What Is the Eastern Kentucky Food System Collaborative?

The Eastern Kentucky Food Systems Collaborative (EKYFC) is a network of farmers, gardeners, producers, consumers, health professionals, educators, extension agents and more who are dedicated to building, strengthening, and connecting the Eastern Kentucky food system.

This network aims to support the regional food system through:

- information sharing
- promoting education
- advocating for policy change
- building markets for Eastern Kentucky products

Four working groups have been identified as areas in which the participants in the EKFSC would like to focus their efforts. These working groups include: Community Education, Producer Support, Market Development, and Community and School Gardens.

A Bit of History

The EKYFC began in 2011 as a joint project of CFA and MACED, with support from the UK Appalachian Center. The idea was to bring together a diversity of organizations and individuals interested in realizing the benefits of a cohesive food system in Eastern Kentucky.

The priority issues identified in EKY were:

- Supporting farmers, both established and newcomers
- Developing markets that support farmers and open up opportunities to get local food in schools and other institutions
- Creating community gardens to build food security and educate the public about food, nutrition, and local food system impact

For more information, go to our website: [http://www.appalfoods.org/](http://www.appalfoods.org/) or check us out on facebook: [EasternKentuckyFoodSystemCollaborative](https://cfaky.org)