



Throughout 2021, the LiveWell Geary County Food Policy Council and community partners will be creating a Food System Plan. If you eat or buy food in Geary County, you should have a say in this process!

A **Food System Plan** is a 10-year plan that helps guide the growth of the local food system. A strong local food system can:

- Foster profitable agriculture and food business,
- Support entrepreneurs in agriculture and food,
- Create new jobs and opportunities,
- Increase access to healthy, nutritious foods for all,
- Support skills in gardening and food preparation,
- Protect soil, water, and air quality,
- Reduce food waste,
- Celebrate diversity of food and agriculture in our community, and
- Empower all to participate in the food system.

To build a strong local food system, the community needs a roadmap to guide the process. We need to know where and how to invest time, resources, and partnerships to best support a vibrant local food economy.

That's where YOU come in!

Please take this 10 minute survey to share your experiences and priorities.

Your answers will help shape the future of food in Geary County!

1. Please select the **top three places** you get food.

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cafeteria (include school, workplace, hospital cafeterias) | <input type="checkbox"/> Grocery store (Dillon's, Wal-Mart, Aldi, etc.) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dollar store (Dollar General, Dollar Tree, etc) | <input type="checkbox"/> Grow your own |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Farmers' market, farm stand, or Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) program | <input type="checkbox"/> Meal or grocery home delivery (Meals on Wheels) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fast food restaurants (McDonald's, Sonic, Taco Bell, etc.) | <input type="checkbox"/> Restaurant or diner |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Food pantry or food bank (Geary County Food Pantry, Episcopal Church of the Covenant, Breaking Bread, Open Door, First United Methodist, Wheels of Hope, etc.) | <input type="checkbox"/> Specialty food stores (ethnic markets, bakeries, etc.) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Gas station or convenience store (Handy's, Casey's, etc.) | <input type="checkbox"/> Warehouse club (Cost-co, Sam's Club, etc.) |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |

Evaluate the following statements based on your experience.

2. Within the past 12 months I worried whether my food would run out before I got money to buy more. Select one.
- Often
 - Sometimes
 - Never
3. Within the past 12 months, the food I bought ran out, and I didn't have money to get more. Select one.
- Often
 - Sometimes
 - Never

*If you answered **often** or **sometimes** to either question above, please answer Questions 4-5 (if not, skip to Question 6):*

4. How did the COVID-19 pandemic impact your ability to afford food? Select one.
- The pandemic made it more difficult for me to afford food.
 - The pandemic made it easier for me to afford food.
 - No change.

5. Please select the reason(s) that best describe why you or your household don't always have the kinds of food you want to eat. (Select all that apply)

- Not enough money for food
 - Kinds of food we want not available in stores or pantries
 - Not enough time for shopping or cooking
 - Too difficult to get to the store
 - On a special diet
 - No kitchen equipment available to cook (stove, pots, knives)
 - Not able to cook or eat because of health problems
 - Not applicable
 - Other
-

6. Geary County is considering creating a single site for communal meals where community members could come together and eat for free. In thinking about this idea, what would be the most important factors for you to consider whether or not you would attend? (check all that apply)

- Transportation availability
- Free or low cost of the meals
- Time of day the meals are served
- Day of the week the meals are served
- The menu options available
- Other: _____

7. How far do you travel to get food/groceries?

- less than 1 mile
- less than 1-5 miles
- less than 5-10 miles
- more than 10 miles

8. When you travel to obtain food, what is your PRIMARY way of getting there and back? (select only one answer)

- Bicycle
- Bus/transit
- Car/personal vehicle
- Ride with a friend or relative
- Walk

9. What are the biggest challenges you face when traveling to get food? (only answer one question below based on your answer to Q8 above)

9a. When **driving or riding with someone**, (select all that apply)

- The distance to the store
- I can't pay for gas or ride fare.
- I share rides with others, which limits when I can go.
- It's hard to keep my car fixed up or to pay for needed repairs.
- Traveling to get food takes me away from my farm/ranch operation.
- Other (please write in) _____
- Not applicable.

9b. When **walking**, (select all that apply)

- The distance to the store
- Because there are no sidewalks or they are uneven/incomplete.
- Because I can only carry a limited amount of food, making my trips more frequent.
- Because I don't feel safe walking in my neighborhood.
- Other (please write in) _____
- Not applicable.

9c. When **riding the bus**, (select all that apply)

- The distance to the store
- Because the bus stop is far from my destination.
- Because I can only carry a limited amount of bags onto the bus.
- Because I don't feel safe riding the bus.
- Other (please write in) _____
- Not applicable.

9d. When **biking**, (select all that apply)

- The distance to the store
- Because there is not a clearly designated bike route from my home to the store.
- Because I can only carry a limited amount of food.
- Because I don't feel safe biking in my neighborhood.
- Other (please write in) _____
- Not applicable.

10. Complete the following statements (check yes or no):

	YES	NO
I know how to cook		
I have enough space to cook		
I have the tools I need to cook (i.e knives, pots, pans, stove etc)		
I have enough time to cook		
I have a safe place to cook		
I would like to learn more about HOW to cook		

11. Please rate your level of agreement with the following statements by checking the box:
(Note: Healthy foods generally include fruits, vegetables, whole grains, lean meat, legumes, low-fat/fat-free dairy and water.)

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
Overall, I eat healthy foods.					
Compared with other communities Geary County is a community that values healthy eating.					
I'd like to learn more about how to eat healthier.					

12. I believe that most people can find healthy foods in the following places:

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
At home					
In restaurants					
At work					
At school					

13. Complete the following statements:

	YES	NO
I currently garden and know how to grow food		
I participate in a community garden		
I raise animals in my yard (e.g., chickens).		
I know where the community gardens are in my community		
I currently hunt or fish for food		
I would like to learn more about how to grow/hunt/fish for my own food and regulations about these activities.		

14. Within the past month, I threw food away when I didn't/couldn't eat it.

- Never
- Once per week
- Twice per week
- More than three times per week

15. Select the reasons you threw food away. Select all that apply to you.

- I bought too much food and couldn't eat it before it spoiled.
- I didn't know how to prepare some of the food I purchased.
- Restaurant portions were too big and I couldn't eat it all.

- It was past the “best if used by” date and I threw it away.
- The food quality was questionable (i.e. the fruit was bruised).
- Our schedule changed and we didn’t get meals made as planned
- Recognition of religious holidays or belief
- Other _____

16. I currently compost at home (compost is defined as recycling food scraps):

- Yes
- No

17. If my city or county were to offer a food waste composting program in our community, I would participate:

- Yes
- No
- Maybe/Not Sure

18. If there was a cost to participate in a food waste composting program in my community, I would be willing to pay:

- Less than \$10/month
- \$10-\$20/month
- \$20-\$35/month
- I would not pay for this service.

19. What sources do you use to learn about food options (i.e. nutrition classes, diet info, cooking skills, communal meals, gardening, etc.) in Geary County?

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Radio | <input type="checkbox"/> County Health Department |
| <input type="checkbox"/> TV | <input type="checkbox"/> My doctor or health clinic |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Print | <input type="checkbox"/> The library |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Online news | <input type="checkbox"/> Food assistance programs (SMAP, WIC, etc) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Social media | <input type="checkbox"/> My religious/faith community |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Friends and family | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> K-State Extension | |

The Food System Plan steering committee has identified some preliminary goals to improve our local food system. First, we'll ask you about which ones matter most to you personally, then we'll ask you about priorities for the community as a whole.

20. Which food system goals are most important to **YOU AND YOUR FAMILY**? *Select your top 3 only.*

- Farmers, food entrepreneurs, and food chain workers thrive in our local economy.
- Our land-use decisions promote a strong and viable food system while stewarding the environment.
- We build and design our communities to ensure that making the healthy choice is the easy choice.
- All residents have equal access to healthy, local food, and food insecurity is reduced.
- All residents have equal opportunities for food and agricultural education (cooking, gardening, food safety).
- Our community reduces food waste.
- Our food system partners work together to leverage investments and efficiently deliver services.
- Our community celebrates and supports the local food culture and heritage of our region.

21. Are there other farm or food topics that are important to **you and your family** that are not listed above?

22. Which food system goals are most important to your entire **COMMUNITY**? *Select your top 3 only.*

- Farmers, food entrepreneurs, and food chain workers thrive in our local economy.
- Our land-use decisions promote a strong and viable food system while stewarding the environment.
- We build and design our communities to ensure that making the healthy choice is the easy choice.
- All residents have equal access to healthy, local food, and food insecurity is reduced.
- All residents have equal opportunities for food and agricultural education (cooking, gardening, food safety).
- Our community reduces food waste.
- Our food system partners work together to leverage investments and efficiently deliver services.
- Our community celebrates and supports the local food culture and heritage of our region.

23. Are there other farm or food topics that are important to **the community** that are not listed above?

Demographic Questions

Your answers to the following questions will allow us to determine how the mix of survey respondents compares to the population of Geary County as a whole. These results will remain private and will not be shared.

24. What is the five digit zip code where you live?

- 66441
- 66442
- 66514

25. What is your age? (only one answer)

- 19 or under
- 20-29
- 30-39
- 40-49
- 50-59
- 60-69
- 70-79
- 80 and over
- Prefer not to answer

26. What gender category do you identify with? (only one answer)

- Female
- Male
- Transgender
- Prefer not to answer

27. What is the highest level of education you have completed?

- Less than a high school degree
- High school degree or equivalent
- Some college (1-4 years, no degree)
- Associate's degree (including occupational or academic degrees)
- Bachelor's degree (BA, BSc, AB, etc)
- Master's, Professional, or Doctorate degree
- Prefer not to answer

28. What is your total household income in the last 12 months?

- Under \$20,000
- \$20,001 – \$40,000
- \$40,001 – \$60,000
- \$60,001 – \$80,000
- \$80,001 – \$100,000
- \$100,001 or over
- Prefer not to answer

29. Please specify your ethnicity.

- White
- Hispanic or Latino
- Black or African American
- Native American or American Indian
- Asian / Pacific Islander
- Other _____
- Prefer not to answer

30. Inspired to learn more about the food system? Interested in giving additional feedback at upcoming events?

Enter your email address here: (optional)
