HEALTHY METROPOLITAN FOOD SYSTEMS
THE PERI-URBAN ROLE

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Historical Perspective

1. Food production has always been part of urban development
2. Finding the appropriate land has always been a challenge
3. While urban production is important, the scale needed for larger volume local production is best suited to the peri-urban edge.
4. Appropriate development can provide a unique opportunity
What Opportunities Exist in Peri-Urban Zones?

Land
- Existing smaller farms
- Protected open space
- Institutional lands
- New communities

Infrastructure
- Roads
- Fertility amendments
- Suppliers

Communities
- Recent immigrants
- Recent farm connections
What are the Primary Objectives in?

✓ Food production?
✓ Diversity in Design?
✓ Quality of Life?
✓ Community Development?
✓ Jobs?
Assumption:
We are talking about food production as a long term or permanent land use.
What is Appropriate Scale?

- Window box
- Front yard
- Community garden
- Rooftop gardens
- Small subsistence farm (marketing primarily within community)
- Commercial production (marketing to a larger community)
- Industrial (integrating across industrial processes and closing loops)
What is Appropriate Intensity?

✓ Seasonal amenity
✓ Season extension
✓ Year round production
✓ Livestock

THE WINTER-HARVEST MANUAL

Farming The Back Side Of The Calendar
ELIOT COLEMAN

Commercial Greenhouse Production Of Fresh Vegetables In Cold-Winter Climates Without Supplementary Heat
Appropriate Livestock
Aquaponics
What is the Business Model?

- Developer or community owned and managed
- Independent enterprise
- Non profit entity
Got to have good markets!
Got to Get High Quality Fresh Produce to Market!
Where Do You Find The Right Farmers?

- New farmers
- Liberal arts graduates
- New immigrants
- Traditional underserved
- Entrepreneurs
- Urban training programs
- Farm Business Development Center
- These are BUSINESSES!
Dea Dia Organics
at the Prairie Crossing Incubator
Fresh, locally grown, organic vegetables, herbs and cut flowers
www.dea-dia.com
Farm Business Development Center

1. Business incubator for beginning farmers – presence of mentors

2. 60 acres of certified organic farmland

3. Allow beginning farmers to start their own businesses alongside other farmers

4. Reduce capital costs & convert to operational costs

5. Up to 5 acres

6. Up to 5 years
Take Aways?

There is incredible potential the peri-urban areas to supply significant amounts of food for urban populations.

Peri-urban food production systems provide opportunities to integrate communities

Finding and supporting new farmers is a critical need

Diversified food farming isn't often defined as “pretty”. We have to celebrate the authentic experience.

Success is dependent on hard nosed business management.
THANK YOU

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