New Brunswick Food Hub
Food Security and Community Economic Development

Client: Elijah’s Promise
Partners: RU Food Innovation Center, New Jersey Community Capital, Ag in the City

Kathe Newman
Associate Professor
Urban Planning and Policy Development, Rutgers University
Office Hours: Wed afternoons 1 - 4:30 and by appointment
knewman@rutgers.edu 848-932-2799

Tuesdays 1:10 - 3:50
Rm 243
Course Description

The Spring Community Development Studio will work with Elijah’s Promise, the Rutgers University Food Innovation Center, New Jersey Community Capital, and through an accompanying independent study, Ag in the City, to increase food-related community development and improve food security in New Brunswick and in New Jersey. Elijah’s Promise is a community based organization in New Brunswick that seeks to alleviate poverty and hunger by providing job training, small business development, education, jobs, and services. The Rutgers Food Innovation Center is an award winning food processing business incubator located in Bridgeton, New Jersey. The center provides an array of services to food related entrepreneurs and helps local communities and the state to grow food-related business through value-added production. New Jersey Community Capital is a community economic development financial intermediary that helps community organizations access capital to revive neighborhoods. Ag in the City is a new statewide urban agriculture organization.

This semester, Elijah’s Promise asked us to 1) continue the planning for a high tunnel production system in downtown New Brunswick and 2) develop a plan for a food hub in the city.

High Tunnel Production System

The Fall 2011 Studio suggested creating a high tunnel production system in New Brunswick to grow food. Elijah’s Promise has asked us to continue our planning efforts from last semester to investigate whether this project can happen in the lot across the street from their raised garden bed project, what it would take to make that happen (permission to use the lot, variance etc...), identify resources to build the high tunnel system, partner with faculty and students at Cook to design the layout, and develop a plan for how the high tunnel would work (who would grow, how much, what, where would it go).

Food Hub

Elijah’s Promise has asked us to conduct background research about what a Food Hub might look like in New Brunswick. A Food Hub is a market for locally grown and processed food. While there are many variations, the general idea is to provide a local outlet for small and medium sized producers. Many Food Hubs incorporate distribution systems, processing centers, business incubators, and job training, among other things. The studio team will review reports and explore existing food hubs to identify the potential elements that could be
incorporated into a food hub in New Brunswick. They will also identify food hub challenges and benefits and research the process communities use to create their food hubs.

The team should explain what a food hub is and how New Brunswick actors might go about creating a food hub. The research process may include extensive reading on existing food hubs, food hub feasibility studies, visits to food hubs, and interviews with food hub organizers, consumers, and farmers. Elijah’s Promise and the Ralph W. Voorhees Center for Civic Engagement received a grant to bring community members and university staff and students to see food hubs and production centers around the metropolitan area in action. The studio can assist in planning these visits and tour with community partners furthering our opportunities to learn together.

To further facilitate the food hub planning, the team will conduct a community economic development impact study of the Rutgers Food Innovation Center in Bridgeton, NJ and produce a report for the center. The RU Food Innovation Center is an award winning food-related business incubator. The studio team will draw what we learn from the community economic development study into efforts to further develop NB’s food hub and to enhance food-related community economic development in NJ. This team will tour the facility, gather background planning documents, interview those involved in creating the center, document the planning process, and assess the outcomes (ie relationships, jobs, job training, new businesses formed, and develop a methodology to assess community economic development impacts). The team will also interview clients to learn what works and what the center can improve. Finally, the team will produce a report that walks through the process used to create the center and discusses the community economic development impacts. The report will inform efforts to develop a food hub in New Brunswick.

To do this project, the class will divide into three teams

• High Tunnel Implementation

• Rutgers Food Innovation Community Economic Impact Study

• Growing a Food Hub in New Brunswick
Deadlines and Timing

Our success will depend on your ability to organize yourselves and your team to 1) create a work plan for the semester that includes a timeline, 2) stay engaged with one another, 3) comment and critique on other team’s work, 4) hit each and every deadline, and 5) complete the final report and presentation slides weeks before the final presentation date. This means that you’ll need to write and communicate each and every week. One paragraph gets us started. Critiquing a colleague’s paragraph helps us move forward and keeps everyone in contact and up-to-date. Invariably studios are a lot of work and much of the heavy lifting comes towards the end. The more focused work we do during the first half of the studio in 1) taking notes, 2) documenting sources, 3) writing up what we know as we learn it, and 4) otherwise documenting what we’re learning, the easier the second half of the semester will go.

Learning, Building Community, and Networking Opportunities

There are many food-related conferences happening this winter. To expand our learning, community building, and networking opportunities, the Ralph W. Voorhees Center will provide some resources for you to attend these conferences in partnership with community members. These opportunities are located throughout the syllabus. It would be helpful if someone on the studio team would be willing to coordinate these efforts (who is going, how are you getting there, who needs to get reimbursed, have we reached out to community partners and built relationships, are your field trip forms completed and signed)

Course Materials

Materials are available on the Sakai course website
GIS files are located on common in the CDSF511 folder (We will build on files the Fall 2011 studio created)
Meeting Dates and Project Plan

January 17. Introduction

Introduction, project overview, studio 101, select groups, fill out contact information, review schedule

Food & Community Development Studio/2011 Voorhees Student Project. (on Sakai)


Learn about Elijah’s Promise here http://www.elijahspromise.net/

Learn about the RU Food Innovation Center here http://foodinnovation.rutgers.edu/


Deliverable: SELECT RESEARCH TEAM

January 24. Client Meeting and Tour

1:00 Lunch at A Better World Cafe, Highland Park

1:30 Tour of Elijah’s Promise and Meeting with Elijah’s Promise and Margaret Brennan from the RU Food Innovation Center.


• see Innovative Models on retain collaborations and supply chains http://ngfn.org/resources/research-1/innovative-models/


DELIVERABLE: List of Questions for the Clients. After class team notes should be posted to Sakai.

Jan 27. Testing soil in the Unity Square Neighborhood

10:00 AM Test soil in vacant lots with Michele Bakacs, Environmental and Resource Management Agent for Middlesex and Union County, Richard Shaw, NRCS Somerset County and others in the Unity Square neighborhood.

Annual Winter Conference
Princeton University - Friend Center

Fall 2011 RU Studio is presenting their report on Sunday at 9-10:30. Lisanne Finston from Elijah’s Promise is presenting on the panel after that. Information on registering here:

http://www.nofanj.org/winterconference.htm

January 29-31 2012 New Jersey ASLA Annual Meeting
Atlantic City, NJ

(Mon panel urban farming case study, Tues session “The Community Garden and the Landscape Architect”

http://www.planning.org/cm/search/event.htm?EventID=18182

January 31. Research


DELIVERABLE: Team Research and Work Plans

February 7. Research and Writing
February 14. Research and Writing

February 17. Byrne Tour - location TBA

February 21. Research and Writing (EJB Film shoot - request that we do something active)

February 24-25.

New Jersey Farm to School 2012 Winter Conference

Just Food Conference NYC
Food and Finance High School 525 West 50th St, http://www.justfood.org/

February 28. Mid semester client meeting

At this meeting, each team will develop a presentation that covers team:

1) objectives
2) research plan and what the team has done to date
3) findings
4) questions
5) choices for the client to guide the remainder of the semester’s work

DELIVERABLE: PowerPoint presentation
March 6. Research and Writing

**DELIVERABLE:** Modified Research Schedule based feedback from client meeting

March 13. Spring Break

March 20. Research and Writing

March 27. Writing

April 3. Final Report, Draft Presentation Text and Slides

April 10. Finish Report, Slides and Presentation Text

Create and distribute invitation to the final presentation

April 17. Polished Slides and Presentation Text

Writing, finalizing map(s), presentation preparation, slides finished, presentation text to present complete, report ready for final proofread

April 24. Formal Presentation Dry Run - EJB Community is Invited

May 1. Final Presentation in New Brunswick
Resources

New Brunswick has an impressive array of high capacity organizations, individuals, and businesses that have been working on food, health, and poverty issues for decades. They have already done an extraordinary amount of work and New Brunswick is home to some of the most innovative models in the Country. Here we bring together some of the most recent work that has been done in New Brunswick to increase the community’s food security.

Studies


Urban Agriculture Resource List
Prepared by Caitlin Salemi, MCRP

About Urban Agriculture


General & Related Networks, Listservs, Websites, and Other (not exhaustive)


Grown in the City. http://growninthecity.com/. (Includes an Interactive Urban Ag Zoning Map.)


“Use our website to find farmers' markets, family farms, and other sources of sustainably grown food in your area, where you can buy produce, grass-fed meats, and many other goodies.”


“The Real Food Challenge serves as both a campaign and a network. The campaign is to increase the procurement of real food on college and university campuses, with the national goal of 20% real food by 2020. By leveraging their purchasing power we can catalyze the transformation of the larger food system. The network offers a chance for students and their allies (those working on the campaign along with those who've yet to sign on) to make connections, learn from one another, and grow the movement.”

Resource Centres on Urban Agriculture and Food Security (RUAF Foundation). http://www.ruaf.org/ (they have an excellent online library and database…)


Books, Articles, & Annotated Bibliographies


ETC Urban Agriculture Programme. 2003. “Annotated Bibliography on Urban Agriculture.” Report prepared for the Swedish International Development Agency. http://www.ruaf.org/sites/default/files/annotated_bibliography.pdf. (This is a massive 800 page document that is international in focus. However, there are many U.S. specific citations and annotations.)


High Tunnels
Hoophouse website and blog at MSU (http://hoophouse.msu.edu/).


Food Waste & Composting


**Rainwater Harvesting**

GrowNYC. "Rainwater Harvesting." http://www.grownyc.org/openspace/rainwater


**Season Extension...need to find info on cold frames and tunnel cloches...**


**Rooftop Farming & Green Roofs**

**Urban Orchards**


**Farm to Institution Resources (Farm to Hospital, Farm to School, Farm to University)**


Community Food Security Coalition. n.d. “Farm to College: Resources.” http://www.farmtocollege.org/resources. (This site lists LOTS of resources and publications!!)


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City-specific Reports and Resources (see endnotes and bibliographies in each for additional resources)

Cleveland, OH

Cleveland-Cuyahoga County Food Policy Coalition. “Land Use & Planning Working Group.” http://cccfoodpolicy.org/working-group/land-use-planning

New York


"To kick-off our Five Borough Farm project, the Design Trust hosted a half-day workshop on December 6, 2010 at The New School. "Five Borough Farm: The Future of Farming in NYC“ brought together over 90 urban farmers, gardeners, urban agriculture advocates and funders from around the city to address key questions that will help shape the future of urban agriculture in New York City:

- Why do you do what you do?
- What resources (revenue, volunteers, funding, etc.) do you rely on in order to do your work?
- How do you track what you do, and what do you wish you could track?
- What would help you measure the benefits of what you do?” http://www.designtrust.org/events/event_201012_5bf_workshop.html


Baltimore


Oakland


Alameda County, CA


San Francisco


Los Angeles, CA


Seattle, WA


Portland, OR


“Completed by students in the Master of Urban and Regional Planning program at Portland State University, the Diggable City Project was an attempt to take an inventory of vacant, publicly-owned land in the Portland area, and to start a conversation about how that land might be used to support urban agricultural activities.”

Minneapolis


Articles


“Local food systems receive increasing attention as a potential solution to problems in the globalized food system, and the promotion of agriculture and urban sustainability. Despite the centrality of geography of in the study and practice of local food systems, methods of geographical analysis examining local food systems are just beginning to develop. In this paper we argue that spatial research methods are central to the understanding and evaluation of different components of local food systems. We use the city of Philadelphia as an example to
explore the socio-spatial structure of the current local food system, and the integration of remote sensing and GIS techniques to estimate land potential for urban food production.”

Researchers

Tyler Caruso and Erik Facteau
Seeing Green: the Value of Urban Farms

“A year-long research project that will measure the stormwater management potential of two urban farms; Brooklyn Grange (a rooftop farm) & Added Value (raised beds) in NYC.”

Nevin Cohen and Rupal Sangvhi, Fellows
Five Borough Farm, a project of the Design Trust for Public Space
http://www.designtrust.org/projects/project_09farm.html

“The Design Trust has partnered with Brooklyn-based nonprofit Added Value and the Red Hook Community Farm to develop strategies to support urban agriculture citywide. Our project, Five Borough Farm, will survey and map New York City’s existing urban agricultural activity; create a shared framework and tools to evaluate and quantify the many benefits of urban agriculture; and develop recommendations to city government about what role they could play to support urban agriculture.”

Nathan McClintock
Urbanfood.org
Action Research and Education for Sustainable Food Systems
http://www.urbanfood.org/
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• Cambria font
• 1.5 spaces
• 1 inch margins all around
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• Keep a list of acronyms at the beginning of your document with the words written out
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• Use footnotes, not endnotes.
• Charts and tables should be included in a separate document in whatever program you originally made them in. For example, if you make a chart in excel, please submit the excel spreadsheet with the original numbers and tables/charts in addition to the final product. Don’t change the colors - use automatic choices on font and colors.
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