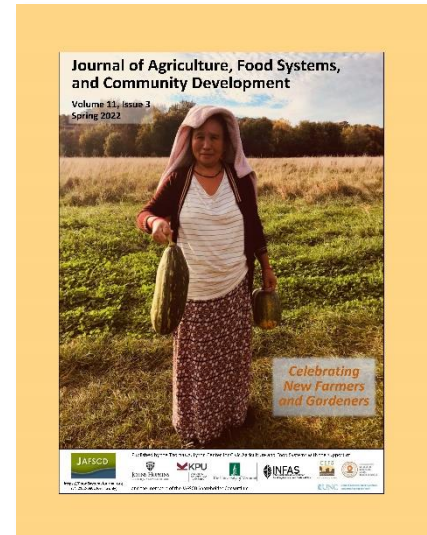


IN THIS ISSUE
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Celebrating new farmers and gardeners



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In this issue, we celebrate the extraordinary contributions that new farmers and gardeners make to their host communities. Immigrant farmers and gardeners, military vet farmers, young BIPOC farmers ... all are increasingly joining the ranks of our food producers. While not enough to replace the loss of traditional farmers, USDA funding to support NGOs and CBOs that are providing land access, technical assistance, and farm incubation services appears to be fostering a new generation of farm and garden practitioners who are putting their shoulders to the wheel of food justice and food sovereignty in the U.S.

On our cover is Dhan Maya Subba, a participant in the New Farms for New Americans’ agriculture and education program for refugees (photo by Alisha Laramee, Program Manager, NFNA). Subba is one of nearly 100 families originally from homes in Asia and Africa who participate in the program to grow food to feed their families. NFNA, a program of the Association of Africans Living in Vermont, helps families who have been resettled in northern New England to access land, continue their agricultural traditions, and grow culturally significant crops. More details about NFNA can be gleaned from *Nepali Bhutanese refugee gardeners and their seed systems: Placemaking and foodways in Vermont* by Junru Guo, Daniel Tobin, and Teresa Mares (all at the University of Vermont) in this issue.

In this open-call issue of JAFSCD, we offer a wide range of peer-reviewed papers, including a fresh crop

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Photo by Alisha Laramee, Program Manager, NFNA

of articles on COVID-19 and the food system and a number of papers touching on land access, agricultural labor, value chains, and food security.

In his ECONOMIC PAMPHLETEER column, entitled *Public policy for agricultural technology*, **John Ikerd** argues that “there is no lack of policy proposals to restore the damage done by industrial agriculture—only a lack of political will.” Restoring the damage requires implementing public policies that can formally recognize and eliminate bad technologies that are likely to have the opposite intended consequences—fewer farmers, soil loss, water loss, and polluted watersheds.

Next are three commentaries, including a JAFSCD shareholder commentary by **Laurel Bellante, Megan A. Carney, and Gigi Owen** entitled *Leveraging university resources to build awareness, support regional food policy, and disrupt dominant narratives guiding food-based development: Examples from University of Arizona’s Center for Regional Food Studies*. CRFS’s recent initiatives include its Food Systems Research Lab—fostering town-gown collaboration on local food policy, and its Future of Food and Social Justice Project—focusing on storytelling, especially by those voices less heard in the food system, such as Indigenous stakeholders.

This is followed by **Adam Pine’s** commentary entitled *Food system activism and the housing crisis* in which he explores the relationship between affordable housing and food insecurity and the need for collaboration among scholars and activists in both fields to address overlapping concerns.

Finally, **Melari Shisha Nongrum** and **Bethamehi Joy Syiem** provide a fresh look at “shifting agriculture” (clearing land to farm it for a brief period, then letting it revert) in their commentary *How traditional agriculture contributes to the global narrative for sustainability: A case from a community in northeast India*.

We continue to receive pandemic-related papers, usually in specific geographic contexts. In *Rising food insecurity and the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on emergency food assistance in Michigan*, **Dorceta E. Taylor, Te’Yah Wright, Ian Ortiz, Alison Surdoval, Ember D. McCoy, and Sorroco M. Daupan** explored how the race/ethnicity of program directors in Michigan during the pandemic may relate to program activities, the pandemic’s impacts, and responses to the pandemic.

Beyond procurement: Anchor institutions and adaptations for resilience by **Naomi Cunningham, David Conner, Claire Whitehouse, Henry Blair, and Jessica Krueger** explores how community-based institutions in New England, such as schools, universities, and hospitals, adjusted their operations to accommodate food needs of local residents during the pandemic. Anchor institutions, therefore, play a key role in resilience and food security during periods of crisis.

Marissa McElrone, Jennifer Russomanno, and Kathryn Wroth then explore the stressors the pandemic brought to bear on farmers in Tennessee in *A pilot study assessing the impacts of COVID-19 on Tennessee farmer social needs and pandemic-related anxiety*.

In their research brief, *COVID-19, a changing food-security landscape, and food movements: Findings from a literature scan in Canada*, **Kristen Lowitt, Joyce Slater, Zoe Davidson, and Food Matters Manitoba** find that the pandemic fostered critical relationships among emergency food distribution actors, other civil society groups, and the government that heretofore had not existed.

Next, in *Adaptive capacity in emergency food distribution: Pandemic pivots and possibilities for resilient communities in Colorado*, **Heide K. Bruckner** and **Sophie Dasaro** (both first authors) conclude that the degree to which emergency food distribution programs could maintain effectiveness during COVID-19 was directly related to their deep roots in the community, their ability to forge partnerships, and their existing organizational structures that facilitated appropriate and time-sensitive decision-making.

Megan Mucioki, Elizabeth Hoover, Jennifer Sowerwine, the Intertribal Agriculture Council, Keir Johnson-Reyes, Latashia Redhouse, and Dan Cornelius then present the results of surveys of Indigenous producers and communities to understand the disruption of the pandemic and find some promising food

sovereignty resilience in *Native American agriculture and food systems: Challenges and opportunities presented by the COVID-19 pandemic*.

And in *More of the same? Migrant agricultural workers' health, safety, and legal rights in the COVID-19 context*, **C. Susana Caxaj**, **Amy Cohen**, and **Carlos Colindres** evaluate the status of primarily Mexican farmworkers in British Columbia and find that, despite increased programs and services, key foundational issues of housing and human rights violations continue to plague workers.

In *Under the shadow of structural violence: Work and family dynamics for Latina farmworkers in southwestern Idaho*, **Rebecca L. Som Castellano**, **Lisa Meierotto**, and **Cynthia L. Curl** cast the spotlight on Latina farmworkers' struggle to be the cornerstones of their families while also toiling in the field. Programs to support farmworkers such as HeadStart are critical but need to expand their hours and age ranges to maximize their impact in rural areas.

Next, **Nadine Budd Nugent**, **Ronit A. Ridberg**, **Hollyanne Fricke**, **Carmen Byker Shanks**, **Amber G. Jones Chung**, **Sonya Shin**, **Amy L. Yaroch**, **Sarah A. Stotz**, **Melissa Akers**, **Roger Lowe**, **Carmen George**, **Kymie Thomas**, and **Hilary K. Seligman** provide fine-grained details of cutting-edge programming in an Alaskan and an Arizona Indigenous community in *Food sovereignty, health, and produce prescription programs: A case study in two rural tribal communities*.

As related to our cover story, **Junru Guo**, **Daniel Tobin**, and **Teresa Mares** explore if and how access to seeds and seed systems enable refugee gardeners to grow essential crops—which might be otherwise difficult to obtain—to produce foods reminiscent of their homelands in *Nepali Bhutanese refugee gardeners and their seed systems: Placemaking and foodways in Vermont*.

In *What do local food consumers want? Lessons from ten years at a local foods market* by **Matthew J. Mariola**, **Adam Schwieterman**, and **Gillian Desonier-Lewis**, the authors use historical point-of-sale data from a food co-op to identify gaps in local food provision. They conclude that a successful market needs both larger producers and small niche producers to provide an affordable diversity of products to the market.


Mckenzie Carvalho, **Amy Hagerman**, **Phil Kenkel**, and **David Shideler** find that distance to the store and rurality are associated with reduced SNAP usage in their paper *Differences in Supplemental Nutrition Assistance (SNAP) Program participation among Oklahoma counties*.

In *"The highest and best use of land in the city": Valuing urban agriculture in Philadelphia and Chicago*, **Domenic Vitiello** traces the evolution of urban agriculture practice, support, and policy in Philadelphia and Chicago since the 1990s (and earlier) and concludes that to have a meaningful impact, food production in cities needs to become a permanent fixture rather than a transitional use of urban land, as is currently practiced.

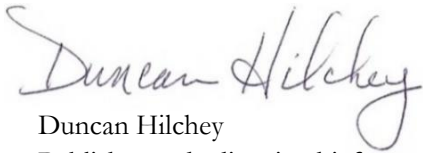
In this issue's final peer-reviewed paper, *Sustainability outcomes of the United States food system: A systematic review*, **Carissa B. Knox** and **Shelie A. Miller** conducted a systematic literature review to inventory common sustainability outcomes of the U.S. food system, and suggest a need for more collaboration across disciplines in developing metrics and measuring impacts.

We wrap up this issue with three book reviews: **Jennifer R. Shutek** reviews *Feeding Istanbul: The Political Economy of Urban Provisioning*, by Candan Turkkan. **Megan Marshall** reviews *A Recipe for Gentrification*, edited by Alison Hope Alkon, Yuki Kato, and Joshua Sbicca. And finally, **Matthew Hoffman** reviews *Building Community Food Webs*, by former JAFSCD columnist Ken Meter. (Matthew is one JAFSCD's volunteer book review editors, and we appreciate his work in both coordinating the process and guiding book reviewers so much!)

Altogether, this issue of JAFSCD points to a need for more holistic approaches to building resilient food systems. Stating this need almost sounds cliché after a decade of JAFSCD publishing transdisciplinary and “transprofessional” research. But to those of us in the publishing realm, it is crystal clear: while we need to

foster more scholarly applied research across disciplines (such as social sciences and production sciences), we simultaneously need scholars to increase their collaboration with the staff of NGOs, CBOs, and stakeholders. Those in the trenches have valuable experience and local knowledge, without which food system research can, unfortunately, remain academic. We look to our own JAFSCD Shareholder Consortium and JAFSCD's sister organization, the North American Food Systems Network (NAFSN),¹ for input on how JAFSCD can help provide a bridge for these equally important researchers and practitioners at the forefront of the food movement. 

Peace, health, and happiness to all,



Duncan Hilchey

Publisher and editor in chief

¹ Learn more about NAFSN at <https://foodsystemsnetwork.org>