



# Building Solid Development Frameworks for Local Farms & Food



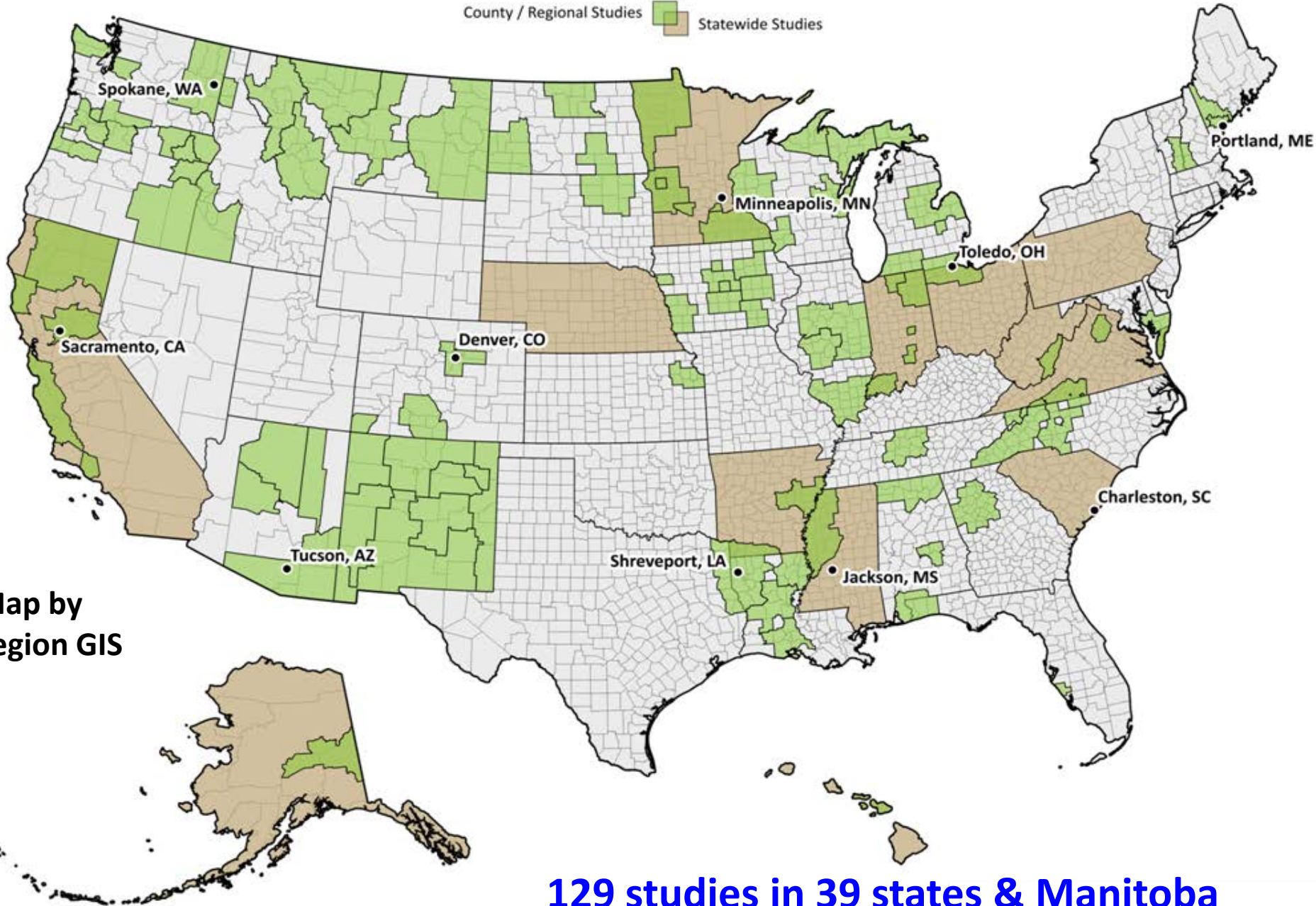
**Ken Meter**  
Crossroads  
Resource Center  
(Minneapolis)

**International Economic Development  
Council Annual Meeting  
Toronto September 19, 2017**

Photos by Ken Meter

# CRC Farm & Food Economy Studies

County / Regional Studies    Statewide Studies



Map by  
Legion GIS

**129 studies in 39 states & Manitoba**



Who's your far

**Corinna, Kurt, & Jed Bench**

**Elmore, Ohio**





“Local” is a shorthand...





**Goal: to build  
Community-Based  
Food Systems**



# Community-Based Food Systems

Systems of exchange that strive to bring food producers and food consumers into affinity with each other...

...For the purposes of fostering community health, wealth, connection, and capacity





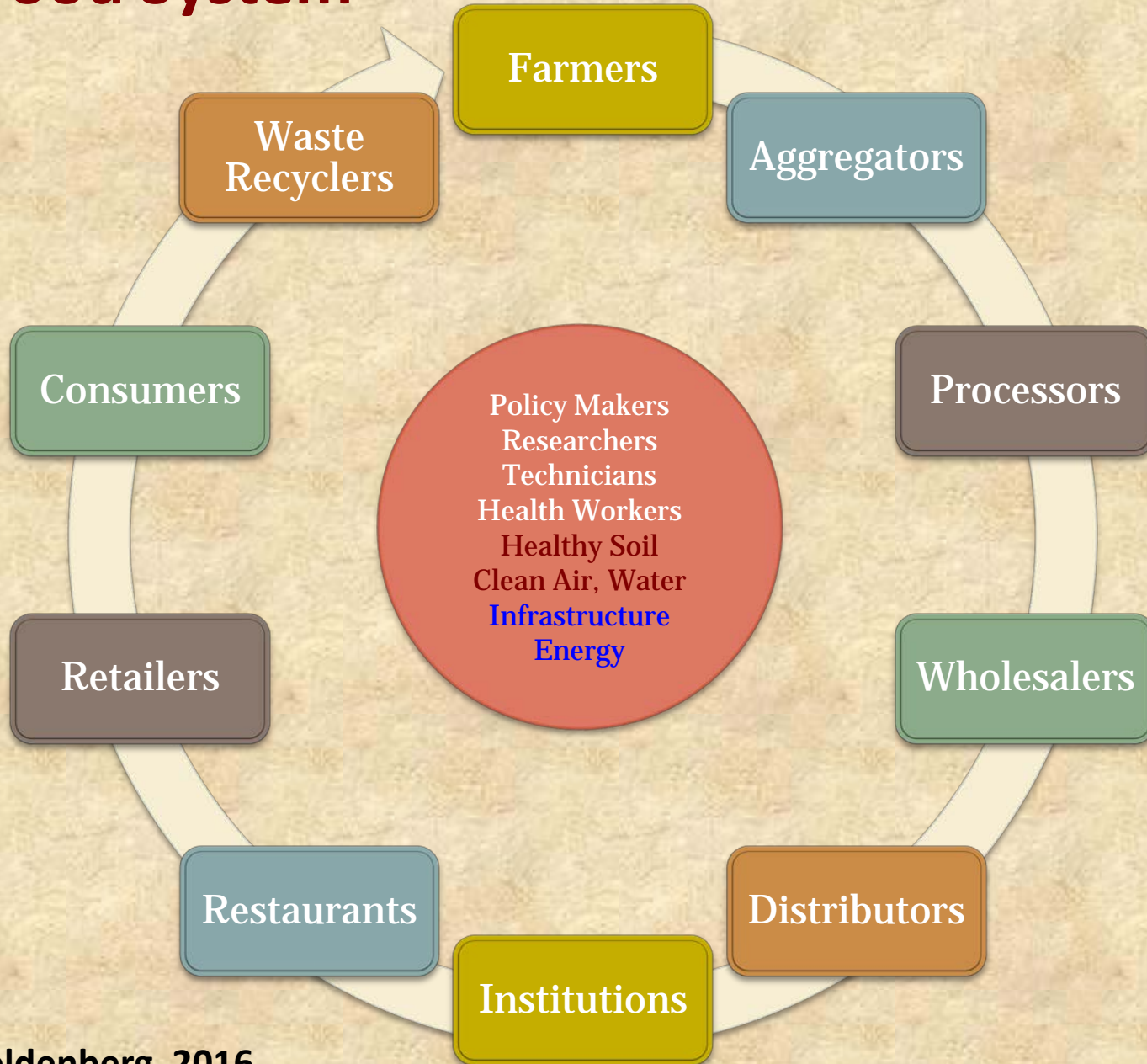


# Key Elements of a Food System



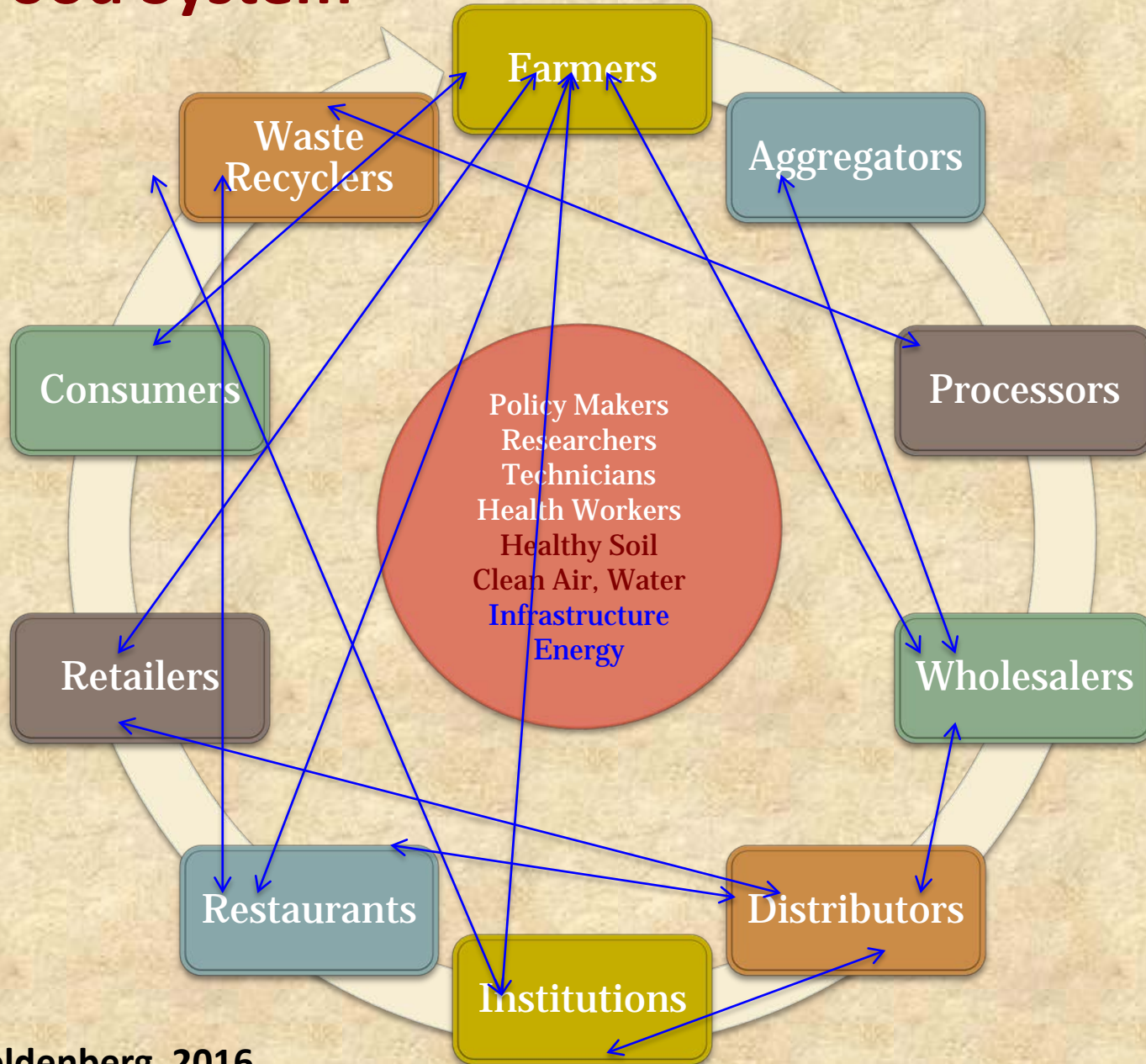


# Food System





# Food System





# Food Systems are Networks

Trellis Growing Systems – Fort Wayne



**No single formula**

**Each community holds unique assets...**

**...and challenges**



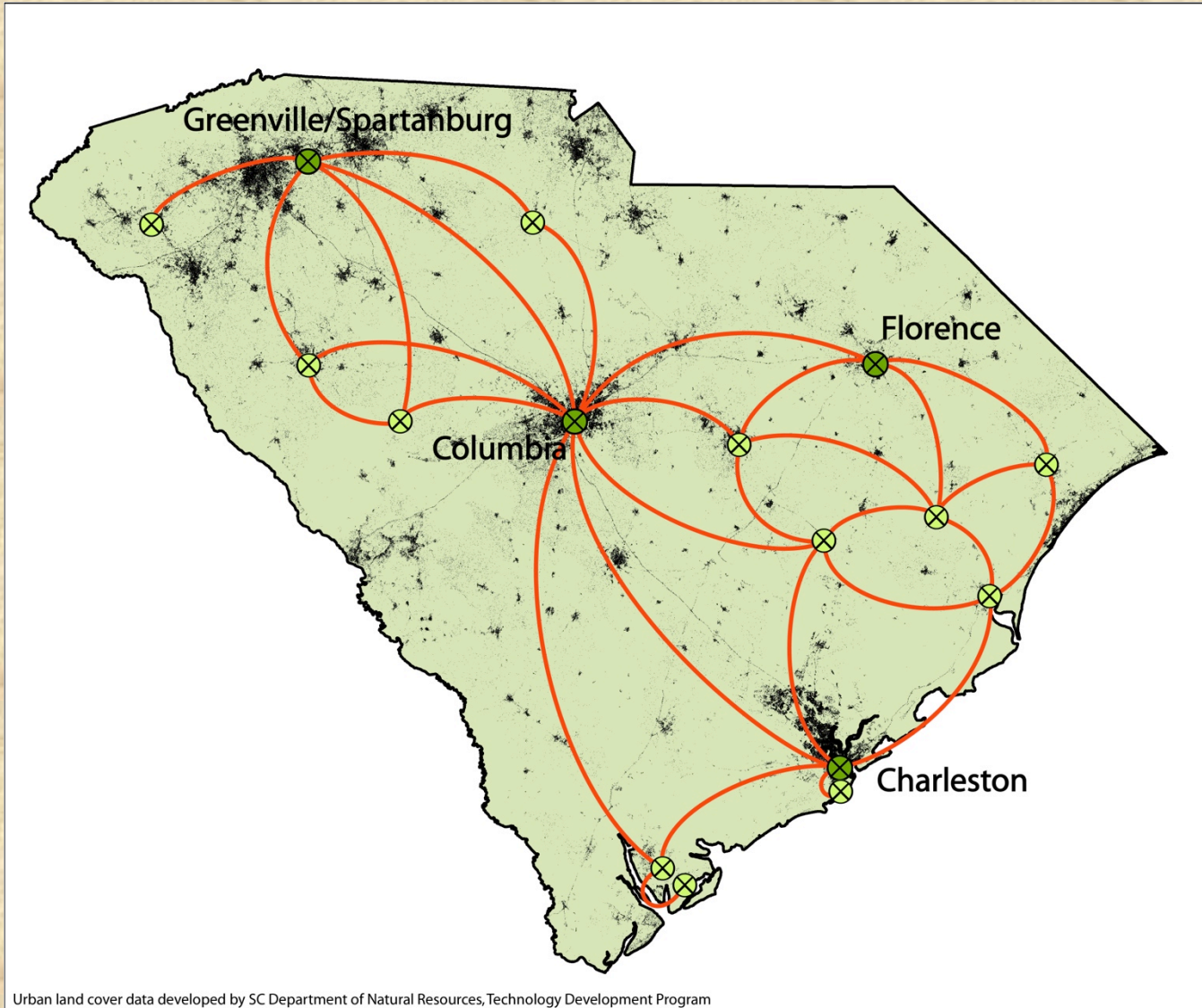
**The concept of “Food Hubs” has been oversold**

**None survive without a supportive network**





# South Carolina Food Network





ORGANIC  
CA  
ARKANSAS  
BLACK  
HERBOM  
APPLES  
\$2.99/lb





# The key role of public investment

**Build infrastructure  
that creates  
community efficiencies**

# Northeast Indiana Regional Partnership

11 Local Economic  
Development  
Organizations

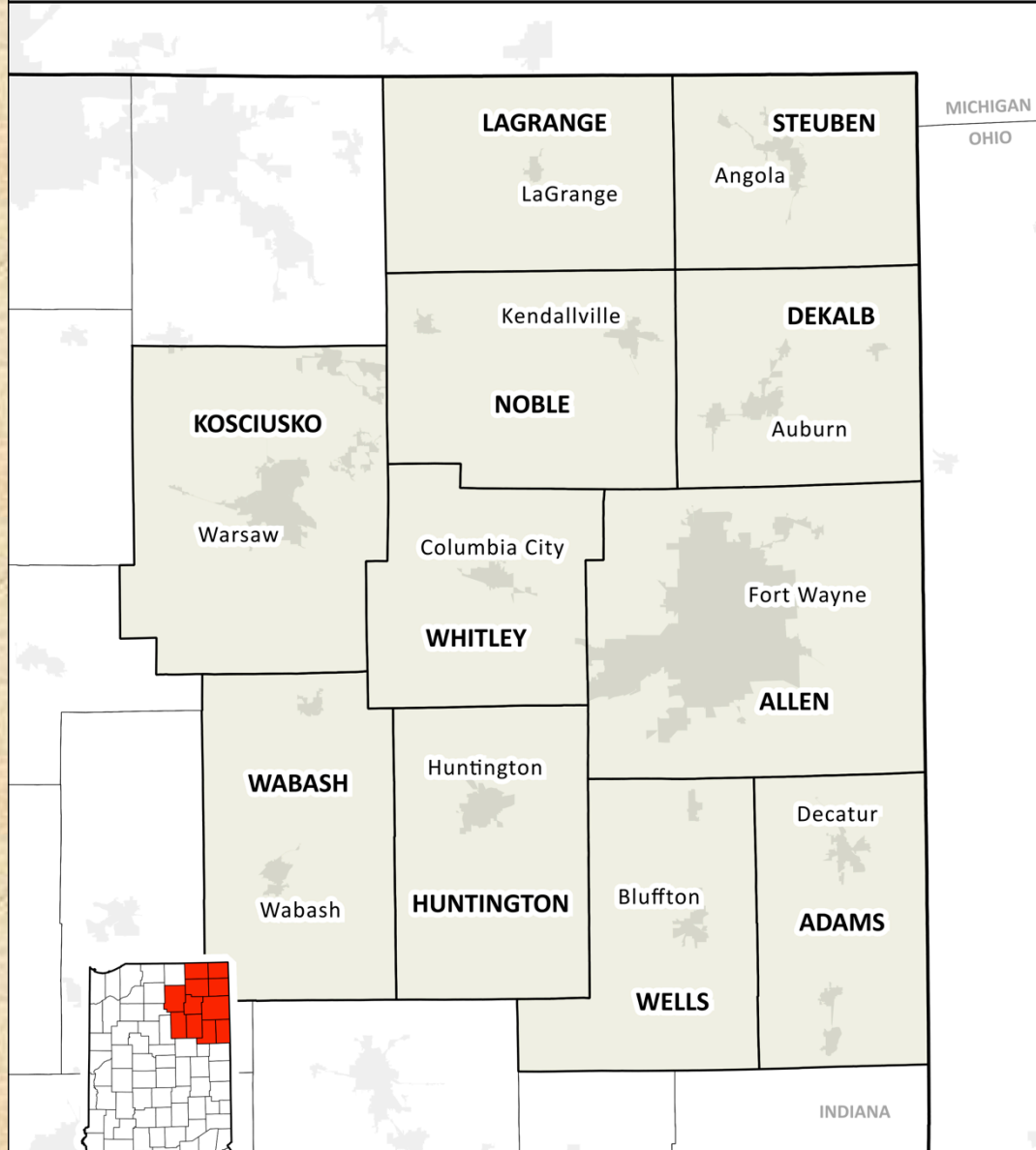
Hired  
Manheim  
Solutions

# Northeast Indiana Local Food Network





# Northeast Indiana Region



SOURCES : US Census Bureau TIGER 2010 Urban Areas; USDA / NRCS Counties 2002

Prepared for Ken Meter | Crossroads Resource Center | December 2015 | Mapping by Brendan Heberlein



# NE Indiana Local Food Network

A business cluster “**Extends beyond core firms...**

**...and includes any other actor or agency in the region who can contribute to the industry’s competitive success.”**

**Neil Reid, University of Toledo**

Reid, Neil; Carroll, Michael C.; & Smith, Bruce W. (2007). “Critical Steps in the Cluster Building Process.” International Economic Development Council (IEDC) *Economic Development Journal*, Fall, 45.



# NE Indiana Local Food Network

**“The key to a successful cluster is collaboration among the members of the cluster.”**

**Neil Reid -- University of Toledo**

Reid, Neil; Carroll, Michael C.; & Smith, Bruce W. (2007). “Critical Steps in the Cluster Building Process.” International Economic Development Council (IEDC) *Economic Development Journal*, Fall, 45.



# NE Indiana Local Food Network

**“Local food networks” are the commercial, social, and cultural connections that sustain food trade within Northeast Indiana.**



Welcome to

Seven Sons





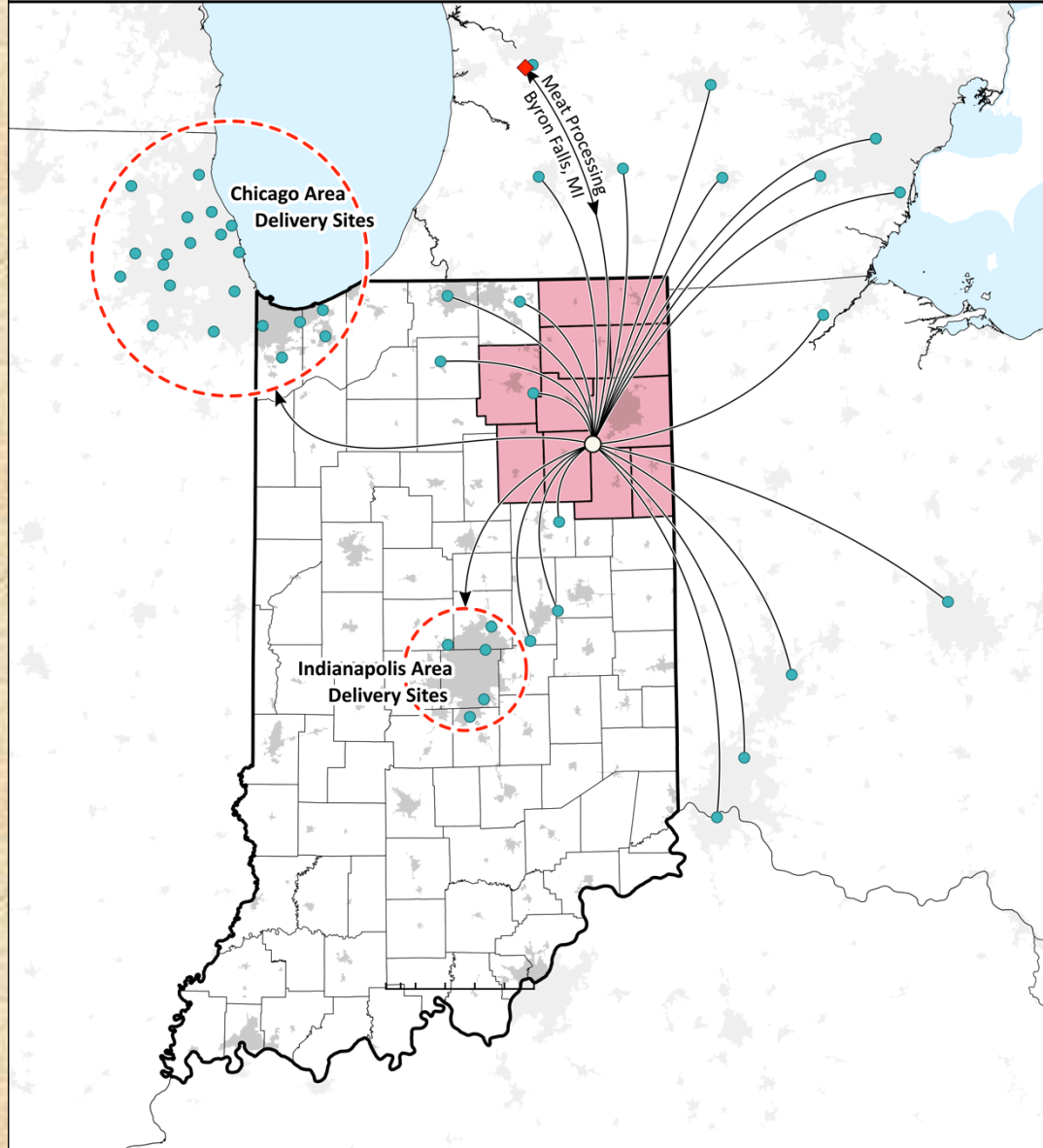
**Blaine Hitzfield**



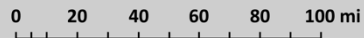


# Seven Sons Farm

## Delivery Sites



**45 Drop Sites**  
**5,200 Names**







**Coming up next!**

## **Lori Stahlbrand**

**Food Strategy Team at the City of Toronto  
Toronto Food Policy Council**

## **John Cotton Dean**

**Director, Rural Prosperity Initiative  
Central Louisiana Economic Development Alliance**

## **Keith Gillenwater**

**President and CEO  
Economic Development Group  
of Wabash County, Indiana**

# Local Farm & Food Economy Studies

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