

PROGRAM



URBAN FOOD
SYSTEMS SYMPOSIUM

CULTIVATING

COMMUNITIES
CITIES
& FOOD SYSTEMS

SEPT. 14-17 2026
KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI

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About the Urban Food Systems Symposium

Since 2016, the Urban Food Systems Symposium has served as a biennial gathering space that fosters collaboration and emphasizes the role of urban food systems in shaping sustainable solutions for our cities and communities. This year we welcome you as we celebrate 10 years of collaboration in Kansas City at the 2026 symposium!

Attendees span academia, government, nonprofits, and working farms. Our goal is for professors and grad students to learn alongside city food-policy directors, extension educators, and farm owners. This blend of researchers, educators, growers, nonprofit leaders, and rising students creates a symposium where practical, on-the-ground knowledge meets rigorous research, exactly the kind of room where new ideas about urban food systems take root.

The 2026 UFSS Organizing Committee Welcomes You

Eleni Pliakoni, PhD

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SYMPOSIUM AT A GLANCE

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 14

12:30 – 5:00 p.m.
Urban Agriculture Policy Tour
(Meet in Hotel Lobby at 12:30 pm)

1:00 - 4:30 p.m.
Pre-Conference Urban Soils Workshop
(Seville I)

4:00 - 6:00 p.m.
Registration Check-In & Poster Set-Up
(2nd Floor Lobby)

5:00 - 8:00 p.m.
Pre-Conference Reception
(Plaza Terrace, 3rd floor)

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 15

8:00 - 9:00 a.m.
Registration (2nd Floor Lobby)

9:00 - 9:15 a.m.
Welcome Remarks (Grand Ballroom)

9:15 - 10:30 a.m.
Keynote Speaker: Erika Allen
(Grand Ballroom)

10:30 - 11:00 a.m.
Morning Break (Foyer)

11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
Invited Speakers: Liz Turner & Lihlani Nelson (Grand Ballroom)

12:00 - 1:30 p.m.
Lunch (Grand Ballroom + Foyer)

1:30 - 2:50 p.m.
Concurrent Sessions (Various Locations)

3:00 - 3:30 p.m.
Afternoon Break (Foyer)

3:30 - 5:00 p.m.
Poster Session, Sponsor Exhibit, & Networking
(Grand Ballroom Foyer + Seville II)

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16

9:00 - 10:00 a.m.
Invited Panel: Designing Living Cities
(Grand Ballroom)

10:00 - 10:30 a.m.
Morning Break (Foyer)

10:30 - 11:50 a.m.
Concurrent Sessions (Various Locations)

12:00 - 1:30 p.m.
Lunch (Grand Ballroom + Foyer)

1:30 - 2:30 p.m.
Invited Speaker: Joshua Craver
(Grand Ballroom)

2:30 - 3:00 p.m.
Afternoon Break (Foyer)

3:00 - 4:20 p.m.
Concurrent Sessions (Various Locations)

4:30 - 5:00 p.m.
Awards & Closing Remarks
(Grand Ballroom)

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 17

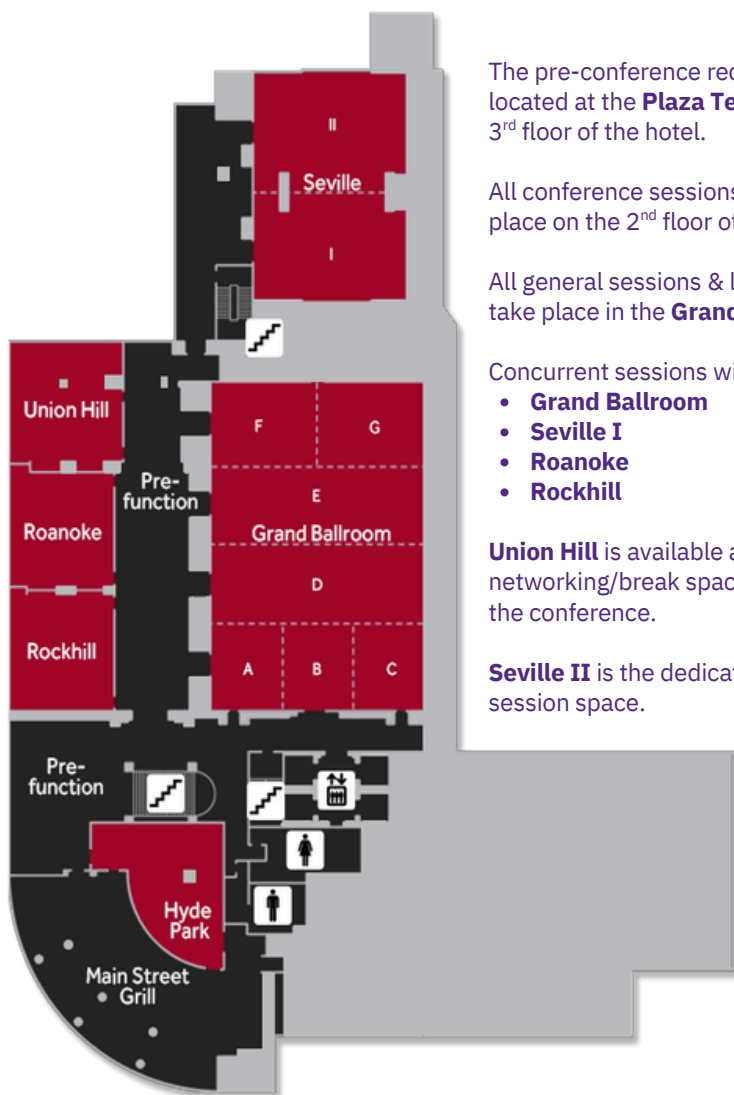
8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m
WERA Multi-State Meeting (Seville I)



URBAN FOOD
SYSTEMS SYMPOSIUM

CULTIVATING
COMMUNITIES, CITIES, & FOOD SYSTEMS

VENUE MAP - 2nd FLOOR ONLY



The pre-conference reception is located at the **Plaza Terrace** on the 3rd floor of the hotel.

All conference sessions will take place on the 2nd floor of the hotel.

All general sessions & lunches will take place in the **Grand Ballroom**.

Concurrent sessions will be held in:

- **Grand Ballroom**
- **Seville I**
- **Roanoke**
- **Rockhill**

Union Hill is available as a networking/break space throughout the conference.

Seville II is the dedicated poster session space.

K-STATE LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

As the first land-grant institution established under the 1862 Morrill Act, Kansas State University begins and continues through Indigenous contexts. We acknowledge that the state is home to many Indigenous nations, including the Kaw, Osage and Pawnee, among others. The name "Kansas" itself originates from the Kaw word "Kaá'ze," meaning people of the south wind. Kansas is currently home to four federally recognized nations, the Prairie Band Potawatomi, the Kickapoo Tribe of Kansas, the Iowa Tribe of Kansas and Nebraska, and the Sac and Fox Nation of Missouri in Kansas and Nebraska. Through ongoing partnerships, education initiatives, and community collaboration, Kansas State University strives to build relationships with these sovereign nations grounded in reciprocity, responsibility, and respect.

PHOTOGRAPHY AT UFSS

Photos and/or video will be taken at this event and may appear in K-State marketing materials. Registration for this event gives consent for photographs & publicity. Your privacy matters to us. If you'd prefer not to have your image used, feel free to reach out to us at UFSS@ksu.edu

UFSS WIFI ACCESS

Wi-Fi Code: UFSS2026
Network Name: MarriottBonvoy_Conference

EVENT FEEDBACK



*What did you think of the conference?
Please scan the QR code and
complete our brief event evaluation!
Your input will help shape the future of
the Urban Food Systems Symposium.*



Keynote & Invited Speakers

Tuesday, September 15th

9:15 a.m. | Grand Ballroom

Erika Allen

Cultivating Resilience: Urban Agriculture as a Catalyst for Food-Secure Community Development

Tuesday, September 15th

11:00 a.m. | Grand Ballroom

Liz Turner & Lihlani Nelson

Understanding the Law & Policy of Local Food

Wednesday, September 16th

9:00 a.m. | Grand Ballroom

Gwynne Mhuireach, August Stolba, Meg Hurst & Matt Arrington
Designing Living Cities - Building-Integrated Agriculture and the Future of Urban Food Systems

Wednesday, September 16th

1:30 p.m. | Grand Ballroom

Joshua Craver

Expanding the Toolbox: Leveraging Controlled Environments for Urban Food Systems

ERIKA ALLEN

Keynote speaker Erika Allen is the Founding CEO of Urban Growers Collective, President of Green Era Educational NFP, and Co-Founder of Green Era Sustainability Partners. From 2002 to 2018, she led Growing Power's Chicago and National Programs, advancing environmental justice and regenerative urban agriculture. Her work focuses on sustainable food systems and addressing structural racism, reflected in roles such as Chicago Park District Commissioner, Co-Founder of the Chicago Food Policy Action Council, and board positions with several food justice organizations. She has received notable recognition, including appointments to state and federal agriculture committees, a TEDxChicago talk in 2024, and 2025 honors from The Chicago Council on Science and Technology and the Climate Action Museum.



JOSHUA CRAVER

Joshua is an Associate Professor of Controlled Environment Horticulture at Colorado State University in the Dept of Horticulture and Landscape Architecture. He earned his PhD from Purdue and focuses on optimizing vegetable and floriculture production in controlled environments. Dr. Craver manages the CSU Horticulture Center and advances urban horticulture through his involvement at the CSU Spur campus in Denver. His collaborative research and outreach use high-tech greenhouses and indoor growing systems to address metropolitan food production challenges while supporting workforce development and sustainability.



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**URBAN FOOD
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Invited Speakers

LIZ TURNER



Liz Turner, a Vermont native and Harvard Law School graduate (2023), is a visiting assistant professor and former food and agriculture fellow with VLGS's Center for Agriculture and Food Systems. At HLS, she trained in the Food Law and Policy, Animal Law and Policy, and Transactional Law Clinics, with summers at the Conservation Law Foundation and Natural Resources Defense Council. Before law school, she spent over a decade in the food system as a farmhand, line cook, and in various specialty coffee roles. Liz holds a BA in Comparative Literature and Film Studies from Haverford College.

LIHLANI NELSON

Lihlani is Deputy Director and Senior Researcher at the Center for Agriculture and Food Systems (CAFS) at Vermont Law & Graduate School, where she manages operations and leads projects including the Healthy Food Policy Project, which promotes local policies that expand access to healthy food. She holds a dual master's in Agroecology and Urban and Regional Planning from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, and previously worked with the National Farm to School Network's Seed Change initiative, helping schools boost local food procurement, on-site production, and food education.



GWYNNE MHUIREACH

Gwynne is a Research Assistant Professor at the Institute for Health in the Built Environment at the University of Oregon and Director of Knowledge Exchange for the Built Health industry consortium. Her research focuses on the impact buildings, soils, air and food have on human health. Dr. Mhuireach teaches in Architecture and Landscape Architecture and leads research in microbiology and the built environment. She focuses on advancing Building-Integrated Agriculture (BIA) for urban resilience and healthier cities. She collaborates to develop science, design approaches, and community partnerships that support BIA adoption.



Invited Speakers

MEG HORST

Meg is a Senior Associate at Cascadia Consulting Group, where she leads projects on climate vulnerability assessment and adaptation planning for local, state, and tribal governments. Previously, Megan served as the director of MURP program at Portland State University’s Toulan School of Urban Studies and Planning. Her publications on food justice, urban agriculture, and equitable land use appear in leading planning and food systems journals. Dr. Horst’s work is grounded in community-engaged practice and social justice, reflected in her service as co-chair of the Portland Clean Energy Fund Community Advisory Board.



AUGUST STOLBA

August Stolba is a Master of Architecture student at the University of Oregon whose work centers on regenerative design and the integration of ecological systems into the built environment. As a Research Assistant in the Energy Studies in Buildings Laboratory, he collaborates on advancing tools to better model plant-specific light responses. He also serves as a Graduate Teaching Fellow, supporting courses in building construction, environmental control systems, and architectural context. August’s work focuses on how architectural practice can support plant-centered design, agricultural infrastructure, and resilient communities.



MATT ARRINGTON

Matt is an Assistant Professor of Applied Plant Science in the Department of Plant and Wildlife Sciences and the Director of the life sciences greenhouse at Brigham Young University. His work reduces agricultural production barriers in impoverished areas through educational outreach. Dr. Arrington earned his undergraduate degree in Horticulture from BYU-Idaho, his MS in Horticulture from Oregon State University, and PhD in from Washington State University. Matt also worked as a research scientist for Plenty, an indoor agriculture company.



Monday, September 14 – PRE-CONFERENCE EVENTS		
12:30 – 5:00 pm	Urban Agriculture Policy tour with Cultivate Kansas City Tour Sites: East High School & KC Farm School	Hotel Lobby
1:00 – 4:30 pm	Preconference Urban Soils Workshop	Seville I
4:00 – 6:00 pm	Registration	2nd Floor Lobby
5:00 – 8:00 pm	Preconference Reception	Plaza Terrace
Tuesday, September 15 – UFSS DAY 1		
8:00 am - 5:00 pm	Registration	2nd Floor Lobby
9:00 - 9:15 am	Welcome Remarks: Eleni Pliakoni & Dan Moser	Grand Ballroom
9:15 - 10:30 am	Keynote Speaker: Erika Allen <i>Cultivating Resilience: Urban Agriculture as a Catalyst for Food-Secure Community Development</i>	Grand Ballroom
10:30 – 11:00 am	Morning Break	Foyer
11:00 - 12:00 pm	Invited Speakers: Liz Turner & Lihlani Nelson <i>Understanding the Law & Policy of Local Foods</i>	Grand Ballroom
12:00 - 1:20 pm	Lunch	Grand Ballroom
1:30 - 3:00 pm	Concurrent Oral Sessions 1, 2, 3, and 4	
Oral Session 1 - Food Systems Policy, Planning & Advocacy I Moderator: Tricia Jenkins		Grand Ballroom
1:30 - 1:50 pm	One Size Fits None: Rethinking Urban Agriculture Policy Henry Gordon-Smith, Founder and CEO of Agritecture	
1:50 - 2:10 pm	Rooting for the Future: Food Systems Work in Kansas City, MO Brooke Freeman, Food Systems Coordinator, City of Kansas City, MO	
2:10 - 2:30 pm	Not Simply Unhealthy: How Healthful Food Offerings Vary Among Corner Stores and Across a Large, Consolidated Midwestern City Jordan Blekking, Assistant Professor, Univ of North Carolina at Charlotte	

2:30- 2:50 pm	Emergency Food Preparedness: Bridging Planning and Practice Leslie Sullivan, MS Urban and Regional Planning, The University of Colorado- Denver	
Oral Session 2 - Community & Economic Development I Moderator: Cary Rivard		Seville I
1:30 - 1:50 pm	Building and Repairing the Heartland Foodshed Ecosystem Katie Nixon, Food Systems Director, New Growth	
1:50 - 2:10 pm	KC F.A.R.M.E.R.S Coalition: Kansas City Farmers and Ranchers for Mentoring, Education, and Resource Sharing Ashley Bath, Education & Outreach Director, KC Farm School	
2:10 - 2:30 pm	Building Capacity for Agricultural Education and Resource Professionals to Serve Sustainable Urban Agriculture Producers and Organizations Ayanfe Free & Takidia Jenkins, Urban farmer, Fresh Beets Urban Farm	
2:30 - 2:50 pm	Expanding the Growing Growers Apprenticeship Model through Online Education and Educator Training Claire Barnhart, Research and Extension Assistant, Kansas State University	
Oral Session 3 - Urban Farmer Training Moderator: Fernanda Krupek		Roanoke
1:30 - 1:50 pm	From Assessment to Action: How Statewide Urban Agriculture Findings Shaped the Development of Targeted Training Modules for New Jersey Urban Growers Meredith Taylor Middlesex County Educator, FCHS, Asst. Professor, Rutgers Cooperative Extension	
1:50 - 2:10 pm	Empowering Communities Through Sustainable Urban Agriculture: A Case Study of Farmer Training Program for Resettled Refugees Ben Carpenter, Program Manager, Cultivate Kansas City	
2:10 - 2:30 pm	The MUD Farm Network: A Replicable Framework for Urban Conservation Outreach Meag Sargent, Demonstration Farm Network Coordinator, UW-Madison Extension	
2:30 - 2:50 pm	Farm Business Management and Networking Opportunities for Urban Farmers in New Jersey Claudia Urdanivia, Agricultural County Agent III, Rutgers Cooperative Extension	
Oral Session 4 - College and Graduate Education Moderator: Brad Gaolach		Rockhill
1:30 - 1:50 pm	Global Food Systems in College Study Abroad Course Hannah Schmitz & Cynthia Domenghini, Undergraduate Student & Instructor, Kansas State University	
1:50 - 2:10 pm	Preparing the Next Generation of Leaders for Resilient Urban Food Systems Eleni Pliakoni, Professor, Kansas State University	

2:10 - 2:30 pm	Small Farm Innovation Applied Research: Participatory Data Collection and Findings Rachel Bair, Director for Sustainable Food Systems, Kalamazoo Valley Community College	
2:30 - 2:50 pm	Expanding Hands-on Hydroponics Experiences for Students: Challenges and Opportunities of Multi-Site Lab Delivery Justin Gross, Graduate Teaching Assistant, Kansas State University	
3:00 – 3:30 pm	Afternoon Break	Foyer
3:30 – 5:00 pm	Poster Session, Sponsor Exhibits and Networking	Seville II
3:30 – 4:15 pm	Poster Session 1 – Authors present at their posters	Seville II
1	Harvesting Innovation: A Regional, Multi-Institutional Certificate in Controlled Environment Agriculture to Strengthen the Midwest Workforce Angela Cottrell, Director of Research & Institute Programs, UMKC	
3	Growing a Community Seed Library Patrick Nehring, Community Development Professor, University of Wisconsin-Madison	
5	Food System Resilience Contributions by Urban Agriculture Sites Tricia Jenkins, Assistant Professor, Kansas State University	
7	Community and Agriculture Resilience Audits in Two Kansas City Communities Tricia Jenkins, Assistant Professor, Kansas State University	
9	The Impacts of Pocket Change: Integrating Food Systems and Agriculture in the Midwest Through Urban Agriculture Mini-Grants Annalise Lallana, Urban Ag & Small Farm Outreach Specialist, American Farmland Trust	
11	Addressing Barriers to Food Access Through Localized Interventions and Local Food Systems Coalitions Andie-Kate White, Graduate Research Assistant, Kansas State University	
13	Building Food Literacy Through Hands-on Food & Garden Education: FRESHFARM FoodPrints Curriculum Resources for Your School or Community Beth Bacon, Director of Education, FRESHFARM	
15	A Case Study on Collaboration and Evaluation in Youth Food Systems Programming Changemakers, Youth Urban Farm Club, and Farmpreneuers Gaby Bromfeld, 4-H Program Associate, Rutgers Cooperative Extension	

17	Engaging Youth in Food Waste and Compost Education Gaby Bromfeld, 4-H Program Associate, Rutgers Cooperative Extension	
19	The Growing Place Anna Hurst, Student, Kansas State University	
21	Community-Based Stewardship & Green Career Pathways: An Access-Centered Model for Regenerative Urban Agriculture Sherita Williams, Executive Director, Manheim Paseo Learning Garden	
23	Supporting Urban Agriculture Planning Using the Urban Food Systems Schema Aryan Singh Dalal, Graduate Research Assistant, Kansas State University	
25	Common Grounds: A Community-Centered Composting System Michael Aehle, Student, Kansas State University	
27	Food Loss and Waste: A Review of Voluntary National and Voluntary Local Reviews of the United Nations Emi Kameyama, University of the District of Columbia	
29	Building a Resilient Urban Food System: A Place-Based Decision Framework Maria Binte Edrish, Graduate Research Assistant, Kansas State University	
4:15 – 5:00pm	Poster Session 2 – Authors present at their posters	Seville II
2	Therapeutic Horticulture to Promote Resiliency, Health and Value-added Services for Urban Farmers Cynthia Domenghini, Instructor, Kansas State University	
4	Therapeutic Horticulture Kit for Veteran Urban Farmers Adrian Gomez, Graduate Student, Kansas State University	
6	Knowing Growers: Understanding and Supporting Farmers Where They Are Vanessa Whalen, Graduate Student, Kansas State University	
8	Developing a Modular Decontamination Tunnel for Controlling Contamination on Food-Contact Surfaces Vikas Kumar Galipothu, Graduate Research Assistant, Kansas State University	
10	Plastic Alternative Packaging for Cherry Tomato Sindhu Priya Bobbili, Graduate Research Assistant, Kansas State University	
12	Using Knowledge Graphs to Enhance Urban Agriculture Policy Aidan Beesley, Graduate Research Assistant, Kansas State University	
14	Integrating Urban Food Systems into Cities: Case Studies from South Korea Suyun Nam, Postdoctoral Researcher, Kansas State University	

16	Developing and Evaluating Produce Safety Posters and Videos as an Educational Tool for Non-English-Speaking Fresh Produce Growers Manreet Singh Bhullar, Associate Professor, Kansas State University
18	Field Performance and Fruit Quality of June-Bearing Strawberry Cultivars in Kansas Shubham Kumar, Graduate Research Assistant, Kansas State University
20	The Impact of Perceived Environmental Satisfaction on Farmers' Market Use and Dwell Time: Lessons Learned from a Cross-Sectional Survey Herminia Machry, Assistant Professor of Architecture, University of Kansas
22	Effects of Magnesium Fertilization on Chlorophyll Accumulation in Watercress Hattie Makumbe, Postdoctoral Researcher, Kentucky State University
24	Community Science in the Garden: Participatory Variety Trials as an Extension Method in Santa Clara County, California Lucy Diekmann, Urban Agriculture & Food Systems Advisor, University of California Cooperative Extension
26	The Future of Urban Agriculture: A Systematic Review of Agricultural Education and Workforce Development in the United States Michael Whyte, PhD Student, University of the District of Columbia
28	Physical Pest and Disease Management for Butternut Squash in Manhattan, Kansas Sam Sarratt, Graduate Research Assistant, Kansas State University
30	Environmental Sustainability of Different Urban and Peri-Urban Urban Agriculture Farm Types Lakma Upendri Hewa Fonsekage, Graduate Research Assistant, Kansas State University
32	Utilization of Vertical Bifacial Arrays for Small-Scale and Urban Agrivoltaic Vegetable Production Cary Rivard, Professor, Kansas State University
34	Comprehensive Postharvest Hands-On Training for Kansas Specialty Crop Growers Tori Kent, Lab Manager, Kansas State University



Wednesday, September 16 – UFSS DAY 2

9:00 - 10:00 am	Speaker Panel: August Stolba, Meg Hurst and Matt Arrington. Moderator: Gwynne Mhuireach <i>Designing Living Cities – Building-Integrated Agriculture and the Future of Urban Food Systems</i>	Grand Ballroom
10:00 - 10:30 am	Morning Break	Foyer
10:30 am - 12:00 pm	Concurrent Oral Sessions 5, 6, 7, and 8	
Oral Session 5 - Food Systems Policy, Planning & Advocacy II Moderator: Cynthia Domenghini		Grand Ballroom
10:30 - 10:50 am	Ushering in a New Era: A Toolkit for Transformative Cooperative Extension Food Sovereignty Partnerships that Center Black Women Remi Harrington, Founder and Executive Director, Zoo City Farm and Food Network	
10:50 - 11:10 am	Standing Out in the Crowd: Using Partnerships, PSE & Technology to Stay Relevant in High-Density Communities Melissa Cotton, Field Specialist in Nutrition and Health Education, University of Missouri Extension	
11:10 - 11:30 am	Human-Centered Design in Local Food System Policy and Planning Whitney Strauss, Project Director, Dallas County Food Plan Collaborative	
11:30 - 11:50 am	Planning the Food System: Themes, Actions, and Gaps in City and State Food System Plans Sarah Hofmeyer, Assistant Professor, University of Iowa	
Oral Session 6 - Community and Economic Development II Moderator: Jacqueline Kowalski		Seville I
10:30 - 10:50 am	Heartland Elderberry Collaborative (Heartland ECo): Building the First Elderberry AgriCluster for Regional Resilience / From Berry to Bottle: The Startup of a Regional AgriCluster Pilot – with the Goal of Being a Repeatable Model Mickey Gallagher, Farmer, Heartland Elderberry Collaborative AgriCluster	
10:50 - 11:10 am	A Digital Systems Model for Strengthening Regional Food Networks Jennifer Kern, Executive Director, Border Queen Harvest Hub	
11:10 - 11:30 am	Investigating Values-Based Food Chains in Higher Education: A Case Study of Harvest Table and Elon Dining Samuel Montgomery, Student, Elon University	
11:30 - 11:50 am	The Food Business Start-up Summit: An Extension Model for Urban Food Entrepreneurship and Community Food Systems Development Quinlan E. Carttar, Food Systems Entrepreneurial Resource Navigator, Kansas State Extension	

Oral Session 7 - Urban Agriculture Production I Moderator: Ravneet Sandhu		Roanoke
10:30 - 10:50 am	Input-Output Analysis of Soilless Controlled Environment Agriculture (CEA) Food Production in the United States Andre Coelho, Project Specialist, University of the District of Columbia	
10:50 - 11:10 am	Evaluating Research and Extension Approaches to Ethnic Crop Production Across the United States Fernanda Krupek, Assistant Professor and Urban Food Systems State Specialist, The Ohio State University	
11:10 - 11:30 am	Important Considerations in Pursuing Strawberry Indoor Vertical Farming Yiyun Lin, Assistant Professor and Urban Agriculture Specialist, The Ohio State University	
11:30 - 11:50 am	Advancing Sustainable Local Food Systems through Experiential Agroforestry Demonstration Model Lila Karki, Associate Professor, University of Maryland Eastern Shore	
Oral Session 8 - Food Security in Urban Food Systems Moderator: Manreet Bhullar		Rockhill
10:30 - 10:50 am	Cultivating Indigenous Food Sovereignty: Balancing Tradition, Innovation, and Regional Collaboration for Resilient Food Systems Ariga Grigoryan, Associate Professor, University of Wisconsin Madison	
10:50 - 11:10 am	Expanding Access to Fresh Foods in Urban Communities: Extension and Outreach Strategies for the Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program Emily Barbee, Field Specialist, University of Missouri Extension	
11:10 - 11:30 am	Saving Seeds: Insights and Lessons Learned from SNAP-Ed Funded Garden Work Laura Vollmer, Community Nutrition & Health Advisor, University of California Cooperative Extension	
11:30 - 11:50 am	Spatial Access to WIC Vendors and Transit Connectivity in Durham County, NC: Implications for Food Security and Community Health Michelle Eichinger, Owner, Planning4Health Solutions	
12:00 - 1:30 pm	Lunch	Grand Ballroom
1:30 - 2:30 pm	Invited speaker: Joshua Craver <i>Expanding the Toolbox: Leveraging Controlled Environments for Urban Food Systems</i>	Grand Ballroom
2:30 - 3:00 pm	Afternoon Break	Foyer
3:00 - 4:20 pm	Concurrent Oral Sessions 9, 10, 11 and 12	

Oral Session 9 - Community & Youth Engagement Moderator: Cynthia Domenghini		Grand Ballroom
3:00 – 3:20pm	Homegrown Hillsborough - Supporting Food System Success Through Leadership Development Monica Petrella, Food Systems Program Coordinator, UF/IFAS Extension	
3:20 – 3:40pm	Regenerative Urban Agriculture as Climate, Workforce, Education, Food Access, and Agritourism Infrastructure Alicia Ellingsworth, Farm and Operations Director, KC Farm School	
3:40 – 4:00pm	Extension Collaborations that Boost the Cottage Food Industry Cindy Brison, Extension Educator, Nebraska Extension	
4:00 – 4:20pm	Reap What You Sow: The Interplay between Urban Agriculture and Experiential Pedagogy as Pathways to Classroom & Civic Engagement, STEAM Learning, and Place Attachment Within Urban Schools Kaleb Bell, Agriculture Educator & Graduate Student, Kansas State University	
Oral Session 10 - Nutrition & Human Health of Urban Communities Moderator: Priscilla Brenes		Seville I
3:00 – 3:20pm	The Impact of Hospital Gardens on Healthcare Worker Wellness Remington Tee, Student, University of Kansas School of Medicine	
3:20 – 3:40pm	Organizing with Community Using Trauma Informed Nutrition Princess Titus, Co-Founder and Senior Engagement Officer, Appetite For Change	
3:40 – 4:00pm	Assessing the Impact of Urban Agriculture on Community Health: A Survey of Adult Participants Sheila Abacan, Graduate Research Assistant, Kansas State University	
4:00 – 4:20pm	Nutritional Landscapes of Farmers Markets in Durham County Tristan Ewing, Student, University of North Carolina at Charlotte	
Oral Session 11 - Urban Agriculture Production II Moderator: Cary Rivard		Roanoke
3:00 – 3:20pm	Know Before You Grow - Growing Food Crops on Previously Used Urban Sites Sabine Martin & Ganga Hettiarachichi, Kansas State University	
3:20 – 3:40pm	Analyzing Soil Health Management in High Tunnel Systems Courtney Becker, Graduate Research Assistant, Kansas State University	
3:40 – 4:00pm	Exploring the Potential Impacts of Square Foot Gardening for Sustainable Local Food Production in Kentucky Sait Sarr, Senior Research Scientist, Kentucky State University	
4:00 – 4:20pm	Production Diversity and Economic Performance in Kansas Urban Agriculture Systems: A Qualitative Comparative Analysis Anup Paudel, Graduate Research Assistant, Kansas State University	

Oral Session 12 - Urban Food Distribution Systems Moderator: Tricia Jenkins		Rockhill
3:00 – 3:20pm	Food Rescue in the Kansas City Region Dianna Bryant & Matt Riggs, Program Manager & Outreach Coordinator, Mid-America Regional Council	
3:20 – 3:40pm	ValleyHUB: Lessons from the Making of a Community Food Hub Rachel Bair, Director for Sustainable Food Systems, Kalamazoo Valley Community College	
3:40 – 4:00pm	Increasing Fresh Food Access in Oakland, California Alexa Erickson, Community Nutrition, Health, and Food Systems Advisor, University of California Cooperative Extension	
4:00 – 4:20pm	Building Capacity for Healthy and Sustainable School Food Through Workforce Development Megan Fogata McManus, Senior Coordinator of Research & Evaluation, Chef Ann Foundation	
4:30 – 5:00pm	Awards Announcements & Closing Remarks: Eleni Pliakoni	Grand Ballroom
Thursday, September 17 – POST-CONFERENCE EVENTS		
8:00am – 12:00pm	Multi-State Meeting (WERA)	Seville I



Acknowledgements

The Urban Food Systems Symposium organizing committee sincerely appreciates the hard work of the conference committees.

Organizing Committee

Eleni Pliakoni* – Kansas State University
Semra Fetahovic – Kansas State University
Cary Rivard - Kansas State University
Manreet Bhullar - Kansas State University
Tricia Jenkins - Kansas State University
Jacqueline Kowalski - University of Connecticut
Fernanda Krupek – The Ohio State University
Brad Gaolach - Washington State University
Cynthia Domenghini - Kansas State University
Bizhen Hu - Kansas State University
Ravneet Sandhu - Kansas State University

Scientific Committee

Tricia Jenkins* - Kansas State University
Sindhu Priya Bobbili - Kansas State University
Cynthia Domenghini - Kansas State University
Fernanda Krupek - Ohio State University
Brad Gaolach - Washington State University
Ganga Hettiarachichi - Kansas State University
Jacqueline Kowalski - University of Connecticut
Matthew Redmond - Agriburbia
Cary Rivard - Kansas State University
Andie-Kate White - Kansas State University
Mark Winne - Consultant & Author

Sponsorship Committee

Manreet Bhullar* - Kansas State University
Kerri Ebert - K-State Extension
Semra Fetahovic - Kansas State University
Cary Rivard - Kansas State University

Evaluation Committee

Cynthia Domenghini* - Kansas State University
Cary Rivard - Kansas State University

Logistics Committee

Cary Rivard* - Kansas State University
Claire Barnhart - Kansas State University
Semra Fetahovic - Kansas State University
Tori Kent - Kansas State University
Jesse Peters - K-State Olathe
Lauren Racki - K-State Olathe
Eric Racki - K-State Olathe
Brooke Speake - K-State Olathe

Pre-Conference Committee

Ami Freeberg* - Cultivate Kansas City
Semra Fetahovic - Kansas State University
Jessica Garcia - Cultivate Kansas City
Natalie Hoidal* - University of Minnesota
Eric Hemphill - Cultivate Kansas City
Eleni Pliakoni - Kansas State University
Cary Rivard - Kansas State University
Ravneet Sandhu - Kansas State University
Liz Turner - Vermont Law & Graduate School

Marketing Committee

Semra Fetahovic* - Kansas State University
Courtney Woodworth Becker - Kansas State University
Manreet Bhullar - Kansas State University
Tracy Flowers - Kansas State University
Ami Freeberg - Cultivate Kansas City
Jessica Garcia - Cultivate Kansas City
Eric Hemphill - Cultivate Kansas City
Mary Hirtreiter - K-State Olathe
Anthony Reardon - K-State Extension
Andie-Kate White - Kansas State University

**denotes committee chair(s)*

On behalf of K-State's Urban Food Systems Initiative, thank you for joining us at this year's symposium! Curious about what we do? We are an interdisciplinary collaboration focused on developing sustainable urban food systems that are inclusive, resilient, safe and diverse. We do this through three primary program pillars:

URBAN FOOD SYSTEMS GRADUATE PROGRAMS



Kansas State University offers three options for food systems professionals and/or early-career UFS researchers and educators.

- **Interdisciplinary Graduate Certificate in Urban Food Systems** - *fully online option!*
- **M.S. in Horticulture with an emphasis in Urban Food Systems with two options:**
 - Professional Track - *fully online or hybrid*
 - Thesis/Research Track - *in-person*



APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM

Established in 2004, the Growing Growers apprenticeship program trains new farmers in the Kansas City region and beyond. Apprentices engage in hands-on learning at their host farm, receive 12-month access to an extensive online course, and attend a series of in-person workshops and farm tours throughout the growing season. The program boasts a network of 40+ host farms throughout KS & MO.



URBAN FOOD SYSTEMS SYMPOSIUM

SAVE THE DATE FOR FALL 2028
We'll see you in Seattle!

Questions/suggestions for the next UFSS? Reach out at UFSS@ksu.edu