



# THE MICHIGAN GOOD FOOD REPORT CARD 2016

## A SUMMARY

The “Michigan Good Food Report Card 2016 – A Summary” highlights some of the many successes that are transforming the food system to be more healthy, green, fair and affordable and provides new data collected since the 2014 Michigan Good Food Report Card.<sup>1</sup> This 2016 report card demonstrates the significant increase in the number of activities and collaborations working towards the goals of the Michigan Good Food Charter over the last two years.

The Michigan Good Food Steering Committee is a group of committed good food advocates that represent more than 20 organizations across the state. Their work provides oversight and leadership of the Good Food Initiative.

Since its release, the Charter has helped catalyze a suite of new networks around specific aspects of its goals and many existing networks and initiatives have infused Charter goals into their activities. These include shared learning spaces for innovation and capacity building like: the Michigan Food Hub Network, the Michigan Farm to Institution Network, the Michigan Meat Network and the Michigan Local Food Council Network, among others. The Michigan State University (MSU) Center for Regional Food Systems (CRFS) acts as a backbone organization by helping to facilitate communication, collaboration and data collection across this network of networks.

MSU CRFS continues to partner with the Gretchen Swanson Center for Nutrition to implement a shared measurement system to enable partners across the state to collect similar data to better understand progress on key indicators for the Charter goals, both locally and statewide.<sup>2,3</sup>



*Courtesy of Chuk Nowak for Fair Food Network*

## GOALS

### **Have we made progress towards the six goals? Abbreviated**

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

- Since 2014, the Michigan Department of Education has asked schools a two-part question on local food purchasing patterns in an online application for schools.<sup>4</sup> 54% of the food service directors that responded for the 2014-2015 year indicated that they source local Michigan foods for their school food program.<sup>5</sup>
- To date, 52 institutions have joined Cultivate Michigan,<sup>6</sup> pledging to purchase 20% of their food from Michigan sources by 2020. Since the beginning of the campaign, participating institutions have reported spending more than 3 million on Michigan grown or produced food.
- According to Farm Logix,<sup>7</sup> Michigan schools spent \$218,624 on Michigan-grown apples in the 2015-2016 school year through the USDA Pilot Project for Procurement of Unprocessed Fruits and Vegetables.

#### **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.**

- The Bureau of Labor Statistics reported that the mean annual wage of farming, fishing and forestry occupations in Michigan increased to \$31,390<sup>8</sup> in 2015 from \$28,560<sup>9</sup> in 2012.
- In 2015, the Food Insecurity Nutrition Incentive Program and private funds provided \$10.4 million, directing healthy foods to low income neighborhoods and sales to Michigan farmers.<sup>10</sup>
- SpartanNash is the first food distributor in Michigan to sign Migrant Legal Aid’s Fair Food Pledge, affirming the company’s commitment to fair labor practices for the state’s more than 94,000 migrant and seasonal farmworkers and their families.

## GOALS

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

- Launched in 2015, the Michigan Good Food Fund is a \$30 million public-private partnership loan fund that provides financing and business assistance to good food enterprises that benefit underserved communities across Michigan.<sup>11</sup>

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

- According to Feeding America's Map the Meal Gap (2014 data), nearly 1.6 million people in Michigan are food insecure, or 15.7% of the population.<sup>12</sup>
- According to The Food Trust, over 1.8 million Michigan residents, including an estimated 300,000 children, live in lower-income communities with limited supermarket access.<sup>13</sup>
- Preliminary analysis of data from the 2013 Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance (BRFS) survey, indicates approximately seven percent of adults in Michigan think it is difficult to find fresh fruits and vegetables in their neighborhood and limited transportation is a problem in accessing produce all or some of the time for 12 percent of the population.<sup>14</sup>
- More than 650,000 Michigan households receive SNAP benefits (17% of total households). More than 20% of households receive SNAP benefits in 16 of Michigan's 83 counties but more than a quarter (26.2%) of all households receiving SNAP in Michigan are in Wayne county.<sup>15</sup>

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

*The voluntary Michigan Nutrition Standards are similar to the USDA standards updated in 2012, which are required for all schools participating in the National School lunch and breakfast programs, but the state level guidelines also apply to foods sold or provided outside of school hours, which is not true of the USDA standards.*

*The Michigan Good Food Steering Committee believes that while USDA standards provide an outline of good food in schools, the Michigan Nutrition Standards are more comprehensive and should continue to be something that schools can work towards for better school meal programs.*

- Virtually all of Michigan's 865 (99.9%) school food authorities were certified as compliant with school meal programs as of March 2016.<sup>16</sup>
- According to a 2014 CDC survey, 66% of Michigan secondary schools sold unhealthy food and beverages outside the school meals program, unchanged from 2012. However, only 23% of Detroit secondary schools sold these same unhealthy foods and beverages.<sup>17</sup>

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

- A 2015 survey<sup>18</sup> of pre-K through 12th grade teachers looked at resources teachers utilize for food, nutrition or agricultural education. With nearly 2000 respondents, the survey showed the majority (69%) of teachers were interested in incorporating at least one new food, nutrition or agricultural topic into their teaching curriculum if resources were available to assist them. But more than half of teachers responding had not heard of or were unfamiliar with 15 of the 17 programs and organizations listed which provide food, nutrition or agricultural education resources.
  - 81% of teachers were already incorporating a food or agricultural topic into their classroom, not including healthy eating and nutrition.
  - Healthy eating and nutrition was the most widely incorporated topic (71%).
- In Michigan, FFA<sup>19</sup> for grades 7-12 reported 7,587 members during the 2015-16 school year, up nearly 800 students from 6,804 members during the 2014-15 school year. In addition to FFA involvement, over 10,000 Michigan secondary students were enrolled in an Agriculture, Food, and Natural Resources (AFNR) course during the 2014-2015 school year.
- According to the Center for Disease Control (CDC), 95% of secondary schools in Michigan with a required course on health education (87.3% of schools) tried to increase student knowledge on nutrition and dietary behavior. However, fewer than half (48.5%) covered all 20 nutrition and dietary behavior topics measured by the CDC.

## AGENDA PRIORITIES

### What is the status of the 25 agenda priorities?

AGENDA PRIORITIES SCORE	
<i>Being Implemented:</i>	12 priorities x 3 points = 36
<i>Gaining Momentum:</i>	9 priorities x 2 points = 18
<i>Slow Progress:</i>	4 priorities x 1 point = 4
<i>Minimal Action:</i>	0 priorities x 0 points = 0
<b>58 points out of 75 possible</b>	
In the 2012 report card, the score reported was 42 and in the 2014 report card, the score reported was 47.	

#### Being Implemented 12

- #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
- #8 – Encourage institutions to use their collective purchasing power to influence the food supply chain to provide healthier food and more foods from Michigan
- #12 – Implement a reimbursement program to provide an additional 10 cents per school meal
- #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, work force, and economic development programs include farming and agriculture in their target audiences
- #22 – Include Michigan food and agriculture in state marketing efforts
- #23 – Incorporate food and agriculture into local economic development plans

#### Gaining Momentum 9

- #4 – Training and technical assistance to launch new and improve existing grocery stores
- #7 – Preserve Farmland
- #9 – Expand opportunities for youth to develop entrepreneurship skills and learn about good food related career opportunities
- #10 – Establish Michigan as “the place to be” for good food
- #18 – Develop a farm-to-institution grant program
- #19 – Direct state agencies to maximize capital access for farm financing
- #21 – Contingent upon further market assessment, 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
- #25 – Develop systems for collecting and sharing production and market data

#### Slow Progress 4

- #11 – Incorporate good food education into the preK-12 curriculum
- #13 – Amend Michigan’s General Property Tax Act to exempt certain on-farm renewable energy installations
- #14 – Set targets for state funded institutions to procure Michigan foods
- #17 – Provide financial incentives for farmers for development of food system infrastructure to support institutional local food purchasing programs



Michigan Good Food is a policy and outreach initiative hosted by the Michigan State University (MSU) Center for Regional Food Systems (CRFS) and centered on the Michigan Good Food Charter, which was developed with input from hundreds of people across Michigan. The 2016 Michigan Good Food Report Card and this summary are intended to assess progress made on the goals and agenda priorities of the Charter, which was released in June of 2010. Both documents are compiled by staff at MSU CRFS.

**WWW.MICHIGANFOOD.ORG**

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*Photo by Kathleen Reed*