



Johnson County Historic Poor Farm

Ilsa DeWald
Johnson County
Local Food and Farm Manager

Historic Poor Farm Overview



- 160 acres owned by Johnson County in Iowa City limits
- Barns and Land on National Register of Historic Places
- Johnson County Board of Supervisors adopted 10 year Master Plan in 2017

Mission: JCHPF provides a public space for connecting to the land and local history through inclusive, community-led opportunities

Historic Poor Farm Managers Team

**Local Food and
Farm Manager**
Ilsa DeWald



**Local Food
Assistant**
Cassidy Beamer



Farm Manager
Jason Grimm



Farm Manager
Claire Zabel



**JC Historical
Society**
Alex McKendree



Johnson County Historic Poor Farm Overview



Historic Building

Chatham Oaks

Pollinator Prairie

Hay Production

Future Farm
Infrastructure

Land Access & Community Food Production

Johnson
County
Historic
Poor Farm



Land Access Program



land = \$35 per 1/8 acre
Irrigation Water Access = \$150 per year
Storage Space = \$100 per bay
Cold Storage (4' x 4' x 6') = Free
Shared Produce/Wash Pack Area (20' x 18') = Free



Historic Buildings & Natural Areas



Future Site Uses

Event Rental

Commercial Kitchen Space

Public Trails

www.jchistoricpoorfarm.com

Johnson
County
Historic
Poor Farm



Food Policy Council Purpose



Improve dialogue and discussion and provide necessary advice on food and agriculture issues to the county, municipalities, community boards, local agencies, non-governmental organizations, businesses, and other interested groups.



**Food
Policy
Council**
Established in 2012

Food System Values

Community-based

A community-based food system celebrates cultures and place and is strengthened by dialogue and collective decision making.

Equitable

Centers people's dignity, provides fair compensation for labor, and meets the social and physical needs of all people addressing historic and institutional barriers informed by race, class, disability, gender, and other identities.

Resilient

A resilient food system actively supports a thriving, sustainable environment, facilitates diverse systems, and adapts to meet emerging needs



Who is on the Council?

15 volunteer members

Appointed by the Johnson
County Board of Supervisors

Recruit from all Food
system sectors

Food Policy Council Events



2022 at Iowa City Farmers Market



2022 at Corridor Community Action Network Event



Community Outreach

Past Policy Action

- 2013 - Permitted Limited Food Processing on Farms
- 2015 - Poultry Processing on Farms
- 2018 - Developed local food and agriculture goals for JC Comprehensive Plan
- 2020 - Unified Development Ordinance
 - Creation of an “Agritourism Zoning District”
 - Agriculture Exemption for farms under 40 acres
- 2020 - Expanded Small-scale, custom meat processing



Past Funding Action

- 2014 - Local Food Label Marketing Study
- 2015 - Iowa Kitchen Connect
- 2015 - Hired a Local Foods Coordinator
- 2016 - Johnson County Historic Poor Farm Plan
- 2018 - Field to Family Food Hub funded by Johnson County
- 2021 - American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Funding recommendations resulted in \$200,000 for local food initiatives
- 2022 - Increased ARPA Funding to a total of \$950,000 over 5 years for Veggie Connect & Johnson County Community Food and Farm Grant
- 2023 - Expanded staff to Local Food and Farm Manager and Local Food Assistant



CULTIVATING COMMUNITY: INVESTING IN FOOD & FARM BUSINESSES

Learn about the Community Food and Farm Grant and how investment in food and farm businesses leads to positive outcomes for communities!



APRIL 25, 2023
6:00-7:30 PM



**ONLINE
EVENT**

LEARN MORE AND REGISTER
WWW.JOHNSONCOUNTYIOWA.GOV/LOCALFOODS





IOWA FOOD SYSTEM
COALITION

Vision

We envision an Iowa Food System that cultivates health, justice, sustainability for all people, communities, and the environment.

Mission

We are a coalition committed to collective action to advance a thriving, equitable food system in Iowa.

Values

- **Social and Racial Equity:** We will identify and deconstruct white dominant culture and power injustices within our food system and work together to build intercultural solidarity and food justice.
- **Transformative Relationships:** We will practice transparent and vulnerable communication to encourage meaningful partnerships.
- **Community Empowerment:** We will amplify the voices and efforts of people most impacted by social inequity to transform the dominant narrative of our food system.
- **Culture of Celebration:** We will strengthen and uplift intercultural connections and creative food system solutions that feed and give care to our communities.
- **Care for the Environment:** We will conserve and protect our environment which is the source of our food and long-term well-being.
- **Pride in Local and Regional Agriculture:** We will honor, support and invest in food growers, businesses and workers to create a thriving local and regional food economy.
- **Food for Health:** We will recognize food as the foundation that nurtures and gives life to our personal and community well-being.



IOWAFOODSYSTEM
COALITION

Building a Statewide Coalition & 10 Year Plan

- Foundation of existing relationships, organizations, and plans
- Outline organizing structure (Steering, Partnership & Investment Committees)
- 2021-2022 Focus groups across the state (challenges and opportunities for our local food system)
 - Increase grassroots voice participation
 - Increase awareness of the work
- Organizing input into key priorities
- Open call for priority teams to collaborate on goals and strategies
- Point people for plan editing, cohesive writing, and format/design
- 2023 Summer and Fall Celebrate the Plan!
- *all the while* navigate coalition structure and how to operationalize the plan



IOWAFOODSYSTEM
COALITION

Priority Teams

Farm and Food Infrastructure

Procurement

Farm and Food Businesses

Food Systems Awareness and Education

Food and Health

Local Food Policy Networks

Land and Resource Access

Stewardship

Labor



CENTER *for*
RURAL AFFAIRS



1. Network Local Food Policy Councils
2. Organize Food System Voting Block
3. Lead Grassroots Advocacy Training



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Contact Information

2023 & Beyond



Working Groups

- Community Food and Farm Grant
- Rural Network Connections
- Value-Added Business Development

Strategic Plan Goals

1. Support community connections in the food system
2. Create and share transformational narratives to shape the food system
3. Identify and advocate for inclusive, community-led policy solutions and public investment opportunities