Building Diverse Partnerships to Develop Agricultural Community Assets
Livable Regions and Communities in Appalachia
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The PASA Mission:

Promoting profitable farms that produce healthy food for all people while respecting the natural environment.
About PASA

Founded in 1992 in Millheim, PA (Centre County, Central PA)

Nonprofit, focused on peer-to-peer farmer education programming

Largest statewide (and beyond) sustainable ag organization in the country

HQ in central PA, regional offices in Eastern PA & Western PA

Over 6,000 members

Funded by membership dues and donations, public and private dollars, revenue generating events, sponsorships and contributions
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>What PASA Does</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Annual <em>Farming for the Future</em> Conference</strong></td>
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<td>2,000+ participants from 40+ states and 8+ countries</td>
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<td>50+ Farm-Based Education field days, Intensive Learning Programs, Master Classes each year</td>
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<td>Farm-Based Research projects</td>
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<td>Information for Advocacy, Policy</td>
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<td>Newsletter, website, social media, regional member gatherings</td>
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<td>Land lease connections</td>
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<tr>
<td>Statewide coordination of PA’s Buy Fresh Buy Local® network</td>
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<td>Good Food Neighborhood Community Outreach</td>
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Promoting Food Production Systems that are:

**Sustainable** – economic viability for farmers, protection of the environment, service to the community & continuously improving

**Local** – relocalization of food systems

**Safe** – traceability of food sources, transparency of the systems involved in getting food on our plates

**Engaged** – we are not passive participants in the food system, rather we are knowledgeable, opinionated and active
What is the Food System?

- The chain of production, processing, distribution and consumption of food, from “farm to fork”

- Industrial/global system vs. Local/alternative system

- Rural communities role in production and processing of food—on the frontline of changes to the system
Why Local Food System Development

- **Economic Development**: Agriculture as an Economic Multiplier
- **Building Social Capital**: Facilitating community interaction and increasing trust
- **Well-being**: Communities with small, locally based farms have been found to have higher social welfare than communities dominated by industrial agriculture (Goldschmidt 1978, Lobao 1991)
- **Health & Environment**: Food Safety, Public Heath, Protecting Farmland & the Environment
Local Food System Development as Community Development

- View agriculture and food system development as a form of self-development; assets based.
- Citizen involvement critical; Process as important as outcomes.
Strategies for Local Food System Development

- Inform decision-making processes by compiling data, researching alternatives, assessing impact, and educating stakeholders
  - Conduct a needs assessment
    - Community Food Assessment Toolkit- USDA
    - Land Inventory
    - Cost of Community Services Study- American Farmland Trust
Strategies for Food System Development

- Encourage sustainable food production through plans, policies, and programming
  - Agricultural Zoning
  - Right to Farm Legislation
  - Farmland Preservation
  - Provide Incentives for Farming
  - Access to education and information about
Strategies for Local Food System Development

- Improve healthy food access through zoning, education, and incentives for retailers
  - SNAP and Farmers Market Nutrition Programs
  - Education and Outreach
  - Incentives for healthy food retail
Strategies in Food System Development

- Support a local or regional food economy
  - Farm to School
  - Buy Local Marketing Campaigns
  - Festivals and Celebrations
How do you get things done?

- **Organization and Partnerships**
  - Food Policy Council
  - Agricultural Viability Committee

- **Diverse Stakeholders: Food, the Common Thread**
  - Farmers and Ag Professionals
  - Government and Planners
  - Public Health
  - Social Service
  - Restaurants, Schools, Institutions
Contact Information

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