

THE MICHIGAN GOOD FOOD REPORT CARD 2018



A SUMMARY

Welcome to the fourth biennial Michigan Good Food Report Card. Since the Michigan Good Food Charter was first released in 2010, this report card series has aimed to highlight some of the many efforts across the state to re-envision the food system in ways that promote equity, sustainability and thriving economies.^{1,2,3}

This 2018 report card comes at a key moment, in which we must simultaneously intensify our efforts to meet the goals of the Michigan Good Food Charter by 2020 and look beyond 2020 to build a robust and resilient movement for the coming decade. The breadth of good food work reflected here can serve as the foundation to more deeply embed food system priorities within organizations and institutions statewide and to build a more inclusive and diverse movement.

The Michigan Good Food Initiative is coordinated by the Michigan State University Center for Regional Food Systems (MSU CRFS) with input and support from the Michigan Good Food Steering Committee, which represents 20 organizations across Michigan. Many other organizations, networks, local councils and collaborations around the state bring the Charter to life by working to achieve the goals and priorities that advance good food in their sectors and communities.

To read about progress made on each of the 25 agenda priorities, see the full 2018 Michigan Good Food Report Card at www.michiganfood.org

GOALS

Have we made progress toward the six goals? Abbreviated

Goal 1: Michigan institutions will source 20% of their food products from Michigan growers, producers and processors.

- By July 2018, Cultivate Michigan had 65 member institutions committed to working toward the goal of 20% Michigan food by 2020. Members include 42 schools and school districts, 13 hospitals, 5 early child care and education programs, 3 colleges and universities, 2 senior facilities and 7 other businesses or organizations.⁴ By the end of 2017, participating institutions had reported more than \$4 million (\$4,041,007) in spending on Michigan products. Looking at percentages of Michigan spending, individual quarterly surveys report a range of 3–50% of total spending. Looking across all institutions in all years (2014–2017), spending on Michigan products accounts for 14% of total food spending reported.⁵
- Of Michigan's 133 hospitals, 78 have committed to locally sourcing 20% of their food by 2020 through the Healthy Food Hospitals Initiative or other efforts.⁶



- In the budget for fiscal year 2018–19, the Michigan legislature again increased funding for 10 Cents a Meal for School Kids & Farms from \$375,000 to \$575,000. The current budget also expands program eligibility, adding two prosperity regions and to bring the total to five. During the 2017–2018 school year, 112 farms in 34 counties—plus 19 businesses such as processors, distributors and food hubs—supplied the program.⁷
- According to Farm Logix, Michigan schools spent \$516,836 on Michigan produce during the 2016–2017 school year through the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Pilot Project for Procurement of Unprocessed Fruits and Vegetables, accounting for 33% of all of their spending through the program.⁸

Goal 2: Michigan farmers will profitably supply 20% of all Michigan institutional, retailer and consumer food purchases and be able to pay fair wages to their workers.

- Many major retail buyers from Michigan promote their local purchasing.¹³ Meijer, for instance, supports an estimated 200 apple growers in the state and purchases 1 million pounds of Michigan asparagus and 2.5 million pints of Michigan blueberries each year.¹⁴
- Direct sales from farmers to consumers is strong in Michigan, as evidenced by the estimated 300 farmers markets operating across the state.
- Eastern Market launched the Baskets to Pallets training program, developed by Cornell University. This program is aimed at giving small- and medium-scale farmers the skills to scale up and sell through wholesale channels.¹⁵

Goal 3: Michigan will generate new agrifood businesses at a rate that enables 20% of food purchased in Michigan to come from Michigan.

- The Michigan Good Food Fund is a \$30 million public–private partnership loan fund created to finance healthy food production, distribution, processing and retail projects that benefit underserved communities throughout Michigan. To date, the fund has invested more than \$11 million in 28 good food businesses and provided technical assistance to nearly 30 enterprises.
- According to its 2016–2017 legislative report, the MSU Product Center served 689 clients, supported the launch of 91 ventures and supported capital formation of \$53,435,370 in that time period.²⁸
- In 2018, the Product Center completed construction and opened the Food Processing and Innovation Center (FPIC), a key new resource to help grow Michigan agrifood businesses.²⁹
- Three major food, agriculture and forestry projects, supported by multiple state agencies, came on line in the last year and with a total investment of \$750 million, resulting in 1,200 new jobs. Each of these projects happened in communities with populations under 16,000.
- Federal grants continue to flow into Michigan to support food and agriculture businesses. In 2016, \$1,887,408 in Specialty Crop Block Grant dollars was awarded through MDARD, with over \$1.5 million distributed in grants. About \$1.5 million was also distributed in 2017.



Goal 4: 80% of Michigan residents will have easy access to affordable, fresh, healthy food, 20% of which is from Michigan sources.

- In 2017, 157 Michigan farmers markets reported to the Michigan Farmers Market Association (MIFMA) that they had the ability to accept Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits.³⁴ Support from MIFMA has strengthened this sector; however, markets are beginning to report decreases in both SNAP and total sales.
- SNAP participation, SNAP allocations per household and total SNAP dollars issued in Michigan have all decreased year over year between 2014 and 2018. On average, 1,473,614 Michigan residents received SNAP each month in 2016 and only 1,298,712 in 2018 (data through May 2018).^{32,33} Whether the decrease was caused by ineligibility or other reasons, there is still a large need for SNAP, despite the decrease in resources being allocated.
- There are currently 20 active local and regional food councils across the state and 5 more in development.³⁷
- Three cities—Battle Creek,³⁸ Pontiac and Ypsilanti³⁹—and three rural counties—Antrim, Benzie and Oscoda—have piloted a survey tool to understand access to healthy food and food security in their communities. Their findings will inform local programs and policies, and their experiences will help refine a methodology for use in other Michigan communities.

Goal 5: Michigan Nutrition Standards will be met by 100% of school meals and 75% of schools selling food outside school meal programs.

- 100% of all schools participating in the National School Lunch Program in Michigan are certified for performance-based reimbursement, meaning they were in compliance with the federal standards for school meal programs.⁴⁰
- According to the CDC's State Indicator Report on Fruits and Vegetables, 54.1% of Michigan high schools offered salad bars in 2016, and 43.2% of school districts participated in farm to school programs.⁴¹



Goal 6: Michigan schools will incorporate food and agriculture into the pre-K through 12th grade curriculum for all Michigan students, and youth will have access to food and agriculture entrepreneurial opportunities.

- Currently, there are at least 113 Agriculture, Food and Natural Resource (AFNR) Career Technical Education (CTE) programs across Michigan. Two were added in 2018. MSU has increased its investment and faculty/staff team focusing on preparing Agriculture, Food and Natural Resource educators (AFNRE), which represent this growing demand by school districts as well as (national) issues with teacher shortages in this field. Currently, there are 127 AFNRE teachers in the state.⁴³
- With 43.2% of Michigan schools reporting that they participate in farm to school, most programs include educational components with students.
- Many of the CTE programs across the state are doing exemplary multidisciplinary work preparing young people for AFNR fields and to be future educators. For instance, North Huron Agriscience and FFA (formerly Future Farmers of America), in Kinde (in the Thumb area of the Lower Peninsula), and Byron Agriscience and FFA, in Byron, both have programs where high school FFA members teach Agriculture, Food and Natural Resource (AFNR) to elementary school students.⁴⁴
- In the 2016–2017 program year, 14 FoodCorps service members served 26 Michigan schools with a total enrollment of 12,798 students. In the 2017–2018 school year, 13 FoodCorps service members worked at 25 schools statewide with a combined enrollment of 11,634. Michigan will have 16 service members for the 2018–2019 school year.

AGENDA PRIORITIES

What is the status of the 25 agenda priorities?

BEING IMPLEMENTED 15

- 1 – Expand and increase innovative methods to bring healthy foods to underserved areas
- 2 – Improve school food environments
- 3 – Link public benefit programs to healthy food access
- 5 – Establish food business districts
- 6 – Use policy and planning strategies to increase healthy food access in underserved areas
- 7 – Preserve farmland
- 8 – Encourage institutions to use their collective purchasing power to influence the food supply chain to provide healthier food and more foods from Michigan
- 9 – Expand opportunities for youth to develop entrepreneurship skills and learn about career opportunities related to good food
- 12 – Implement a reimbursement program to provide an additional 10 cents per school meal
- 13 – Amend Michigan’s General Property Tax Act to exempt certain on-farm renewable energy installations.
- 15 – Direct \$10 million to regional food supply chain infrastructure
- 16 – Implement a food safety audit cost-share or reimbursement program
- 20 – Ensure that all state and higher education business, workforce and economic development programs include farming and agricultures
- 22 – Include Michigan food and agriculture in state marketing efforts
- 23 – Incorporate food and agriculture into local economic development plans

GAINING MOMENTUM 6

- 4 – Provide outreach, training and technical assistance to launch new and improve existing grocery stores
- 10 – Establish Michigan as “the place to be” for good food
- 11 – Incorporate good food education into the pre-K–12 curriculum
- 18 – Develop a farm to institution grant program
- 19 – Direct state agencies to maximize capital access for farm financing
- 25 – Develop systems for collecting and sharing production and market data

AGENDA PRIORITIES SCORE

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|--------------------|-------------------------------|
| Being Implemented: | 15 priorities x 3 points = 45 |
| Gaining Momentum: | 6 priorities x 2 points = 12 |
| Slow Progress: | 4 priorities x 1 points = 4 |
| Minimal Action: | 0 priorities x 0 points = 0 |

61 points out of 75 possible

In the 2012 report card, the score reported was 42.
 In the 2014 report card, the score reported was 47.
 In the 2016 report card, the score reported was 58.

SLOW PROGRESS 4

- 14 – Set targets for state funded institutions to procure Michigan foods
- 17 – Provide financial incentives for farmers and for the development of food system infrastructure to support institutional local food purchasing programs
- 21 – Establish a state meat and poultry inspection program
- 24 – Examine all of Michigan’s food- and agriculture-related laws and regulations for provisions that create unnecessary transaction costs and regulatory burdens

MINIMAL ACTION 0

Michigan Good Food is a policy and outreach initiative hosted by the Michigan State University Center for Regional Food Systems and centered on the Michigan Good Food Charter, which was developed with input from hundreds of people across Michigan. The 2018 Michigan Good Food Report Card is intended to assess progress made on the goals and agenda priorities of the Charter, which was released in June 2010. This document is compiled by staff at MSU CRFS.

WWW.MICHIGANFOOD.ORG

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For references, please refer to the full 2018 report card, available at www.michiganfood.org.