COMMUNITY FOOD SYSTEMS: EDUCATION CENTERS

GOALS

To teach young and old alike about **AGRICULTURAL SYSTEMS** through hands on experience. Agriculture education centers can take on many perspectives from sustainable agriculture production, the history of agriculture, or philosophies and theories behind **BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES** of production. Many centers offer **LEARNING LABS,** workshops, and many different types of opportunities to learn about types of food production and ways to integrate food production into life at home. Centers can also be housed via the web, and offer web-based tutorials, webinars, and literature for personal education. These centers serve as a warehouse of information on numerous types of food system, agriculture production, or general health and wellness research.

BENEFITS

- Education on food systems and agriculture practices
- Demonstration of farming practices and new educational strategies for integration
- Curriculum for various learning levels and opportunities for implementation
- Integration of agriculture practices with daily life experience
- Connection to the outdoor environment
- Authentic learning environments
- Opportunities for collaboration through experiential learning

COMMUNITY IMPACT

- When agriculture is integrated into education or curriculum it can provide connections to the environment, and an authentic, or real, learning situation.

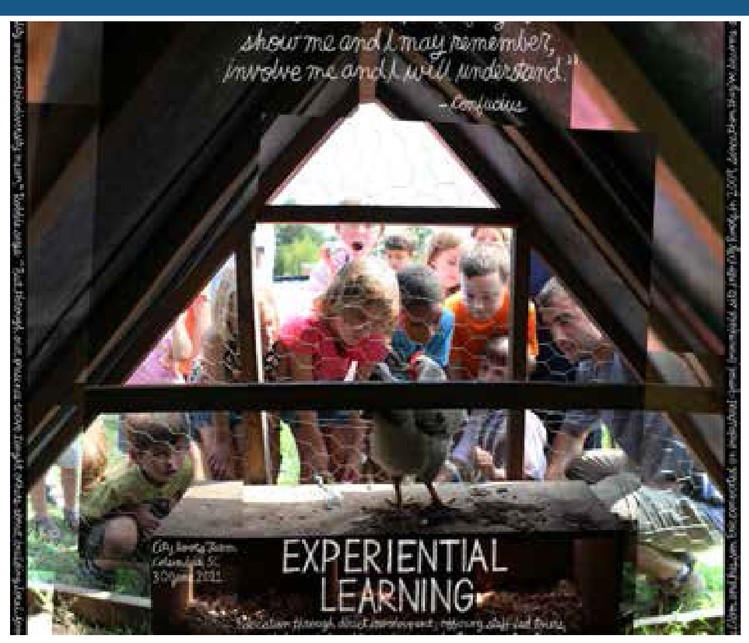
- Agricultural education centers allow for immersion into the landscape that is being portrayed and developed; creating a lasting impact on the user

- Providing access to agricultural systems and community-based curriculum or educational opportunities, allows for students (young and old) to be better connected and aware of their environment

NATIONAL BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

EDIBLE SCHOOL YARD: Berkeley, California: teaching children the food cycle from planting to harvesting, to cooking and nutrition: the garden is critical as a teaching tool

http://edibleschoolyard.org/Berkeley#gardenkitchen

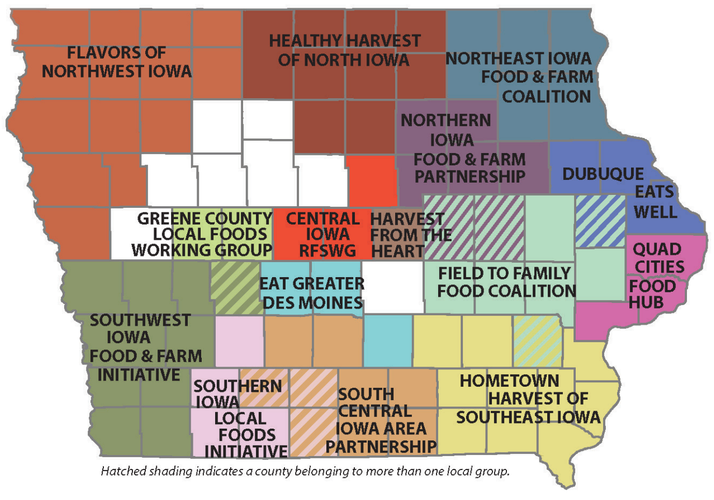


CITY ROOTS FARM: Columbia, South Carolina: An urban farm providing food education: teaching sustainable agriculture, seasonality, biodiversity and personal impact on food systems

http://lexiconofsustainability.com/edible-education/

CENTER FOR INTEGRATED AGRICULTURAL SYSTEMS: University of Wisconsin: research center created in 1989 for sustainable agriculture research and education/ training projects: focus is on integrated farming systems contributing to all aspects of sustainability

http://www.cias.wisc.edu/about/



Hatched shading indicates a county belonging to more than one local group.

LEOPOLD CENTER FOR SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE: Iowa State University: research and education center working on environmental, social, and economic farm practices

Regional Food Systems Working Group: Iowa State University
http://www.leopold.iastate.edu/regional-food-systems-working-group

LET US KNOW OTHER BEST PRACTICES

TITLE: CONTACT INFORMATION:

INTERESTED IN HELPING? SHARE YOUR INFO

NAME: CONTACT INFORMATION: