

FOOD HUBS AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:

National models and regional collaboration



Mid-Ohio Regional
Planning Commission

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What is a food hub, anyway?

- It's becoming a buzzword
- A food hub is *not* a food system
- Need multiple food hubs – a network



What is a Food Hub?

A food hub is to food farmer as an elevator is to grain farmer



Aggregation, distribution, logistics, marketing

- Entrepreneur developed online “virtual food hub”
- Distributors want tool for logistics, not for sales and business relationships



Food Hub study

- National Good Food Network: regional councils and COGS should be leaders of food-system planning
- Wallace Center pilot program: region-led “good food financial planning” initiatives
- Planning agencies manage the flock.
- Philanthropies, lenders and government funders assist



COUNTING VALUES

Food Hub Financial Benchmarking Study

A report by Farm Credit East, Wallace Center at Winrock International, Morse Marketing Connections and Farm Credit Council, coordinated by the NGFN Food Hub Collaboration*

*For inquiries: contact@ngfn.org

NGFN Food Hub Collaboration



Hubs can range from modest...



...to ambitious



Meat hubs

Shared-use cold-storage

Distribution

Processing



Food system financing



- Working relationship with financiers
- Bankers, foundations, other lenders
- Promote loan-ready projects
- Capacity to receive grants, loans

Think systemically





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