

2.6 PLANNING ISSUES – AGRICULTURE FOOD & FARMS

Objectives:

1. To protect farmland as a valuable natural resource and economically productive land use through land use policy in both municipal and County land use and transportation decisions.
2. To discourage projects that will have a detrimental impact on the preservation of agricultural lands and discourage the use of public funds for such projects.
3. To support incentives, policies and programs, along with technical assistance in maintaining agricultural lands and structures to ensure an ongoing food supply and to support those who choose farming as a way of life.
4. To support national, state, regional and local policies and programs that promote agriculture as a means to support energy production, food supply and soil conservation goals.
5. To encourage and promote agriculture and local food production and their related businesses as a valued element of the Kane County economy through supportive land use and economic development policy, programs and practice.
6. To expand the purchase of agricultural conservation easements.

Chapter Focus

Like much of Illinois, Kane County has some of the most productive farmland in the world. Also like much of Illinois and the nation, Kane County has critical challenges to the health of its citizens, specifically in the areas of childhood obesity and diabetes. Agriculture in Kane County plays a key role in addressing the County's land use strategy and the goals for a future that includes healthy people, healthy living and healthy communities.

Agriculture has been the dominant land use in the County for 150 years and still occupies almost 68% of its unincorporated land. Agriculture also plays a vital role in the County's economy, even as its historical structure and composition changes with the times. A continued threat to agriculture is the encroachment of development and the conflicts that arise between farm and non-farm land uses. Kane County strongly supports protective land use strategies that discourage premature conversion of farmland in the Critical Growth Area, protect farmland in the Agriculture: Food, Farm and Small Town area, guide new development toward planned growth areas, and encourage new agricultural uses and local food production in the Sustainable Urban Area.

This chapter examines:

Relationship of Agriculture to Healthy People, Healthy Living and Healthy Communities
The Food System in Kane County
Economic Role of Agriculture
Agriculture and Land Use
Food and Agriculture Policy and Legislation
Kane County Farmland Protection Program
Protected Agriculture – Limited Development

Relationship of Agriculture to Healthy People, Healthy Living and Healthy Communities

Our nation and Kane County acknowledges that we face many challenges in improving the health of people and communities. In Kane County, we have the opportunity to expand a major asset, local agriculture - the land base and industry, to help meet the market for local food production. This effort will include the existing agricultural community as well as a burgeoning number of local food advocates.

Agriculture in Kane County already contributes to our economic health by providing corporate and private income, jobs and supporting local businesses. Yet the market for local foods and products offers a potential expansion to the industry while meeting the critical needs for healthy living, specifically locally grown fruits, vegetables and meats. Improving both the access to and affordability of locally and fresh products to our residents, schools, houses of worship, and institutions, will be a critical factor in improving Kane County residents' health.

The 2006 USDA Food Atlas data¹ indicates that there were 1,843 households with no car and greater than one mile to a store. Low income households living more than one mile to a store comprise greater than 5% of the population approximately 21,239 Kane County residents.

The Census of Agriculture for 2007² states that 1,180 acres of vegetables were harvested. Identifying and expanding the number of appropriate places to grow fresh produce for both personal and commercial purposes is a

Figure 45

Food assessments can be a challenging and insightful process for a community to undertake and will lead all planners and their citizenry into a more broad based direction for a healthier future. They are a participatory and collaborative process that engages a diverse group of stakeholders to assess community food issues and develop a set of policy recommendations. According to the Community Food Security Coalition there are four key steps when conducting a community food assessment. This includes:

- Organize (stakeholders and participants)
- Research (collect and analyze data)
- Plan (decision making)
- Advocate (action documents and communication with the public)

¹ <http://www.ers.usda.gov/foodatlas/atlas/>

² <http://www.agcensus.usda.gov/Publications/2007/index.php>

new land use goal for Kane County. This future effort will require coordination with municipalities to address appropriate land use, zoning, and health codes. A food assessment for Kane County and its municipalities will help incorporate food policy into comprehensive and strategic plans for our communities' healthy future.³

The lack of availability of fresh produce in all neighborhoods has led to the coining of a new term, "food deserts". Food deserts, areas where no affordable source for fresh produce exists, can be mapped and targeted for new grocery stores and markets. Community gardens can be a source for fresh produce and education to recapture the art of backyard gardening. Farmers markets equipped with the ability for alternative payment methods for low income residents can help fill the gaps in location and affordability.

Community gardens, equestrian facilities, and other forms of agriculture that include volunteers and visitors in the "work" and "chores" of agriculture also provide opportunities for adults and children to be active and to be outdoors. "Eating the fruits of your labor" provides additional motivation as well as being a money saving option in tough economic times.

Local food production and agri-tourism is becoming an increasingly popular and important part of Kane County's agricultural economy and for filling local nutritional needs. "Discover the Bounty of Kane" (bountyofkane.org) is a directory of 35 Kane County farms that sell direct to consumers and local farmers markets and includes a map and contact information for each farm and farmer's market. The HARVEST FOR ALL⁴ program encourages local farmers to donate a portion of their harvest to benefit a local food pantry, as well as encourages Farm Bureau members and consumers to support hunger relief efforts. Community gardens and community supported agriculture (CSAs) are also becoming a growing part of meeting local needs for fresh produce. In part with the help of a grant from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation in 2010⁵ and funding from the Making Kane County Fit for Kids⁶ Funders Consortium, the number of community gardens has increased dramatically in recent years. New locations for community gardens and CSAs include forest preserves, park districts, state and county owned lands, church properties, non-profits and privately owned lots.

³ "What's Cooking in Your Food System? A GUIDE TO COMMUNITY FOOD ASSESSMENT." Community Food Security Coalition. 2002.

⁴ <http://www.kanecfb.com/HarvestforAll.html>

⁵ <http://www.rwjf.org/grants/>

⁶ <http://www.makingkanefitforkids.org/>

Figure 46

Food is at the core of everything we do. It is essential for health and part of daily living. It is also a very complex issue. Kane County has a rich agricultural heritage and a large proportion of land is still used for farming today. However, most of the food we eat is no longer local and instead is part of the global economy from production to consumption. All parts of the system, from production to consumption can be influenced by food policy – even at the local level. The topic of local food policy is so broad and all encompassing that it needs a broad based approach. To better understand the food system in Kane County, members of government, business, academia, community members, farmers and gardeners food banks, restaurants, retailers and faith communities need to join together for assessment and analysis. The Food Policy Workgroup established for the **Fit Kids 2020 Plan** set forth the following strategies to investigate the resources, impacts and regulations around food.

Strategy 1:

Create an ongoing work group to further study and assess the Food System in Kane County.

Strategy 2:

Increase access to healthy, affordable food beyond traditional grocers and restaurants.

Strategy 3:

Market Kane County grown products

Strategy 4:

Determine barriers to expanding production of locally grown fruits and vegetables

Strategy 5:

Encourage the expansion of community gardens

Strategy 6:

Create infrastructure to support direct sale growers

Strategy 7:

Promote food as an economic development opportunity

Strategy 8:

Support efforts to provide education for the growers, processors and consumers in

The Food System in Kane County

The American Planning Association, American Dietetic Association, American Nurses Association and American Public Health Association announced the following shared statement:

A healthy and sustainable food system emphasizes, strengthens, and makes visible interdependent and inseparable relationships between individual sectors (from production to waste disposal) and the characteristics (health promoting, sustainable, resilient, diverse, fair, economically balanced and transparent) of the system.⁷

⁷ “PRINCIPLES OF A HEALTHY, SUSTAINABLE FOOD SYSTEM.” 2010. www.planning.org.

Kane County's food system consists of all the people, process and places that are involved in moving food and agricultural products from the seed to the table or other end uses. This includes the businesses that provide the seed and other items necessary for planting, the farmers who plant, cultivate and harvest, the transportation of produce, and processing for market and distribution for wholesale and/or retail sales.

While Kane County is part of the larger Chicago region and its many markets and uses for agricultural products from northern Illinois, it also has even greater potential to utilize the abundance of rich farm land and Midwest climate to meet local needs for produce, meats and other farm products. In order to accomplish this, a greater understanding of what is needed to increase and encourage different scales and specialties for production, processing, distribution and sales should be encouraged and solutions for filling existing gaps developed. This is best accomplished by a countywide food assessment.

The business of agriculture at all scales takes planning, entrepreneurship, knowledge, investment and risk. Established farmers plan and adjust to changing markets and conditions. New would-be farmers have all of the challenges common to all start-up businesses, but often with an even longer time before the product goes to market. Creation of local market opportunities and filling the gaps processing and transportation of goods is critical to the success of smaller scale operations. Helping all those in or entering the business of agriculture in Kane County understand the process from start to finish will result in more successes and diversity in using our significant land resources.

Agricultural education, career awareness and job training for all ages are critical to developing a diversity of owners, operators, managers and workers in the agricultural environment. Educated consumers are important for creating local markets that understand the need for fresh produce as well as access and affordability for all levels of income.

Figure 47

Specialty Crops

The United States Department of Agriculture and the National Agricultural Statistics Service have recently combined efforts to survey farmers in order to better measure the production of specialty crops in Illinois, in particular fruits and vegetables for human consumption. These efforts are a byproduct of growing interest in organic food production and in eating “locally”. Among all specialty crop growers in Illinois, the survey showed that the northern portion of the state had the highest percentage of organic crop growers with 13%. Within northern Illinois, 91% of fresh market specialty crop growers were able to find a reliable market for their product, while 70% were able to sell all of the specialty crops that they had produced. These sales often took place at 1 of 2 venues: 47% of sales took place on site (farm stand, u-pick, etc.) and 29% of sales took place at Farmer’s Markets. In addition, 5% of all specialty crop farms in the northern portion of Illinois sold their products through Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) shares. The vast majority (94%) of specialty crops produced in northern Illinois are first sold locally (within 100 miles of the farm). The survey also shows that the majority of existing farms in northern Illinois that grow specialty crops plan on continuing specialty food production, with 32% of farms declaring that they will increase specialty crop production and 44% of farms declaring that they will maintain their current level of production (11% weren’t sure, 12% planned on decreasing/discontinuing production).

Source: “2010 Specialty Crops Survey.” USDA – NASS – Illinois Field Office. 2010.

Economic Role of Agriculture

Agriculture is an integral part of Kane County’s economy, landscape, natural resource base and local food supply. Agriculture continues to contribute to a stable and diversified economy, especially as the variety of agricultural crops and products including nursery and greenhouse crops, local fruits and vegetables, and livestock products increases in response to changing markets. Agribusiness services and facilities support the farm economy and need a strong agricultural base for their success. The farm economy creates jobs in cultivation and harvesting, equipment sales and service, seed research and sales, fertilizer and herbicide sales, finance and insurance, and food processing and distribution industries.

Since 1945, the number of Kane County farms has decreased. However, this decline has been offset by an increase in average farm size. In 2007 the average size of a Kane County farm was 253 acres, representing a decrease of 67 acres since 2002. In 2007 the average for the State of Illinois was 348 acres. In 2007, the market value of Kane County agricultural products sold totaled \$ 198,108,000 per year up 71% since 2002. Top crop items include corn, soybeans, forage, wheat and nursery stock. The average market value of products sold per farm was \$ 261,011, considerably higher than the statewide average of \$ 173,421.⁸

⁸ <http://www.agcensus.usda.gov/Publications/2007/index.php>

According to the 2007 census, Kane County was the largest dollar producer of nursery, greenhouse, floriculture, and sod crops of all Illinois counties. Since that time however, the economic changes have reduced the number of nursery, greenhouse, and sod farms. Kane County encourages expansion of nursery and greenhouses and other agriculturally related businesses through the use of the F-2 (agriculturally related sales) zoning district.

Figure 48

**Illinois Farmers Are Ready to Meet
\$23 Million Demand for
Local Fruits and Vegetables⁹**

The demand for locally grown fruits and vegetables in Illinois far outstrips supply and a new Action Plan and Feasibility Study released today by FamilyFarmed.org gives strong recommendations on remedies. This work is the culmination of a six-month assessment in which 181 growers were surveyed, 14 trade buyers and 20 growers were interviewed, and over 60 stakeholders participated in two downstate strategy sessions. *Ready to Grow: A Plan for Increasing Illinois Fruit and Vegetable Production* was funded by the Illinois Department of Agriculture through a USDA Specialty Crop Block Grant.

"Buying local is the hottest trend in the food industry right now and Illinois is taking strides to capitalize on this movement," says Jim Slama, president of FamilyFarmed.org. "This report describes the opportunity in this niche and spells out concrete steps that need to happen in order to take local fruit and vegetable production and sales to the next level."

Despite high demand, promising economics, and the fact that four-fifths of Illinois land is farmland, 89% of which is prime farmland, Illinois wholesale buyers cannot currently meet their demand for fruits and vegetables from in-state production. The fourteen buyers interviewed for this report repeatedly stated that their demand for Illinois-grown fruits and vegetables far surpasses available supply, so they resort to purchasing produce grown outside the state. If they could, they would purchase over \$23 million in Illinois-grown produce on an annual basis. Participating buyers include a wide range of large and small companies including SYSCO, US Foods, Whole Foods Market, Goodness Greeness, Compass Group (Chicago Public Schools), Chipotle, Hy-Vee, Lettuce Entertain You, and more. The sampling was only a small percentage of Illinois retailers, restaurants and distributors, so overall demand is substantially greater.

"The state of Illinois is ready to step up and meet the demand for local food," says Tom Jennings, Director of the Illinois Department of Agriculture. "In today's economic climate it is imperative that we capture the economic value available in local food production, processing, sales, and distribution."

The Project Team concludes that Illinois fruit and vegetable growers interested in wholesale markets are for the most part *Ready to Grow*. The report presents concrete ways the Illinois Specialty Crop Industry can help them accomplish their goals to more closely meet the current and projected demand. One action the industry can begin pursuing immediately is the business planning process for the development of regional packing houses, which is the next step following a positive feasibility assessment. (source: reprinted with permission from Family Farmed)

⁹ "READY TO GROW: A Plan for Increasing Illinois Fruit and Vegetable Production Action Plan and Feasibility Study." www.familyfarmed.org. 2010.

Figure 49

Equestrian Uses

The keeping, training, breeding, raising, riding and/or sheltering of horses contributes to the economic, social, and cultural fabric of Kane County. It is important for the county to consider these issues when considering how to best guide development in Kane County through 2040. In Illinois alone, horses are a \$1.3 billion industry, and the northern half of the state has the most horses per square mile in the country, according to the horseman's council of Illinois. Fortunately, we do not need to look very far to find examples of equine-centric ordinances. Barrington Hills permits the boarding of horses through their Home Occupation ordinance¹. In addition, Barrington Hills has an Equestrian Commission to ensure that equine activities remain within the local government's wheelhouse. In St. Charles, there are specialists in every method of horse riding, from Western to polo. Horses are even used locally as a form of therapy called equine assisted psychotherapy, which helps veterans, the disabled and even teens from the Kane County Juvenile Justice Center gain emotional growth.¹ Two nearby counties, Cook and Will, also have or are considering equine-based ordinances. In Cook County, horseback riding is allowed on the District's multi-use trail system. Residents have the option of riding their own horse or going on a guided tour from any of eight stables offering livery service.¹ Currently, Will County is considering altering their zoning to allow stables as permitted uses in 5 different zoning districts. They are also considering merging private stables, riding stables, and boarding stables to create one all-encompassing use category. Overall, recommended changes represent a significantly new approach to the regulation of equestrian-related uses through the removal of significant barriers with greater clarity.

Source: <http://www.renewingwillcounty.com/news/equestrian-related-uses>

Agriculture and Land Use

Agriculture is the predominant land use in the County. The Development Department's 2011 land use survey indicates that almost 68% or 137,558 acres of unincorporated Kane County is in agriculture. The agricultural presence becomes stronger as one goes west across the County. Most of these agricultural uses are concentrated in the western and central townships. Within the townships, the percentage of unincorporated land in agriculture in 2011 was: western townships, 87%; central townships, 64%; and river townships, 19.5 %.

Legislation

Kane County's commitment to agricultural protection has evolved over a twenty-year period. On July 22, 1980, Governor James R. Thompson signed Executive Order 80-4, Preservation of Illinois Farmlands.¹⁰ This Executive Order eventually led to the Illinois Farmland Preservation Act¹¹ establishing a new state policy to promote the protection of Illinois farmland from unnecessary conversion and degradation. The act required state

¹⁰ <http://www.ilga.gov/commission/jcar/admincode/008/00800700ZZ9996ER.html>

¹¹ <http://codes.lp.findlaw.com/ilstatutes/505/75>

agencies to develop an agricultural land preservation policy. In 1980, enabled by the new legislation and responding to an increasing threat to agricultural land in Kane County, the County Board amended the 1976 Land Use Plan. Objectives and policies were added to specifically protect agriculture as a valuable natural resource and an economically productive land use. These objectives and policies were reinforced in the 1982 Comprehensive Land Use Plan and were strengthened in the subsequent 2020 and 2030 Land Resource Management Plans.

In 1991, the County Board became the first in Illinois to adopt a Farmland Preservation Policy to minimize conflicts between farming and other land uses. The policy states Kane County will encourage development within the County to occur in such a fashion as to minimize conflict between farming and other land uses. It goes on to assert that Kane County does not intend to enforce any rule, regulation or ordinance in such a manner as to violate the “Farm Nuisance Suit Act¹²” (740 ILCS70).

In 2007, Public Act 095-0145 the **Illinois Food and Farm Act¹³** was signed into law which states the following findings:

Illinois should be the Midwest leader in local and organic food and fiber production. Food items consumed in Illinois travel an average of 1,500 miles, and agricultural products grown directly for human consumption comprise less than 0.2% of Illinois farm sales. Ninety-five percent of organic food sold in this State is grown and processed outside of the State, resulting in food dollars being exported. Illinois ranks fifth in the nation in loss farmland. The market for locally grown foods and for organic food is expanding rapidly. Consumers would benefit from additional local food outlets that make fresh and affordable Illinois grown foods more accessible in both rural and urban communities. Communities are experiencing significant problems of obesity and nutrition, including lack of daily access to fresh fruits and vegetables. Low-income communities that are currently “food deserts” lacking sufficient markets selling fresh fruits and vegetables would benefit from local food distribution systems. The State’s urban communities are showing renewed interest in growing food in urban areas. Rural communities would be revitalized by increasing the number of families in the State that live on small properties and by providing fresh high-value local food. Farmers who wish to transition from conventional agriculture to local and organic food would benefit from training and support to diversity their farming operations. Food consumers, farmers, and entrepreneurs would benefit from an expanded infrastructure for processing, storing, and distributing locally grown foods. The capture of existing food dollars within the State would help to revitalize the State’s treasury by creating a broad range of new in-state jobs and business opportunities with both rural and urban communities. For the purposes of this Act and for the retention of the greatest benefit from every food dollar spent in this State, support for local food means capturing portion of food production, processing, storing, and distribution possible.

¹² <http://codes.lp.findlaw.com/ilstatutes/740/70>

¹³ <http://www.ilga.gov/legislation/publicacts/fulltext.asp?Name=095-0145>

Kane County Farmland Protection Program¹⁴

The year 2011 marks the 10th anniversary of the Kane County, Illinois Farmland Protection Program. This award winning program which is the only fully funded County based program in Illinois, has permanently protected over 5500 acres of prime farmland in 30 family owned farms. The Kane County board and USDA/NRCS have invested over \$32.6 million dollars in the purchase and extinguishment of development rights along with placing agricultural conservation easement to protect the land from development in perpetuity. The program was established by Resolution of the County on April 10, 2001, which conforms to the USDA/NRCS Federal Farm and Ranchlands program based on conservation standards protecting soil and other natural resources.

As Kane County's population grows over the next 30 years and current economic and housing trends change, development pressure on the County's productive agricultural land will increase once again. The County is recommitting to protecting farmland in order to ensure the economic vitality of the agricultural sector and to preserve our agricultural communities and rural lifestyle.

Protected Agriculture – Limited Development

Protected Agriculture/Limited Development is a form of conservation design which provides for clustering of residential lots of a portion of the property and permanently protecting the remainder of the land for agriculture and open space. This option for limited development is only offered in conjunction with permanent protection of the farmland and open space within the development by donation of development rights and corresponding deed of Agricultural Conservation Easement. Kane County will hold the perpetual Agricultural Conservation Easement. This special and unique development is restricted to certain geographic areas within the County and allowed when the location does not encourage any type of sprawling development. The project shall show sufficient respect and sensitivity to the agricultural component of the proposal and the larger agricultural setting of its context.

¹⁴<http://www.countyofkane.org/Documents/Quality%20of%20Kane/commLivabilityLocalFoods.pdf>

Figure 50

Kane County Farmland Protection Program

2001 – 2011

Since the program creation in 2001 over 5,100 acres have been permanently protected in Kaneville, Big Rock, Virgil, Burlington, Plato and Campton townships. The Kane County Board and the Federal Farmland Protection Program have invested over \$ 32.6 million dollars to create Agricultural Conservation Easements to insure agriculture continues in perpetuity. It is a voluntary program whose purpose is to protect agricultural use and the conservation values of the land.

\$32,602,653.08
Total Investment

5,132 Protected Acres
\$ 19,977,477.76 - Kane County Riverboat Funded
\$ 12,625,206.32 - Federal Protection Funded

Protected Agriculture/Limited Development is typically designed with sustainable features so as to minimize adverse impact on the surrounding farms and requires the design, scale and siting to respect the adjacent farm operations and agricultural heritage. It is likely that the agriculture component includes community supported agriculture, organics, and /or specialty crops.

The land use category will be identified geographically on the County's land use map after the project zoning is approved. Eligibility for this land use category is based on the following factors:

- A location where the County can create a desirable land use pattern for the benefit of long term community identity and rural heritage;
- One or more municipal jurisdictional areas in proximity with a strong likelihood of municipal land use conversion;
- Development in close proximity;
- A location near major transportation facilities;
- The subject property serves as a transitional area between the Critical Growth Area and the Agricultural Corridor;
- The subject property has a mix of soil types including some prime and non-prime, and a variety of topographic and geological features that create a unique setting that may include wetlands, streams, waterways, wooded areas, and wildlife corridors, all of which are well-suited for conservation design practices.

All proposals shall be examined and approved on a case by case basis to determine if the intent of the proposal matches the stated objectives and policies. These developments are most appropriate for the geographic areas located on the outskirts of municipalities and their planning areas or between the critical growth area and the agricultural corridor that are under development pressure, especially from the municipalities.

Design and development criteria for Protected Agriculture – Limited Development includes the following. It will result in fewer residential lots than a traditional development would provide; however, the benefit of developing some of the land while protecting most of it is achieved. In all cases, a significant portion of the property (typically two-thirds of the property) is protected for working agricultural land and open space by donation of development rights to the County's Farmland Protection Program and permanently protected by an Agricultural Conservation Easement. In the deed of easement, the rights to develop the identified protected lands are extinguished and limited to farming and open space. A Conservation Plan is created in conjunction with the local Natural Resource Conservation Service office and maintained on an annual

basis. Smaller scale specialty crops and/or organic crops are desirable in these locations. Community supported agriculture, farm stands, cooking schools and related retail and “farm to table” operations are appropriate ancillary uses. The following policies must be addressed prior to approval of any proposal within the Limited Development Protected Agriculture designation:

1. Protect the County’s best agricultural land for farming and encourage this unique development option only in suitable locations and where it will not undermine Kane County’s existing agricultural policies as stated in the 2040 Land Resource Management Plan, the Illinois Farmland Preservation Act and Executive Order 80-4 Preservation of Illinois Farmlands.
2. Use this development option in certain geographic locations such as the area between adjacent municipalities and their jurisdictional planning areas; at the edge of municipal planning areas as it transitions into the Agricultural Corridor.
3. Discourage use of this development option in the heart of the Agricultural Corridor or in areas where there are protected Agricultural Conservation Easements.
4. Consider this development option when the protected agricultural or natural resource area contributes to a linkage of protected agricultural or open space network.
5. Encourage this development option to use best management practices for agricultural production and soil and water conservation.
6. Encourage the overall design to provide significant demonstrable benefits including, but not limited to scenic, historic, natural or water resource protection.
7. Strongly encourage this development option to include green development, design and building practices.

Policies:

1. Protect land best suited for farming from premature conversion to other land uses and maintain agriculture as an integral part of the County's economy, landscape, and natural resource base.
2. Discourage sewer and water systems and other projects that would cause the encroachment of development into agricultural areas.
3. Encourage right-to-farm legislation, support incentives to retain farmland, and further limit the circumstances under which farming operations may be deemed a nuisance.
4. Support Executive Order 80-4, Preservation of Illinois Farmlands and the Illinois Farmland Preservation Act.
5. Encourage construction and maintenance of the infrastructure required to support agricultural operations such as roads, bridges, local drainage systems, and drainage districts.
6. Support the expansion of locally grown and produced food, farm and fiber products and the local, regional, national and international markets for those products.
7. Partner with the Natural Resource Conservation Service, the Farm Service Agency, and the Kane DuPage Soil and Water District in programs promoting good soil and water conservation and best management practices.
8. Continue to annually fund the Agricultural Conservation Easement and Farmland Protection Program and maximize the level of federal matching funds for farmland protection in Kane County.
9. Create an ongoing work group to further study and assess the Food System in Kane County.
10. Support Kane County grown food, farm and fiber products through increased training and certification programs at various locations throughout the County including existing farmland, brownfields and greenhouses.
11. Identify parcels throughout the County and its municipalities that are available for food, farm and fiber production and the necessary education, training and certification for growers and processors for a local, healthy and safe food supply.
12. Promote locally grown food, farm and fiber products as an economic development and job creation opportunity for Kane County and its municipal residents.

