

Community Food System Indicators for Oregon

An Introduction

Welcome to the Community Food System Indicators curated collection within Oregon State University Extension's Rural Communities Explorer. The CFS Indicators span the food system, from production to consumption, and data are available at the state and county level.

The CFS Indicators are a partnership between the Oregon Community Food Systems Network, the Oregon State University Center for Small Farms & Community Food Systems, and Rural Communities Explorer.

Why Community Food System Indicators?

Around the U.S. and in Oregon, people and organizations traditionally involved with separate elements of the food system are coming together to tackle challenges related to health, environment, and economy, as part of the “community food systems” movement.

Bringing people and organizations together to evaluate and change aspects of the food system requires developing a common understanding of issues and shared goals.

The CFS Indicators, originally developed for the Oregon Community Food Systems Network by Matthew Buck, provide an integrated dataset that supports these efforts.

What is a community food system?

The idea of a “community food system” starts with the core functions of a food system – growing, harvesting, processing, packaging, transporting, marketing, consuming, and disposal – and views them with the goal of enhancing environmental, economic, and social health.

Sustainable community food systems are grown through community-led collaboration and include:

- Small- and mid-scale, sustainable farms;
- Closer ties between farmers and consumers;
- Equitable access to an affordable, nutritious diet;
- Food & agriculture businesses that create jobs & recirculate capital;
- Fair working conditions for farm & food system labor;
- Food and agriculture policy that supports all the above.

Here in Oregon, these collaborations are active at the local, regional, and state level. The Oregon Community Food Systems Network, established in 2015, is a collaboration of more than 40 nonprofit organizations and allies – including OSU Extension – dedicated to strengthening local and regional food systems to deliver better economic, social, health, and environmental outcomes across the state. Learn more about OCFSN here: www.ocfsn.net.

What's in the Community Food Systems Indicator collection?

The 53 indicators in this collection span the food system and fall into these main categories:

- Food Access and Food Insecurity
- Farm Base
- Market Linkages

General Information	
Annual Population Estimate	
Food Access and Insecurity	
Average Cost of a Meal	Population per Grocery Store
Estimated Percentage of Individuals who are Food Insecure	Poverty Rate: Total Population
Farmers Markets Accepting SNAP	SNAP Participation
Grocery Stores	Specialty Food Stores
Low Income and Low Access to a Grocery Store	
Farm Base	
Average Age of Farmers	Farms with Poultry
Average Value per Farm Acre	Farms with Sales <\$25,000
Beginning Farmers and Ranchers	Farms with Sales \$25,000-\$99,999
Compensation per Farm Job	Farms with Sales \$100,000 - \$249,000
Farm Compensation	Farms with Sales >\$250,000
Farm Employment	Farms with Sheep Sales
Farms by Primary Production	Food Crops: All
Farms Harvesting Vegetables, Potatoes, Melons	Food Crops: Fruits, Tree Nuts, Berries
Farms that Grow Berries	Food Crops: Grains, Cereal
Farms with Cattle and Calves Sales	Food Crops: Vegetables, Potatoes, Melons
Farms with Fruit and/or Nut Trees	Land in Farms
Farms with Goats	Number of Farms
Farms with Hogs and Pigs Sales	Organic Farms
Farms with Milk Cows	
Market Linkages	
Community Supported Agriculture Farms	Food Processors by Number of Employees
Farmers Markets	Food Processors Payroll
Farms that Market Direct to Retail	Nonemployer Food Manufacturing Businesses
Farms that Produce Value-Added Products	Population per Farmers Market
Farms with Direct Sales	School Districts Purchasing Local Food
Farms with On-Farm Packing Facilities	Value of Direct Sales per Capita
Food Processor Employment	Value of Direct Sales per Farms Selling Direct
Food Processors	Value of Farm Direct Sales

Indicators related to Community Capacity, which together assess if and how counties are addressing community food systems challenges and opportunities, are being tracked separately, outside RCE.

All Indicators will be updated by RCE as new data are available. A report on the full dataset will be prepared on an annual basis by the OSU Center for Small Farms & Community Food Systems, in partnership with the Oregon Community Food Systems Network.

Ready to explore the Community Food Systems Indicators?

Start here: <http://oe.oregonexplorer.info/rural/CommunitiesReporter/> and select “**Community Food Systems**” under “**Featured Collections.**”

This short video explains how to use this Collection: <https://youtu.be/x5ECZLgyIU>

Questions about the CFS Indicators?

Start here: <http://oe.oregonexplorer.info/rural/CommunitiesReporter/HowTo>

Or contact Shannon Caplan, Rural Communities Explorer Program Coordinator:
Shannon.caplan@oregonstate.edu or 541 737 2105.

For more information

- **Oregon Community Food Systems Network:** www.ocfsn.net
- **OSU Center for Small Farms & Community Food Systems:**
<http://centerforsmallfarms.oregonstate.edu/>.

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