

# 2018 FOOD COUNCIL ACCOMPLISHMENTS



## PROMOTING FARMERS & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

## CHARLOTTE REGION

This selection of updates are from seven food councils and networks in NC and SC attending the 2018 Charlotte Region Food Council Gathering.



Cleveland County co-hosted an event with school social workers and food pantries to increase collaboration and resource distribution.

Bread Riot provided boxes of local produce to low income families through Head Start, Meals on Wheels, and schools during the winter and summer.

Bread Riot awarded two \$500 grants to local farmers for farm enhancements such as supplies, feeders, and egg washing equipment.

Catawba Farm & Food Coalition expanded their online farmers market with new local vendors and customers and partnered with a school for a healthy school fundraiser.

Spartanburg County Food System Coalition received a USDA Local Food Promotion Program Grant with the Hub City Farmers Market for a food system assessment.

Char-Meck FPC partnered with Mecklenburg Soil & Water to host farmer focus groups for input on adopting a Voluntary Agricultural District (VAD) ordinance.

Cabarrus Farm & Food Council hosted a panel discussion and film screening of *Sustainable*, a documentary on the benefits of a local/regional food system.

Gaston County Food Council hosted a "I Love My Farmer's Market" event during National Farmers Market Week at all three farmers markets.

Cabarrus Farm & Food Council released a Long Term Hunger Relief Report in collaboration with UNC-Charlotte.

Cleveland County worked with the Foothills Farmers Market to collect food donations through Farmer Foodshare to support local feeding programs.

## ADDRESSING FOOD ACCESS

## INCREASING FOOD & FARM AWARENESS

Catawba Farm & Food Coalition, Clemson University and others hosted the Ag+Art Tour in 12 counties, reaching 30,000+ visitors since 2012.

Bread Riot partnered with Catawba's Center for the Environment to host presentations on bees and the human biome and eating healthy.

Char-Meck FPC worked with 8 other food councils and 120 organizations to advocate for maintaining SNAP funding and program structure in the next farm bill.

Bread Riot hosted two fundraisers featuring local farmers and food businesses to support their community and grant programs.

Char-Meck FPC created 'Director' designations for Board members to clarify roles and share responsibilities for outreach, fundraising, advocacy, or social media.

## COUNCIL DEVELOPMENT & LEADERSHIP

## ADVOCATING POLICY & PROGRAM CHANGE

Catawba Farm & Food Coalition engaged 2018 election candidates with the food and farm question using a resource provided by CFSA.

Char-Meck FPC hosted a Food Advocacy Workshop with 80 attendees to share advocacy efforts and plan for new policy collaborations.

Cabarrus Farm & Food Council added new Board members and roles to share administration and communication responsibilities.

Gaston County Food Council began a community-centered baseline food system assessment process with support from a micro-grant.

Cleveland County is working on intentional outreach for new community leadership to take the lead in food council development.

Catawba Farm & Food Coalition engaged 4 counties and 4 towns in Comprehensive Plan updates to improve agriculture, land use, transportation, and health.

Char-Meck FPC participated in Congresswoman Alma Adams Hunger Initiative and connected constituents to legislative resources.

# FOOD COUNCIL UPDATES



## BREAD RIOT

- Hosted two fundraisers featuring local food businesses to support their community and grant programs.
- Distributed their 'Winter Harvest CSA' to 25 customers in the winter of 2017-2018.
- Provided boxes of local produce to low income families through Head Start, Meals on Wheels, and schools during the winter and summer.
- Awarded two \$500 grants to local farmers for farm enhancements such as supplies, feeders, and egg washing equipment.
- Partnered with Catawba's Center for the Environment to host two presentations, one on bees and another on the human biome and eating healthy.

## CATAWBA FARM & FOOD COALITION

- Expanded their online farmers market with new local vendors and customers and partnered with a school for a healthy school fundraiser.
- Received grant for refrigeration and a van with logo for Catawbafreshmarket.com produce deliveries.
- Hosted regular Catawba Regional Farmers Market Managers Meetings.
- Partnered with Clemson University and others to host the Ag+Art Tour in 12 counties, reaching 30,000 visitors since 2012.
- Partnered with Clemson University to offer a series of workshops on the business of farming.
- Partnered with the SC Community Loan Fund to judge an innovation competition of local food businesses.
- Engaged 4 counties and 4 towns in Comprehensive Plan updates to improve agriculture, land use, transportation, and health.

- Expanded the Old Town Farmers Market in Rock Hill to nearly a year-round market.
- Supported the development of two commercial kitchens to serve as food manufacturing incubators.
- Engaged 2018 election candidates with food and farm questions using a resource provided by CFSA.

## CLEVELAND COUNTY

- Worked on intentional outreach for new community leadership to take the lead in food council development.
- Worked with the Foothills Farmers Market to collect food donations through Farmer Foodshare to support local feeding programs.
- Co-hosted an event with school social workers and food pantries to increase collaboration and resource distribution.
- Engaging in food waste and recovery efforts with a local coffee shop.

## CABARRUS FARM & FOOD COUNCIL

- Hosted a panel discussion and film screening of *Sustainable*, a documentary on the benefits of a local/regional food system.
- Explored the opportunity of providing a Winter CSA to their community.
- Released a Long Term Hunger Relief Report in collaboration with UNC-Charlotte.
- Increased their Board meeting frequency to once a month.
- Added new Board members and roles to share administration and communication responsibilities.

## CHARLOTTE-MECKLENBURG FOOD POLICY COUNCIL (FPC)

- Supported the City of Charlotte Farmers Market Study by identifying and engaging with farmers, farm workers, and farmers market employees.
- Hosted two FoodCorps service members (for 5th year) in Charlotte Mecklenburg Schools to support school gardens and fresh food curriculum.
- Diversified and added to the Board of Directors.
- Created 'Director' designations for Board members to clarify roles and share responsibilities for outreach, fundraising, advocacy, and social media.
- Hosted a Food Advocacy Workshop with 80 attendees to share advocacy efforts and plan for new policy collaborations.
- Collaborated on cross-sector Food Map to highlight efforts across the 16-county, 2-state, Charlotte region.
- Partnering with Mecklenburg Soil & Water to host farmer focus groups to solicit input on adopting a Voluntary Agricultural District ordinance.
- Participated in Congresswoman Alma Adams Hunger Initiative quarterly meetings and connected constituents to legislative resources.
- Worked with 8 other food councils to send a letter to NC Congressional delegates, with 120 organizations across NC signing on, expressing a need for maintaining SNAP funding and program structure in the next farm bill.

## GASTON COUNTY FOOD COUNCIL

- Started a community-centered baseline food system assessment process with support from a Community Food Strategies micro-grant.
- Hosted a "I Love My Farmer's Market" event during National Farmers Market Week at all three farmers markets.

## SPARTANBURG COUNTY FOOD SYSTEM COALITION

- Hosted preliminary potluck dinner to launch the Coalition.
- Received a USDA Local Food Promotion Program Grant with the Hub City Farmers Market for a food system assessment.