



Building Food and Farm System Resilience in Kane County

Fox Valley Sustainability Network Forum – Local Food Resiliency

August 6, 2020

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COVID and Food System Disruptions

Fragile Food Supply Chain Under Strain

Bloomberg News - Mar 20, 2020



The Coronavirus Crisis Demonstrates What is Wrong With How the World Feeds Itself.

New York Times



Op-Ed: Everything wrong with our food system has been made worse by the pandemic

Los Angeles Times – May 4, 2020



Initial Response from Kane County Food Farmers

April 8, 2020 – The Kane County Planning Division conducted a survey of food farmers in the wake of the Coronavirus pandemic to gain perspective on their challenges and plans.

Among farmers that responded...

- 45% anticipate fewer opportunities to sell foods to retailers and other buyers.
- 71% interested in farm / small business emergency relief funding
- 66% intend to sell product through farmers markets and E-commerce platforms



An Opportunity for Rethinking the Food System

The COVID-19 has widened the cracks already in need of repair. This is really our time to pivot – to revolutionize the food system, to build more equality and justice, to improve how we grow, harvest, process, distribute, cook, serve, eat and dispose of food.

– Danielle Nierenberg, Food Tank



BUILDING A NEW FOUNDATION – REGENERATIVE AGRICULTURE

Regenerative
Grazing

No-Till

Cover Crops

Crop
Diversity

How Do We Fix It?



The answer to our food system is simple: The most important thing we can do today is support local farmers and the businesses that work with them, both with our dollars and policies that help them compete and survive.

- Changing America, published May 20, 2020

Funding Successes

RECENT AWARDS

Farmer Mini Grant Program

Coming soon: accepting applications from farmers that grow food



Farming with Pollinators:

A Growing for Kane Project at the St. Charles Horticulture Center



PAST AWARDS



Regional Conservation Partnership Program

\$500,000 towards Kane farmland easements

