Purpose
The Community Food Systems team supports and enhances Cooperative Extension's research mission and capacity to work with community food systems in an integrated, systemic, and coordinated manner, spanning across all program areas within Extension as well as with external stakeholders.

Vision
A sustainable community food system provides a healthy, culturally appropriate, and nutritionally adequate diet throughout the lifespan while maintaining resilient ecosystems that supply food for generations to come with minimal negative impact to the environment. A community food system addresses all parts of the food system continuum including: production, processing, distribution, sales, purchasing, preparation, consumption, and waste management.

Values
We work to build and support a food system that is . . .

Just
Ensures nutritious food is available, accessible, and affordable to all community members
Is humane and just, protecting farmers and workers, consumers, and communities

Sustainable
Accommodates all scales of food production
Protects and maintains a healthy and biodiverse ecosystem throughout the entire food system
Develops food and agriculture-related businesses that create jobs or contribute to the community’s economic development and social cohesion
Supports family farms and farmland preservation

Place-based
Supports production, processing and distribution infrastructures that create direct and beneficial links between farmers and consumers building financial capital within the community
Recognizes and builds upon the culture, traditions, and natural resources of the community