

CHATHAM COUNTY

Community Food Snapshot



NORTH CAROLINA		CHATHAM	
Population	10,383,620	Population	73,139
People of color	29%	People of color	20%
# of farms	46,418	# of farms	1,116
Acres of farmland	8,430,522	Acres of farmland	105,995

HEALTHY PEOPLE

VIBRANT FARMS & GARDENS

EQUITY

STRONG COMMUNITIES

THRIVING ECONOMIES

RESILIENT ECOSYSTEMS

Population eating 5 servings of fruit & vegetables per day

17%, 2017, region

18%, NC

Farms with direct-to-consumer sales

10%, 2017

9%, NC

Children that are food insecure

21%, 2017

20%, NC

Voter turnout (general election)

77%, 2016

69%, NC

Value of agricultural products sold

\$171 million, 2017

\$12.9 billion, NC

Farms practicing no or reduced tillage

12%, 2017

21%, NC

Black population with diabetes

43%, 2013, NC

17%, white population

Young farmers - < 35 years old

8%, 2017

7.5%, NC

Black population with low access to a store

1%, 2015

3%, white population

Local workforce employed outside of county

80%, 2015

61%, NC

% change in loans to small businesses

-31%, 2005-2015

-61%, rural counties

Average farm size

95 acres, 2017

182 acres, NC

Residents without health insurance

13%, 2016

12%, NC

Black, indigenous, people of color producers

2%, 2017

98%, white producers

Households receiving SNAP benefits

10%, 2012 - 2016

14%, NC

Black population with Bachelor's degree

17%, 2017

47%, white population

Renters with unaffordable rent

46%, 2013-2017

49%, NC

Air pollution particulate matter

9 µg/m³, 2012

12, air quality standard

Metrics are organized by the six Whole Measures of a Community-based Food System, compared to state level or demographic data in the same year, and based on input from North Carolina food councils. These metrics are connected to a systemic approach to building an equitable food system.



COMMUNITY FOOD SNAPSHOTS



Our ability to lead a healthy, productive life is determined by many factors, many connected to the food we grow and eat.

We use the six Whole Measures of Community-based Food Systems to guide a broad understanding of a food environment and outreach to potential stakeholders. These measures highlight the values we want to see in our food system such as: Equity, Resilient Ecosystems, Vibrant Farms & Gardens, Thriving Economies, Strong Communities, and Healthy People.

This Community Food Snapshot is designed to encourage conversation and connections through a county's food environment. Multiple partners and perspectives are important to learn, innovate, and make a difference. These data points are not the whole story, just a starting place to ask more questions and drive better understanding. This data spurs conversation to explore underlying barriers and opportunities for collaboration.

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

- Talk with your county partners already collecting data, and ask about their priorities. (ie, County Health Department Community Health Assessments, Agriculture Preservation Board, School Systems)
- Ask your county commissioners what they are doing to promote healthy eating and to support farmers.
- Join your local food council to inspire connection and collective action that improves healthy food opportunities.

BENEFITS OF MULTI-STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

“After teaching people about healthy eating, you can’t send them back into a food desert.’ The benefit of the food council, she says, is that it helps “look at things on a systems level.”

- Alyssa Mouton: Health Education Supervisor, Community Health Education, Gaston County Department of Health & Human Services

“It was eye-opening for me to learn about the obstacles for local farmers to sell directly to schools.”

- Penny Rich: Chair, Board of County Commissioners, Orange County, NC

When talking about partnership and joint funding for her position, Joni says “It’s how communities should work. I feel like I’m supported by my whole community.”

- Joni Torres: Community Garden Technician, Cooperative Extension

Data sources: Feeding America; Food Research & Action Center; NC State Institute for Emerging Issues, ReConnect Initiative; NC Division of Health, NC Justice Center, Budget & Tax Center; NC Rural Center; NC State Board of Elections; Robert Wood Johnson Foundation’s County Health Rankings; US Census Bureau; USDA Census of Agriculture; USDA Economic Research Service; USDA Economic Research Service