

**Illinois Local & Organic Food & Farm Task Force  
Listening Sessions**

**Hull House  
May 20, 2008**

100+ attendees.

CSA and reduced insurance. Insurance companies in Wisconsin are subsidizing CSA memberships (\$100 – 200 per share). Perhaps get companies, state employees to buy CSA this way.

Peace Coffee (in Minnesota) is delivered by bicycle.

Neighborhood commercial kitchens (e.g., Logan Square).

Illinois has weak laws on CAFOs. Buy food from family farms. Embroider on flag “Rotate your Crops”.

What does it mean to be warrior chef? A movement, but also a war.

Urban farming. Disconnection from earth. Gardens in prison.

Family trying to eat local for 3 years. Permanent farmers markets, evening markets. All local meat is frozen – no fresh local meat available.

Undocumented workers are earning below living wage.

Rail transportation for local foods. Cold storage – root crops in winter. False economy: GNP does not include medical costs, oil.

Farmers market – central market, public market, accessible to transportation and to chefs. Meat producers have ground meat surplus? Schools.

Use U. of Ill. Extension – gardening, Garfield Conservatory.

State of origin labeling.

Investment in new technologies, especially in urban areas. Decentralize distribution. Create more producers.

Recognize that we’re in a life and death situation: what we buy does affect the rest of the world. WIC recipients should have access to organic food, organic milk.

Opposed to GMOs.

Expiration dates on food packages encourage us to waste food. Waste food is high in US. Can deli counters, etc., donate to food banks?

Food stamp counselor: WIC recipients don’t learn much about regional food. Recommends action alerts, advocacy, getting input from young people.

To institutionalize local foods, perhaps give tax rebates for buying local (a point system).

Children who pick vegetables tend to eat them. Tax rebate for people who use some percentage of their property for growing food.

Provide cooking classes for WIC recipients. Would like to house chickens on warehouse roofs (for egg production). Allow poultry farmers to rent rehabbed urban spaces at \$1/year.

Outdoor classroom, mandatory to learn about vegetables/fruits in school.

Starbucks infrastructure already exists; use Starbucks stores to create veg/fruit stands.

Distribution networks connecting smaller farmers with small retailers.

Winter markets.