



Agricultural Marketing Service
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Stories of Resilience in Action

Strengthening Local and Regional Food Systems From Within

FEATURING

Erin Bradley | Sommer Sibilly-Brown | Chloe Diegel

The Local and Regional Foods Research and Resource Webinar Series

November 21, 2024

The Local and Regional Food Systems Resilience Playbook

A Primer for Food System Leaders on Local and Regional Food Systems Strengths and Vulnerabilities in Times of Disruption

Colorado State University | USDA Agricultural Marketing Service | University of Kentucky



Why A Resilience Playbook?

The Rationale:

Synthesize what we've learned through experience and "stay ready" for the disruption?

Build a framework of resilience that resonates across context and communities.

Respond to sector's feedback that they work best with specific examples of practical actions taken by those working across different levels of our food system.

The Product:

Web-based & interactive to support a 'choose your own adventure' experience.

Pairs high-level analysis of the dimensions of LRFS disruption response with concrete case studies, panel discussions, tool kits, and other road-tested examples of resilience in action.

Integrated into the broader project website, resource hub, and local food system data tools.

Useful For:

Community leaders in a position to mobilize and coordinate disruption response.

Disaster response professional looking to learn how to support and leverage LRFS in emergency response and feeding.

LRFS leaders looking for opportunities for self assessment and understanding of full systems perspectives.

Key Pillars of LRFS Resilience During Disruptions:

Equitable Response and Recovery

Supporting Local and Regional
Supply Chains

Maintaining Markets



PRACTICES & PRINCIPLES OF RESILIENT FOOD SYSTEMS



Ongoing and regular community dialogue is necessary to develop shared visions for vibrant, equitable food systems and identify and evaluate areas of change, growth, and needed adaptation.



Share with and learn from related food system networks across market channels, regions, or other factors to introduce new expertise, examples, and resources in times of disruption and growth.



LRFS leaders must **identify systemic barriers** to ensure that those most impacted by a disruption can access resources and information.



Impacted communities must have **access to resources, markets, and expertise** to ensure flexible, redundant, and innovative adaptations in times of disruption.



Resources and relationships must **incorporate different scales** of operations and diverse stakeholder groups to make sure that response efforts are aligned and efficient.

Stories of Resilience

Navigating COVID-19 Relief for Farmers

Farmer-focused resource to navigate the challenging financial circumstances sparked by COVID-19.

<https://lfscovid.localfoodeconomics.com>



Investing in the Future of School Food

Highlights how investment in farm to institution infrastructure is a wise for LRFS supply chains and markets.

<https://lfscovid.localfoodeconomics.com>



Wildfire Relief Fund for Oregon Farmers

Community-based organizations are often the first to respond to natural disasters as they have a deep understanding of the needs ...

<https://lfscovid.localfoodeconomics.com>



State Investments and Innovations in Meat

This case study provides examples of state-led meat processing investments and capacity building from IA, KY, and CO.

<https://lfscovid.localfoodeconomics.com>



Today's Panelists



Erin Bradley

Farm and Feeding Programs Coordinator
and Purchasing Director, Freshlist



Chloe Diegel

Owner, Robinette Farms



Sommer Sibilly-Brown

Founder and Executive Director, Virgin
Islands Good Food Coalition







Upcoming Webinars

December 19, 1 p.m. ET

Visualizing Food Systems Data: Examples from Consumer Food Insights, Food and Agriculture Mapper and Explorer (FAME) and the Local Food Economics Data Visualization Challenge.

January 16, 2025, 1 p.m. ET

The Promise of Urban Agriculture: Courses for Grower and Planners.





Thank you!