In this summer issue of JAFSCD, we offer a smattering of data-driven papers and food systems policy analysis. Some of this work is still in progress, so we are publishing results in the form of briefs. We look forward to seeing expanded research on these preliminary findings!

John Ikerd and Teresa Mares lead off with their typically engrossing columns. Ikerd provides us his take on the Green New Deal, arguing that it’s not a liberal or conservative idea, but an American one. Mares interviews colleagues who are trying to pick up the pieces in Puerto Rico after Hurricane Maria, and suggests that the neglect of the U.S. government may, in fact, be planting seeds of food sovereignty in the territory.

Next we have two pieces from USDA staffers: a viewpoint from recently retired Debra Tropp of the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Agricultural Market Service, who reflects on the dramatic changes in local food research during her tenure; and, coincidentally, a technical commentary from Jeffrey O’Hara and Matthew Benson explaining the reported decline in the number of direct-to-consumer farms and the analytical challenges of comparing data from the 2017 Census of Agriculture to that of previous years.

The first of our open-call papers is Community-Based Food Waste Modeling and Planning Framework for Urban Regions, by Ning Ai and Junjun Zheng, who find a challenging spatial mismatch between food waste producers and prospective users in Chicago.

Next up, Jill Clark, Chaturia Rouse, Ashwini Sehgal, Mary Bailey, Bethany Bell, Stephanie Pike, Patricia Sharpe, and Darcy Freedman explore what low-income consumers express they want and need in A Food Hub to Address Healthy Food Access Gaps: Residents’ Preferences.

In The Farmers Market Metrics Project: A Research Brief on Scalable Data Collection in the Minneapolis-St. Paul Metro, Hikaru Peterson and Joseph Nowak present the preliminary results of their tool, FM360, to help
farmers markets measure their progress and impact.

Colleagues at Appalachian State University present their preliminary findings in a regional network of food banks and food pantries in *The North Carolina Food Pantry Organizational Capability and Mapping Study: Research Brief and Pilot Study*, by Kyle Thompson, Margaret Sugg, and Margaret Barth.

We wrap up our open-call papers in this issue with two papers addressing issues in the Global South. In *Farmers’ Willingness to Pay for Establishing a Collective Postharvest Refrigeration Unit: Evidence from an Eastern Mediterranean Rural Community*, Amani Maalouf and Ali Chalak quantify and qualify farmers’ interest in reducing food waste through shared refrigeration. And the impact of agroecology from post–civil war resettlement in El Salvador is documented through oral histories in *Roots of Resistance and Resilience: Agroecology Tactics for Resettlement* by Matthew DelSesto and Megan Donovan.

We wrap up the issue with a plethora of book reviews.


Thanks to all the contributors to this issue. JAFSCD exists to share the hard work and insights of researchers and practitioners with the Good Food community. For us at the Lyson Center it is an honor and privilege to do so.

With appreciation,

*Duncan Hilley*

Publisher and Editor in Chief