

Cass Clay Food Systems Initiative (CCFSI)

The mission of the CCFSI is to impact all levels of the food system to assure that residents have access to safe, nutritious, and affordable food.

- Began through a collaborative effort of Extension & Public Health in both Cass and Clay Counties in 2010.
- **Task Forces:** Urban Agriculture, Food Access/Outreach & Education, and Food Infrastructure; **Economic Development.** **Projects:** One Vegetable. One Community; GardensAlive!; Community Gardener Workshops; Grower/Buyer Networking Meetings
- **Metropolitan Food Systems Plan** – completed by the Fargo-Moorhead Metropolitan Council of Governments (Metro COG) in October 2013.
 - Six Implementation/Target Areas:
 - **Economic Development** – Support the expansion of local food production; expand the “market place”
 - **Food Infrastructure** – Support the development of distribution and processing; support efficiencies
 - **Food Access** – Increase the availability and affordability of safe and nutritious food.
 - **Outreach/Education** – Improve promotion and presentation of local foods; increase awareness
 - **Urban Agriculture** – Support improvements in local food production within the urban context
 - **Development of the Cass-Clay Food Systems Advisory Commission** – An established framework to ensure real and meaningful progress towards implementing the Metropolitan Food Systems Plan. *“The CCFSI has operated since its inception with little political and legislative authority to bring about meaningful change to the development and expansion of the local food system within the FM Metropolitan Area.”*

Cass Clay Food Systems Advisory Commission

- Formed through a Joint Power Agreement between the City of Fargo and Clay County in the fall of 2014.
- The purpose of the Agreement is to establish a public entity separate from its Members to advise policy makers and elected officials in the Fargo-Moorhead Metropolitan Area on how to assure that residents have access to safe, nutritious, and affordable foods. Among other activities, this Commission shall:
 - **Assess** the food system in the Fargo-Moorhead Metropolitan Area with consideration of state and national trends and issues
 - **Educate** policy makers in all local jurisdictions on food systems issues
 - Provide language for **policies** and **codes** based on research
 - Support **community wellness** through various activities related to healthy food consumption
 - Cultivate **partnerships** and foster collaborative **communication** between local jurisdictions and other public and private partners
 - **Encourage inquiries** from local jurisdictions on food systems issues
 - **Propose recommendations** on ways to improve the food system in the Fargo-Moorhead Metropolitan Area
 - Oversee the **implementation** of the Metropolitan Food Systems Plan.
- **Membership:** Cities of Fargo (Mike Williams), West Fargo (Mike Thorstad), Dilworth (Jim Aasness), and Moorhead (Heidi Durand); Cass (Arland Rasmussen) and Clay (Jenny Mongeau) Counties
- **At Large Members:** Andrea Baumgardner, Janet Paul, Jessica Arneson, Dana Rieth, and Jon Evert
- **Ex-Officio Members:** Fargo Cass Public Health, Clay County Public Health, Steering Committee, and Metro COG
- Two meetings held: March 25, 2015 & May 13, 2015

Future Meetings: July 8, September 9, and November 4, 2015 at 10:30 a.m. at the Fargo City Commission Chambers. Watch this website for further information:

<http://www.cityoffargo.com/CityInfo/Departments/Health/Resources/CassClayFoodSystemsInitiative/>