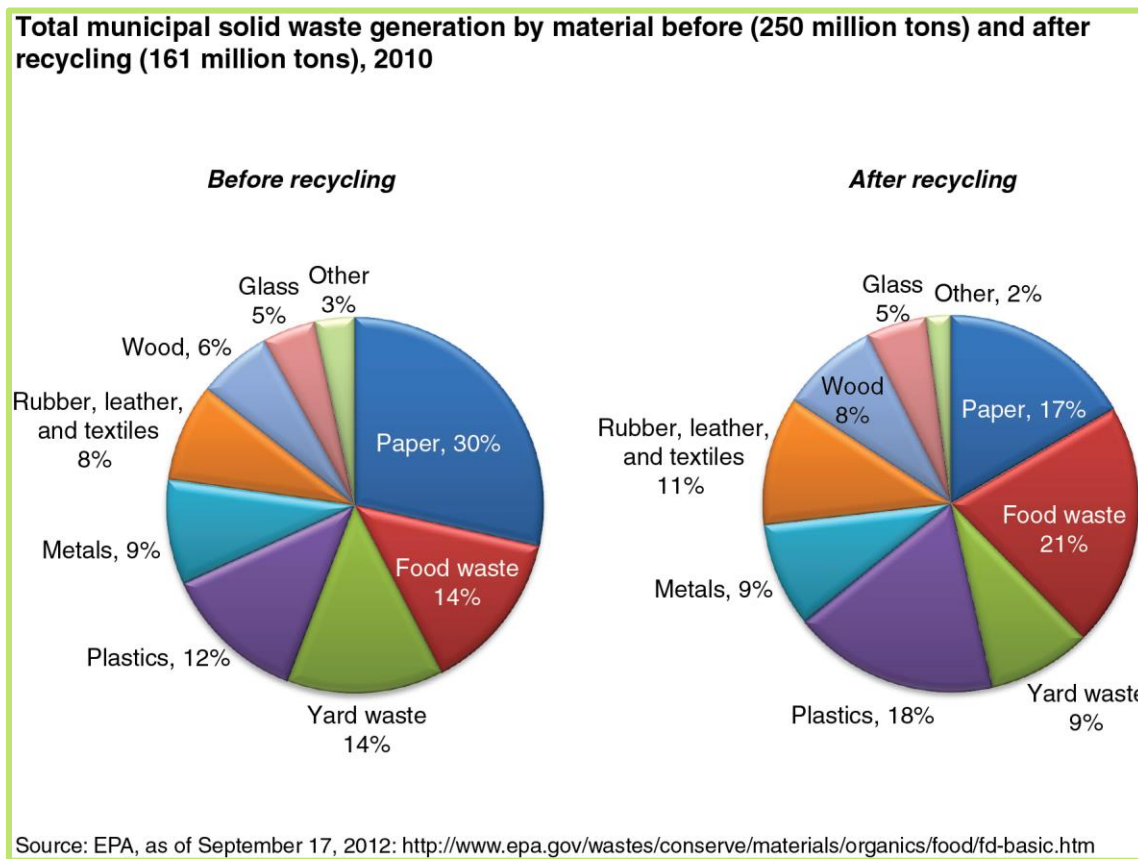
Photo credit: USDA Snap-Ed Photo Gallery

Where?		Who?	What?
Free Emergency Food			
Geary County Food Pantry	136 West 3 rd St. East side, lower level (785)-762-8830	Anyone in need	Food pantry <i>-may be utilized only once per month</i> Monday and Thursday, 9 am-12:45; Tuesday, 5:30-7 pm
Emergency Food Pantry-- First United Methodist Church	First United Methodist Church 804 North Jefferson (785)-238-2156	Anyone in need	Emergency food pantry. <i>-may be utilized once per month</i> Tuesday - Friday, 9 am-3 pm
Caring Place	1013-B West 8 th St. (785)-238-4428	Anyone in need	Pre-made food bags to support a family of four for one week - <i>may be utilized only once per three months</i> Tuesday 10 am -1 pm
Wheels of Hope	Jim Clark dealership 834 Grant Ave.	Grant Avenue mobile home residents and families living in transition	Food distribution Fourth Thursday monthly, 5-6 pm
Reduced-Cost Food Resources			
Geary County Food Pantry	136 West 3 rd St. East side, lower level (785)-762-8830	Anyone in need	Food pantry <i>-may be utilized only once per month</i> Monday and Thursday, 9 am-12:45 pm; Tuesday, 5:30-7 pm
Emergency Food Pantry-- First United Methodist Church	First United Methodist Church 804 North Jefferson (785)-238-2156	Anyone in need	Emergency food pantry. <i>-may be utilized once per month</i> Tuesday - Friday, 9 am-3 pm
Caring Place	1013-B West 8 th St. (785)-238-4428	Anyone in need	Pre-made food bags to support a family of four for one week - <i>may be utilized only once per three months</i> Tuesday 10 am -1 pm
Wheels of Hope	Jim Clark dealership 834 Grant Ave.	Grant Avenue mobile home residents and families living in transition	Food distribution Fourth Thursday monthly, 5-6 pm

(Source: Food Access Resource County, LiveWell Geary County, updated March 2016)

FOOD WASTE, RECYCLING AND RECOVERY

Food waste is a significant problem in the United States. USDA estimates that nearly one-third (31 percent) of the available food supply at the retail and consumer levels went to waste in 2010. This equates to 133 billion pounds of wasted food, and does not include on-farm losses, or losses between the farm and the retailer (Buzby, 2014). The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) estimated that food waste accounted for 21 percent of municipal solid waste in 2010, with nearly all (97 percent) of that waste going to landfills or incinerators.



Food waste represents significant loss of money and other resources invested in food production (land, water, labor, energy and agricultural chemicals) to produce food that does not end up feeding people.

Food waste occurs at all steps along the food production cycle, from farm to table. Some of the common causes of food waste are:

Farm Level

- Damage by insects, rodents, birds, or unfavorable weather conditions
- Edible crops left unharvested due to diminishing returns for additional production
- Overplanting due to difficulty estimating customer demand

Farm-to-Retail Level

- Rejection due to food safety standards or regulation
- Outgrading of blemished or imperfect foods
- Spillage and damage, improper storage
- Byproducts from food processing

Retail Level

- Dented cans, damaged packaging
- Unpurchased seasonal food items
- Spillage, breakage, bruising, inadequate storage, equipment malfunctions
- Culling of blemished or imperfect foods to meet consumer demand
- Overstocking or overpreparing

Consumer Level

- Spillage, breakage, inadequate storage
- Confusion about “use-by”, and “best before” dates resulting in food being discarded when still safe to eat
- Consumer demand for high cosmetic standards
- Lack of knowledge about preparation, appropriate portion sizes
- Consumer tastes, attitudes and preferences leading to plate waste

Reducing food waste offers many benefits to a community and its residents, including financial savings, preservation of natural resources, reduced demand on waste management systems and landfills, and increased amounts of potentially wasted food diverted to feed individuals at risk for hunger. When foods or food by-products are not safe or appropriate for human consumption, they may still be usable as animal feed. Composting of food scraps and spoiled foods recovers some value from the waste stream by producing a rich soil amendment that can be used in gardens to reduce the need for chemical fertilizers. The EPA has developed a Food Recovery Hierarchy that assigns preferential order to various strategies for reducing food waste (below).

EPA Food Recovery Hierarchy <https://www.epa.gov/sustainable-management-food/food-recovery-hierarchy>



Local estimates of Food Waste

Community-level data on food waste are not generally available. It is, however, still possible to derive an estimate of local food waste by assuming that the local patterns are similar to those at the national level. Multiplying county population numbers by national per capita food waste estimates suggest that more than 10 million pounds of food would be wasted annually in Geary County, with an estimated value of \$13

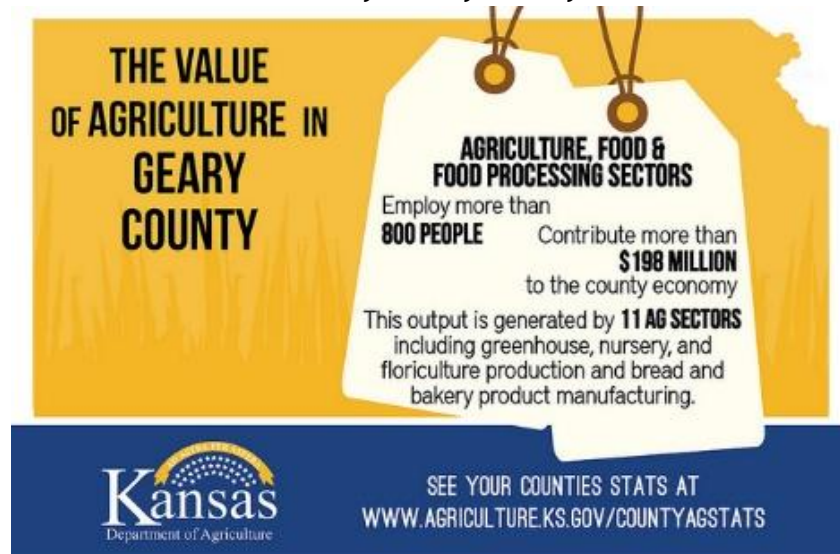
Estimated level of consumer-level food waste in the United States and in Geary County			
	Pounds (annually)	Pounds (daily)	Value (annually)
Per-person basis (national)*	290	0.8	\$371
County Total estimate**	10,572,820	29,166	\$13,525,918

*National figures drawn from USDA, Economic Research Service, 2010 ERS Loss-Adjusted Food Availability and <http://www.ers.usda.gov/amber-waves/2013-june/ers-food-loss-data-help-inform-the-food-waste-discussion.aspx#.VtCoJU32a72>

**County population estimate based upon 2010-2014 American Community Survey (population = 36,458)

ECONOMIC IMPACT OF THE FOOD SYSTEM

Food, and food production are big business in Kansas, and have significant impact on the Kansas economy, both at the state and local levels. According to the Kansas Department of Agriculture, the agricultural, food and food processing business sectors in Geary County employ more than 800 people and contribute an estimated \$198 million to the county's economy each year. Data illustrating various economic measures related to the Geary County food system are included in this section.



Source: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/kansasagriculture/albums/72157650132744038>

Farm Sales

During 2012, Geary County farms reported total sales of farm products valued at more than \$30 million. Sales were divided almost equally between crops and livestock. The per farm average market value of farm products sold by Geary County farms was \$127,549 in 2012, an increase of approximately 14 percent over 2007 sales.

Year	Farms	Market Value of Products Sold			
		Total Sales	Crop Sales	Livestock Sales	Average per farm
1997	227	\$18,245,000	\$7,010,000	\$12,002,000	\$80,375
2002	245	\$16,706,000	\$6,373,000	\$10,333,000	\$68,187
2007	229	\$25,594,000	\$11,039,000	\$14,555,000	\$111,764
2012	238	\$30,357,000	\$15,493,000	\$14,863,000	\$127,549

Farm Subsidies

In addition to income from the sale of farm products, many farms receive payments from various federal government programs. In 2012, 161 Geary County farms reported receiving federal government payments that totaled \$971,000.

Consumer Expenditures on Food

Expenditure Type	Total Annual Spending	Average Annual Spending Per Household
Food (all)	\$93,073,131	\$6,952
Food at home	\$58,701,215	\$4,385
Bakery & Cereals	\$7,942,367	\$593
Meats, Poultry, Fish & Egg	\$12,887,017	\$963
Dairy Products	\$6,132,212	\$458
Fruits & Veg	\$11,094,432	\$829
Snacks and other food at home	\$27,824,696	\$2,078
Non-alcoholic beverages	\$5,741,253	\$429
Food away from home	\$34,371,905	\$2,567

Data Source: Business Decision data system, estimates derived from the Consumer Expenditure Survey, Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2012.

Food-sector Employment

Geary County Employment and Wages in Agricultural and Food Sectors, 2014

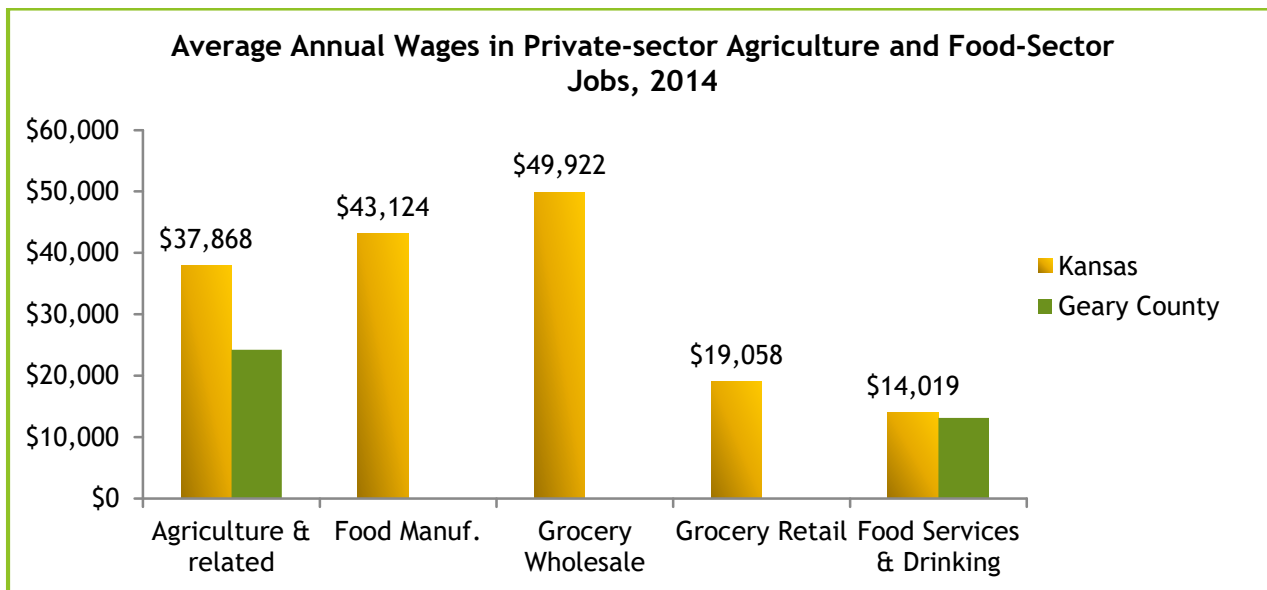
	Total, All Industries	Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing & Hunting	Food Manufacturing	Grocery & Related Wholesalers	Retail Grocery Stores*	Food Services and Drinking Places**
Establishments	741	4	No data	3	3*	62**
Employees	13,418	52	No data	(D)	74*	1,081**
Total Wages (in thousands)	\$498,044	\$1,257	No data	(D)	\$2,883	\$14,159**
Avg. Weekly Wage	\$714	\$466	No data	(D)	\$751	\$252**
Avg. Annual Pay	\$37,117	\$24,246	No data	(D)	\$39,049	\$13,104**

Data Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages

* 2 private-sector, and 1 government store. Employee and wage data are available for the government-owned store only.

** Private-sector businesses only; 1 government-run business is excluded here

(D) = Data are suppressed to prevent disclosure of information about individual businesses



Data Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages

Government Food Assistance Programs

Government-sponsored food assistance programs also provide a significant infusion of dollars into the local economy. Through either direct reimbursement for the cost of meals served (as in school meals), or providing consumers with additional money to spend on food purchases (SNAP and WIC benefits), those dollars support jobs and increase retail sales within the community.

Food Assistance Program	\$\$\$\$
SNAP benefits disbursed to Geary Co. participants, SFY 2015	\$3,690,728
Total SNAP redemptions in Geary Co., 2012	\$5,830,977
Total WIC redemptions in Geary Co., 2012	Data not available

Data Source: SNAP benefit disbursement from Kansas Department of Children and Families, Annual County Packet Reports. SNAP and WIC redemption data derived from USDA Food Environment Atlas.

During the 2016-2017 school year, schools participating in the National School Meals Program are reimbursed between \$1.41 and \$2.04 for each free or reduced-price breakfast served, and between \$2.76 and \$3.24 for each free or reduced-price lunch. Reimbursement rates and the number of eligible students are shown in the table below. Data on the number of meals actually served in each category were not readily available.

	Reimbursement Rate* (per meal), 2016-2017	Number of eligible Geary County Students, 2015-2016
Lunches - Free	\$3.16 - \$3.24	3,235
Lunches – Reduced Price	\$2.76 - \$2.84	1,608
Breakfasts - Free	\$1.71 - \$2.04	3,235
Breakfasts – Reduced Price	\$1.41 - \$1.74	1,608

*Reimbursement rates are higher for schools where higher percentages of students are eligible for free or reduced price meals

Data Source: Reimbursement rates from USDA, Food and Nutrition Service; Student counts from Kansas State Department of Education, Data and Statistics

GEARY COUNTY FEAST

Although existing data sources can provide substantial amounts of information about key aspects of a community food system, they are not helpful in understanding the perspectives and priorities of community members. To fill this gap, members of the Junction City Food Council and the LiveWell Geary County coalition opted to utilize two approaches to engage community members in dialog about the local food system. The first of these was a community FEAST event, which was held on Saturday, October 15th, 2016 in Junction City. FEAST is an acronym for “Food, Education, Agriculture, Solutions, Together,” and is a model for community engagement developed by the Oregon Food Bank. The half-day event was attended by 42 community residents representing multiple sectors of the local food system. Participants included public and non-profit working groups such as the Junction City Food Policy Council, the local food pantry, local food producers, a restaurant owner, and individuals who described themselves as food insecure. Participant discussions were facilitated by the Institute for Civic Discourse and Democracy (ICDD) from Kansas State University.

The event began with a brief panel presentation highlighting facts and perspectives on the local food system. Panel presenters included Barbara LaClair (the consultant who assisted in compiling the Community Food Assessment Report); Deanna Munson, Munson’s Prime restaurant; Victor Wong, Geary County Food Pantry; Chuck Otte, K-State Research & Extension; and Jim Schmidt, a local farmer. Themes addressed included the need for fresh, locally-produced foods, along with barriers to overcome such as lack of local food distribution systems and transportation to allow low-income consumers to access sources of healthy food.

The panel presentation was followed by participation of all attendees. Maps depicting current locations of food retail outlets in the county were displayed, and participants were asked to update them with other community food resources that they were aware of. Small group discussions among participants identified current assets and gaps in the community food system, and what priority issues should be the focus of future community food work. Three working groups were formed around the identified priority areas:

- Production and nutrition education
- Marketing and awareness
- Connecting local food production to local food retail and consumers



THE GEARY COUNTY COMMUNITY FOOD SURVEY

To complement information gleaned from secondary data sources and the participation of key community stakeholders in the FEAST event, members of the Junction City Food Council and LiveWell Geary County chose to solicit input from a broader cross-section of community residents by conducting a survey. A survey questionnaire was designed by the contracted consultant, working in collaboration with representatives of the Food Council. When the questions had been finalized, survey questionnaires were developed in both paper and electronic (online) formats.

The survey was open for data collection for a total of eleven weeks. Survey promotion took place through radio, online, newspaper, and face-to-face platforms. Initial information regarding the survey was disseminated via the local radio station and covered in the local newspaper. This media coverage directed community members to Live Well Geary County's website, livewellgearycounty.org. The link to the online survey was featured on the front page of the website where community members could easily access it. Information regarding the survey and the link was also shared via the Live Well Geary County Facebook page. Additionally, members of Live Well Geary County attended community events and distributed postcards with a QR code and URL to the survey. Paper surveys were also available at these events for community members to complete. Members of Live Well later entered data from paper surveys by hand. To encourage participation, one \$50 gift card to the Geary Community Hospital farmers' market was offered as incentive. Data from surveys completed on paper forms were entered into the online survey system prior to analysis.

A total of 384 individuals participated in the Geary County Food Survey. Of those, 318 completed the entire survey, and there were 66 partially completed responses. Thirty-three (33) survey responses were excluded from analysis because they had no usable data, and four were excluded because they indicated a residence outside of Geary County (4 responses). After exclusion of these records, the analysis included 347 survey responses.

Because the survey employed a non-random, convenience sampling approach, the results of the survey may not be representative of the county population as a whole. One way to increase likely representativeness of a convenience sample is to obtain a larger group of survey responses; the 347 completed responses to the Geary County survey would be expected to produce estimates with a margin of error of $\pm 5\%$. Comparison of the demographic characteristics of survey respondents to the Geary County population suggest that the survey results may be somewhat under-representative of adults between 18 and 29 years of age, seniors age 65 years or older, and community members of Black/African American and Hispanic/Latino race or ethnicity. Subpopulation analysis of answers to key questions has been included in this summary to enable users to identify possible differences within the overall population, and may help to compensate for any misalignments of the survey respondent pool and the general population.

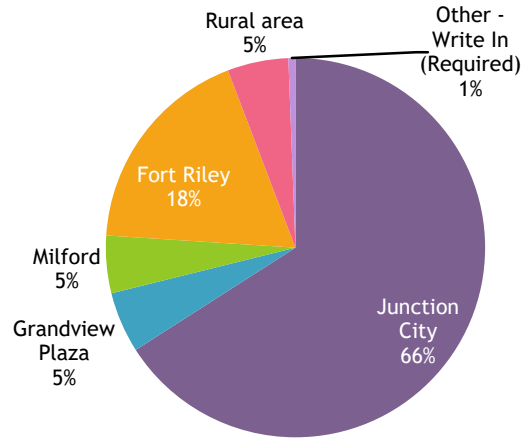
Nevertheless, the results represent an important cross-section of community member perspectives and voices, and contribute to an overall understanding of the food environment and community member needs in Geary County. Survey participants have provided many comments which provide valuable insights regarding their satisfaction with the current Geary County food environment, and where they would like to see changes.

Responses to Survey Questions

Respondent Demographics

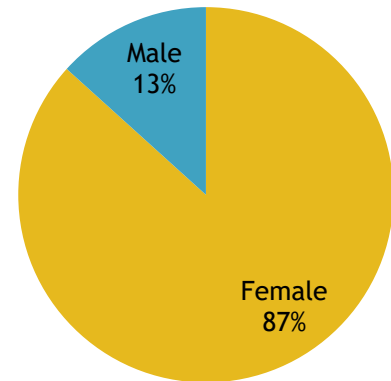
What is the town where you live?

Response	Percent	Count
Junction City	66.0%	229
Grandview Plaza	5.2%	18
Milford	4.9%	17
Fort Riley	18.2%	63
Rural area	5.2%	18
Other - Write In (Required)	0.6%	2
	Total	347



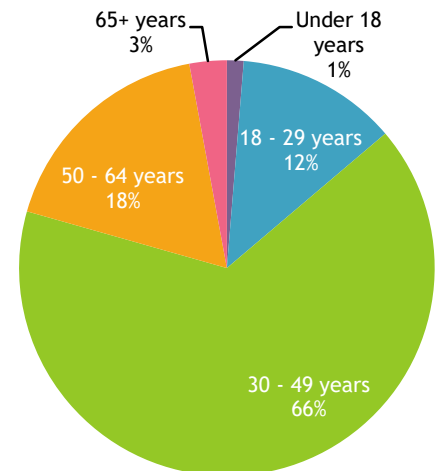
What is your gender?

Response	Percent	Count
Female	86.7%	268
Male	13.3%	41
	Total	309



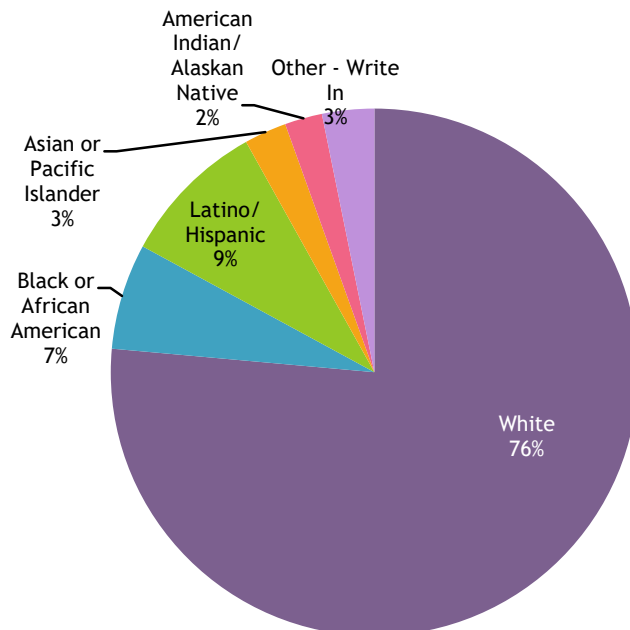
What is your age?

Response	Percent	Count
Under 18 years	1.3%	4
18 - 29 years	12.5%	39
30 - 49 years	65.6%	204
50 - 64 years	17.7%	55
65+ years	2.9%	9
	Total	311



What race/ethnicity do you most closely identify with?

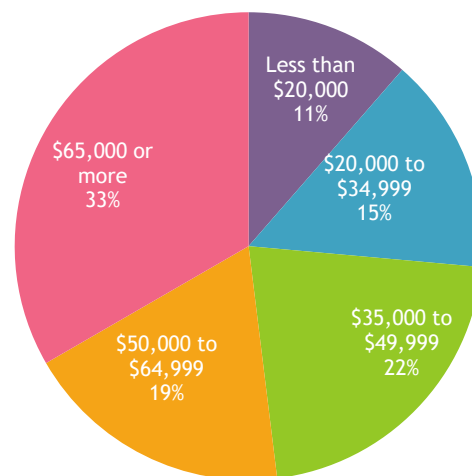
Response	Percent	Count
White	76.5%	237
Black or African American	6.5%	20
Latino/ Hispanic	9.0%	28
Asian or Pacific Islander	2.6%	8
American Indian/ Alaskan Native	2.3%	7
Other - Write In	3.2%	10
Total		310



Other - Write In Responses	Count
African American Hispanic	1
Human Race	1
I really don't think that's relevant, I don't like labels.	1
Irish/ Native American /African	1
Italian	1
Mix	1
Mixed	1
Refuse	1
White	1
White/Asian	1

Approximately how much is your yearly household income before taxes (not including public assistance or SNAP benefits)?

Response	Percent	Count
Less than \$20,000	11.4%	35
\$20,000 to \$34,999	15.0%	46
\$35,000 to \$49,999	21.6%	66
\$50,000 to \$64,999	18.6%	57
\$65,000 or more	33.3%	102
Total		306



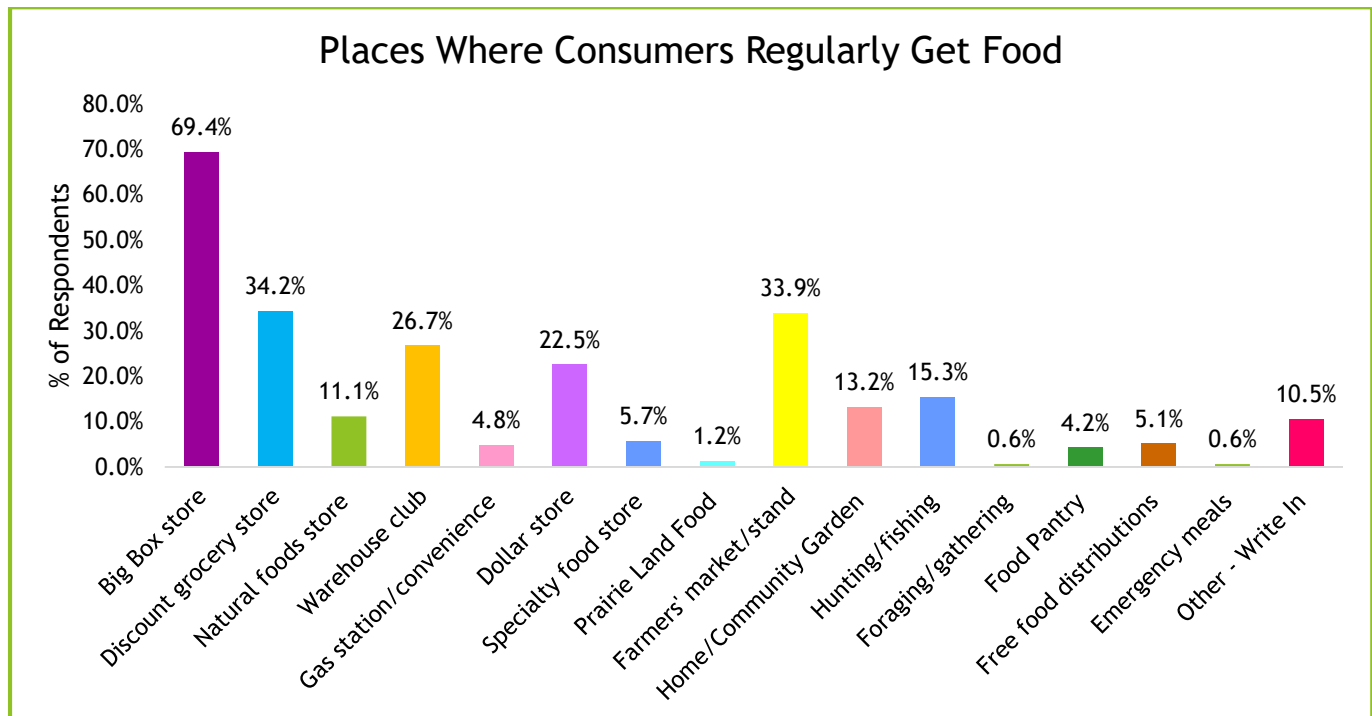
Where Respondents Shop for Food

Please give the name and location of the store where you most often purchase groceries.

Shopping Location	Number of Times Reported
Dillon's, no specific store identified	119
Dillon's, Junction City	33
Dillon's, Manhattan	6
Dillon's, Salina	1
Walmart, no specific store identified	69
Walmart, Junction City	13
Walmart Supercenter (on Chestnut)	8
Walmart Neighborhood Store (on McFarland)	20
Fort Riley Commissary	85
Aldi (in Manhattan)	11
HyVee (in Manhattan)	6
Dollar Tree, Junction City	1
Costco (Wichita)	1
Sam's Club (location not specified)	1
Locally grown produce	1

Note: Many survey respondents listed more than one location

Besides your regular grocery store, where else do you regularly get food? (check all that apply)



Response – Where else respondents regularly get food	Percent	Count
Big Box store that sells groceries & other items	69.4%	231
Discount grocery store (Aldi, Sav-a-Lot)	34.2%	114
Natural foods store	11.1%	37
Warehouse club (Sam's Club, etc.)	26.7%	89
Gas station or convenience store	4.8%	16
Dollar store (Family Dollar, Dollar General, etc.)	22.5%	75
Specialty food store (bakery, butcher/meat market)	5.7%	19
Prairie Land Food	1.2%	4
Farmers' market, farm stand(s), or purchase direct from farmer	33.9%	113
Home or Community Garden	13.2%	44
Hunting or fishing	15.3%	51
Foraging or gathering edible wild plants	0.6%	2
Food Pantry	4.2%	14
Free food distributions	5.1%	17
Emergency meal programs	0.6%	2
Other - Write In	10.5%	35

Other - Write In	Count
Dillon's	7
Fort Riley Commissary	9
Walmart	3
Bountiful Basket	8
Family members	2
Hello Fresh	1
Hy-Vee	4
Orschelin	1
Target	1
Amazon.com	1
Farmers' market	1

What are the main reasons that you get your food from these sources? (check all that apply)



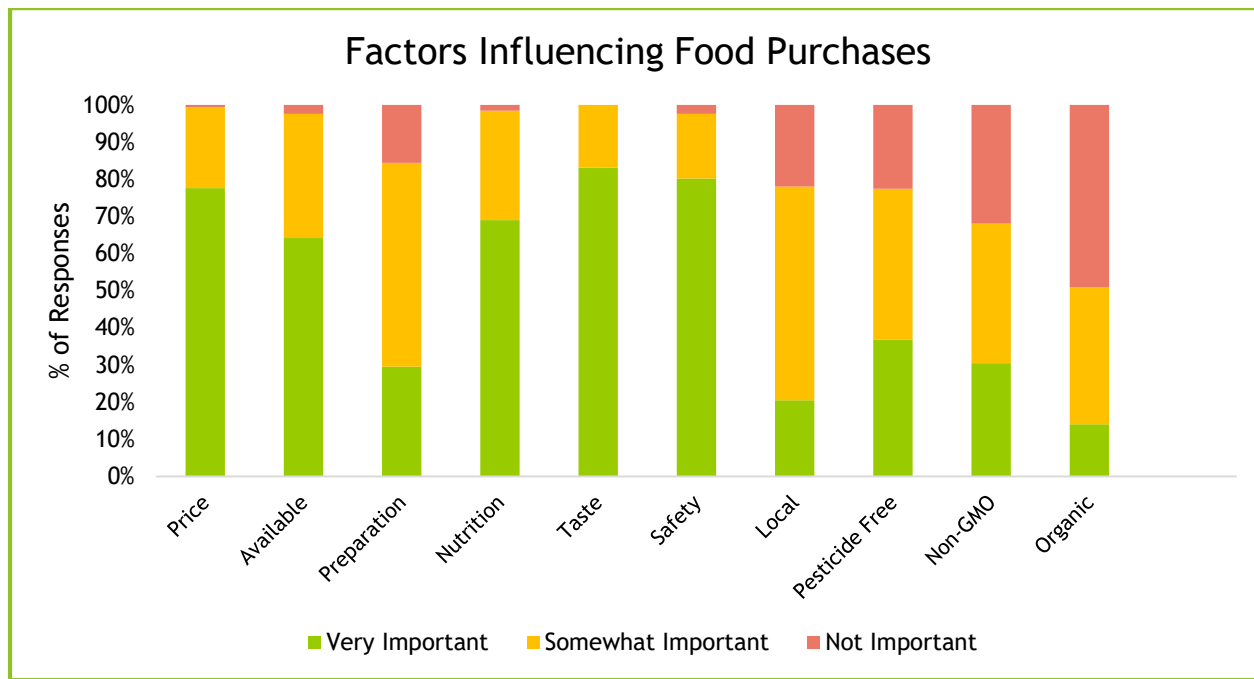
Response	Percent	Count
The prices fit my budget	74.5%	254
The location is convenient	68.9%	235
The quality of the food is good	49.0%	167
The food is healthy	34.6%	118
We like the taste of the food	20.2%	69
Other - Write In	5.9%	20

Other - Write In
Affordable
Best price
Cheap
Dillon's has a salad bar!!
Have what we need
Manhattan Dillon's has more variety it feels
My husband works at the store
The stores are nice and convenient
There are three choices in town.
We go to each one at different times for different reasons
We run out of food so we go to the food pantry.
A fine balance of quality and affordability. Not the best quality, but we cannot afford better, and we try to avoid processed foods from big box stores
Always have
Available stock on hand
Cost/proximity/value balance
Excellent customer service
Love supporting the farmer's market communities!
No sales tax
Not many options available in the area
Save money on fuel

Factors Influencing Food Purchasing Decisions

When you buy food, how important are each of the following considerations?

Response	Very important Percent Count	Somewhat important Percent Count	Not important Percent Count	Responses
Price	77.7% 264	21.8% 74	0.6% 2	340
Easily available	64.2% 219	33.4% 114	2.4% 8	341
Ease of preparation	29.5% 100	54.9% 186	15.6% 53	339
Nutritional value	69.0% 236	29.5% 101	1.5% 5	342
Tastes good	83.1% 280	16.9% 57	0.0% 0	337
Food safety	80.3% 273	17.4% 59	2.4% 8	340
Locally grown	20.5% 69	57.6% 194	22.0% 74	337
Pesticide-free	36.8% 124	40.7% 137	22.6% 76	337
Non-GMO	30.5% 103	37.6% 127	32.0% 108	338
Certified organic	14.0% 47	37.0% 124	49.0% 164	335



Importance of Price in Food Purchasing Decisions, by Respondent Characteristics

	Very Important	Somewhat Important	Not Important	Number of Responses
Less than \$35,000	94.9%	5.1%	0.0%	79
\$35,000 to \$49,999	85.9%	14.1%	0.0%	64
\$50,000 to \$64,999	71.9%	28.1%	0.0%	57
\$65,000 or more	62.6%	35.4%	2.0%	99
Less than 29 years	79.6%	20.5%	0.0%	44
30 – 49 years	81.0%	19.0%	0.0%	200
50 years or older	66.7%	30.0%	3.3%	60
White	75.2%	23.9%	0.9%	234
Black/ African American	89.5%	10.5%	0.0%	19
Latino/ Hispanic	85.2%	14.8%	0.0%	27
Other	85.0%	15.0%	0.0%	20

Importance of Ease of Availability in Food Purchasing Decisions, by Respondent Characteristics

	Very Important	Somewhat Important	Not Important	Number of Responses
Less than \$35,000	58.2%	39.2%	2.5%	79
\$35,000 to \$49,999	69.8%	30.2%	0.0%	63
\$50,000 to \$64,999	56.1%	38.6%	5.3%	57
\$65,000 or more	68.3%	28.7%	3.0%	101
Less than 29 years	60.5%	37.2%	2.3%	43
30 – 49 years	62.2%	36.3%	1.5%	201
50 years or older	70.5%	23.0%	6.5%	61
White	63.8%	34.0%	2.1%	235
Black/ African American	73.7%	26.3%	0.0%	19
Latino/ Hispanic	59.3%	37.0%	3.7%	27
Other	60.0%	30.0%	10.0%	20

Importance of Preparation Ease in Food Purchasing Decisions, by Respondent Characteristics

	Very Important	Somewhat Important	Not Important	Number of Responses
Less than \$35,000	27.9%	57.0%	15.2%	79
\$35,000 to \$49,999	38.1%	52.4%	9.5%	63
\$50,000 to \$64,999	25.0%	53.6%	21.4%	56
\$65,000 or more	25.0%	56.0%	19.0%	100
Less than 29 years	32.6%	48.8%	18.6%	43
30 – 49 years	27.0%	56.5%	16.5%	200
50 years or older	31.7%	53.3%	15.0%	60
White	27.9%	55.4%	16.7%	233
Black/ African American	36.8%	47.4%	15.8%	19
Latino/ Hispanic	22.2%	63.0%	14.8%	27
Other	40.0%	40.0%	20.0%	20

Importance of Nutritional Value in Food Purchasing Decisions, by Respondent Characteristics

	Very Important	Somewhat Important	Not Important	Number of Responses
Less than \$35,000	70.9%	26.6%	2.5%	79
\$35,000 to \$49,999	75.0%	23.4%	1.6%	64
\$50,000 to \$64,999	70.2%	28.1%	1.8%	57
\$65,000 or more	63.4%	35.6%	1.0%	101
Less than 29 years	65.9%	31.8%	2.3%	44
30 – 49 years	71.6%	27.4%	1.0%	201
50 years or older	62.3%	34.4%	3.3%	61
White	67.0%	30.9%	2.1%	236
Black/ African American	84.2%	15.8%	0.0%	19
Latino/ Hispanic	82.1%	17.9%	0.0%	28
Other	68.4%	31.6%	0.0%	19

Importance of Taste in Food Purchasing Decisions, by Respondent

Characteristics

	Very Important	Somewhat Important	Not Important	Number of Responses
Less than \$35,000	82.0%	18.0%	0.0%	78
\$35,000 to \$49,999	83.6%	16.4%	0.0%	61
\$50,000 to \$64,999	87.5%	12.5%	0.0%	56
\$65,000 or more	83.2%	16.8%	0.0%	101
Less than 29 years	76.7%	23.3%	0.0%	43
30 – 49 years	84.9%	15.2%	0.0%	198
50 years or older	86.7%	13.3%	0.0%	60
White	84.5%	15.5%	0.0%	232
Black/ African American	84.2%	15.8%	0.0%	19
Latino/ Hispanic	85.2%	14.8%	0.0%	27
Other	73.7%	26.3%	0.0%	19

Importance of Food Safety in Food Purchasing Decisions, by Respondent

Characteristics

	Very Important	Somewhat Important	Not Important	Number of Responses
Less than \$35,000	85.0%	15.0	0.0%	80
\$35,000 to \$49,999	88.7%	9.7%	1.6%	62
\$50,000 to \$64,999	83.9%	16.1%	0.0%	56
\$65,000 or more	70.3%	24.8%	5.0%	101
Less than 29 years	79.6%	20.5%	0.0%	44
30 – 49 years	80.5%	17.0%	2.5%	200
50 years or older	83.3%	15.0%	1.7%	60
White	77.7%	19.7%	2.6%	233
Black/ African American	89.5%	10.5%	0.0%	19
Latino/ Hispanic	96.4%	3.6%	0.0%	28
Other	85.0%	10.0%	5.0%	20

Importance of Locally Grown in Food Purchasing Decisions, by Respondent Characteristics

	Very Important	Somewhat Important	Not Important	Number of Responses
Less than \$35,000	19.3%	59.5%	21.3%	62
\$35,000 to \$49,999	27.4%	54.8%	17.7%	62
\$50,000 to \$64,999	19.3%	56.1%	24.6%	57
\$65,000 or more	12.2%	65.3%	22.5%	98
Less than 29 years	18.6%	58.1%	23.3%	43
30 – 49 years	20.8%	58.8%	20.3%	197
50 years or older	16.4%	59.0%	24.6%	61
White	18.1%	58.2%	23.7%	232
Black/ African American	15.8%	68.4%	15.8%	19
Latino/ Hispanic	23.1%	57.7%	19.2%	26
Other	40.0%	45.0%	15.0%	20

Importance of Pesticide-Free in Food Purchasing Decisions, by Respondent Characteristics

	Very Important	Somewhat Important	Not Important	Number of Responses
Less than \$35,000	46.8%	38.0%	15.2%	79
\$35,000 to \$49,999	41.9%	43.6%	14.5%	62
\$50,000 to \$64,999	31.6%	45.6%	22.8%	57
\$65,000 or more	24.5%	39.8%	35.7%	98
Less than 29 years	39.5%	34.9%	25.6%	43
30 – 49 years	36.6%	40.1%	23.4%	197
50 years or older	29.5%	49.2%	21.3%	61
White	28.9%	43.5%	27.6%	232
Black/ African American	52.6%	36.8%	10.5%	19
Latino/ Hispanic	50.0%	42.3%	7.7%	26
Other	65.0%	20.0%	15.0%	20

Importance of Non-GMO in Food Purchasing Decisions, by Respondent

Characteristics

	Very Important	Somewhat Important	Not Important	Number of Responses
Less than \$35,000	32.9%	48.1%	19.0%	79
\$35,000 to \$49,999	39.7%	30.2%	30.2%	63
\$50,000 to \$64,999	24.6%	40.4%	35.1%	57
\$65,000 or more	20.4%	34.7%	44.9%	98
Less than 29 years	20.9%	39.5%	39.5%	43
30 – 49 years	31.3%	37.9%	30.8%	198
50 years or older	26.2%	41.0%	32.8%	61
White	23.2%	37.8%	39.1%	233
Black/ African American	42.1%	47.4%	10.5%	19
Latino/ Hispanic	42.3%	46.2%	11.5%	26
Other	60.0%	25.0%	15.0%	20

Importance of Certified Organic in Food Purchasing Decisions, by Respondent

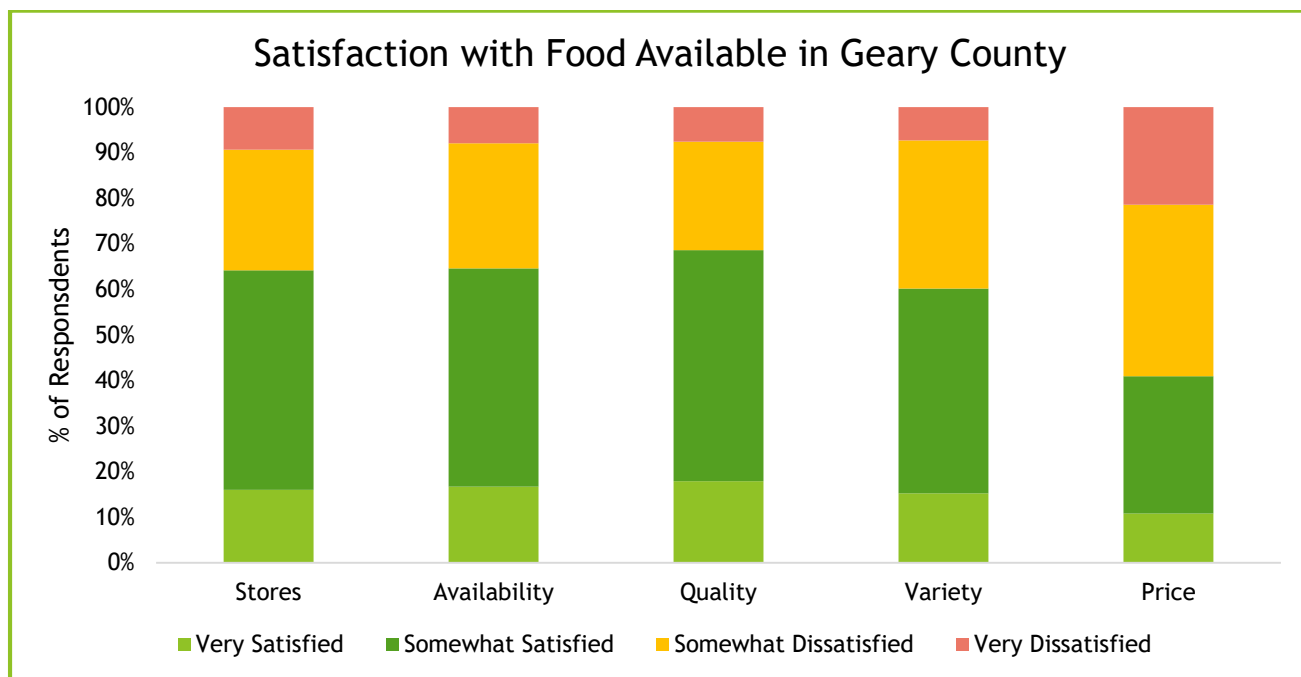
Characteristics

	Very Important	Somewhat Important	Not Important	Number of Responses
Less than \$35,000	14.1%	43.6%	42.3%	78
\$35,000 to \$49,999	17.7%	35.5%	47.8%	62
\$50,000 to \$64,999	12.5%	35.7%	51.8%	56
\$65,000 or more	10.2%	31.6%	58.2%	98
Less than 29 years	21.4%	26.2%	52.4%	42
30 – 49 years	13.7%	42.6%	43.7%	197
50 years or older	5.0%	25.0%	70.0%	60
White	9.6%	32.6%	57.8%	230
Black/ African American	26.3%	42.1%	31.6%	19
Latino/ Hispanic	23.1%	50.0%	26.9%	26
Other	30.0%	45.0%	25.0%	20

Satisfaction with Food in Geary County

How satisfied are you with the food that is currently available in Geary County?

	Very satisfied	Somewhat satisfied	Somewhat dissatisfied	Very dissatisfied	
Response	Percent, Count	Percent, Count	Percent, Count	Percent, Count	Responses
Number of food stores	16.0% 55	48.1% 165	26.5% 91	9.3% 32	343
Availability of healthy food	16.7% 57	48.0% 164	27.5% 94	7.9% 27	342
Quality of healthy food available	17.9% 61	50.7% 173	23.8% 81	7.6% 26	341
Variety of healthy food available	15.2% 52	45.0% 154	32.5% 111	7.3% 25	342
Price of healthy food	10.8% 37	30.1% 103	37.7% 129	21.4% 73	342



Satisfaction with Number of Grocery Stores, by Respondent Characteristics

	Very Satisfied	Somewhat Satisfied	Somewhat Dissatisfied	Very Dissatisfied	Number of Responses
Household Income					
Less than \$35,000	20.0%	42.5%	30.0%	20.0%	80
\$35,000 to \$49,999	14.1%	46.9%	28.1%	10.9%	64
\$50,000 to \$64,999	12.3%	57.9%	19.3%	12.3%	57
\$65,000 or more	16.8%	47.5%	25.7%	9.9%	101
Age of Respondent					
Less than 29 years	13.6%	47.7%	31.8%	6.8%	44
30 – 49 years	16.3%	49.5%	24.3%	9.9%	202
50 years or older	18.0%	42.6%	29.5%	9.8%	61
Race/Ethnicity of Respondent					
White	14.4%	50.9%	25.4%	9.3%	236
Black/ African American	31.6%	26.3%	42.1%	0.0%	19
Latino/ Hispanic	32.1%	50.0%	14.3%	3.6%	28
Other	10.0%	40.0%	30.0%	20.0%	20

Satisfaction with Availability of Healthy Food, by Respondent Characteristics

	Very Satisfied	Somewhat Satisfied	Somewhat Dissatisfied	Very Dissatisfied	Number of Responses
Household Income					
Less than \$35,000	19.0%	54.4%	20.3%	6.3%	79
\$35,000 to \$49,999	18.8%	45.3%	28.1%	7.8%	64
\$50,000 to \$64,999	8.8%	61.4%	28.1%	1.8%	57
\$65,000 or more	17.8%	37.6%	35.6%	8.9%	101
Age of Respondent					
Less than 29 years	18.6%	55.8%	20.9%	4.7%	43
30 – 49 years	13.9%	47.0%	31.2%	7.9%	202
50 years or older	24.6%	49.2%	23.0%	3.3%	61
Race/Ethnicity of Respondent					
White	14.4%	52.5%	26.3%	6.8%	236
Black/ African American	31.6%	36.8%	31.6%	0.0%	19
Latino/ Hispanic	33.3%	44.4%	18.5%	3.7%	27
Other	10.0%	30.0%	45.0%	15.0%	20

Satisfaction with Quality of Healthy Food Available, by Respondent Characteristics

	Very Satisfied	Somewhat Satisfied	Somewhat Dissatisfied	Very Dissatisfied	Number of Responses
Household Income					
Less than \$35,000	26.5%	51.9%	15.2%	6.3%	79
\$35,000 to \$49,999	20.3%	45.3%	25.0%	9.4%	64
\$50,000 to \$64,999	8.8%	61.4%	26.3%	8.8%	57
\$65,000 or more	17.0%	44.0%	31.0%	8.0%	100
Age of Respondent					
Less than 29 years	18.6%	51.2%	25.6%	4.7%	43
30 – 49 years	16.3%	49.0%	26.2%	8.4%	202
50 years or older	25.0%	55.0%	16.7%	3.3%	60
Race/Ethnicity of Respondent					
White	15.3%	54.5%	23.0%	7.2%	235
Black/ African American	42.1%	47.4%	10.5%	0.0%	19
Latino/ Hispanic	33.3%	40.7%	25.9%	0.0%	27
Other	15.0%	30.0%	40.0%	15.0%	20

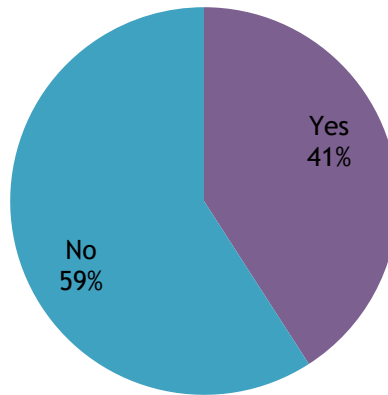
Satisfaction with Variety of Healthy Food Available, by Respondent Characteristics

	Very Satisfied	Somewhat Satisfied	Somewhat Dissatisfied	Very Dissatisfied	Number of Responses
Household Income					
Less than \$35,000	22.8%	51.9%	19.0%	6.3%	79
\$35,000 to \$49,999	18.8%	39.1%	32.8%	9.4%	64
\$50,000 to \$64,999	7.0%	56.1%	35.1%	1.8%	57
\$65,000 or more	11.9%	33.7%	45.5%	8.9%	101
Age of Respondent					
Less than 29 years	25.6%	41.9%	27.9%	4.7%	43
30 – 49 years	11.4%	42.1%	38.1%	8.4%	202
50 years or older	19.7%	55.7%	21.3%	3.3%	61
Race/Ethnicity of Respondent					
White	11.9%	48.3%	32.8%	5.9%	236
Black/ African American	36.8%	31.6%	31.6%	0.0%	19
Latino/ Hispanic	29.6%	44.4%	25.9%	0.0%	27
Other	15.0%	25.0%	30.0%	30.0%	20

Satisfaction with Price of Healthy Food, by Respondent Characteristics

	Very Satisfied	Somewhat Satisfied	Somewhat Dissatisfied	Very Dissatisfied	Number of Responses
Household Income					
Less than \$35,000	13.9%	25.3%	38.0%	22.8%	79
\$35,000 to \$49,999	10.9%	31.3%	35.9%	21.9%	64
\$50,000 to \$64,999	7.0%	28.1%	47.4%	17.5%	57
\$65,000 or more	7.9%	34.7%	36.6%	20.8%	101
Age of Respondent					
Less than 29 years	14.0%	25.6%	44.2%	16.3%	43
30 – 49 years	8.9%	31.7%	36.6%	22.8%	202
50 years or older	11.5%	27.9%	44.3%	16.4%	61
Race/Ethnicity of Respondent					
White	8.5%	32.6%	39.0%	19.9%	236
Black/ African American	21.1%	10.5%	47.4%	21.1%	19
Latino/ Hispanic	18.5%	33.3%	44.4%	3.7%	27
Other	10.0%	15.0%	30.0%	45.0%	20

Are there some foods that you need that are difficult to get in your community?



Response	Percent	Count
Yes	40.9%	140
No	59.1%	202
	Total	342

What foods are they?

Response – Foods that are difficult to get in the community
Fresh fish (x 2 responses)
Gluten free (x 2 responses)
seafood (x2 responses)
A larger variety
Affordable
Affordable Naturally Grown Fruits and Eggs
Affordable and free range eggs
Aldi's
Allergy-friendly
Asian market and fresh fish options
Better variety of fruit and vegetables
Bulk bin foods such as rice, pasta, beans, seeds, nuts, etc.
Bulk, organic & vegetarian convenience foods
Collard greens that aren't spoiled
Coming from California, we miss the large farmer's markets offering a wide range of fruits and vegetables. While the one at the hospital is nice, it is a far cry from what we are used to. Think Whole Foods, Trader Joes, and The Nugget Market at your fingertips!
Croquettes
Cultural foods
Diabetic foods- aren't clearly marked like gluten-free foods are
Ethnic ingredients for international dishes

Response – Foods that are difficult to get in the community

Figs and other fruits and vegetables that my family enjoys

Fresh Baked Bread

Fresh green vegetables, non-GMO products

Fresh produce and spices

Fresh veggies and fruit of high quality.

Fruits and vegetables

Fruits and vegetables available during winter months

Fruits and vegetables other than you typical carrots and apples

German, fresh sea food, and know of no meat markets

Gluten free, different spices

Grass Fed Butter

Grass fed beef and grass fed milk

Green Tomatoes, raw peanuts

Greens

Guava, dragon fruit, lychee, taro, taro leaf.

HISPANIC VEGETABLES

Home grown greens and fruits

Hot Sal's meat, German chocolate cake

International foods

King Arthur Flour, Dorothy Lynch salad dressing

Lactose free and MSG free

Large bags of healthy snacks, soy beans, health foods

Lean turkey sausage

Local food

Loose Tea, some German foods

Low Carb choices

Low Sodium

Low Sodium options. We also struggle with the quality of the produce at the Walmart stores.

Low carb items , paleo wraps and non-sugar sweeteners like xylitol

Meat

Meat at a price we can afford. Vegetables we can afford , other than our garden

Menudo

Mexican

Mexican food

More Hispanic food

More tropical fruits

Mostly fresh produce (for example, I needed shallots and I could not find them at the store I was in)

Natural and healthy convenience foods

Organic

Organic specialty foods, especially for "clean eating" diets

Organic, free range inexpensive meat

Paleo substitutions, Ezekiel bread, healthy convenience foods

Pumpkin, watermelon

Quality fruits and veggies

Quality produce

Salt free foods

Response – Foods that are difficult to get in the community

Seafood

Seasonal items

Seasonal items that have to be shipped in.

Some "exotic" Indian or Asian spices.

Some fruits and vegetables

Specialty

Specialty foods and herbs

Specialty ingredients

Specialty items - low sugar, low carb, gluten free varieties

Specialty spices, some fruits and veggies

Strawberries

Sugar free options

The grocery stores have produce, but it is not the best quality. Tomatoes and zucchini in particular.

Variedad de verduras (Translation: Variety of vegetables)

Variety of Vegetables

Variety of ethnic foods

Variety of organic fruits, vegetables

Variety of organic vegetables, organic meats

Variety of produce and specialty cooking products

Variety of vegetables, organic produce that's affordable, locally farmed meat and harvested fruits and veggies.

We do not have the variety of fresh veggies that other communities have, nor do we have some of the specialty items (cheeses/meats) available elsewhere.

Whole food, non-processed food

Wild caught fish

Yucca

Certain fruits and vegetables as well as German foods

Food and product variety--salad dressing small variety locally

Fresh baked goods, they sell out quickly. Local Eggs, Bean sprouts, Carrots, Broccoli- all sell out before next shipments arrive, making it a rush on certain days to "stock up"

Fresh crawfish, greens

Fresh fruits & vegetables

Fresh fruits and vegetables

Fresh organic fruits

Fresh seafoods

Fruits and vegetables that are fresh

Gluten free

Gluten free/ dairy free

Good cheeses

Good ripe avocados, variety of fresh foods had to find it if good

Grass fed beef, local berries, bulk produce for canning,

Green tomatoes

Hispanic food items

International foods

International foods Hispanic

Low fat

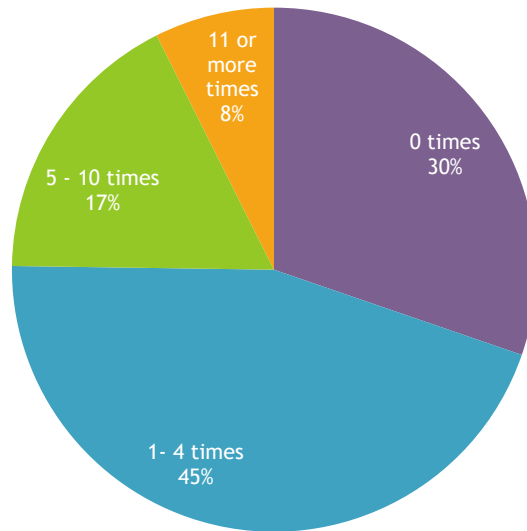
Meat

Response – Foods that are difficult to get in the community

Middle eastern
More vegetarian options
Nut flours
Organic beef and chicken
Organic foods
Organic meat and produce
Pork
Pork without added salt and phosphates
Seafood, health foods
Specialty items
Specialty seasons/herbs/name brands in Manhattan but not JC
Too many to list
Variety of organic products
Various ethnic foods
Yes, have to travel to Manhattan to get items from Health food store

Farmers’ Market

During 2016, how many times did one or more members of your household purchase food at a Farmers' Market in Geary County? (select one choice)

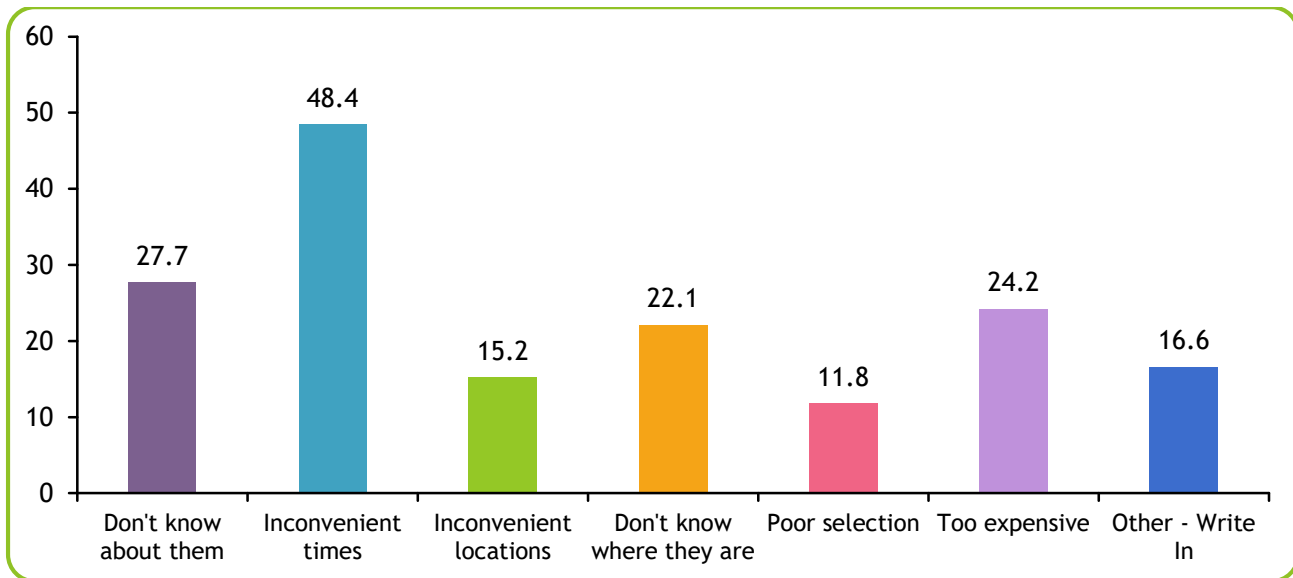


Response	Percent	Count
0 times	30.3%	103
1- 4 times	45.0%	153
5 - 10 times	17.4%	59
11 or more times	7.4%	25
	Total	340

Farmers' Market Shopping Frequency, by Respondent Characteristics

	0 Times	1-4 Times	5-10 Times	11 or More Times	Number of Responses
Household Income					
Less than \$35,000	38.8%	43.8%	11.3%	6.3%	80
\$35,000 to \$49,999	25.8%	50.0%	19.4%	4.8%	62
\$50,000 to \$64,999	31.6%	43.9%	10.5%	14.0%	57
\$65,000 or more	25.0%	43.0%	25.0%	7.0%	101
Age Group					
Less than 29 years	46.5%	39.5%	4.7%	9.3%	43
30 – 49 years	27.4%	48.3%	17.9%	6.5%	201
50 years or older	30.0%	33.3%	25.0%	11.7%	60
Race/Ethnicity					
White	31.8%	40.8%	19.7%	7.7%	233
Black/ African American	21.1%	57.9%	15.8%	5.3%	19
Latino/ Hispanic	39.3%	50.0%	0.0%	10.7%	28
Other	15.0%	55.0%	20.0%	10.0%	20

If you don't shop regularly at Farmers' Markets, why not? (check all that apply)



Response	Percent	Count
Don't know about them	27.7%	80
Inconvenient times	48.4%	140
Inconvenient locations	15.2%	44
Don't know where they are	22.1%	64
Poor selection	11.8%	34
Too expensive	24.2%	70
Other - Write In	16.6%	48

Other - Write In Responses – Reasons for not shopping at Farmers' Market

Do not know what they sell
Don't take foodstamp card
Food from some vendors appears to have been purchased from stores and just brought in.
Forget
Forget about them
Generally cash only while plastic is our primary method of payment.
Happy with grocery store. Too lazy to go another place.
Have evening activities, forget about it or am too tired at end of day to go.
Have own home garden and farm meat
I SHOP THERE
I do not know. I moved in August to Kansas
I do shop there
I don't know
I forget to go after work on Thursday.
I like to go to one place for all my grocery shopping
I never have the money to buy there any. I'm on a fixed income and I can't afford it
I never have time to get there due to work.
It depends on how tired I am when I get off from work, wish they had something available on Saturdays.
It isn't on my mind usually.
Just don't always get around to making special trip. I work out of town & had summer sport to attend. Love going though.
Just don't make it a priority
Just more convenient to go to the local grocery store
Keep forgetting the day and time of the market
New here so haven't explored yet.
Not always local. Sometimes store bought in original packaging and with the stickers still on. I can go to the store for that!
Not interested
Other plans on Saturday mornings, Thursday evening classes for school
The one on Jefferson is only there on Saturday mornings. Saturday is our only day to sleep in. When we try to catch the market, they are already closed or closing. Sometimes there's more craft vendors than produce sellers
Don't know what I can count on being there
Don't want to make special trip
Forget
Forget about the day that it happens
Grow own in family garden
Haven't been in Kansas much to know where they are at
I never have cash on me
Limited selection
Never remember when they are
No transportation
Not having enough funds.
Not large enough of variety
Poor planning on my part
Recently became aware of them
Some of the produce has gone bad too quickly
Times they are open don't correspond well with my family's schedule
Too lazy or I forgot

Please indicate what changes would make you want to attend a local farmers' market more frequently. Please be specific - suggest changes to day(s) of the week, time of day, location, etc.

Response - Changes that would increase attendance at Farmers' Market
More advertising (X 2 respondents)
2 days a week One on the weekend
A calendar_ I am new to Fort Riley and didn't know about the markets until I got lost one Saturday. Walmart does not have quality fruit. Dillon's is a community rip off and far too expensive. Why doesn't Junction City do more to keep revenue IN Junction City?
A dedicated indoor building they can sell out of Monday thru Friday. There are a bunch of vacant unused building that would fit their needs.
A location on Fort Riley or within a mile of a gate A program to allow families who do not qualify for WIC to buy healthy fresh vegetables and fruits at a deeply discounted or vouchers price using our military ID number to verify the person making the purchase. Food is very expensive to us. When a soldier is deployed for less than a years bs up to 11 months , not only does the family receive only about \$6-\$20 a month in "family separation pay," the family also loses all the "desperate rations pay." When your receive only \$1,700 after BAH is taken for the on post housing expense... \$300 in rations pay is the difference in making all the car payments and bills or buying food. Really. And many kids and adults are living on hot dogs and generic Mac 'n Cheese, because they simply don't have enough money for anything else.
A shadier environment, possibly even a climate controlled pavilion.
A weekend day
Add more variety of foods and advertise day, place, and times a little better. I'm from Pennsylvania, we had huge farmer's markets available that sold just about everything. It was a family pastime for many people. They strengthened the community and made huge revenue. I'm surprised these types of farmer's markets are not available in Kansas.
Adding an additional day to a different location would be great.
Additional locations and times throughout the day/week
Advertise more frequently
Advertise them more about where and when they are.
Advertisement - sooner than the day it happens
After 5pm
After standard work hours (8am-5pm); central location;
After visiting the Kansas City Farmers Market, it was a fun experience. They had music and it was a festive atmosphere. I think the times of the Farmer's Market here is fine and the location. I just wish for a more festive atmosphere.
After work hours.
Afternoon
At GCH location, too small for parking for as many people that go. A lot of vendors and customers, just not enough room to all fit!!!
Available more than once a week.
Be more open about locations
Better parking.
Better prices, more selection, multiple evenings
Better times to select from
Changes to time of day. More advertising is needed
Cheaper produce, Saturday-all day
Cheaper!! I also hate buying produce and it goes bad within a day or two!!
Closer to riley
Consistency, advertising, convenient location and after business hours
Cooler part of the day, lower prices because the veggies are not the best quality, and some are cheaper at the grocery store. More days a week.
Cualquier dia en la tarde pero mas conveniente sabado (Translation: Any day in the afternoon, but more convenient on Saturday)
Day, time and location
Days off and paydays

Response - Changes that would increase attendance at Farmers' Market

Due to our community, I would recommend offering bigger selections around pay days. Especially, the 1st or the 15th with military.

During the week after 5pm or afternoons on the weekends.

Easier location. More parking. More open hours of business.

Eggs and meat choices; more choices at evening markets

Freshness low price

Good locations and times, just my schedule doesn't allow me time to go there

Have a co-op building or indoor space that is open outside of "standard" business hours (evenings & weekends).

Have it available on Saturday and Sunday in the afternoon

Have locations on Fort Riley

Have one weekday and one weekend. Perhaps stagger times as well (for example: 9am-noon on a weekday, 9am-noon on Saturday, etc...). I don't know of a location of one in Geary county.

Have the Farmer's Market on a Saturday or Sunday, morning/afternoon. Centrally located in town would be better as well.

Have them located near grocery stores or common shopping centers. Have them advertised more so we know they are happening. Have them displayed better. Often the food looks unappetizing

Have them more on the weekends.

Have them on the weekend. Morning to noon. Advertise when, where and what's available along with prices.

Having a larger variety. Prices are expensive at times.

Having the local farmer's market on weekends.

I am not sure where the market is in Geary Co. We have went to the market in Riley Co a few times, and would more regularly if we were closer. It is hard because although the food is better, it is not as convenient as a one-stop grocery trip for all our needs.

I can't attend the Saturday morning ones, and I just keep forgetting about the Thursday night ones.

I don't know where they are. I have been here for one month.

I have no clue because I currently do not know when or where the markets are located and operated.

I just forget the day it's happening

I like the day and time, I just need to remember to go.

I like the on-the-way-home-from-work time. Sometimes wish for more selection, but that's how it is at farmers markets. It has definitely gotten bigger & better.

I live in Grandview Plaza, would be nice if the market would occasionally come there. There is no bus system on weekends in Junction City and too far to walk with vegetables.

I prefer to shop on Saturdays not during the week.

I think the farmers market should occur more frequently. Saturday mornings just don't work for everyone. I also think that the farmers market should be held at a more suitable location, for example, in Heritage Park. The vast majority of the population here are soldiers. If the farmers market was held in Heritage Park, it would get more business and soldiers and their families would find it more convenient. They would, essentially, drive by it no matter where they are going (Walmart, Manhattan, Dollar stores, Family Video, etc.). It would be right there.

I think they should give fresh fruit and vegetable to the elderly for free. They're on a fixed income and can't afford to buy the fresh foods they need.

I usually shop Saturday or Sunday for all fresh produce to have for the week

I wish they would offer a nice market on Saturday like the one they have on Thursday evening that would be nice.

I work a long day on Thursdays, including into the evening so have a very difficult time attending the local market.

I would absolutely love to be a local buyer of local goods! I often attend manhattans farmers market, and if I knew about Junction City's, I would most definitely check it out. Most importantly to me and my large family are availability of staple veg, such as potatoes, carrots, broccoli, onions, beans, peas, corn, sweet potatoes. If these were available locally, I would purchase EXCLUSIVELY from farmers market, even if it were difficult to schedule!

I would attend if I knew where they were. I'm new to the area, that could be why also. I tried to shop local farmer's market as much as possible where I have lived before.

I would attend the farmer's market more frequently, if it were open later in the afternoon on a Saturday.

I would be more likely to visit if it were on the weekend

I would go if I knew about it.

I would go to more farmers markets if there were more here on Fort Riley. I do go to some that I know of like Britt's Farm. Great place.

Response - Changes that would increase attendance at Farmers' Market

I would like for there to be a farmers market when it is advertised that there is one scheduled. On Nov 12th I went to the municipal building shortly after the 8:30am start time and no one was there.

I would like to see more fruits/vegetables. I couldn't care less about homemade soaps, breads, and candles!

I would like to see more of a variety of fruits and vegetables. Sometimes, things are a little too expensive.

I would love to have it maybe right at heritage park on the street side and visible. It's very well shaded. Its current location on Jefferson is under the unforgiving sun. In the middle of summer is very uninviting with 100F+. If there was a standard display for all it would be very pretty. People like to see things pretty, especially beautiful veggies and fruit.

I would love to see a weekend evening farmers market!

I would need to know when they are. Weekends are best.

I'd like to shop after work and lots of the time I shop over my lunchtime. It'd be nice to have more hours of operation and wider selection

I've noticed some of the produce at the farmers markets are bought off of a co-op truck and passed off as home grown.

If I had extra money I would

If I knew of it, where it is

If they actually would open when advertising

If they are being held on the weekend a later time would work for me. I work for the USPS and I do not get off until 4:00 pm. By then it is over and I cannot attend like I want to

It would be nice to have access to a farmers market more than one day a week.

It would be nice to have an option for maybe a weekday evening market.

Junction City; Fort Riley on post Saturday's

Knowing more of where they are and times and things would be helpful

Knowing when and where

Knowledge of when and where they are held.

Later hours and more days available.

Less expensive. Not affordable to shop there when I can get it cheaper elsewhere.

Like the location and time of hospital farmer's market.

Location

Longer hours during weekend and weekdays. Most people get off work after 5 and market is not available. Have them more centrally located in middle of town ex. Heritage park.

Longer hours, Wider variety, better prices

Longer hours--I have to rush to get there before they close on Thursdays. Better variety--sometimes they all seem to be selling the same things Better quality--we've had issues with the produce going bad really quickly. The canned products are great though!

Love the Farmer's Market!!!! It was much larger this year with a large variety.

Lower prices

Lower prices and more variety

M-sn 24 hrs/day

Make farmers' market accessible as easy as supermarkets such as Walmart. And provide more varieties of foods.

Maybe Mondays, Saturdays or Sundays during the day sometime

Maybe during the week 8-12

Maybe have them on Saturdays (at Geary Community Hospital) instead of on Thursdays.

Maybe if it was in Wal-Mart parking lot.

More availability- rather than just 1 day a week. Maybe a couple days a week and a few Saturday's a month possibly

More awareness and lower prices

More days of the week would be good.

More days the farmers market is available

More frequency All day on Saturday

More frequently occurring.

More information, emails maybe, about time, locations and what will be sold.

More knowledge of locations and times. I never hear or see anything about them.

More locally grown food, as opposed to high sugar baked goods. Also, having it more days, like on weekends as well as weekdays. Weekends work best for my family and work schedules, and not at 6 am!

More often!

Response - Changes that would increase attendance at Farmers' Market

More selection

More sellers Prices too high Are eggs and meat certified? How do I know what was used (feeding/medicine to keep healthy) How was it butchered? More detailed ingredients for homemade items due to food allergies

More shade for produce

More than just one a week

More than one day a week and maybe two different times since people work all different times. More places that make food to eat there with places to actually sit and eat it. More tastings from the vendors would increase sales. Local music for a more festive atmosphere. Different activities for kids (maybe a different theme each month).

More than one day a week.

More times available Locations

More variety

More variety and better priced tomatoes More leafy green products, kale, spinach, greens etc. Prices better than in the grocery store Healthy grain products Carrots I have only bought watermelon and squash because that is the only thing that they seem to have that is always reasonably priced, but my family doesn't like squash a lot, because I don't know many ways to cook it.

More variety of fruits and vegetables and less sugar products (cakes, cookies, etc). The times and days are good, but maybe could be a little longer each day.

More vendors with a wider variety of fruits and veggies

More vendors, longer hours

More week ends

Mornings are best.

Most areas have a delivery association that delivers fresh fruits and veggies, I have not found one in this area

NO STORE BOUGHT PRODUCE! Food directly from the farmer/gardener. Prices evident at all tables. Parking is terrible at GCH Farmer's Market!

Need to be in a place like Walmart where it's visible and easy to get to. Also need to be there more than one day a week.

ON A FRIDAY EVENING

Offer it more than one day a week and publicize it better. I had no idea we even had a farmers market in Junction City and I had been driving to the one in Manhattan for years until just a few months ago.

On base

Open after work possibly 5-7 m-f

Open at times when I can get to after work (i.e. 4-6pm). More advertised times of operation and location. Affordable prices (although I would likely pay a little more for having something that is grown locally).

Organic/ price

Price changes

Prices not too expensive, maybe have deals on some veg's or fruits.

SATURDAY MORNINGS.

Saturday

Saturday availability, more selection locally, lower prices

Saturday midmorning

Saturday morning or afternoon

Saturday morning, more vendors

Saturday mornings or perhaps two nights a week. Having it just one evening, with activities etc., makes it hard to get to

Saturday, 10:00am - 2:00pm. .location? ?

Saturday, I typically don't shop during the week.

Saturdays are probably the best for me. I have to work Thursday afternoons.

Saturdays from 8 - 4

Since going to the Farmer's Market and then Walmart would be out of the way based on where I live, knowing what type of vegetables and fruits the vendors will be selling before going to the Farmer's Market would be nice.

Some of the prices are very high. Some of the products were not as fresh as I would like to have them be.

Staying open later and prices lowered slightly.

Take foodstamp card

The farmers market on Wednesday being open later for those who work later

Response - Changes that would increase attendance at Farmers' Market

The location needs to be more centralized. The hospital is too far away. Another suggestion would be to offer it on the weekends when parents are shuffling their kids to sports.

The main reason is time-- we always have something going on Thursday afternoons, it seems. I love Saturday morning markets, and I would be more likely to participate on a weekend. I also do not want to buy "shipped in" foods from a farmers' market, and unfortunately, some of the prices on shipped in goods undercuts locally grown.

The one at gch is on Thursday and I work late on that day so I can't make it

The times of the day and locations are great but I never have the \$\$\$ to get what I want. They are kinda pricy.

There needs to be a larger variety of produce available.

Thursdays are an inconvenience to just me. Pre scheduled appts in Manhattan. Saturday is wash and cleaning. Just me, sometimes the time slips away.☹️. I love where it is. Why not a small daily market (work for me in Korea). Thank you

Time of day

Times. I work 7a-7p

Too expensive for a household of 8 who does not get food assistance.

Variety, economical, locations and times for services

Vendors accepting credit and debit cards. Better advertisements so that I know when and where they actually are. (Dedicated website perhaps?)

We grow our own garden so we don't use the farmer's market

Weekdays are not good for us. We liked to go to the one on Saturday morning, but it has lost so many vendors that it is not worth going.

Weekend afternoons

Weekend mornings.

Weekend preferably Saturday morning, large selection of vegetables and other produce, big area with plenty of parking

Weekend...ex: Saturday mornings Location that is weather friendly.....partially indoor and outdoor arrangement.

Weekends are always best for us

Would be nice to know where they are and a list of prices would be nice, the market in Manhattan along the Riley Blvd is too expensive. I bought 2 peaches and 2 small cucumbers and it was over \$5 not a good deal at all.

A Saturday local farmers' market would be more convenient.

A different location?

Add another day of the week, Thursday evenings are good, but adding a Saturday would be wonderful

Better advertisement is needed especially to the new families transferring in from other military posts.

Better food prices

Change to weekend hours (morning to early afternoon) more locations

Coincide with paydays, having hours over lunch so I don't have to bring children, knowing what types of items will be available beforehand so I can meal plan/shop better.

Find a way to manage my finances so I could be able to afford/ have money by the time farmers market day comes along.

Frequency of farmers markets, prices

Have them more than once a week.

Having year round farmer market

I like location and time on Thursday, maybe something more on Saturday than what is by the fire station

I like the Wednesday and Thursday ones. I sometimes don't come to town on the weekends.

I wouldn't change anything. I like farmers' markets. Just wish I knew when and where they are located

Keep prices competitive with stores, fresher selections

Lower prices

Make them later in the evenings

More frequently than once a week

More locations, more times available

More marketing to get the information about the farmers markets out to the public.

More vegetables and fruits as well as canned and jarred foods

More vendors with a larger variety

Move to Wed as often on Thursday I am preparing for the weekend or have already left town

Notify me email days

On the weekends in a close location

Reminders in town

Response - Changes that would increase attendance at Farmers' Market

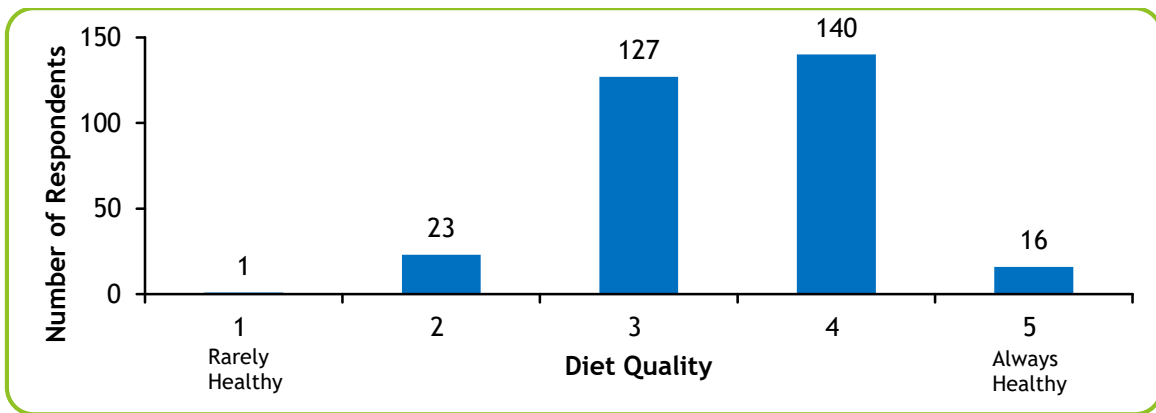
To be held at the groceries stores parking lots

We are such a busy family that I don't know that changes to the existing schedule could ever fit our schedule

We need more locations like the one at GCH we still need the one located down town as well

Consumer Diets

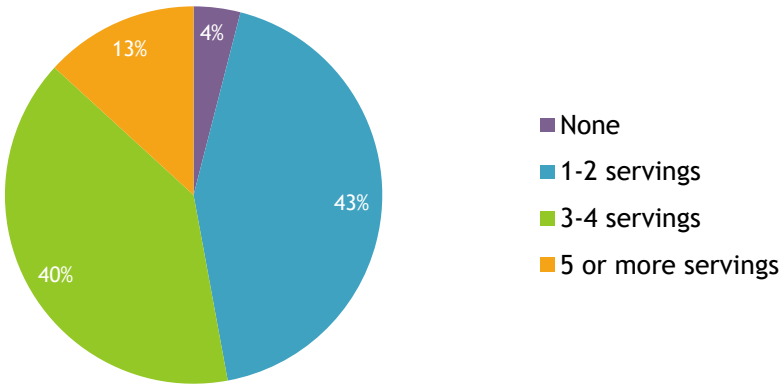
On a scale of 1 to 5, how would you rate your family's diet, with 1 being "rarely healthy" and 5 being "always healthy"?



Response	Count	Percent
1 Rarely Healthy	1	0.3%
2	23	7.5%
3	127	41.4%
4	140	45.6%
5 Always Healthy	16	5.2%

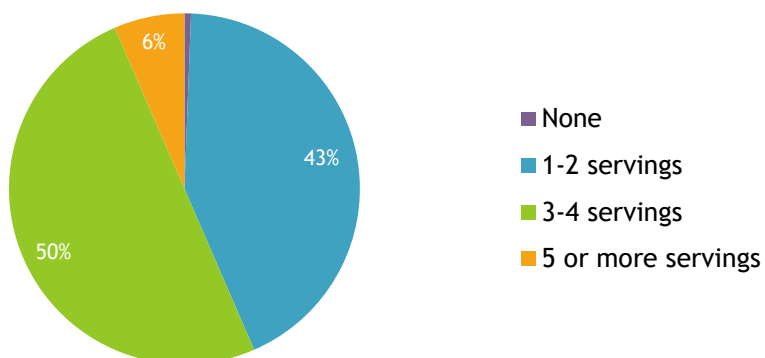
Self-Rated Diet Quality: Mean Scores, by Respondent Characteristics		
	Mean Score	Number of Responses
All Respondents	3.48	307
Household Income		
Less than \$35,000	3.45	78
\$35,000 to \$49,999	3.40	60
\$50,000 to \$64,999	3.54	54
\$65,000 or more	3.53	96
Age Group		
Less than 29 years	3.50	42
30 – 49 years	3.48	194
50 years or older	3.50	42
Race/ Ethnicity		
White	3.48	226
Black/ African American	3.72	18
Latino/ Hispanic	3.46	26
Other	3.44	18

On an average day, how many servings of fruits and vegetables (canned, fresh or frozen) do you eat? (A serving is approximately 1/2 cup, or 1 cup of leafy salad)



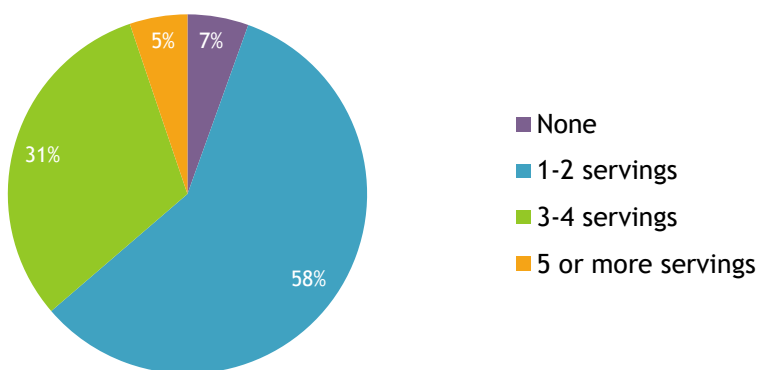
Response	Percent	Count
None	4.0%	13
1-2 servings	43.1%	140
3-4 servings	39.7%	129
5 or more servings	13.2%	43
Total		325

On an average day, how many servings of protein foods, such as meat, fish, chicken, turkey, or eggs do you eat? (a serving of meat is about 3 oz, or the size of a computer mouse). Also include protein foods, such as peanut butter, beans, meat substitutes and soy protein foods such as tofu.



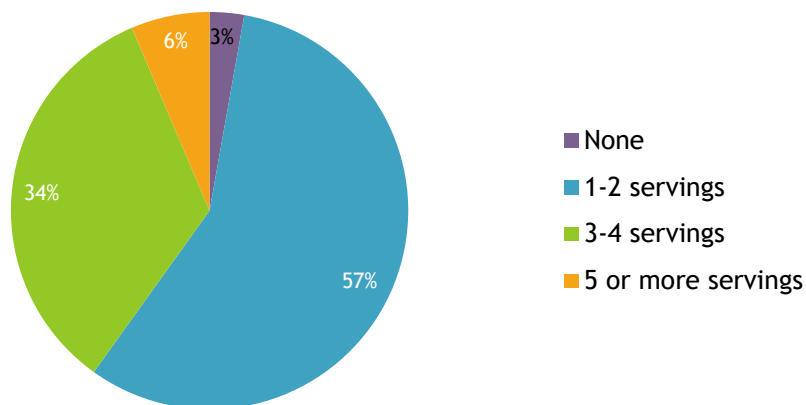
Response	Percent	Count
None	0.6%	2
1-2 servings	42.9%	139
3-4 servings	50.0%	162
5 or more servings	6.5%	21
Total		324

On an average day, how many servings of milk or dairy foods that are made from milk, such as cheese, cottage cheese, ice cream, milk shakes or yogurt do you eat? (A serving is about 1 cup of milk or yogurt, or 1 1/2 ounces of cheese)



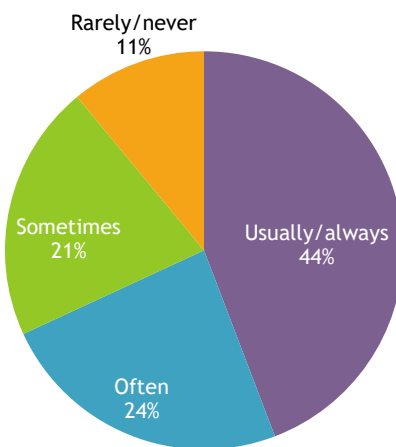
Response	Percent	Count
None	5.5%	18
1-2 servings	58.2%	189
3-4 servings	31.1%	101
5 or more servings	5.2%	17
Total		325

On an average day, how many servings of bread or other foods that are made from grains, such as cereals, pasta, rice or tortillas do you eat? (A serving is 1 slice of bread, 1 ounce of dry cereal, or 1/2 cup of cooked rice, pasta or cereal)



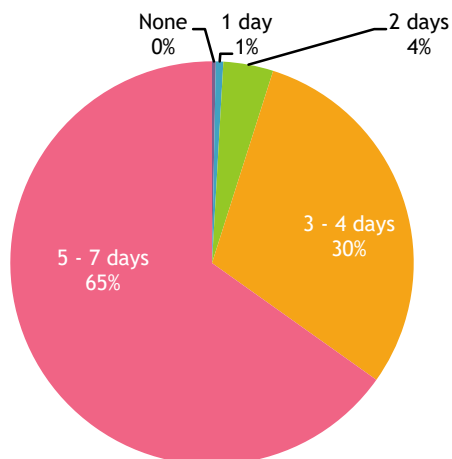
Response	Percent	Count
None	2.8%	9
1-2 servings	57.1%	186
3-4 servings	33.7%	110
5 or more servings	6.4%	21
Total		326

When you eat bread, how often do you eat whole grain bread?



Response	Percent	Count
Usually/always	44.2%	144
Often	23.9%	78
Sometimes	20.9%	68
Rarely/never	11.0%	36
Total		326

On average, how many days /week does your family prepare meals at home?

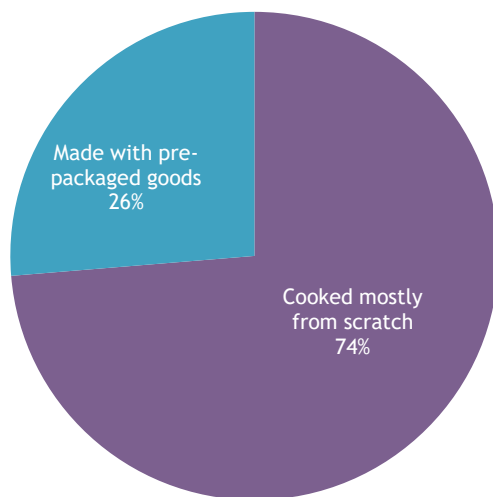


Response	Percent	Count
None	0.3%	1
1 day	0.6%	2
2 days	4.0%	13
3 - 4 days	29.9%	97
5 - 7 days	65.1%	211
Total		324

How often meals are prepared at home, by respondent characteristics:

Respondent Characteristic	Days per Week					Number of Responses
	None	1	2	3-4	5-7	
Household Income						
Less than \$35,000	1.3%	1.3%	5.1%	27.9%	64.6%	79
\$35,000 to \$49,999	0.0%	1.5%	3.9%	30.3%	65.2%	66
\$50,000 to \$64,999	0.0%	0.0%	3.5%	22.8%	73.7%	57
\$65,000 or more	0.0%	0.0%	3.9%	32.4%	63.7%	102
Age Group						
Less than 29 years	0.0%	2.3%	2.3%	25.0%	70.5%	44
30 – 49 years	0.5%	0.5%	4.5%	29.2%	65.3%	202
50 years or older	0.0%	0.0%	3.2%	30.7%	66.1%	62
Race/Ethnicity						
White	0.4%	0.9%	3.0%	27.5%	68.2%	236
Black/ African American	0.0%	0.0%	10.0%	40.0%	50.0%	20
Latino/ Hispanic	0.0%	0.0%	3.6%	25.0%	71.4%	28
Other	0.0%	0.0%	10.0%	40.0%	50.0%	20

When meals are prepared at home, are they:

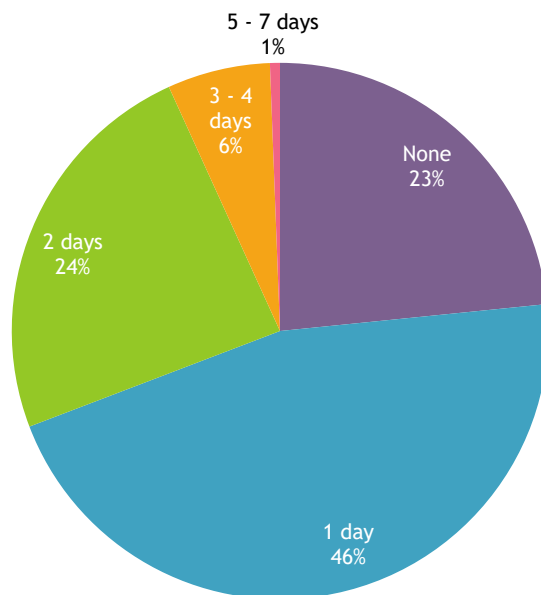


Response	Percent	Count
Cooked mostly from scratch	73.7%	238
Made with pre-packaged goods	26.3%	85
Total		323

When meals are prepared at home, type of meal, by respondent characteristics:

Respondent Characteristic	Meal Type		Number of Responses
	Scratch	Pre-Packaged	
Household Income			
Less than \$35,000	66.3%	33.8%	80
\$35,000 to \$49,999	78.8%	21.2%	66
\$50,000 to \$64,999	79.0%	21.1%	57
\$65,000 or more	74.3%	25.7%	101
Age Group			
Less than 29 years	65.9%	34.1%	44
30 – 49 years	74.8%	25.2%	202
50 years or older	77.4%	22.6%	62
Race/Ethnicity			
White	70.8%	29.2%	236
Black/ African American	95.0%	5.0%	20
Latino/ Hispanic	75.0%	25.0%	28
Other	80.0%	20.0%	20

On average, how many days/week does your family eat food from fast food restaurants?

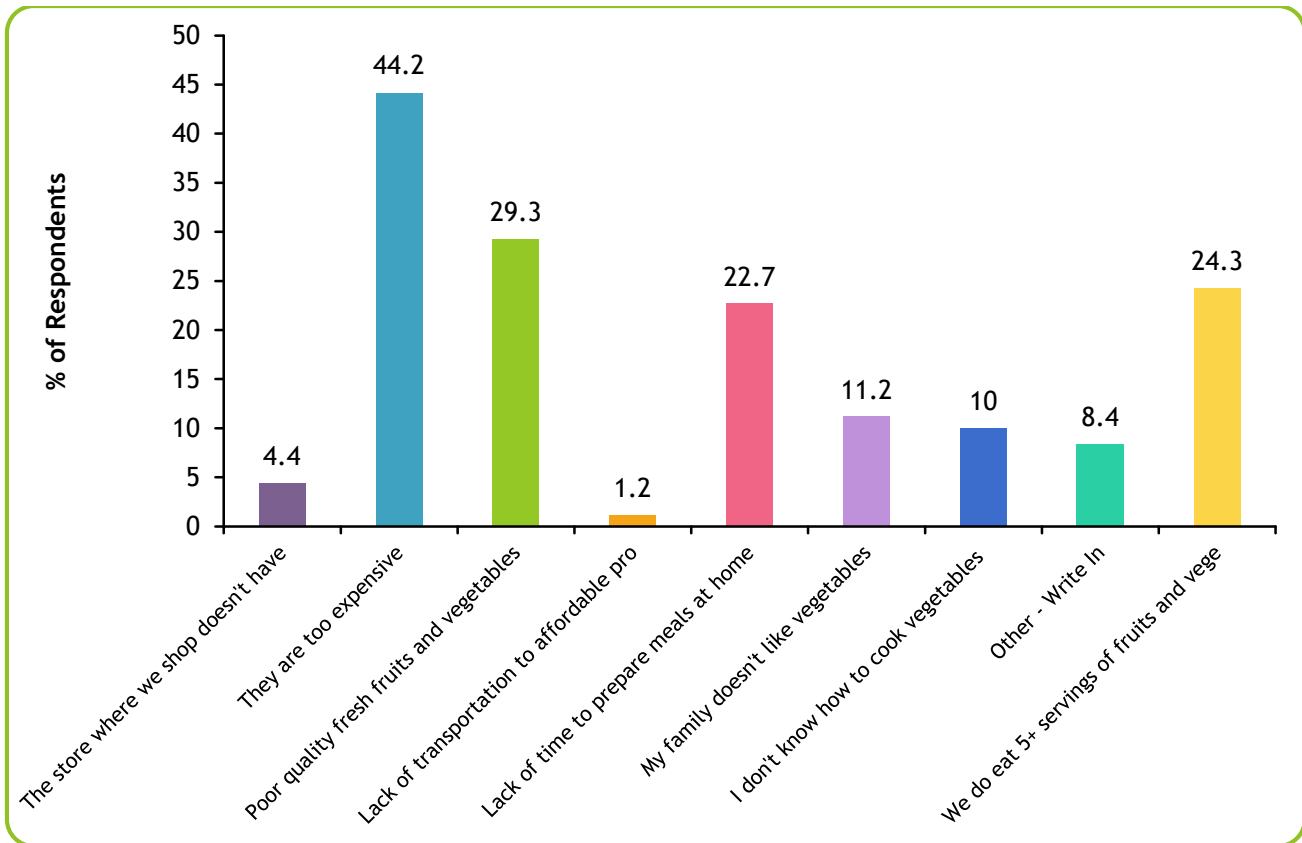


Response	Percent	Count
None	23.4%	76
1 day	45.8%	149
2 days	24.0%	78
3 - 4 days	6.2%	20
5 - 7 days	0.6%	2
Total		325

How often family eats food from Fast Food restaurants, by respondent characteristics:

Respondent Characteristic	Days per Week					Number of Responses
	None	1	2	3-4	5-7	
Household Income						
Less than \$35,000	25.0%	53.8%	18.8%	1.2%	1.2%	80
\$35,000 to \$49,999	28.8%	40.9%	25.8%	4.6%	0.0%	66
\$50,000 to \$64,999	29.8%	42.1%	19.3%	8.8%	0.0%	57
\$65,000 or more	13.7%	49.0%	26.5%	9.8%	1.0%	102
Age Group						
Less than 29 years	22.7%	45.4%	27.3%	4.6%	0.0%	44
30 – 49 years	22.2%	46.8%	23.7%	6.4%	1.0%	203
50 years or older	27.4%	48.4%	17.7%	6.5%	0.0%	62
Race/Ethnicity						
White	26.6%	44.3%	22.8%	5.5%	0.8%	237
Black/ African American	20.0%	60.0%	10.0%	10.0%	0.0%	20
Latino/ Hispanic	10.7%	60.7%	28.6%	0.0%	0.0%	28
Other	5.0%	45.0%	35.0%	15.0%	0.0%	20

What makes it difficult for your family to eat 5 or more servings of fruits and vegetables each day?
(check all that apply)



Response	Percent	Count
The store where we shop doesn't have	4.4%	14
They are too expensive	44.2%	142
Poor quality fresh fruits and vegetables	29.3%	94
Lack of transportation to affordable pro	1.2%	4
Lack of time to prepare meals at home	22.7%	73
My family doesn't like vegetables	11.2%	36
I don't know how to cook vegetables	10.0%	32
Other - Write In	8.4%	27
We do eat 5+ servings of fruits and vegetables	24.3%	78

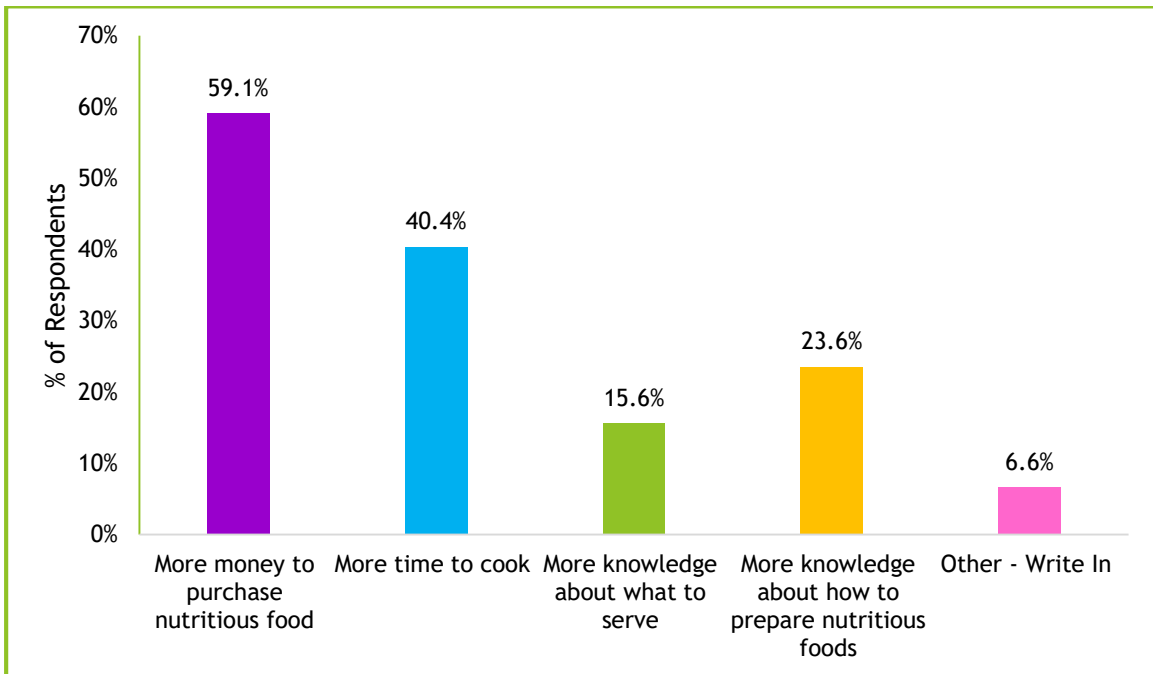
Other - Write In Responses – Barriers to eating 5 or more servings of fruits & vegetables per day

Budget
Buy them but they go bad so quickly
Couldn't make my kid eat vegetables or fruit at school.
Do not eat that much meals out of the day
Don't have time
Husband does not cook them when he cooks!
If we ate the total amount of each food group we are told we should eat, we'd be overeating.
Lazy
More variety of fresh fruits and vegetables are desired.
Not difficult, a choice

Other - Write In Responses – Barriers to eating 5 or more servings of fruits & vegetables per day

Not enough time during breakfast and lunch. Vegetables do not pack well in lunch boxes.
 Not that hungry
 Only have time for one meal at home during the school week
 Sometimes there is poor quality of fruits (i.e. grapes, strawberries) where we shop.
 Sometimes unhealthy foods are more appealing
 We cannot afford to eat as much fruit as we should. I often use the every other day method with fruit, to stay consistent, but my husband and I usually eat one meal a day to ensure the children do not go without quality food
 We simply fail to include them
 We usually eat 3 servings
 Allergy to some
 Choices of other foods
 Lack of time to prepare fruits and veggies at home
 Lack of variety of fresh fruits and veggies
 Lots of spoilage for 2 people- utilize salad bar at Dillon's to assist
 No time
 Picky children and husband
 Seems like a lot

Which of these options would help your family have a more nutritious diet? (check all that apply)



Response	Percent	Count
More money to purchase nutritious food	59.1%	205
More time to cook	40.4%	140
More knowledge about what to serve	15.6%	54
More knowledge about how to prepare nutritious foods	23.6%	82
Other - Write In	6.6%	23

Other - Write In Responses – What would help to have a healthier diet

A more regular schedule and fixed meal times
Availability and selection in the area
Better meal planning on busy days.
Better price and access to nutritious foods
Better quality of fruits and vegetables
Better selection of fresh ingredients.
Better selections
Child's ability to try new things
Convince my family not to be so darn picky.
Knowledge of how long foods keep
More affordable quality produce
More knowledge of how to get a toddler to eat well
More nutritious foods in stores
More selection
My kids being less picky eaters
Raw options
Vouchers for vegetables that did not depend on rank /pay.... All ranks of enlisted, even E8 and some E9, are hurting from recent pay changes and rises in food prices. Also free lunch and breakfast are only available if you "qualify." Free lunch and breakfast at their USD 473 school made a real difference in their students' healthy food accessibility.
Ability to purchase smaller amounts of fresh- lots of spoilage when buying for two people
Better quality of fresh veg
Help my children get over being picky eaters
If my husband and son would eat fruits and veggies
Time to shop

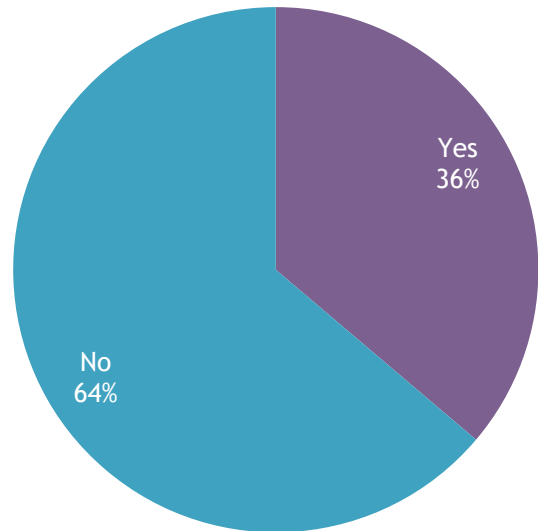
Factors that would help to have a healthier diet, by respondent characteristics:

Respondent Characteristic	% Saying Factor Would Help			
	Money	Time	Knowledge-Serve	Knowledge-Prepare
Household Income				
Less than \$35,000	85.2%	22.2%	14.8%	25.8%
\$35,000 to \$49,999	72.7%	33.3%	13.6%	18.2%
\$50,000 to \$64,999	71.9%	45.6%	22.8%	42.1%
\$65,000 or more	38.2%	63.7%	17.7%	26.5%
Age Group				
Less than 29 years	77.3%	36.4%	18.2%	38.6%
30 – 49 years	63.2%	45.6%	18.1%	26.0%
50 years or older	54.0%	36.5%	11.1%	15.9%
Race/Ethnicity				
White	59.4%	45.2%	13.4%	25.5%
Black/ African American	75.0%	0.0%	30.0%	20.0%
Latino/ Hispanic	21.4%	35.7%	25.0%	21.4%
Other	35.0%	55.0%	30.0%	40.0%

Gardening

Does your household raise a garden in the summer?

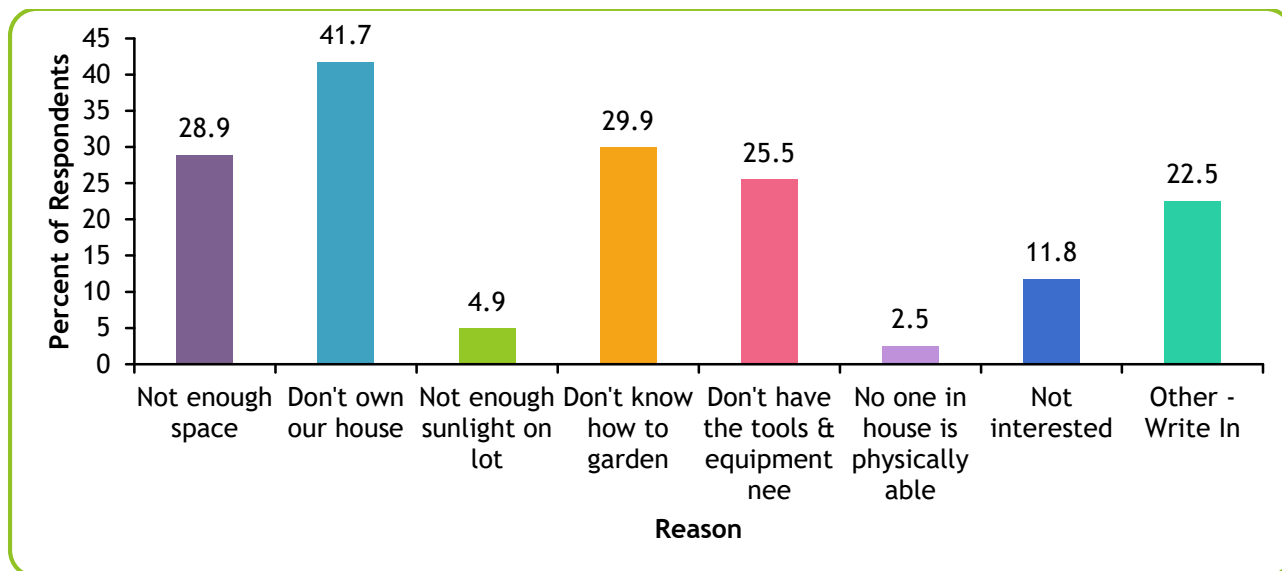
Response	Percent	Count
Yes	36.2%	117
No	63.8%	206
	Total	323



Home Gardening, by Respondent Characteristics:

Respondent Characteristic	% That Garden	Number of Responses
Household Income		
Less than \$35,000	31.3%	80
\$35,000 to \$49,999	37.9%	66
\$50,000 to \$64,999	36.8%	57
\$65,000 or more	38.0%	100
Age Group		
Less than 29 years	27.3%	44
30 – 49 years	38.1%	202
50 years or older	37.7%	61
Race/Ethnicity		
White	39.4%	236
Black/ African American	25.0%	20
Latino/ Hispanic	18.5%	27
Other	45.0%	20

Please check the reason(s) that your household does not have a garden (check all that apply):

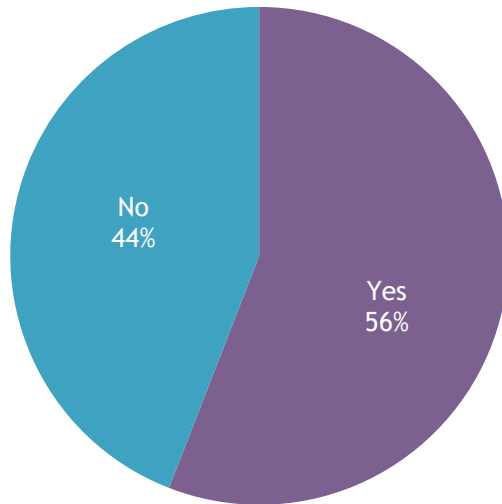


Response	Percent	Count
Not enough space	28.9%	59
Don't own our house	41.7%	85
Not enough sunlight on lot	4.9%	10
Don't know how to garden	29.9%	61
Don't have the tools & equipment needed	25.5%	52
No one in house is physically able	2.5%	5
Not interested	11.8%	24
Other - Write In	22.5%	46

Other - Write In Responses – Reasons for not having a garden	Count
Not enough time	12
Pets would tear it up	5
Haven't taken the time	1
I arrived here in July...too late to start.	1
I don't like to play in the dirt.	1
I have tried to grow a garden in the past and discovered the soil at my house is not fertile. Eventually I gave up at my house and gardened at a friend's farm.	1
I have tried to grow things but have not had much luck. Everything dies.	1
I live in an apartment complex and I can't have a garden. I'm also unable to maintain one.	1
I live in an apartment	1
I live on post but would love a garden	1
I tried gardening and everything died or eaten by bugs.	1
Interested, but not motivated.	1
Lazy!	1
Location - too many wild animals; Soil is poor;	1
New construction	1
No reason, planning on one next season	1
Our home owners association won't allow it	1
Senior Housing apt.	1
Squirrels and rabbits	1
Squirrels and rabbits eat it	1
Time and energy!	1

Other - Write In Responses – Reasons for not having a garden	Count
Time and money to prep the area	1
Too Expensive to start and keep rabbits out of fenced area.	1
We did in the past and had problems with insects	1
Weeds grow faster than good plants and too much heat kills off the plants if we go on vacation	1
Forgetful	1
Gone for 3-4 days weekends so someone else would have to assist to maintain-eat from son's garden	1
Time and patience to do it	1
Too time consuming and too much produce ready all at once - have to process or waste	1
Tried to this summer, nothing grew	1

If one were available, would you participate in a Community Garden where you could grow foods?

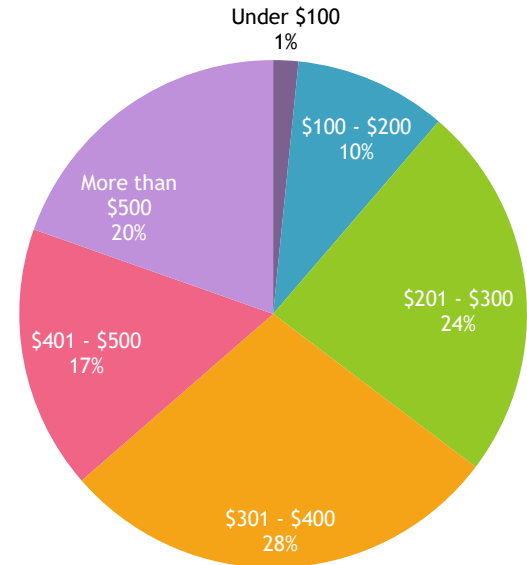


Response	Percent	Count
Yes	55.9%	180
No	44.1%	142
	Total	322

Food Expenditures

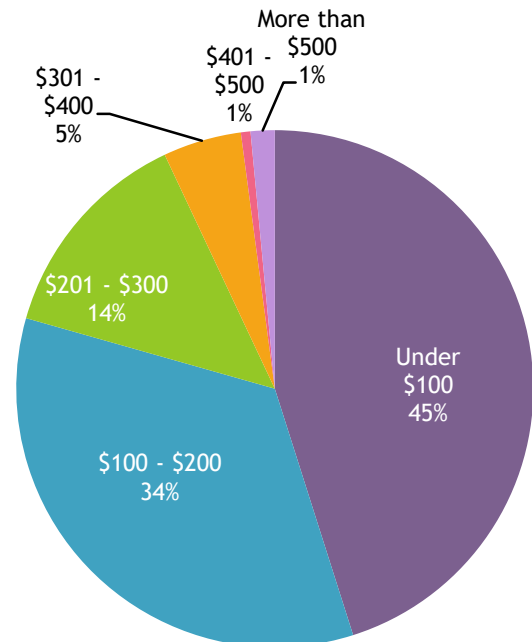
In a typical month, how much money does your family spend on groceries or food to be prepared at home? (Include food from grocery stores, convenience stores, etc. Include the amount from SNAP/food stamps and WIC vouchers, if you have them)

Response	Percent	Count
Under \$100	1.6%	5
\$100 - \$200	9.7%	31
\$201 - \$300	24.0%	77
\$301 - \$400	28.3%	91
\$401 - \$500	16.8%	54
More than \$500	19.6%	63
	Total	321



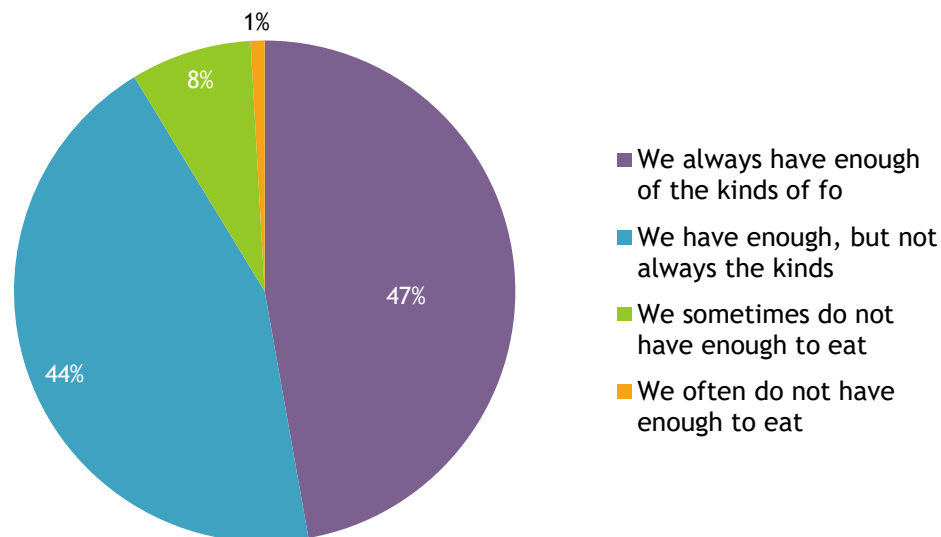
In a typical month, how much money does your family spend on food prepared someplace other than your home? (Include food from restaurants, fast food, school meals, workplace cafeterias, etc.)

Response	Percent	Count
Under \$100	45.1%	146
\$100 - \$200	34.3%	111
\$201 - \$300	13.6%	44
\$301 - \$400	4.9%	16
\$401 - \$500	0.6%	2
More than \$500	1.5%	5
	Total	324



Food Security

Which of these statements best describes the food eaten in your household? (select one answer)

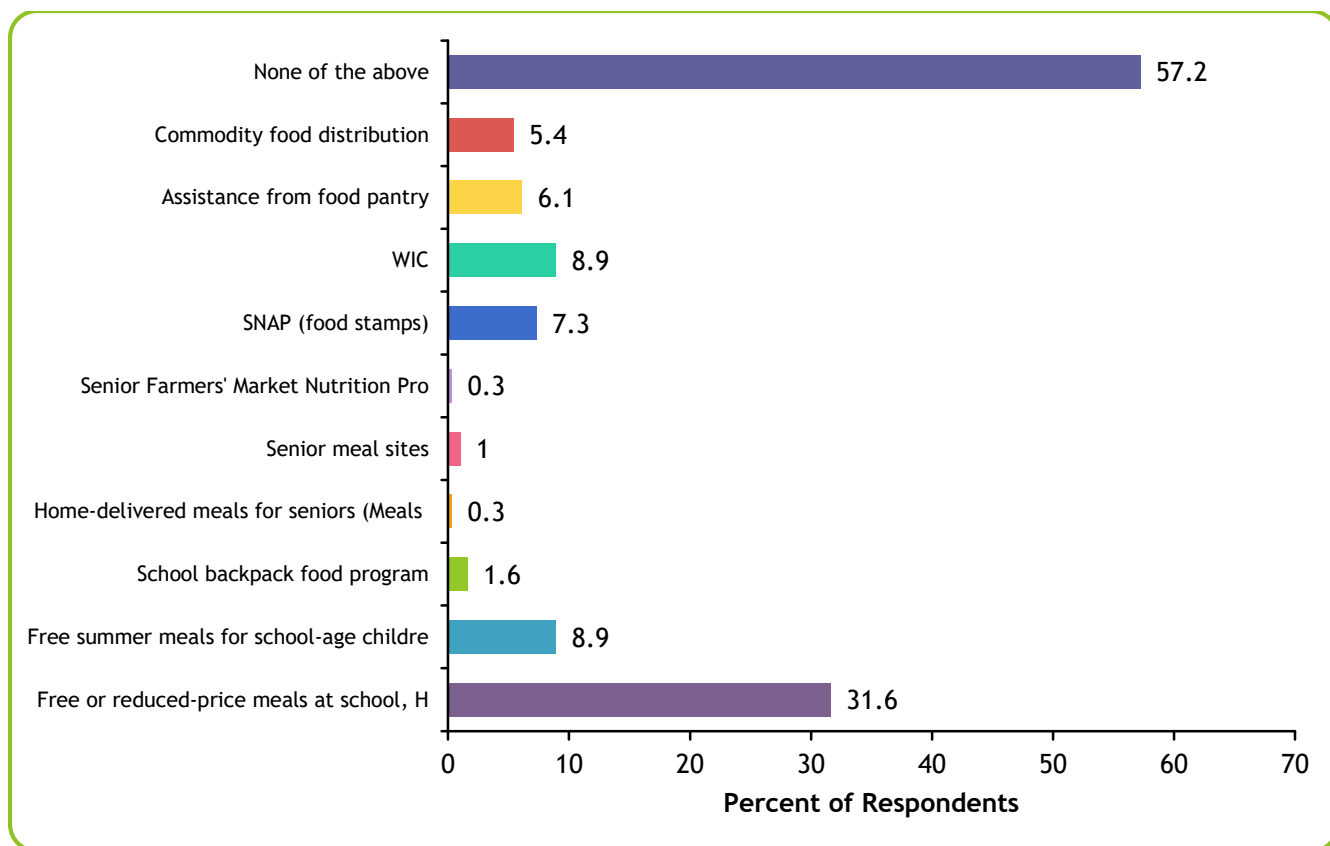


Response	Percent	Count
We always have enough of the kinds of food we want	47.2%	151
We have enough, but not always the kinds we want	44.1%	141
We sometimes do not have enough to eat	7.8%	25
We often do not have enough to eat	0.9%	3
Total		320

Food Security, by Respondent Characteristics:

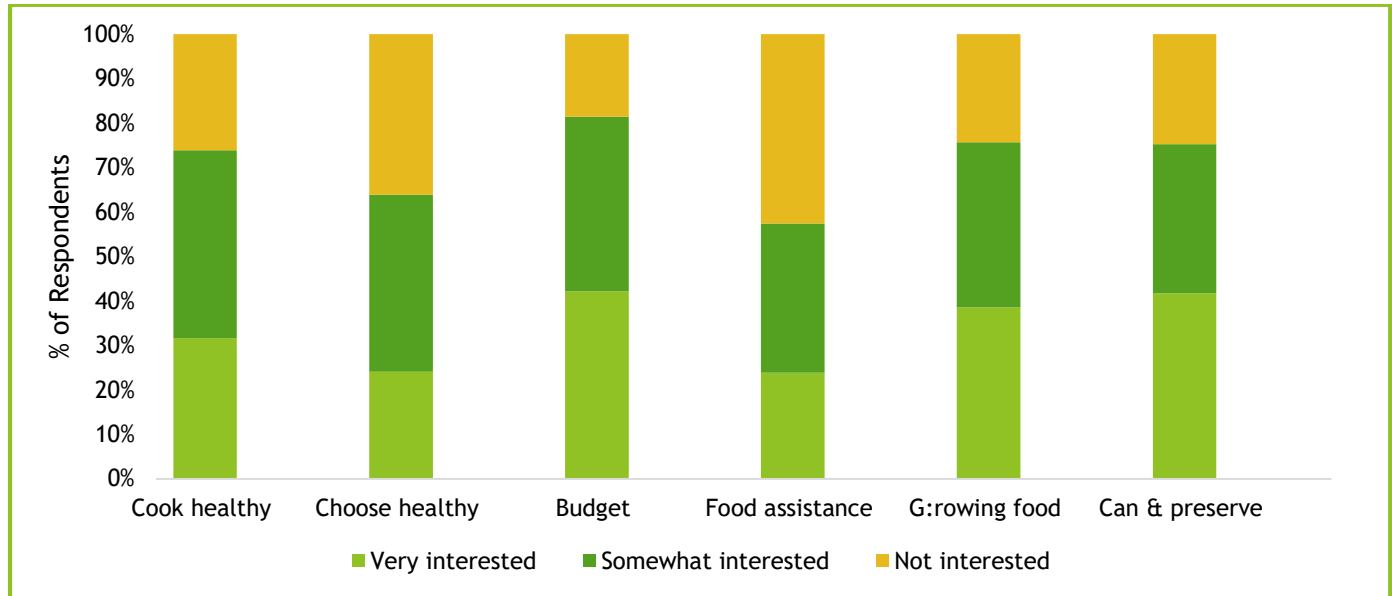
Respondent Characteristic	Food Security Status				Number of Responses
	Always Have Enough	Enough, Not Always What Wanted	Sometimes Not Enough	Often Not Enough	
Household Income					
Less than \$35,000	22.5%	56.3%	17.5%	3.8%	80
\$35,000 to \$49,999	34.9%	54.6%	10.6%	0.0%	66
\$50,000 to \$64,999	47.4%	40.9%	1.8%	0.0%	57
\$65,000 or more	72.6%	26.5%	1.0%	0.0%	100
Age Group					
Less than 29 years	38.6%	43.2%	13.6%	4.6%	44
30 – 49 years	46.3%	46.8%	6.9%	0.0%	203
50 years or older	54.0%	39.7%	4.8%	1.6%	63
Race/Ethnicity					
White	50.8%	42.9%	5.0%	1.3%	238
Black/ African American	45.0%	45.0%	10.0%	0.0%	20
Latino/ Hispanic	28.6%	53.6%	17.9%	0.0%	28
Other	30.0%	55.0%	15.0%	0.0%	20

In the past 12 months, has anyone in your household participated in the following programs: (Check all that apply)



Program	Percent	Count
Free or reduced-price meals at school, Head Start or Day Care	31.6%	99
Free summer meals for school-age children	8.9%	28
School backpack food program	1.6%	5
Home-delivered meals for seniors (Meals on Wheels)	0.3%	1
Senior meal sites	1.0%	3
Senior Farmers' Market Nutrition Program	0.3%	1
SNAP (food stamps)	7.3%	23
WIC	8.9%	28
Assistance from food pantry	6.1%	19
Commodity food distribution	5.4%	17
None of the above	57.2%	179

Learning Opportunities



Type of Learning	% and Number of Respondents Interested			
	Very interested	Somewhat interested	Not interested	Not applicable
Cook healthy meals	29.5% 92	39.4% 123	24.4% 76	6.7% 21
Choose healthy foods	22.1% 68	36.4% 112	33.1% 102	8.4% 26
Healthy diet on a budget	39.9% 125	37.1% 116	17.6% 55	5.4% 17
Food assistance programs	16.8% 52	23.6% 73	30.0% 92	30.0% 92
Growing food	35.3% 109	34.0% 105	22.3% 69	8.4% 26
Can & preserve	39.3% 123	31.6% 99	23.3% 73	5.8% 18

Interest in Learning Opportunities, by Respondent Characteristics:

Respondent Characteristic	Learning Opportunity - % Very or Somewhat Interested					
	Cook healthy meals	Choose healthy foods	Healthy diet on a budget	Food Assistance	Grow food	Can & Preserve
Household Income						
Less than \$35,000	78.8%	64.1%	86.3%	69.2%	78.2%	73.4%
\$35,000 to \$49,999	70.8%	59.4%	75.4%	55.4%	64.6%	74.2%
\$50,000 to \$64,999	71.4%	62.5%	84.2%	38.6%	73.2%	71.4%
\$65,000 or more	60.0%	51.5%	70.0%	11.2%	65.7%	69.3%
Age Group						
Less than 29 years	83.7%	69.8%	95.5%	48.8%	79.1%	76.7%
30 – 49 years	70.8%	61.3%	79.7%	41.7%	74.8%	79.8%
50 years or older	54.1%	41.7%	59.0%	31.2%	46.7%	41.0%
Race/Ethnicity						
White	67.0%	56.0%	78.4%	39.8%	67.7%	67.6%
Black/ African American	70.0%	55.6%	57.9%	55.6%	66.7%	73.7%
Latino/ Hispanic	84.6%	80.8%	96.4%	63.0%	92.3%	92.3%
Other	75.0%	65.0%	70.0%	50.0%	60.0%	75.0%

Desired Changes in the Local Food Environment

What, if anything, would you like to see change about the food available in your community?

Response – What would like to change about food available in community
A community garden would be great!
A global market that sells food from other ethnicities and counties. Korean, Chinese, German, etc. ingredients. Considering the base which has people from all over the world.
A good grocery store
A healthy affordable store like Sprouts
A small healthy food store front.
A system of barter would be a good idea. Trading?
ANOTHER SAVE A LOT OR ALDIS
Add Saturday farmer's market. Classes on gardening and food preservation.
Again, vouchers for food based solely on number of children in a home, not based on income or rank. The income as defined with BAH is a false and misleading number. It does not indicate at all how much a family had to spend on food after the expenses (car payments, gasoline, and upkeep) of work commute across a base, to and from school, and other bills (families often pay \$50-100 a month in utilities even on post as we are charged on an average which includes usage in houses which sit empty for months.....it is really hard to do all of that on \$2,000 or less with 3 or more children
Aldi or Sav-a-Lot in Junction City would be convenient
Aldi type grocery store
Allow healthy food to be affordable instead of the crap food being cheap!
Another Grocery store or Food Specialty store...Like a stand-alone Bakery, Deli, Fish Market, Butcher shop...
Better prices on healthy food
Better publication of farmers markets where we could buy locally grown food directly from the farmers with more payment options at said markets.
Better quality produce in the stores.
Better quality, variety and definitely better prices.
Can't think of anything.
Cheaper prices

Response – What would like to change about food available in community

Coming from California, I had hopes that Kansas would provide more locally grown, organic options. However, I have learned that Kansas is much like the south. If it's fried, it's best. I would improve the local grocery store and stock MORE organic options. Local honey!

Communities like us need an Aldi or ...Farmers' Market is great, daily booth with in-Season fruit and vegetables (small and reasonable).

Community Garden, Health food store that is more affordable

Community gardens, cooking classes, more available.

Costs, variety and quality

Current food programs in our community work together. That all hungry children and their families could be fed.

Discounted grocery store would be nice like Aldis or Save-a-Lot

Drop the freaking 9.75% sales tax!

Easier access from food bank. They have barriers for families who have no income and lack way to show this. Plus requirement for birth certificates and other documents some families don't have and can't easily get

Easier and cheaper ways to get fresh, nutritious food

Ethnic food. There's a few places that sells them, but without being able to read what they are or know how to cook them, it's pretty useless to people who don't already know that culture

Farmers market

Farmers market meat and seafood market

Food Pantry is a blessing in JC however, they have a very hard time keeping the shelves full. They need help. They are a great organization because they have certain guidelines to use to get food; you must be eligible to receive the food by your income and you MUST have a job to get help. We need to make people more self-reliant, rather than reliant on others!

Food at grocery stores are expensive. I do not buy ANY meat and we are very limited on dairy products. I would like to see healthy foods consistently available and less expensive.

Food bank for military members who don't qualify for food stamps

Food in Geary county is SOOO expensive. We've lived lots of places and groceries in Kansas are deff the most pricey. It would be nice if the variety of produce was expanded. Sometimes I can't even find cilantro!!

Fresh veggies and fruits would be amazing. The best place to buy fresh in town, Dillon's, is also the most expensive

Fresher produce at reasonable prices

Fresher! Better cared for! Cheaper prices...

Getting harvester Free giveaway here

HYVEE

Have better quality in grocery stores

Have more options where to shop and lower the prices especially fruits and veggies there times during the year that it gets too expensive.

Having community gardens would be a wonderful way to support local families, I am not certain about chicken regulations within city limits, but having fresh eggs would be a huge benefit to my family, if we were allowed to keep a few birds. I also think a 10% tax on foods makes budgeting much more difficult.

Healthier prepared/restaurant options for grab-and-go that can also accommodate special diets (vegan, gluten-free, food allergies, etc.)

Healthier restaurant options. More frequent Farmer's Markets in the growing season.

High costs

I don't know right now.

I have noticed a larger selection of allergy friendly foods and am happy with our stores heading in that direction.

I just wish we had a discount grocery store like Aldi in the area.

I think that our stores need to take up what the stores do in Europe. If they don't sell the fresh produce and breads every few days, they set it out for the homeless and the needy. Why does the other cultures take better care of their elderly then we do? It's sad!!!!!!

I wish there was better quality produce; there is acceptable, though somewhat low variety, but it is difficult/unaffordable to find organic produce here, and all produce is in overall poorer condition and spoils more quickly than I have experienced elsewhere (northeast, south, west). I also wish grass fed and organic meat was more accessible/affordable, as well as organic store brand foods of all sorts, including canned and boxed items. This is the first place we've lived where we cannot afford to purchase the variety and quantity of organic and local food that we otherwise would.

I wish there were more local farms or local products available at the store where I shop.

Response – What would like to change about food available in community

- I would like a whole foods type store here in Geary County so I don't have to drive all the way to Manhattan or Topeka for a good store.
- I would like to find a place where I could purchase bulk produce for freezing and canning
- I would like to have more variety in the healthy food section. At Dillon's the healthy food section is nice but it's expensive and limited. We often drive to HyVee and Target in Manhattan to have more variety and I wish we didn't have to drive.
- I would like to see a community garden for students to do for community hours (both Chapman & Junction City need hours to graduate). Learning goals could encompass things like healthy eating, canning and freezing, sharing with those in need and adults (like myself who grow and canned for years), to share their knowledge. Even delivering the food to those who cannot go out.
- I would like to see grocery stores have a wider variety and better quality produce and healthy food options so I don't have to go out of town to do my grocery shopping.
- I would like to see grocery stores have sections for different diseases. Such as a diabetic section, high cholesterol section, etc. It is hard to locate appropriate food choices to help with these conditions.
- I would like to see healthy food choices available to the poor and homeless population. More access to the programs available and knowledge that they are there for them...
- I would like to see lower cost on fresh produce. Whole sale food stores such as Aldi offer the same brands as Dillon's for 1/2 the cost. No taxes on food.
- I would like to see more available in the store for less money. It is an inconvenience to shop at more than one place with three children.
- I would like to see more fresh food.
- I would like to see more locally grown produce implemented in the school lunches.
- I would like to see more of a variety of fresh foods and better quality of fruits and vegetable. There are times I have gone into the stores and the fruits and vegetable look bad. In fact, you can smell the produce section when you walk into the store. Not good.
- I would like to see that the Community had more opportunities than the Food Bank and the Food Assistance programs. Some people don't qualify for these programs, but still need assistance. It is equally just as hard for us as others.
- I would like to see variety of choices of seafoods, tropical fruits/vegetables. More establishments
- I would love to see some healthier fast food options, like Panera or Mad Greens, and would love to have farmers markets available on the weekends. I would also like to see more organic fruits and veggies and grass finished beef options!!
- If there were year round farmers markets with seasonal items such as fruits, veggies, eggs,
- Impacting children/young adult food choices--looking for healthy options at sporting events, taste testing infused water (apple, cucumber, lemon, pineapple) at events to give parents ideas and encourage kids to taste the water.
- It would be nice to get fresh foods without the high prices.
- It would be nice to have a Harvesters drop location here. Manhattan has 4 we have 0
- It would be really nice if healthier foods were less expensive than pre-packaged, less healthy foods.
- Larger variety
- Larger variety and frequency of the farmers market
- Less fast food, a bakery, BBQ
- Less sugary options, and more healthy breakfast options for people on the go. More quick healthy protein options
- Discount bundles for team snacks or band snacks
- Lower prices
- Make healthy food more attainable for low income families. Show them the right way to go. And when people apply for assistance maybe getting back to them goals yet than a month so that way they can get the help they need.
- Manhattan has the Harvesters and I don't need to give them personal information (social security cards birth certificates) and still allowed access to healthy foods. This should not be required in Junction City. I should not have to struggle with feeding my children because I don't want anyone to have access to very personal information.
- More Farmer's Market or bigger
- More competitive sales
- More discount food stores (Aldi's) and case lot stores (Sam's, Costco). Less tax on food at local grocery stores...almost 10% on food is INSANE! That has to be factored into the amount of food we can NOT purchase because of tax.
- More diverse fruits and vegetables
- More farmers markets
- More food stores, other than Walmart or Dillon's. I'd love a HyVee or Aldi
- More fresh food options. A lot of the produce is poor quality and over-priced.

Response – What would like to change about food available in community

More fresh vegetables available in stores. Specialty stores such as bakeries and butcher shops would be nice too.

More gluten free options

More grocery stores, you can buy cheaper in Manhattan although you are shopping at the same name store the prices are lower and more sales.

More healthy choices for a good and less expensive price

More knowledge about what is available in Milford.

More local food available near fort riley

More local foods available.

More locally grown food, fruits, and vegetables

More locally grown. More affordable.

More options on food and it be not as expensive

More options, fresh fruits and veggies all year.

More options.

More organic choices

More shopping options

More variety and availability in stores. Also a health conscious restaurant would be nice...

More variety less cost

More variety like the Dillon's in Westloop in Manhattan. Fresh fish NOT farm raised.

More variety of fresh fruits and vegetables available in our community

More variety of organic options

More variety of places to shop

Natural food store

Need an Aldi's and a HyVee

Price cuts

Prices lower on food, maybe no food tax we came from Ohio and Texas there is no tax on food there. I don't seem to see that here. Also more grocery stores would be nice an Aldi in junction city would be awesome.

Probably just more natural/organic & high-quality stuff & vegetarian convenience foods for when I don't cook.

Provide more organic fruits and vegetables at affordable prices

Really wish we had a low cost store with healthy options like Aldi's. When the 2nd Wal-Mart was built I was really hoping it would have been an Aldi's.

Reduced prices. It's hard to eat healthy when healthy food cost more than junk food.

Teach families how to make meals on a budget.

The Geary community hospital farmers market get bigger

The backpack program at the schools and the free summer lunch program (like at the mobile home park) offer lots of foods that the children, even when hungry, choose to not eat. There is also a huge lack of fresh, non-processed foods. I understand that something is better than nothing, but if we're going to put in the \$ and effort, let's do it right.

The changes I would like to see in my community are: 1) Instead of having a whole lot of one choice on the shelf, put a variety of more choices. Meaning instead of having three shelves on one kind of soda put more flavors on the shelves along with the one choice. 2) Have a section for diabetics like there is one for gluten free foods. It would be appreciated if the sections were labeled, meaning the gluten free section marked as such and same with the diabetic section. Please provide more labels. Making shopping not so frustrating/confusing. Thank you!

The commissary on post always has food that is expired. The fruit always goes bad within 2 days. I would like for them to pay attention to the quality of the food. It's November and they have items that expired in September. How this is allowed is beyond me! I will never shop at this store again so as a result, I have to drive further to look for quality food. Someone should be fired!

The quality of school lunches is poor. They serve tasteless frozen food consisting mostly of hamburgers, chicken nuggets, and pizza. I would like to see my kids being served healthy and fresh school lunches.

The salary for reduced school lunches needs to be lowered. I am a single Mom barely above the line with 3 kids in school. I pay full price. It is ridiculously expensive for meal prices

The school lunches for USD 475 are horrible - they are preheated on post and should be freshly cooked with healthy options NOT processed food.

There are no changes needed in my community when it comes to food

This community is in good healthy food prices or availability

Response – What would like to change about food available in community

We just recently moved here so we don't know too much!
We need a better place for Healthier options and prices on foods. Large families with one income and no food assistance have a very hard time eating the right foods because they can't afford them.
We need a whole foods, Trader Joes, or somewhere do buy better food
We need more grocery stores. The Dillon's in JC can be up to 25 - 30% more than the two in Manhattan. We need something that will create competition and prices to drop. Wal-Mart is not an option in our household, so we don't need any more Wal-Marts, which I've been told are also over-priced compared to the same stores in Manhattan and Salina.
Year round farmers market even if it meant having to import some of the produce from out of state. Fresh fish at the market.
Year-round farmers market. More healthy restaurants available.
A lot of the times, the fresh produce goes bad before we're able to use it in our home - sometimes it is only a couple days after purchasing before it turns. More of an attempt to eradicate food deserts and implement access to fresh foods to the northeast side of town
Additional farmers market days. Health food store or expanded choices in current stores.
Better produce and wider variety
Community garden
Have the veggies be fresher
Having a discount food store such as Aldi or save a lot would benefit the community.
More fresh fruit options? Would like a store JUST for fruit
More locally/regionally grown produce
More organic produce options that are reasonably priced and more variety in general or non- GMO and organic foods
More restaurants with non-processed foods and made from scratch
More stores for competitive prices
More variety
Price! I think if you want us the consumer to buy a product the price should be a RUN! price
Stop giving every one free food that the tax payers pay for-food bank - open door - free school lunches people who get assistance should have to pass drug tests!
Wish the veggies were more fresh.

Any additional comments about food in Geary County that you would like to add?

Response – Additional comments about food in Geary County

A natural food store that is affordable
Being a military family we have lived in many different states. I was completely surprised and have never spent so much money on food. Cost of living is really high and tax on food is the highest of anywhere we have lived.
Cleaner public water would enhance both the flavor and overall quality of foods produced and sold here in Geary County.
EVERY ONE WHO GETS ASSISTANCE SHOULD HAVE TO PASS A DRUG TEST-YOU USE YOU LOOSE ALL ASSISTANCE!
Education and taste test would spark some interest and participation.
Fresh selections of fruits and vegetables
Geary County has good options when it comes to fresh foods.
Get figs, muscadines, scuppernongs! I miss them from my original home!
Get rid of the expired food and replace it with the fresh stuff
Healthy school lunches, more fresh, less canned and processed lunches for kids.
I don't like spending the extra money on organic produce that is going to go bad within the next 24 hrs. If I am going to spend all that money, I want it to be as fresh as possible.
I don't want anyone in my community to go hungry. Let people know what programs they can get involved with to help those who don't have enough food.

Response – Additional comments about food in Geary County

I know a lot of local people who are on assistance programs while not technically qualified for them. Either not entering all incomes on forms or simply choosing to work less in order to keep food stamps. This is a terrible cycle and I really wish the programs were more focused on work incentives instead of handouts. People actually profit from selling food stamps in this area!

I know seem cooking classes offered before but can never find the information online.

I like the idea of a community garden, just not sure I'd participate. Would love to have our own garden (mostly grow only tomatoes now), but don't put in the time & energy. I love our farmers market. Need to go more.

I notice there are a lot of people on the Facebook buy, sell, trade sites that are asking for free food or food until payday. It seems like more people should/could be educated on available places to go for help or to send someone to for help. Perhaps Facebook is an avenue that would be worth exploring?

I see a lot of people that are hungry and don't have enough food to get by. It would be great to have a place for families to go to get food assistance (other than just once a month).

I think I said all I had to say in the previous question. Thank you for taking the time to read this. I'd appreciate when something gets done.

I would love to eat healthier fresher food every day, but cannot afford to go to store every day for fresh stuff. We only go once a week, if that cause we can't afford more

I'd like to find a way to "marry" the goal to achieve a healthier food supply with the diverse ethnicity of the community, and supporting locally-owned small business.

I'd love a cooking class it would be wonderful to learn how to make veggies taste good to picky children

It would be nice to have a free snack program for elementary school children as there are in several larger cities funded by the USDA.

It's hard to find good produce in the stores. The produce isn't handled properly and we see a lot of rotten or partially frozen fruits and vegetables.

It's Kansas and I know there must be a lot of family farms around. It would be nice to know if co-ops exist or if there were ways to purchase eggs, meat and veggies straight from the farm.

Keep the food bank drives actively advertised all year. People forget about them

Live Well GE Co is AWESOME!!!!

Local=better

Make healthier foods more affordable.

Make sure the product is fresh. Have had lots of problems with fresh produce going bad before we have time to get home and put it away.

More community support for local food programs.

More healthy choices for a less expensive price

More of a variety and lower prices or lower taxes, if any, on essential food items (i.e. like Wisconsin does)

Most expensive I have ever seen... I have lived all over the world and the quality as well as cost are quite awful. Especially with the high sales tax.

My name is Christina Spencer and I own Junction City CrossFit. We also have a registered dietician that works at our gym and we would love to help in any way we can with community outreach programs. my number is 785-226-9187 and my email is christinaspencer@junctioncitycrossfit.com

Organic foods and non-GMO foods are better for you yet they are overpriced, I would like those foods to be more available, better selection and more reasonably priced

Our grocery stores do not have many options for special diets. I have to eat low sodium, but there is not much here, so we do most of our grocery shopping in Manhattan.

Per the questions asked of me, place info on free local cable channel: shopping tips, recipes, notice of food availability outlets/markets. Keeping in mind year round/seasonal coordination. Get farmers/ranchers more involved.

School lunches are a lot less nutritive (less fruit, less vegetables, and PLASTIC cutlery that breaks when my children try to use it!) than when I was a child in Kansas (in the 80s--and not in Geary County).

Teach families how to budget.

Thanks for this effort. I've heard some commercials on the radio

The breakfast and lunches in 475 are horrible. They are transported from one place to another on post and preheated. It should be freshly cooked with healthy options

Utilize local farmers

We need another store here in junction other than Walmart and Dillon's

Response – Additional comments about food in Geary County

Why does it have to be so expensive? The price is bad enough, but then you add on the ridiculously high taxes we have and we end up paying almost double. A lot of states don't have taxes on food. That alone would save us a lot of money.
Would like to see restaurants that serve more nutritious prepared foods instead of fast foods. Families that have a lot of children who would like to take their family out need a nice family buffet style restaurant. Way too many fast food places.
You should try to get the community more involved. Perhaps host local events and have a neighborhood garden throughout the city. The city owns a lot of land off of 77, near Rucker Road, why not build something there?
Cost of living is very high if non-military. No assistance what so ever.
More rice and beans
More offerings of classes on preserving foods, ways to help prep foods quickly, easy and quick meals to make with parents that have little time and extra money
The farmer's market at the hospital is awesome!
Too many fast food restaurants

CONCLUSIONS

The numerous data points and measures included in this report provide a reasonably comprehensive description of the current food system in Geary County, and point to a number of strengths and challenges. The Food Policy Council will now be faced with the challenging task of identifying priorities and developing solutions that are both feasible and tailored to the unique needs of the Geary County population.

Community engagement efforts initiated as part of this food system assessment generated strong response from the community, and provided many suggestions and ideas. Survey participants indicated strong interest in community gardening, and interest in food-related learning opportunities. The numerous comments and suggestions included in the survey responses suggest there is support from the community for efforts to improve the community food environment, and an interest in seeing change. The cultural diversity and relative youth of the population may help to create a community climate that embraces change and innovation.

At the same time, there are challenges. Affordability of food is a very important issue on the mind of Geary County consumers. Recent estimates suggest that nearly one in five households in Geary County are food insecure. Local food production is currently limited, especially for production of fruits and vegetables (there are two well-established beef producers and a dairy that market their products locally). Efforts to increase local food production and consumer support of local producers will need to be mindful of consumer price sensitivity and look for innovative ways to ensure that locally-produced foods can be offered in ways that community members can afford to purchase them. The rich cultural diversity of the community may also add a layer of complexity in trying to meet the food needs and expectations of all community members.

While the challenges are many, the potential rewards of efforts to strengthen the local food system are also rich. The community may reap benefits in terms of strengthened community engagement, a healthier and more satisfied population, and economic benefits.

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APPENDIX 1. LIVWELL GEARY COUNTY 2016 FARMERS' MARKET DOT SURVEY

<p>What is your primary reason to shop at the GCH farmers' market?</p>	<p>How many fruits and vegetables do you eat daily?</p>																																						
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