

# 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](http://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**

\* Updated Annually; \*\* Updated every 5 years; \*\*\* A new 5 year average is available every year; ◇ updated on an irregular schedule

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/>. On that page, scroll down to the “**Featured Collections**” section and select “**Community Food Systems.**” (You can also click on “Explore Community Food Systems Data” under the picture.)

This short video explains how to use this Collection: <https://youtu.be/x5ECZLgyIIU>

### **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](mailto:Shannon.caplan@oregonstate.edu) or 541 737 2105.

### **For more information**

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

### **Acknowledgements**

*The Community Food Systems Indicators curated collection was made possible with financial support from The Ford Family Foundation. The CFS Indicators project was originally funded by the Meyer Memorial Trust.*

*Version date: May 21, 2018*