



**Board of Riley County
Commissioners
Regular Meeting
Agenda
April 21, 2022**

115 North 4th Street
Manhattan, KS 66502
www.rileycountyks.gov

Cindy Kabriel
785-565-6200

Commission Chambers

8:30 AM

[District 2 – Greg McKinley, Chair](#)

[District 3 – Kathryn Focke, Vice Chair](#)

[District 1 – John Ford, Member](#)

8:30 AM

Call to Order

Pledge of Allegiance

Public Comment

1. Public Comments

Commission Comments

2. Commission Comments

Business Meeting

3. Approve payroll/accounts payables (when completed)

Review Minutes

4. Board of Riley County Commissioners - Regular Meeting - Apr 18, 2022 8:30 AM

Review Tentative Agenda

5. Tentative Agenda

Press Conference Topics

6. Discuss Press Conference

9:00 AM

John Ellermann, Public Works Director/County Engineer

7. University Park - Consultant Agreement

9:30 AM

Clancy Holeman, Counselor/Director of Administrative Services

8. Administrative Work Session

9:50 AM

Break

10:00 AM

Gary Fike, County Extension Director

9. Extension Master Gardener

10:15 AM

Captain Josh Kyle, RCPD

10. RCPD update

- 10:30 AM** **Amanda Webb, Planning and Development Director**
11. Keats Sewer Benefit District Project Update
- 11:00 AM** **Jim Goode, Maxnet**
12. Network Node Router System
- 4:00 PM** **Joint City/County/County Meeting (at County Offices)**
13. City/County/County Meeting Agenda
14. Food System Assessment/Survey Results/COVID Impact

Adjournment

In order to comply with provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), Riley County will make reasonable efforts to accommodate the needs of persons with disabilities. Please contact the Division of Human Resources at (785) 537-6303 (voice and TTY) for assistance.



**Board of Riley County
Commissioners
Regular Meeting
TENTATIVE Agenda
April 25, 2022**

115 North 4th Street
Manhattan, KS 66502
www.rileycountyks.gov

Cindy Kabriel
785-565-6200

Commission Chambers

8:30 AM

[District 2 – Greg McKinley, Chair](#)

[District 3 – Kathryn Focke, Vice Chair](#)

[District 1 – John Ford, Member](#)

8:30 AM

Call to Order

Pledge of Allegiance

Public Comment

Commission Comments

Business Meeting

1. Proclamation for Mental Health Month

Review Minutes

Review Tentative Agenda

Press Conference Topics

9:00 AM

Robbin Cole, Pawnee Mental Health Services Director

2. Pawnee Mental Health Services update

9:15 AM

Shelly Williams, Community Corrections Director

3. Staff Update

9:30 AM

Press Conference

4. Presentation of Mental Health Month Proclamation

10:00 AM

Break

10:10 AM

Clancy Holeman, Counselor/Director of Administrative Services

5. Administrative Work Session

12:00 PM

Intergovernmental Luncheon

2:00 PM

Executive session to discuss a performance matter involving non-elected personnel

Attachment: 04-25-22 tentative agenda (11653 : Tentative Agenda)

3:00 PM **Executive session to discuss a performance matter involving non-elected personnel**

3:30 PM **Executive session to discuss a performance matter involving non-elected personnel**

4:30 PM **Executive session to discuss a performance matter involving non-elected personnel**

Adjournment

Announcements

The 46th Annual KCCA Conference will be held April 26-28th at the Hilton Garden Inn, Salina, Kansas.

The Board of County Commissioners will not be in session on Thursday, April 28th.

In order to comply with provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), Riley County will make reasonable efforts to accommodate the needs of persons with disabilities. Please contact the Division of Human Resources at (785) 537-6303 (voice and TTY) for assistance.

Attachment: 04-25-22 tentative agenda (11653 : Tentative Agenda)



**Board of Riley County
Commissioners
Regular Meeting
TENTATIVE Agenda
May 02, 2022**

115 North 4th Street
Manhattan, KS 66502
www.rileycountyks.gov

Cindy Kabriel
785-565-6200

Commission Chambers

8:30 AM

[District 2 – Greg McKinley, Chair](#)

[District 3 – Kathryn Focke, Vice Chair](#)

[District 1 – John Ford, Member](#)

8:30 AM

Call to Order

Pledge of Allegiance

Public Comment

Commission Comments

Business Meeting

Review Minutes

Review Tentative Agenda

Press Conference Topics

9:00 AM

Clancy Holeman, Counselor/Director of Administrative Services

1. Administrative Work Session

9:20 AM

Bob Isaac, Planner

2. Public hearing for amending the Land Development Regulations for Riley County, Kansas

9:30 AM

Press Conference

3. RCPD update - Captain Greg Steere (3-5 minutes)

10:00 AM

Russel Stukey, Emergency Management Director

4. Staff update

10:30 AM

Executive session to discuss a performance matter involving non-elected personnel

11:30 AM

Executive session to discuss a performance matter involving non-elected personnel

12:00 PM

Lunch

Attachment: 05-02-22 tentative agenda (11653 : Tentative Agenda)

12:30 PM **Executive session to discuss a performance matter involving non-elected personnel**

1:30 PM **Executive session to discuss a performance matter involving non-elected personnel**

Adjournment

Announcement

A Special Law Enforcement Agency Meeting will be held today at 4:00 p.m. in the County Commission Chambers, 115 N. 4th Street.

In order to comply with provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), Riley County will make reasonable efforts to accommodate the needs of persons with disabilities. Please contact the Division of Human Resources at (785) 537-6303 (voice and TTY) for assistance.

Attachment: 05-02-22 tentative agenda (11653 : Tentative Agenda)



PUBLIC WORKS
Agreement

John Ellermann
Public Works
Director/County Engineer
6215 Tuttle Creek Blvd
Manhattan, KS 66503
Phone: 785-537-6330

COMMISSION AGENDA REPORT

FROM: John Ellermann, Public Works Director

MEETING: April 21, 2022

SUBJECT: University Park - Consultant Agreement

PRESENTER: John Ellermann

BACKGROUND

The University Park wastewater is treated with a mechanical wastewater treatment plant. The plant is permitted to treat the wastewater and discharge the treated effluent into the lake. The permit requires the treated effluent to meet certain standards to comply with the federal "Clean Water Act".

The enforcement of these standards is by the KDHE and EPA. The recently signed Order for Compliance on Consent was recently signed by the Board and the KDHE permit have set certain milestones for the plant to come into compliance. One of conditions of compliance is to hire an engineer to evaluate different solutions to bring the plant into compliance. Another requirement is to look into the feasibility of using lagoons to treat the effluent.

Request for Qualifications was sent out and SMH was the firm selected for the project. The attached draft agreement and fee estimate includes evaluating data, making site visits and develop a compliance plan for the EPA and facility plan for the KDHE. The agreement also includes looking into using lagoons for treatment.

This work will continue until September 2005.

DISCUSSION

Bring the wastewater treatment is of utmost importance, not only for the health and safety aspect but the monetary aspect as well. Fines for non-compliance could be quite large.

The fee estimate presented is not to exceed \$155,672. Source of the funding unknown at this point. University Park benefit district budget has some capital funds to start the project but cannot support the entire project. Other sources of funding could be ARPA funds, USDA grant/loan and the KDHE revolving loan fund.

If it is not possible to bring the existing plant into compliance, further design and construction of lagoons or replacement treatment plant will be separate from this agreement. If the Board approves of the agreement will be on Monday's business meeting for signatures.

FISCAL IMPACT

The consultant agreement is a not to exceed \$155,672.00. There will be other various unknown expenses as different process and equipment is implemented to improve the treated effluent.

RECOMMENDATION(S)

Staff recommends approving the agreement with SMH and designating \$200,000 to \$300,000 of ARPA funds to

POSSIBLE MOTION(S)

Move to approve the agreement and recommended funding.

Move to deny the agreement and recommended funding.

Move to modify the agreement and/or funding.

Enclosures:

- Agreement (003) (PDF)
- FeeEstimate (PDF)

AGREEMENT FOR PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERING SERVICES

This Agreement is hereby entered into this _____ day of _____, 2022, by and between the Board of County Commissioners of Riley County, Kansas, (Owner) and SMH Consultants, a Professional Corporation, (hereinafter “Consultant”).

WHEREAS, the Owner desires to obtain professional engineering services, in connection with University Park WWTF Evaluation (hereinafter “Project”); and,

WHEREAS, Consultant is a professional corporation, with local offices located at 2017 Vanesta Place, Suite 110, Manhattan, Kansas, 66503, licensed to provide professional engineering services in the state of Kansas; and,

WHEREAS, Consultant is qualified, capable and prepared to perform the necessary professional engineering services in connection with the Project as described in this Agreement; and,

NOW THEREFORE, in consideration of the mutual promises contained herein, the parties agree as follows:

1. Professional Services:

- A. The term “Services” when used in this Agreement shall mean any and all professional engineering services provided by Consultant in accordance with this Agreement. The Consultant may employ subconsultants as Consultant deems necessary to assist in the performance or furnishing of professional engineering and related services hereunder. The Consultant shall not be required to employ any subconsultants which are unacceptable to the Consultant. The Services include completing the University Park Wastewater Treatment Facility (WWTF) Evaluation for submittal to the Owner for Owner’s use.
- B. Owner agrees to retain Consultant and Consultant agrees to perform and complete the following Services for the Project:
 1. Conduct any necessary site visits to the facility for the investigation of treatment plant operations and conditions; and data collection/acquisition to perform the study including any available monthly monitoring reports, flow records, area

water use records, and other available records to aid in the Project.

2. Conduct necessary site visits to investigate the University Park sanitary sewer collection system including the system's pump stations for purposes of assisting in evaluating any potential impact the system may have on the WWTF.
3. Assemble and review all available plans and other pertinent data related to the existing wastewater treatment facility.
4. Review the current operational practices of the WWTF.
5. Recommend any operational changes to aid in the WWTF consistently meeting the effluent limits.
6. Develop and deliver to the Kansas Department of Health & Environment (KDHE) a Facility Plan as required by KDHE under the Owner's *National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System* (NPDES) permit Schedule Of Compliance. Included shall be a schedule of improvements recommended and/or undertaken to bring the facility into consistent compliance with the effluent limits.
7. Evaluate the replacement of the WWTF with a non-discharging lagoon system as required by KDHE.
8. As required by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), develop and deliver a Compliance Plan detailing a comprehensive written plan for achieving compliance with the 2020 NPDES Permit. It is believed that the KDHE required Facility Plan will serve as the EPA Compliance Plan.
9. Develop and submit to the EPA semiannual reports to include a copy of all monthly reports regarding compliance with effluent limits, a description of all actions taken pursuant to the Compliance Plan, and a description of all work planned for the next 6-month reporting period pursuant to the Compliance Plan.
10. Conduct update meetings with Riley County Public Works Department for purposes of discussing project progress, obtaining feedback, and planning future steps in the project.

- C. Consultant shall provide Services under this Agreement only upon written request of the Owner, and only to the extent defined and required by the Owner. Consultant

shall not provide any services or materials not described by this Agreement unless Consultant obtains prior written consent from the Owner. If the Owner gives prior written consent for Supplemental Services, the Owner shall compensate Consultant with a fee mutually agreed upon by the parties prior to performance of the Supplemental Services. Any Supplemental services or materials provided by Consultant without the Owner's prior written consent shall be at Consultant's own risk, cost, and expense, and Consultant shall not make a claim for compensation from the Owner for such work.

2. Standard of Care

- A. Consultant shall exercise the same degree of care, skill, and diligence in the performance of all Services to the Owner that is ordinarily possessed and exercised by reasonable, prudent, and experienced professional engineer under similar circumstances. At the Owner's request, Consultant shall re-perform the Services which fail to satisfy this standard of care. If Consultant fails to possess and exercise such care, skill and diligence in providing all Services, Consultant shall be responsible to the Owner for any resulting loss or damages.
- B. Consultant represents it has all other necessary licenses, permits, and certifications required to perform the Services described herein.
- C. Consultant shall comply with, and make an effort to cause any sub-consultants to comply with, applicable federal, state and local laws, orders, rules and regulations relating to the performance of the Services.
- D. Neither Consultant nor Consultant's agents or employees shall discriminate against any employee or applicant for employment in the performance of this Agreement with respect to hiring, tenure, terms, conditions, or privileges of employment, because of race, color, religion, sex, or national origin.

3. Compensation & Audit by Owner

- A. As consideration for providing the Services, the Owner shall pay Consultant at Consultant's hourly rates, based on services actually provided, an amount not to exceed \$ One Hundred Fifty-Five Thousand, Six Hundred Seventy-Two Dollars and no cents (\$155,672.00). Payment shall be total compensation for labor, overhead,

expenses, and anticipated profit.

- B. Payments shall be requested monthly, based on progress determined by the Consultant. The invoice shall indicate the percentage of the Project completed. Owner agrees to pay the balance of an approved invoice, or undisputed portions of a disputed invoice, within 30 days of the date of receipt by the Owner. In the event of a dispute, and prior to the invoice's due date, Owner shall pay the undisputed portion of the invoice and notify Consultant of the nature of the dispute regarding the balance.
- C. At the Owner's request, Consultant shall permit the Owner, or any authorized representative of the Owner, at all reasonable times, to access and examine all records, books, papers or documents related to Consultant's performance under this Agreement, including, but not limited to, expenses for sub-consultants, agents or assistants, direct and indirect charges, and detailed documentation for all such work performed.

4. Schedule & Delay

- A. Unless otherwise directed by the Owner, Consultant shall commence performance of the Services upon execution of this Agreement. Consultant shall deliver to KDHE the required draft Facility Plan by August 1, 2022.
- B. Consultant shall deliver to EPA the required Compliance Plan within the EPA identified timeframe.
- C. Consultant shall deliver the EPA required semiannual reports at the EPA expressed times.
- D. Neither the Owner nor the Consultant shall be in default of the Agreement for delays in performance caused by circumstances beyond the reasonable control of the non-performing party, including, but not limited to, unusually severe weather conditions, floods, tornadoes, earthquakes, fires, and epidemics; wars, riots and other civil disturbances; strikes, lockouts, and other labor disturbances; or judicial restraint. Should such a circumstance occur, the non-performing party shall, within a reasonable time, give the other party written notice describing the circumstances and the anticipated date to resume performance of the Agreement.

- E. If Consultant's performance is delayed due to delays caused by the Owner, Consultant shall have no claim against the Owner for damages or payment adjustment other than an extension of time to perform the Services.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties hereto have set their hands the day and year above written.

CONSULTANT:

Todd J. Anderson
SMH Consultants

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS, RILEY COUNTY:

(Title)

ATTEST:

(Title)

Attachment: Agreement (003) (12083 : University Park - Consultant Agreement)

Fee Estimate

University Park Wastewater Treatment Facility Evaluation
Riley County Public Works
Exhibit B-2

SC = Survey Crew
CT = CADD Technician
MPLS = Managing Principal Land Surveyor

RLS = Registered Land Surveyor
MPE = Managing Principal Engineer
PE = Project Engineer

DE = Design Engineer
LA = Landscape Architecture
CL = Clerical



	SC	CT	MPLS	RLS	MPE	PE	DE	LA	CL	Rate =	SC	CT	MPLS	RLS	MPE	PE	DE	LA	CL		Expenses	Totals			
											140.00	96.00	137.00	116.00	190.00	176.00	142.00	117.00	55.00					Hours	Total Fee
	Estimated Hours										Estimated Fee														
TASK I - PROJECT MANAGEMENT (Years 2022-2025)																									
1. Project Management					18	40									\$3,420.00	\$7,040.00					58.00	\$10,460.00			
2. Project Team Meetings					4	42	42								\$760.00	\$7,392.00	\$5,964.00				88.00	\$14,116.00			
3. County Update Meetings						40										\$7,040.00					40	\$7,040.00			
																						TASK I =		\$31,616.00	
TASK II - WWTF ANALYSIS & EVALUATION (Years 2022-2025)																									
1. WWTF Site Visits						66	14									\$11,616.00	\$1,988.00				80.00	\$13,604.00			
2. Collection System & Pump Stations Site Visits						20										\$3,520.00					20.00	\$3,520.00			
3. Review & Analysis of Data & Plans						84	20									\$14,784.00	\$2,840.00				104.00	\$17,624.00			
4. Review & Analysis of WWTF Operational Practices						124										\$21,824.00					124.00	\$21,824.00			
5. Recommendations to Operational Practices						36	2									\$6,336.00	\$284.00				38.00	\$6,620.00			
6. Develop & Deliver Facility Plan						96										\$16,896.00					96.00	\$16,896.00			
7. Analysis of Non-Discharging Lagoon Facility						40	24									\$7,040.00	\$3,408.00				64	\$10,448.00			
8. Develop & Deliver Compliance Plan						68	4									\$11,968.00	\$568.00				72	\$12,536.00			
9. Semi-Annual EPA Reports and Monitoring						116	4									\$20,416.00	\$568.00				120	\$20,984.00			
																						TASK II =		\$124,056.00	
Totals =	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	22.00	772.00	110.00	0.00	0.00		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	4,180.00	135,872.00	15,620.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	904.00	\$155,672.00			

Attachment: FeeEstimate (12083 : University Park - Consultant Agreement)



EXTENSION
Staff Update

Gary Fike
County Extension
Director
110 Courthouse Plaza
Manhattan, KS 66502
Phone: 785-537-6350

STAFF REPORT

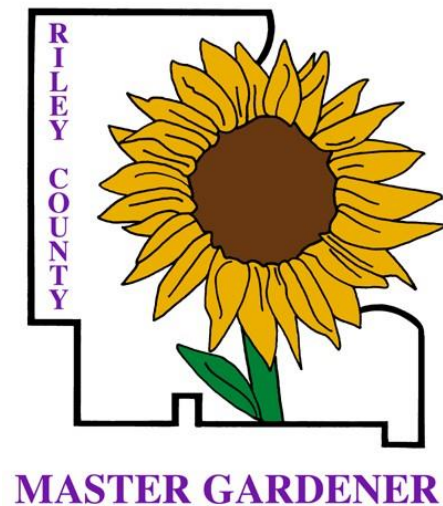
FROM: Gary Fike
MEETING: April 21, 2022
SUBJECT: Extension Master Gardener
PRESENTER: Gregg Eyestone

Gregg will present an update on the Riley County Extension Master Gardener Program

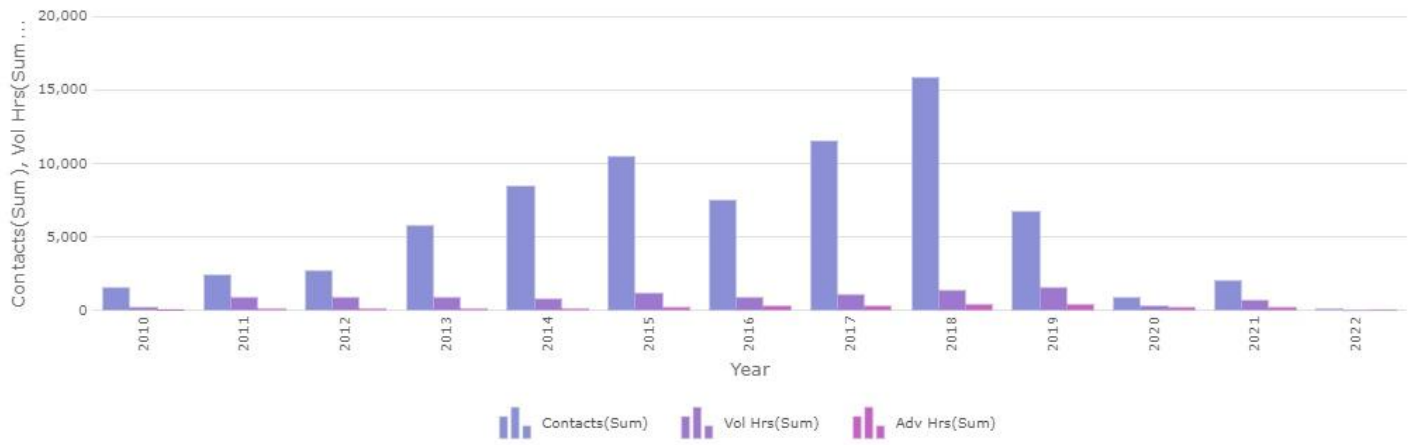
Enclosures:

- 2021 Report (DOCX)

Riley County, K-State Research and Extension Master Gardeners 2021 Activities (33rd year)



- 8 New Master Gardeners took basic training in the fall of 2021. (Consist of 48 hours of horticulture study)
349 total trained over the past 33 years.
- 42 Previously trained Master Gardeners participated in the program for 2021. (They are required to complete a minimum of 10 hours of continuing education and perform 10 hours of community education)
- 316 Advanced Training Hours
- 806 Hours of community horticulture education reported by Riley County Master Gardeners.
- 2154 Contacts in Riley County
- \$23,003.24 Value given to Riley County
We calculate the value of each Master Gardener's volunteer hour by the value provided by the Independent Sector, with the Do Good Institute. For 2021, that figure was \$28.54/hour.





PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT
Work Session

Amanda Webb
Planning/Special Projects
Director
110 Courthouse Plaza
Manhattan, KS 66502
Phone: 785-537-6332

COMMISSION AGENDA REPORT

FROM: Amanda Webb, Planning Director
MEETING: April 21, 2022
SUBJECT: Keats Sewer Benefit District Project Update
PRESENTER: Amanda Webb, Planning Director

Please see attached staff report.

Enclosures:

- Keats BOCC update April 21 (DOCX)



PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT

Date: April 21, 2022

To: Riley County Board of County Commissioners

From: Amanda Webb, Planning & Special Projects Director

Re: Keats Sewer Benefit District Project Update

History:

The Keats Sewer Benefit District ("District") was created by the BOCC in October 2018 after 51%+ of the district filed a petition for approval. The district contains 67 connections.

Background:

District residents have on-site treatment systems consisting of individual gravity service piping, septic tanks, and lateral fields. Most of these systems do not conform to the minimum lot size of 1.4 acres or minimum setback requirements as provided in Table 1 Page 24 of the Riley County Sanitary Code adopted on February 20, 2020. Fifty-three of the 67 residents in the district would not be able to meet the setback and/or lot size requirements should their existing system fail and need replacement. Only about one fifth of property owners would be able to rebuild on their existing lots should disaster strike the area. The control and prevention of surface and groundwater pollution is fundamental to the health, safety, and welfare of the public.

There have been two properties with failed lateral fields since the Keats Sewer Benefit district was created. These two failed systems were granted variances from the Riley County Sanitary Code so the homeowners could stay in their homes until public sewer becomes available. Additionally, there are several other homeowners pumping their septic tanks frequently in fear that their systems may fail before the public sewer becomes available.

Working Group:

Amanda Webb, Riley County Planning & Development Director
 Bob Isaac, Riley County Planner
 Perry Piper, Riley County Environmental Health Specialist
 John Ellermann, Riley County Public Works Director
 Evan McMillan, Riley County Assistant County Engineer
 Clancy Holeman, Riley County Counselor
 Craig Cox, Riley County Deputy Counselor
 Rich Vargo, Riley County Clerk

Sam Johnson, Project Engineer, BG Consultants
 Brian Foster, Engineer, BG Consultants

Attachment: Keats BOCC update April 21 (12084 : Keats Sewer Benefit District Update)

Interacting with property owners:

The working group has held several town hall style public meetings with property owners over the past six years including out in the Keats area and before the BOCC. Property owners were notified of meetings by regular mail.

Property owners were made aware of existing on-site treatment solutions currently in place and that most of these systems do not meet current Riley County minimum design standards. Potential options, concepts, funding, and user rate impacts were also discussed with the caveat that further engineering and environmental evaluation would be necessary no matter the option chosen.

Options Considered:

Option 1 is a gravity collection system, lift station, force main and discharge to the City of Manhattan collection system for treatment.

Option 2 is a gravity collection system, lift station, force main, and non-discharging wastewater lagoon treatment facility.

Option 3 is a gravity collection system, lift station, force main, and wastewater lagoon treatment facility with irrigation discharge.

All options need further engineering evaluation and environmental review.

Funding:

CDBG funding: CDBG requires an income survey and that projects meet a 51% LMI (low to moderate income) threshold. The survey was completed summer 2021 by Governmental Assistance Services. It was revealed that the district did not meet the LMI income threshold level to be eligible for CDBG funding. Therefore, this is not an option.

USDA Rural Development funding: A separate MHI (median household income) survey was done in summer 2021 as required for USDA Rural Development funding. The project is only eligible for 45% funding rather than the 75% originally anticipated due to a higher median income for the district.

*Note: Starting October 2022, USDA will begin utilizing 2019 census data rather than the 2010 census data currently used. This could cause a change in funding eligibility for the district if the MHI has increased since 2010's data.

KDHE Revolving loan fund: This project is not eligible for loan forgiveness. Principle forgiveness requires the project to meet two of four of the following:

- Located in a federal opportunity zone (Keats is not)
- Serves 500 people or less (Keats – yes)
- MHI is 80% of statewide average (KDHE SRF does not recognize income survey results) (Keats – no)
- County unemployment is greater than 115% of statewide average (Keats – no)

ARPA funding: The Board of County Commissioners has committed \$800,000 in ARPA funding for the project.

Property owners: All property owners will be responsible for monthly user rates, as well as their share of the cost of improvements, operation, and maintenance.

Where we are now:

Option 1 requires coordination and an interlocal agreement with the City of Manhattan. With the significant cost increases in equipment, materials, and labor, as well as labor shortages, this option has become increasingly financially burdensome to property owners as they will have to pay a higher share of the operation and maintenance costs, as well as monthly user fees to the city, which will likely increase as the City raises rates. It is currently at a level that USDA may be unwilling to approve the County's application for Rural Development funding. We also need to consider that connection to City services equates to a monthly user rate 1.5 times the inside city limits user rate because Keats is outside city limits.

Option 2 requires approximately ten acres of land that will provide ten feet of separation between the bottom of the wastewater lagoon and the groundwater table. There is not adequate area in the district for the lagoon so the County has approached several landowners in past years with properties adjacent to the district to see if anyone would be willing to sell ten acres. There was no interest at that time. In February 2022, staff sent letters to additional property owners asking if anyone would be willing to sell ten acres for the lagoon. We have received no interest to date. Prior to any lagoon location (and any applicable sale/acquisition), soil profile testing will be required to determine suitable soil and groundwater depth.

Option 3 is not economically feasible and therefore not considered further.

This project has a variety of components which is why it has been a lengthier process. Staff has been working on the following since creation of the district:

- Coordination with USDA, KDHE, and CDBG programs
- City of Manhattan connection coordination
- Environmental review of the project area for USDA program compliance
- Developing viable Project Options 1 and 2
- Coordinating town hall meetings
- Income survey coordination 2019 (CDBG)
- Income survey coordination 2021 (CDBG and USDA)
- Discussing and considering other project options as well as funding mechanisms

There have been delays due to COVID, and most recently delays due to the project cost increases which result in user rate impacts that we are working to avoid.

Next Steps/Other Options to Consider:

- Allocate more county funds for the project
- Wait for more favorable state/federal funding
- Wait for more favorable construction costs



AGENDA

JOINT CITY/COUNTY/COUNTY MEETING

COUNTY COMMISSION CHAMBERS

THURSDAY, APRIL 21, 2022

4:00 P.M.

1. Food System Assessment/Survey Results/Covid Impact –
Eileen Horn, Project Manager, New Venture Advisors;
Caroline Myran, Project Manager, New Venture Advisors;
Vickie James, Food and Farm Council of Riley County
and City of Manhattan, KS., Coordinator
2. Transportation Issues – Dee McKee, Pottawatomie County
Commissioner

Attachment: agenda (11735 : Joint City/County/County Agenda)



This meeting is being held in the Riley County Board of County Commission Chambers at Courthouse Plaza East Building, 115 N. 4th Street. In accordance with provisions of the ADA, every attempt will be made to accommodate the needs of persons with disabilities. Please contact the Division of Human Resources at (785) 537-6303 (voice and TTY) for assistance.



OUTSIDE AGENCY
Presentation

Outside Agency
110 Courthouse Plaza
Manhattan, KS 66502
Phone: 785-565-6200

MEMORANDUM

FROM: Vickie James, Food and Farm Council of Riley County and City of Manhattan, KS., Coordinator

MEETING: April 21, 2022

SUBJECT: Food System Assessment/Survey Results/COVID Impact

PRESENTER: Eileen Horn, Project Manager, New Venture Advisors; Caroline Myran, Project Manager, New Venture Advisors; Vickie James, Food and Farm Council of Riley County & City of Manhattan Coordinator

COVID Impact Video Link:

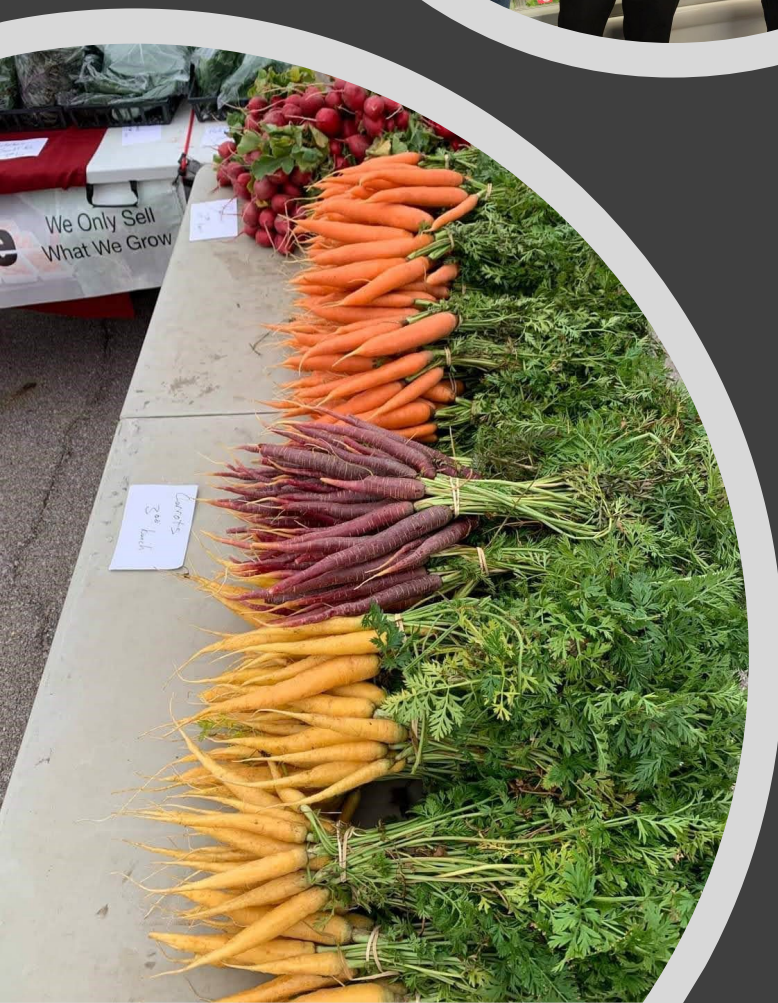
<https://1drv.ms/v/s!AgPFf8JvYr5Og85AOL9QqFkWja4fEQ?e=1234567890>

Enclosures:

- FSA presentation to CityCountyCounty 4.21.22 (without video) (PDF)
- Riley Survey Analysis Report 01132022 (PDF)
- Copy of FSA Summary Final (PDF)



14.a



April 21, 2022

Riley County Food System Assessment

By: New Venture Advisors, LLC
With: The Food and Farm Council of Riley
County and City of Manhattan, KS



Packet Pg. 24

What is a food system assessment?

- A **food system assessment** is a tool for deepening a community's understanding of its food system.
- It is a systematic way of collecting baseline data that define a community's food system with the goal of identifying ways to enhance or strengthen the food system.
- This food system assessment looked at the following categories:
 - Local region
 - Agricultural landscape
 - Food access
 - Food businesses and consumption
 - Food waste
- Also includes data from the Food System Plan survey process:
 - 2,030 individuals took the Master Food Plan survey between July and September 2021.
 - The survey asked respondents about their experiences in the food environment—from growing to eating to disposing of food.



Update to 2017 Food System Assessment:

Riley County Community Food System Assessment



September 2017

Riley County Food System Assessment

April 2022

This report offers a glimpse of the local food system in Riley County, Kansas, and provides an update to the 2017 Community Food System Assessment.

The data presented in this assessment includes both secondary data collected by the Census, USDA, etc. alongside primary data collected through a citizen survey conducted in 2021 that was taken by over 2,000 residents.

These findings will be used to inform the Master Food System Plan: Riley County and the City of Manhattan, Kansas—a roadmap for local actions and policy changes to promote a healthy, vibrant local food system.

NOURISH
TOGETHER



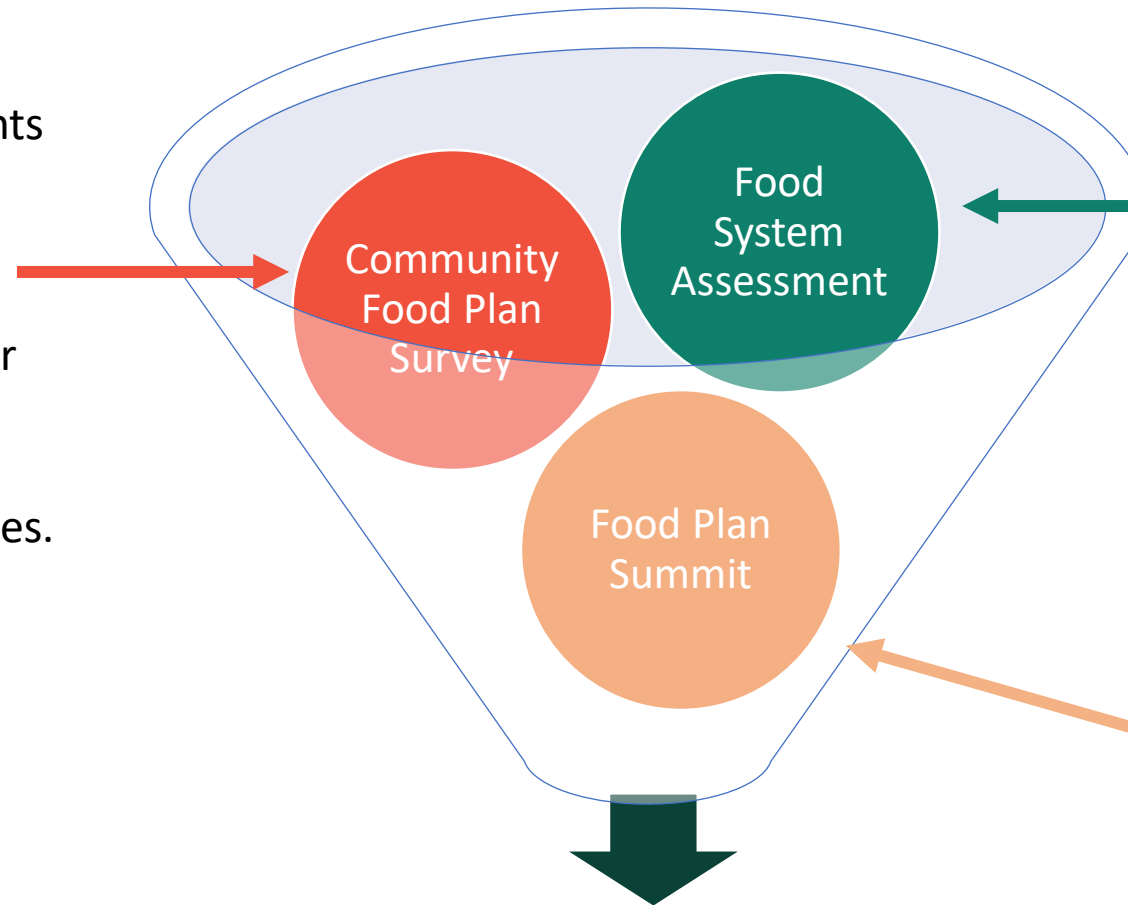
Prepared for the Food and Farm Council of Riley County and Manhattan, Kansas.

With funding from Blue Cross Blue Shield of Kansas, Pathways to a Healthy Kansas Initiative.

Prepared by New Venture Advisors.

How does this inform the Food System Master Plan?

- 2,030 survey respondents
- Open July – Sept 2021
- Racially and ethnically diverse respondents
- Concerted effort to hear from populations traditionally left out of public planning processes.



Secondary data collected from U.S. Census, Census of Agriculture, Bureau of Labor Statistics, County Health Rankings, etc.

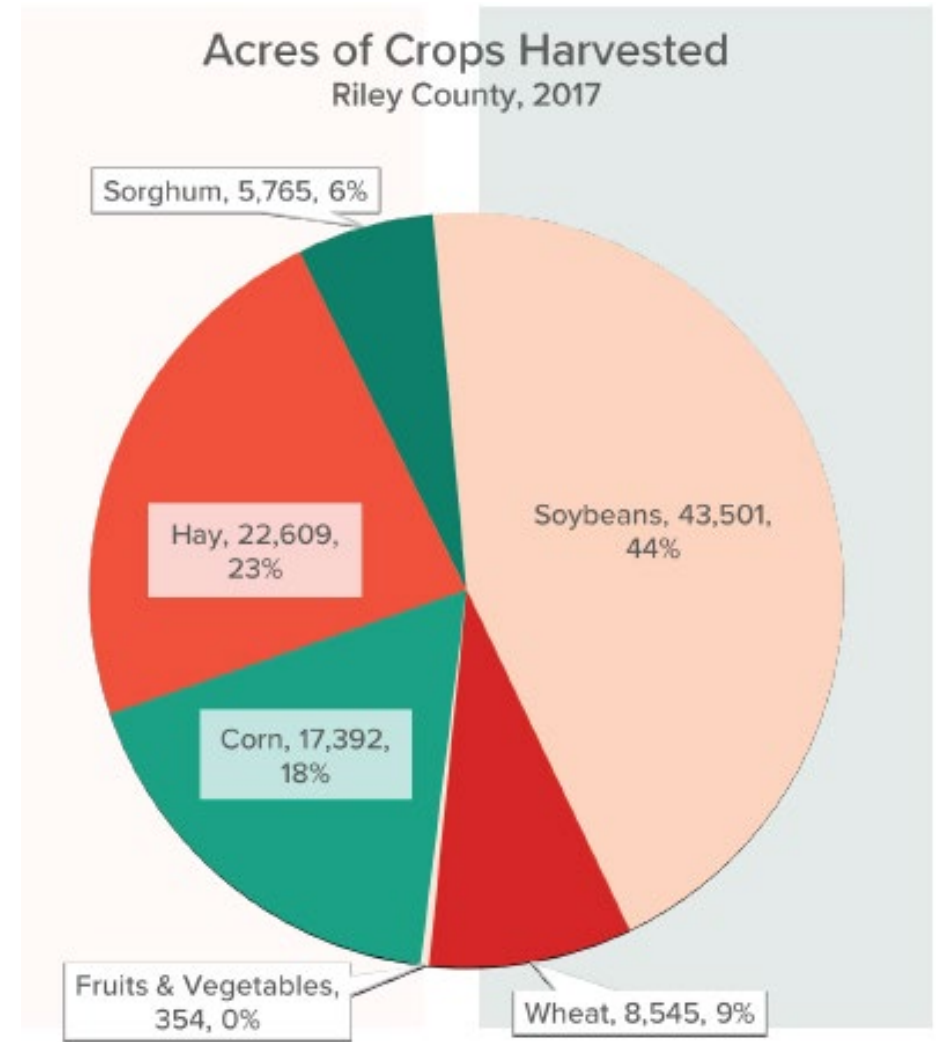
75 key food system stakeholders gathered to brainstorm policy barriers and solutions.

Food System Master Plan Recommendations

(coming soon!)

Key Findings: Agricultural Landscape

- Most farm operations in the county produce commodities for global markets.
- There are 12 farms in the county engaged in vegetable production, and 7 fruit/orchard operations. Together they generate \$1.6 million in sales.
- Some sustainable agriculture techniques (i.e. rotational grazing) are in use, but only 1% of farms are certified organic.
- Farmers are aging (average = 55 years), but 213 producers in the county are new or beginning farmers.



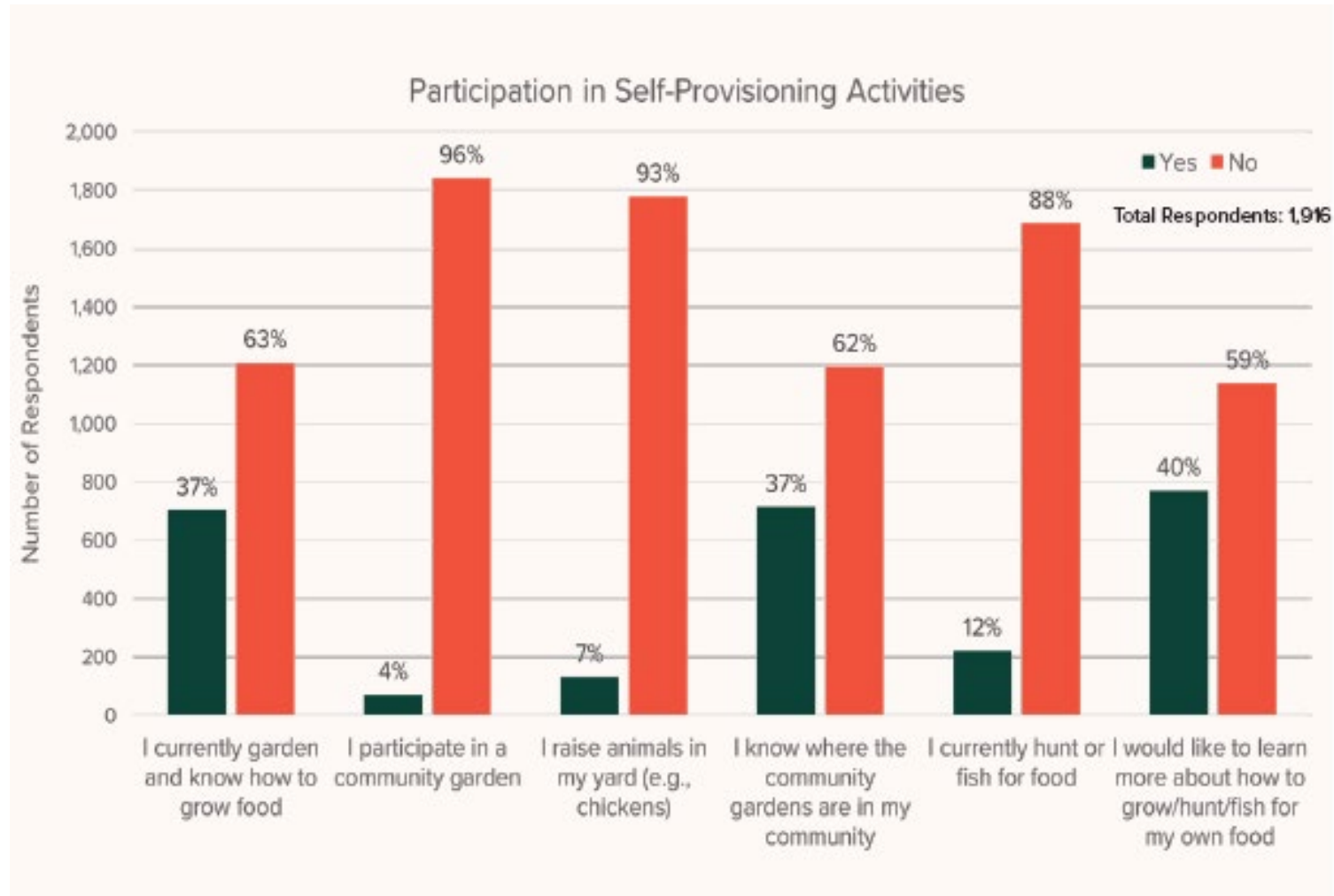
Key Findings: Unmet Demand for Food

The New Venture Advisors MarketSizer tool can be used to determine how much local demand for food could be met with the current local supply if routed through robust local food markets.

Local Quotient is the percentage of category food sales produced within the area.

Local Food Demand is the approximate value of category wholesale sales which could come from local sources if supply were available.

	Dairy	Meat	Poultry & Eggs	Fruits & Veggies
Local Quotient	0%	172%	0%	14%
Local Food Demand <i>(in millions)</i>	\$ 6.2	\$ 5.7	\$ 2.0	\$ 16.0
Unmet Market for Local Food <i>(in millions)</i>	\$ 6.2	*	\$ 2.0	\$ 13.0



Food Plan Survey Highlights: Food Production

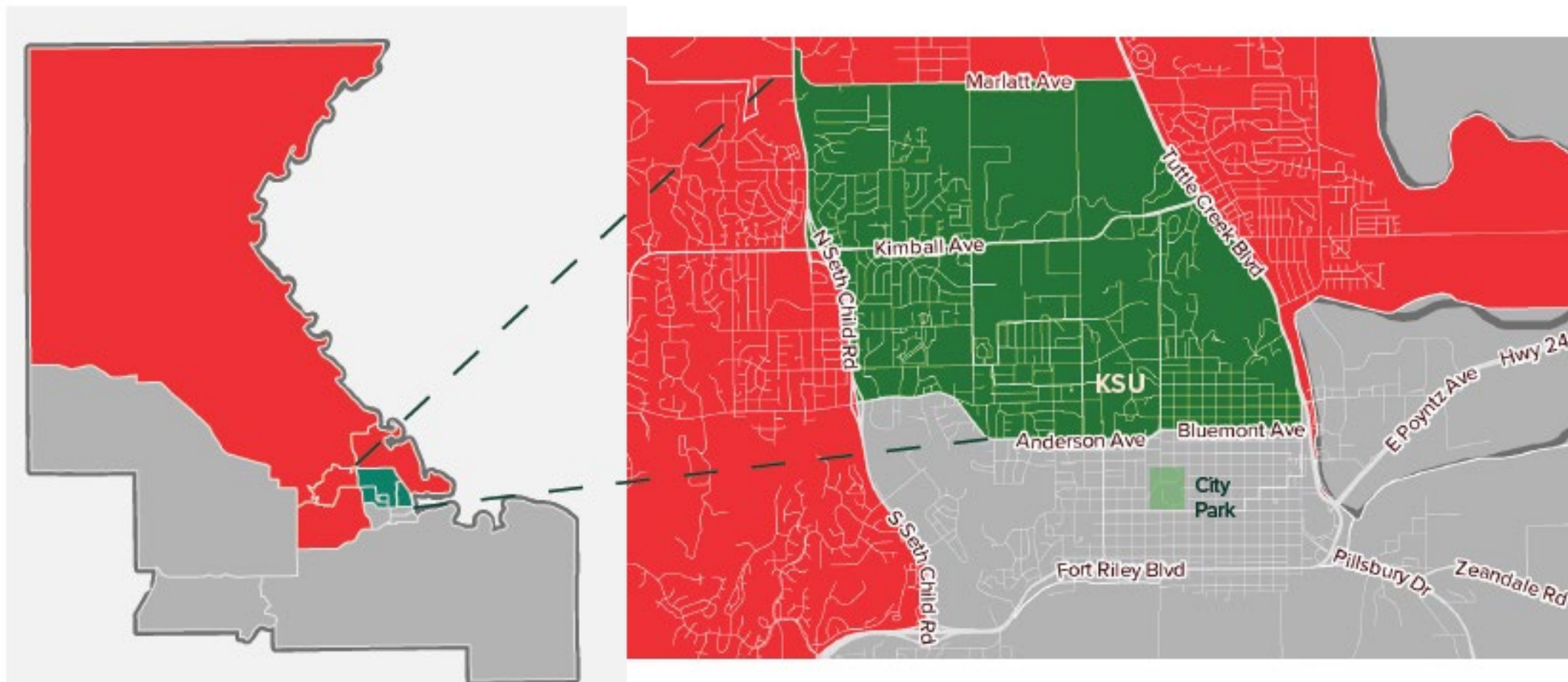
Key Findings: Food Access

- Food insecurity jumped as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic.
- Four census tracts (all within Manhattan) qualify as “Low Income” and “Low Access”, which means that 21,239 residents may struggle to access food.
- Rural areas of the county also qualify as “Low Access”, as residents may have to drive 10+ miles to the nearest grocery store.
- Multiple community efforts exist to support community members’ access to food, including local pantries and federal assistance programs.
- The SNAP “gap” is substantial. Many more households qualify than enroll in food assistance.

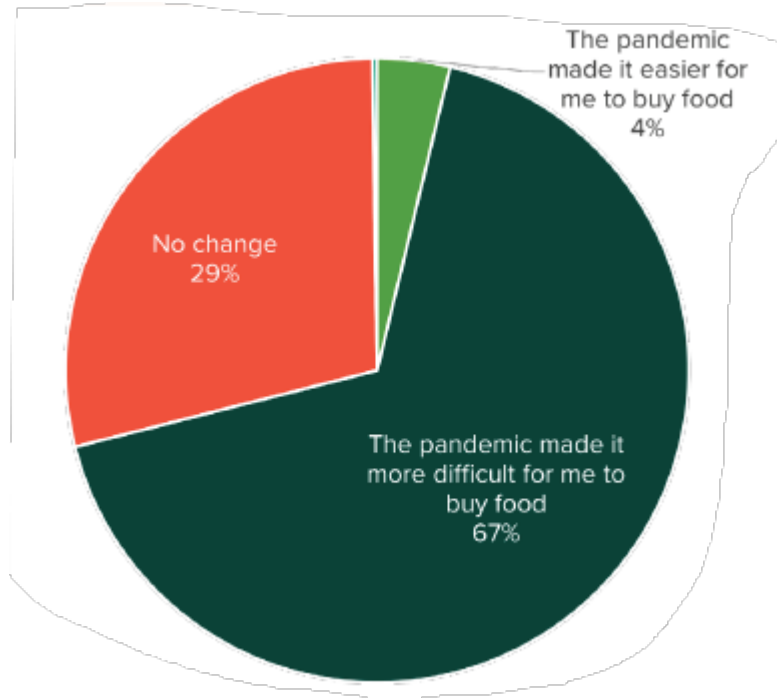
Overall food insecurity rate, 2019 = **13.5%**
 Projected overall food insecurity rate, 2021 = **14.8%**
 Childhood food insecurity rate, 2019 = **16.4%**
 Projected childhood food insecurity rate, 2021 = **18.3%**



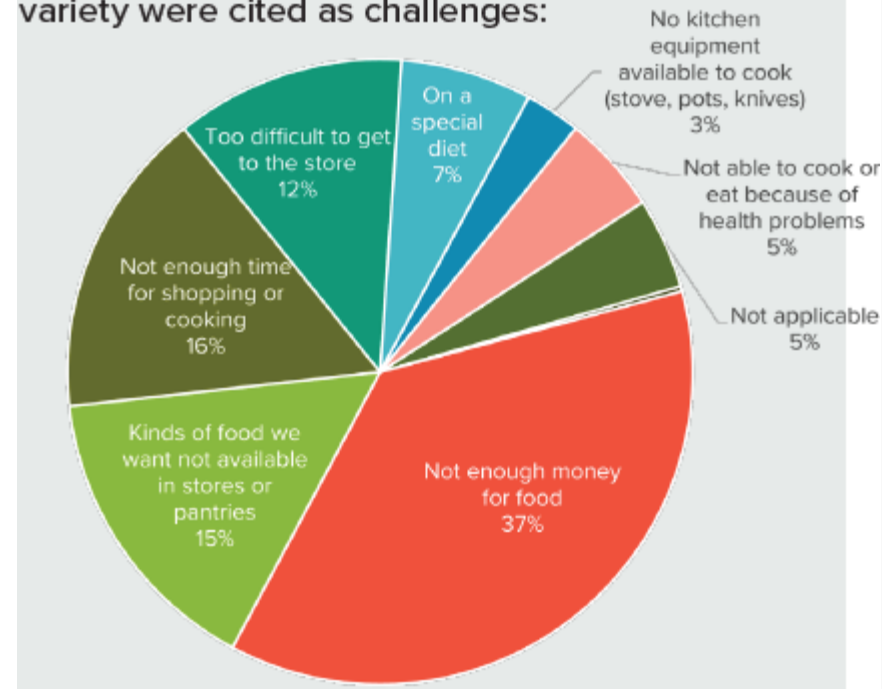
Key Findings: Food Access



The COVID-19 Pandemic's Impact on Food Access:



Respondents' reasons for not being able to access the food they want varied, but the cost of food, lack of time, lack of transportation, and food variety were cited as challenges:

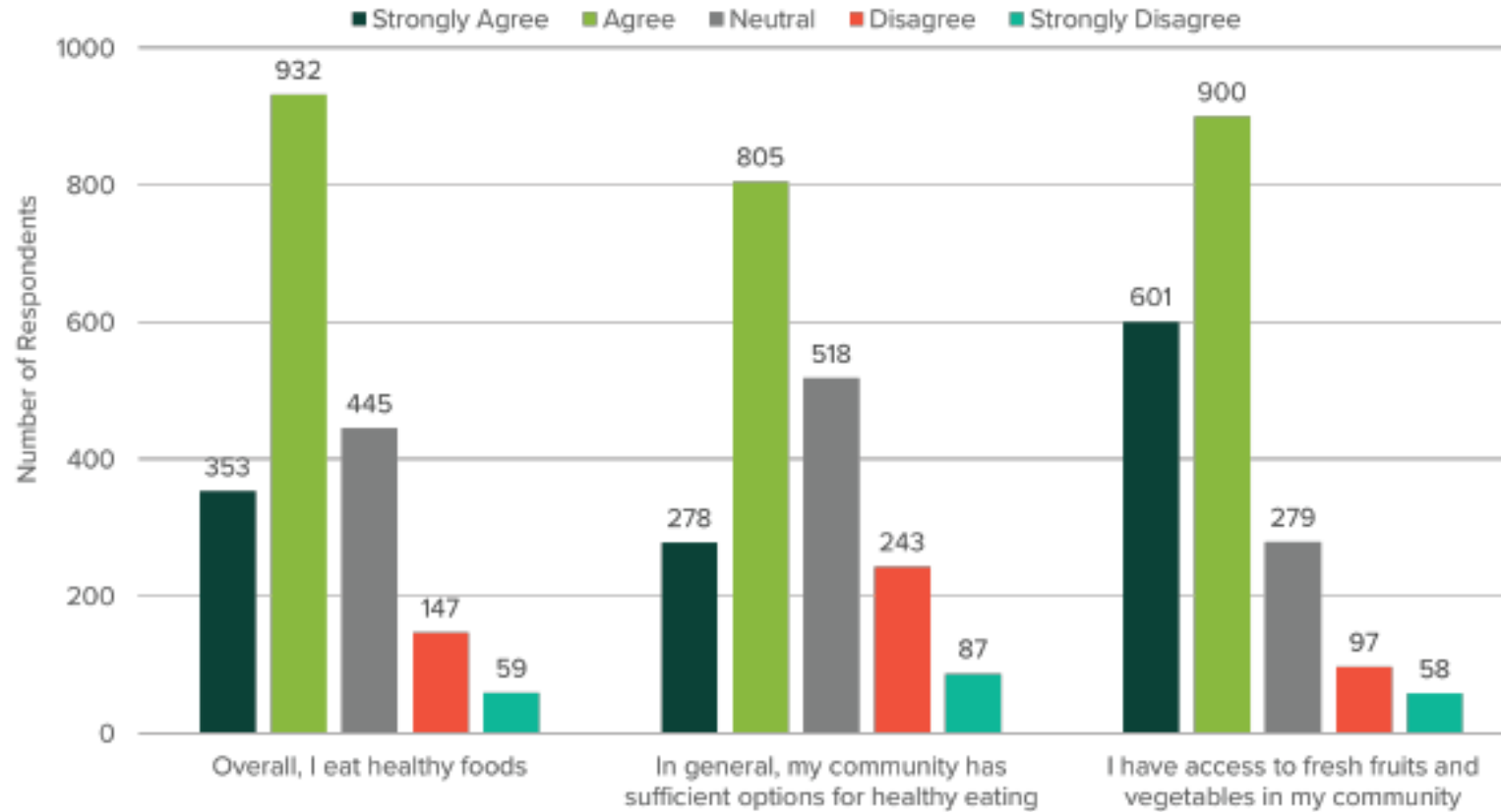


Food Plan Survey Highlights: Food Access

Key Findings: Food Business and Consumption



- ✓ Like the rest of the nation, Riley County is experiencing the obesity epidemic, and residents struggle to eat the amount of fruits and vegetables recommended to maintain a healthy diet.
- ✓ The region lacks the infrastructure needed to build a strong local food system. The current farmers market, CSAs, and farm stands have limited hours, which limits access to local foods. There are 162 registered farmers market vendors with about a hundred of those offering food/beverage at the market.
- ✓ All of the grocery stores are large chains with limited capacity for purchasing locally from farmers.
- ✓ 65 of the restaurants, caterers, and food trucks in Riley County are locally owned. Many participate in the Restaurant Champion Program (an initiative of the Food & Farm Council), which presents an opportunity to increase local food purchasing.

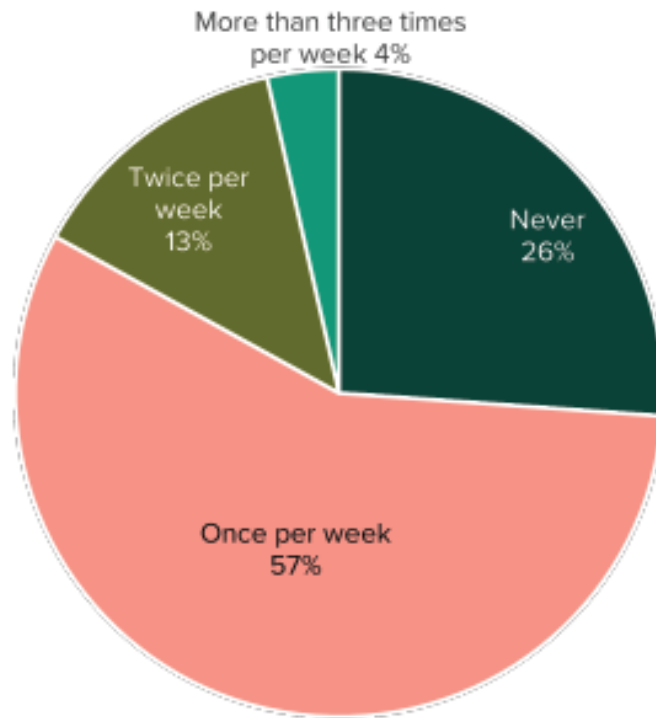


Food Plan Survey Highlights: Consumption of Healthy Food

Key Findings: Food Waste

- The average household wastes 338 pounds of food per year.
- Although local-level measurements of food waste were not available, extending national per capita waste estimates to local population numbers suggest that annual food waste in Riley County might be in the neighborhood of 21 million pounds, with a value of \$27.8 million.
- Consumer confusion about “date labeling” on packaged foods, such as “use by” or “best by,” contributes to food waste
- Improper storage can make perishable foods spoil more quickly
- Composting is one way to redirect food waste. In Riley County there is one facility that composts yard waste and manure but none that compost food waste.

Frequency of food waste generation



Top reasons for wasting food

- I bought too much food and couldn't eat it before it spoiled.
- It was past the "best if used by" date and I threw it away.
- The food quality was questionable (i.e. the fruit was bruised).
- Our schedule changed and we didn't get meals made as planned.
- Restaurant portions were too big and I couldn't eat it all.

Food Plan Survey Highlights: Food Waste & Recycling

Composting:

21% of survey respondents
currently compost.
79% do not compost at all.

Recycling:

58% of respondents
currently recycle.
42% do not recycle.

If a composting pickup program were offered,
respondents were generally unwilling to pay much for
such a program:

Less than \$10/month	570	31%
\$10-\$20/month	114	6%
\$20-\$35/month	10	1%
I would not pay for this service	1,173	62%

Top barriers to recycling

1. I don't know where in the community to go to recycle.
2. I can't afford the cost to recycle.
3. I'm unsure of what can be recycled.
4. It's not a priority for me and my family.

58% of respondents currently recycle,
while 42% do not recycle

Food Plan Survey Highlights: Food Waste & Recycling

What's next?

1. The Food System Master Plan will be presented at the next City/County/County meeting on 5/19.
2. Riley County and City of Manhattan: Consider adoption of the Food System Master Plan in June/July 2022.
3. Collaborate with the Food and Farm Council of Riley County and the City of Manhattan, KS to implement the recommended action steps in the Plan.

Local Food System Impact of COVID-19

? Questions? Feedback?

Riley County Master Food Plan

SURVEY INSIGHTS AND ANALYSIS

PREPARED BY NEW VENTURE ADVISORS

About this report:

The following report provides results and analysis of the Riley County Master Food Plan survey used to inform the eventual Master Food Plan. Top survey categories identified for analysis included Food Security, Healthy Food Consumption, Growing Food, and Recycling/Composting.

These categories were cross tabulated with reported age, ethnicity, and location of respondents to understand underlying trends in the data. When the data was disaggregated by location/city and by ethnicity the results were often not conclusive – only the strongest results are provided here for analysis.

Summary of Survey Results:

A total of 2,030 individuals from six cities in Riley County and 12 other surrounding counties took the survey between July-September 2021. The overwhelming majority of respondents were from Manhattan, KS and were female and White.

Top take-aways:

Food Security: Non-white residents of Riley County reported a higher likelihood of worrying about food running out or having food run out than their White counterparts. The COVID-19 pandemic has made it harder for all residents to buy the food they like, but White respondents reported the lowest challenges to buying food. Food pantries, federal and state food programs and other food access sites are utilized to fill gaps in food security for residents who would otherwise not have enough money to buy food.

Cooking Environment: Respondents ages 19 and under consistently reported having less knowledge, space, or tools to cook. Having enough time to cook was the biggest challenge for those between 20-49. Cooking and food preparation classes and/or education targeted to college students and young, working families could be of value to the community.

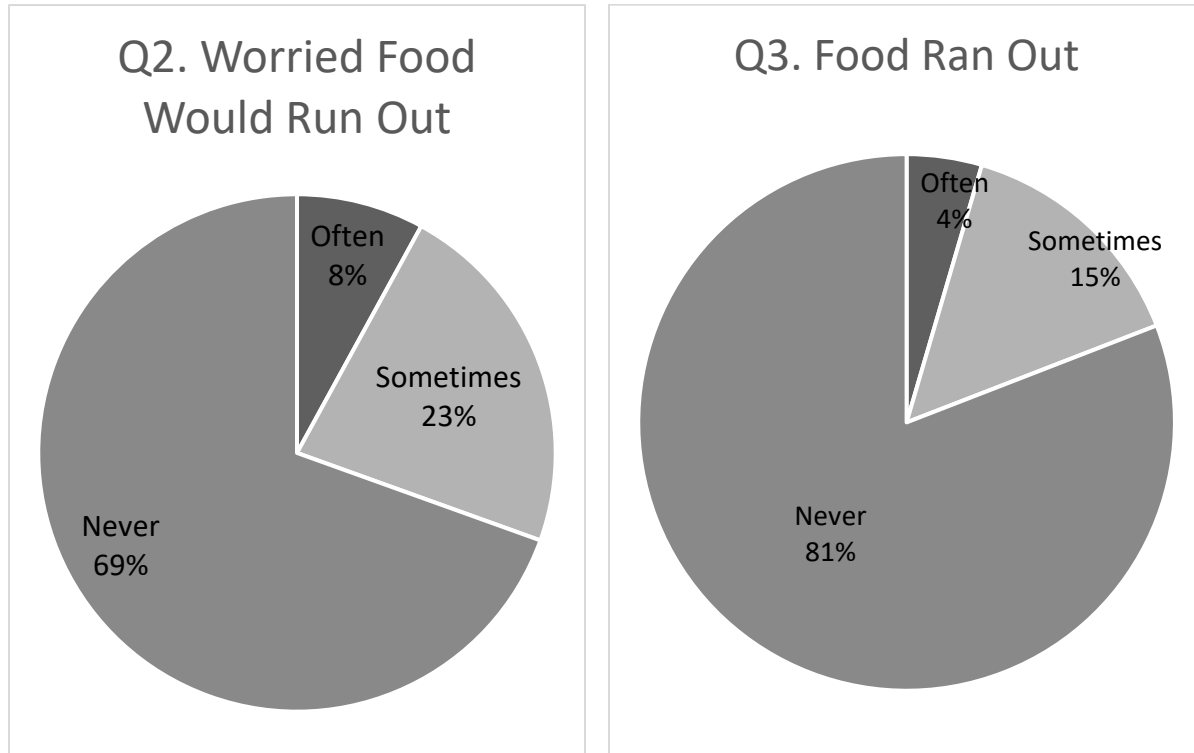
Healthy Food Consumption: Respondents ages 40-59 was the largest group to report not eating healthily or being able to find healthy foods in their community. Black/African American, Hispanic and Asian/Pacific Islander groups reported less availability of fresh fruits and vegetables in their community than their White counterparts. This provides an opportunity to explore healthier, fresher options for specific communities – middle aged and Non-white communities.

Growing your own food: There is almost no local food production at the household level. Most respondents don't raise food, hunt, garden or participate in a community garden. However, respondents expressed interest in learning how to do these activities, which provides an opportunity to strengthen existing education resources and target new ones, especially to younger individuals who showed the highest interest in learning more about how to do these activities.

Recycling/Composting: More than half of respondents currently recycle. Top barriers to recycling included not knowing where to go to recycle, not being able to afford it, and being unsure of what can be recycled. Only 21% of respondents currently compost food waste, but a majority (64%) of respondents indicated interest in participating in a composting program if it were available – with the caveat that they are interested in paying nothing (63%) or less than \$10/mo for the service (31%). Public campaigns around recycling/composting and providing incentives or subsidies to recycle/compost could be welcomed by the community.

FOOD SECURITY

31% of respondents indicated they were worried food would run out and 19% of respondents indicated that food actually did run out and they weren't able to buy more.



Food Security by Race

A higher percentage of Black/African American Native American, Hispanic, and Biracial residents reported being worried that their food would run out versus their white counterparts (7%). Except for Black respondents, the majority (over 50%) of all groups reported never being worried food would run out.

Q2 x Q35: Worried food would run out x Ethnicity	Often		Sometimes		Never		Total
	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	
White	90	7%	269	20%	1014	74%	1373
Black or African American	9	12%	36	49%	29	39%	74
Asian / Pacific Islander	8	11%	15	21%	47	67%	70
Native American or American Indian	3	20%	2	13%	10	67%	15
Hispanic or Latino	19	14%	41	30%	78	57%	138
Prefer not to answer	8	10%	23	29%	49	61%	80
Other / Biracial	3	23%	3	23%	7	54%	13
Total Respondents	1763						

As with the previous question, Non-white residents reported higher rates of food running out and not being able to buy more than their White counterparts.

Q3 x Q35: Food ran out x Ethnicity	Often		Sometimes		Never		Total
	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	
White	54	4%	153	11%	1167	85%	1374
Black or African American	7	10%	21	29%	45	62%	73
Asian / Pacific Islander	4	6%	13	19%	53	76%	70
Native American or American Indian	3	20%	0	0%	12	80%	15
Hispanic or Latino	8	6%	49	36%	81	59%	138
Prefer not to answer	4	5%	16	20%	60	75%	80
Other / Biracial	1	8%	2	15%	10	77%	13
Total Respondents	1763						

Younger individuals between 20-39 were the most worried about food running out and not being able to buy more. Very young and very old (under 19 or over 70) were the least worried about food running out.

Q2 x Q35: Worried food would run out x Age	Often		Sometimes		Never		Total
	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	
19 or under	6	3%	26	14%	151	83%	183
20-29	33	9%	106	30%	215	61%	354
30-39	40	13%	71	24%	189	63%	299
40-49	22	10%	48	21%	159	70%	226
50-59	17	8%	56	27%	140	66%	211
60-69	18	7%	48	19%	189	75%	253
70-79	2	1%	29	19%	125	82%	153
80 and over	2	4%	5	10%	45	88%	51
Prefer not to answer	22	8%	68	24%	198	69%	288
Total Respondents	2030						

All racial groups reported that the pandemic made it more difficult to buy food with Biracial, Hispanic and Asian groups reporting the highest difficulty. However, White individuals were the highest group to report that the pandemic *did not* impact their ability to buy food.

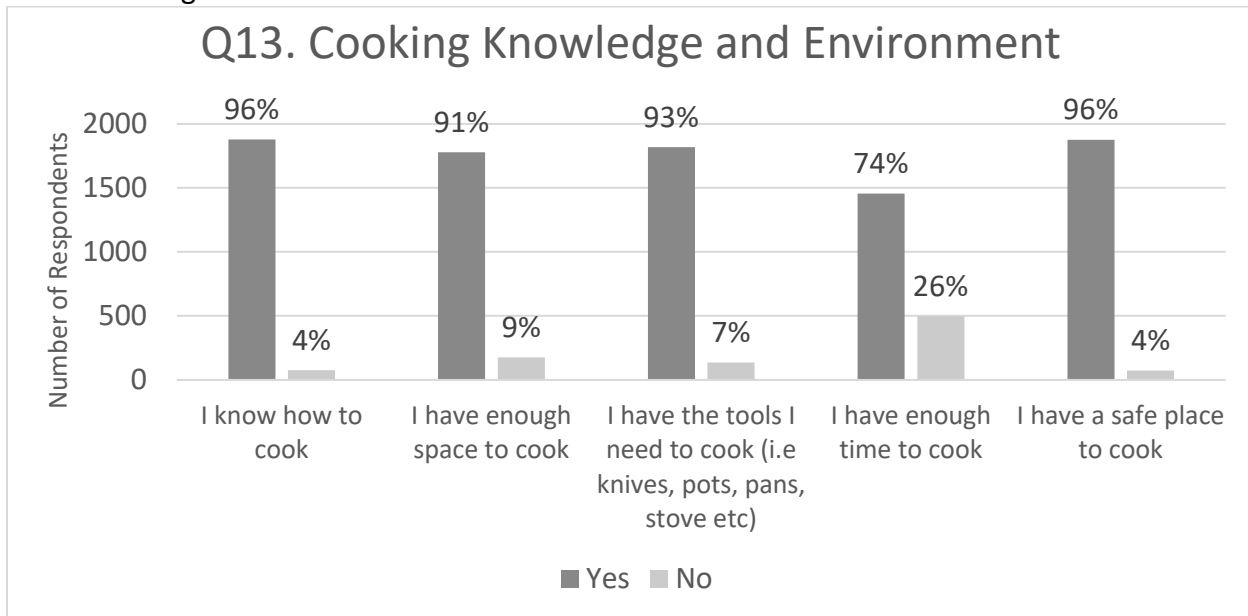
Q4 x Q35: COVID Impact on Buying Food x Ethnicity	The pandemic made it more difficult for me to buy food		The pandemic made it easier for me to buy food		No change		Other (please specify)		Total
	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	
White	143	60%	13	5%	80	34%	1	0%	237
Black or African American	22	76%	1	3%	6	21%	0	0%	29
Asian / Pacific Islander	17	85%	0	0%	3	15%	0	0%	20
Native American or American Indian	3	75%	0	0%	1	25%	0	0%	4
Hispanic or Latino	50	85%	0	0%	9	15%	0	0%	59
Prefer not to answer	13	57%	0	0%	10	43%	0	0%	23
Other / Biracial	3	100%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	3
Total Respondents	375								

Respondents who indicated they 'never' had food run out, still utilized food pantries and free food distribution sites, in some cases in equal measure or more than groups who indicated being worried about their food access. This may indicate that those individuals were not worried because the pantries and food programs were adequately meeting their needs and filling in food access gaps – playing a crucial role in food security and community resiliency.

Q6 x Q2: Worried food would run out x Free Food Resources Utilized	Often	Sometimes	Never
Blessing Boxes	35	57	21
Cats' Cupboard	24	38	40
Common Table	14	26	10
Flint Hills Breadbasket	17	40	16
Food Pantries outside Manhattan	19	32	20
Harvesters or other Mobile Food Distributions	67	165	146
Kansas Seniors Farmers Market Nutrition Program	6	11	10
Konza Student Table	21	33	63
Manhattan Emergency Shelter	7	5	4
Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)	31	51	20
Women, Infant, Children Program (WIC)	15	36	12
School lunch/breakfast or feeding programs	34	71	110

COOKING ENVIRONMENT

The majority of respondents (over 90%) indicated they had the knowledge, skills and tools to cook at home. However, a quarter of respondents indicated that having enough time to cook was a challenge.



Cooking Environment by age and race

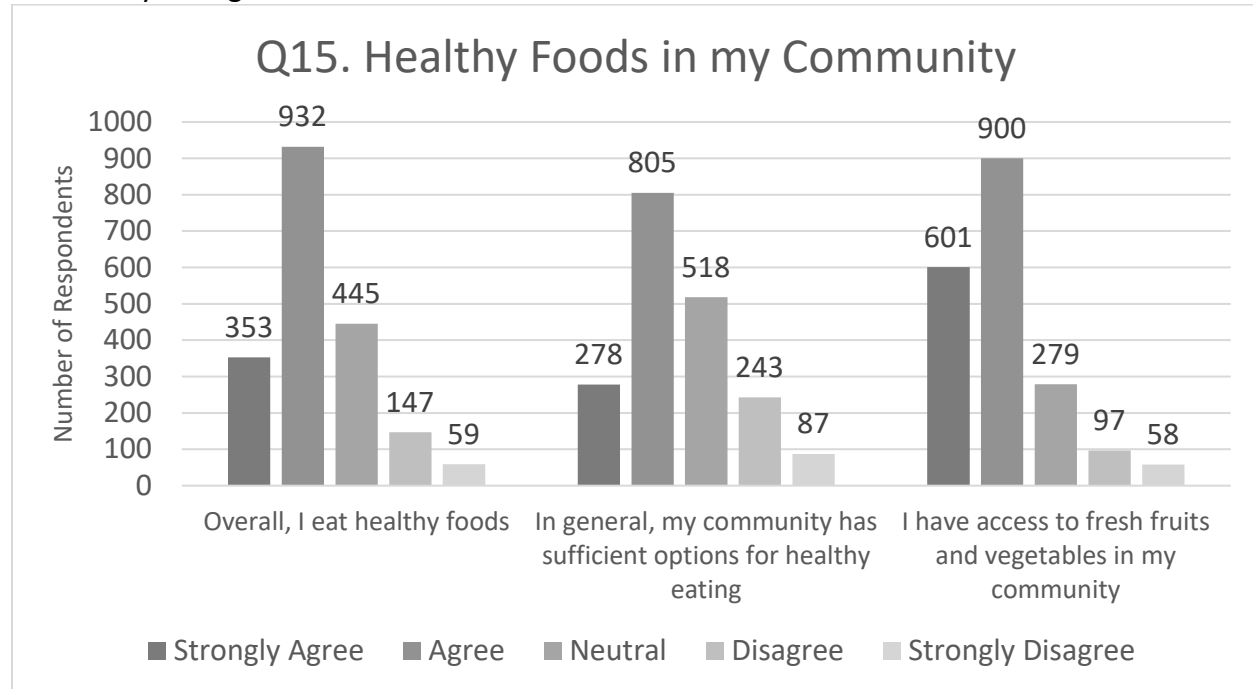
When looking at cooking environment and skills by age groups, we see a different picture. Ages 19 and under consistently reported having less knowledge, space, or tools to cook. Having enough time to cook was the biggest challenge for those between 20-49 with the assumption that busy working families represent the majority of this age group and time is a considerable barrier to home cooking.

Q13 x Q31: Cooking Environment x Age	I know how to cook		I have enough space to cook		I have the tools I need to cook		I have enough time to cook		I have a safe place to cook		Total
	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%	
19 or under	22	9%	64	26%	60	24%	69	28%	34	14%	249
20-29	20	8%	34	14%	31	13%	150	61%	11	4%	246
30-39	8	7%	14	11%	8	7%	90	73%	3	2%	123
40-49	7	7%	18	17%	12	11%	62	58%	8	7%	107
50-59	7	9%	16	21%	9	12%	42	55%	3	4%	77
60-69	3	7%	9	20%	3	7%	29	64%	1	2%	45
70-79	2	17%	1	8%	0	0%	7	58%	2	17%	12
80 and over	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	2	100%	0	0%	2
Total Respondents	861										

Cooking environment by race didn't yield many conclusions, due to the small numbers of respondents in each group. However, the majority of almost all groups reported not having enough time to cook.

HEALTHY FOOD CONSUMPTION

The majority of respondents reported that they eat healthily, can find healthy options in their community and have access to fruits and vegetables in their community. However, 330 respondents either disagreed or strongly disagreed that the community has sufficient options for healthy eating.



Healthy food consumption and access by age and race

When broken down by age bracket, ages 40-59 were the largest groups to disagree that they eat healthy foods or can find healthy options in their community.

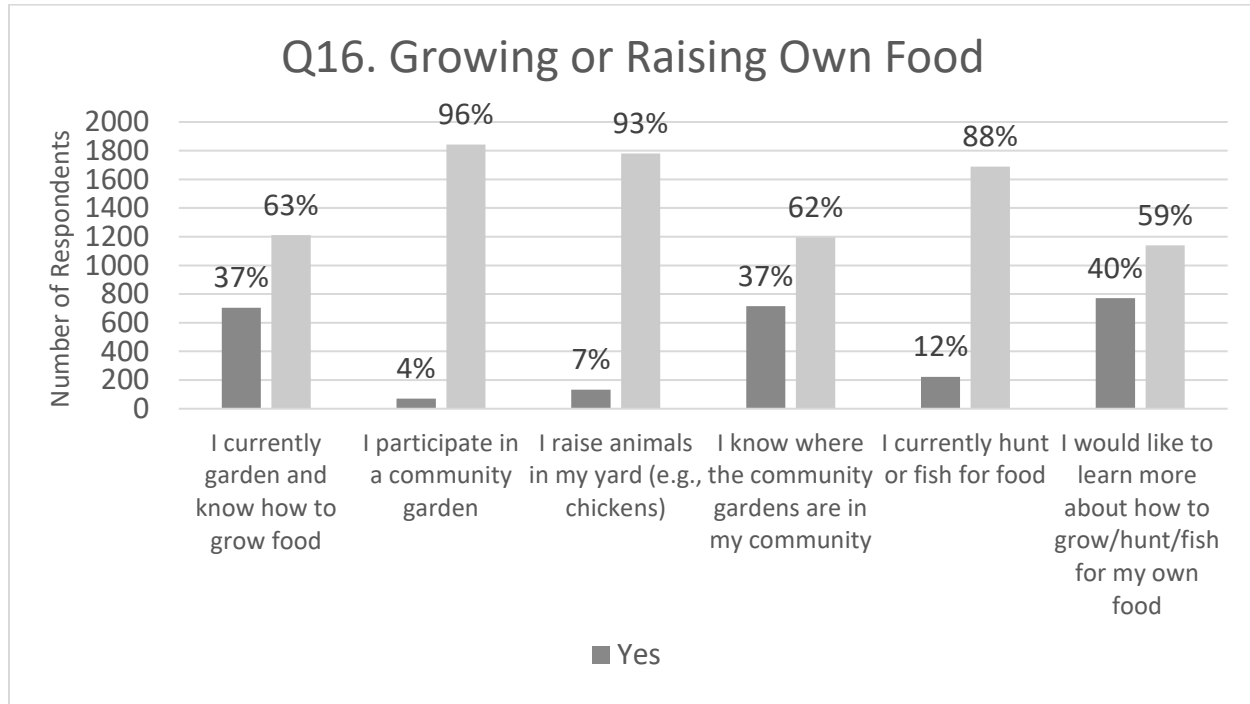
Q15xQ31: Healthy Food Consumption x Age	I eat healthy foods		Healthy Options in my community		Fresh Produce Avail in my Community		Total
	Disagree	%	Disagree	%	Disagree	%	
19 or under	18	10%	10	5%	5	3%	183
20-29	45	13%	68	19%	27	8%	354
30-39	22	7%	58	19%	26	9%	300
40-49	34	15%	51	22%	28	12%	230
50-59	30	14%	40	19%	14	7%	213
60-69	19	7%	49	19%	25	10%	259
70-79	10	7%	22	14%	7	5%	152
80 and over	3	6%	5	10%	3	6%	52
Prefer not to answer	25	13%	27	14%	20	10%	193
Total Respondents	1938						

Black/African American, Hispanic and Asian/Pacific Islander groups reported less availability of fresh fruits and vegetables in their community than their white counterparts.

Q15 x Q35: Fresh produce is available in my community x Ethnicity	Disagree	%	Total
White	83	6%	1373
Black or African American	11	15%	74
Asian / Pacific Islander	9	13%	71
Native American or American Indian	0	0%	15
Hispanic or Latino	21	15%	139
Prefer not to answer	15	19%	80
Other / Biracial	1	8%	13
Total Respondents	1765		

GROWING YOUR OWN FOOD

Respondents had the highest 'No' responses to questions about currently raising own food, participating in a community garden and raising animals in their yards. 40% of respondents expressed interest though in learning about growing, hunting, and raising their own food.



Growing your own food by age and location

Older respondents reported more knowledge in gardening and growing their own food with more than half of respondents over 60 saying they currently garden. Younger respondents, those below 30, reported the highest rates of not knowing where community gardens were. More than half of those between 20-39 were interested in learning more about how to grow food.

Q16 x Q31: Growing Food x Age	I currently garden and know how to grow food		I know where the community gardens are in my community		I would like to learn more		
	No	%	No	%	YES	%	
19 or under	154	84%	155	85%	73	40%	183
20-29	280	79%	285	81%	205	58%	354
30-39	198	66%	212	71%	176	59%	300
40-49	128	56%	128	56%	103	45%	230
50-59	119	56%	118	55%	71	33%	213
60-69	122	47%	117	45%	56	22%	260
70-79	76	49%	63	40%	22	14%	156
80 and over	26	49%	20	38%	4	8%	53
Prefer not to answer	4	29%	3	21%	11	79%	14

Those outside of Manhattan and Fort Riley reported being more likely to garden and grow their own food. Individuals in Riley and Ogden reported a higher knowledge of where their community garden while those in Randolph, Fort Riley and Leonardville reported not knowing the location of a community garden. Fort Riley respondents were most interested in 'learning more about growing or hunting own food' followed by Ogden and Manhattan.

Q16 x Q31: Growing Food x Location	I currently garden and know how to grow food		I know where the community gardens are in my community		I would like to learn more		Total
	No	%	No	%	YES	%	
Fort Riley	9	69%	10	77%	9	69%	13
Manhattan	970	65%	920	61%	616	41%	1500
Randolph	8	44%	15	83%	6	33%	18
Riley	12	40%	17	57%	7	23%	30
Ogden	12	57%	12	57%	9	43%	21
Leonardville	7	30%	16	70%	9	39%	23
All Other	92	56%	114	70%	58	35%	164

RECYCLING/COMPOSTING

Over half of respondents reported recycling. Top barriers to recycling included not knowing where to go to recycle, not being able to afford it, and being unsure of what can be recycled. Only 21% of respondents currently compost food waste, but a majority (64%) of respondents indicated interest in participating in a composting program if it were available – with the caveat that they are interested in paying nothing (63%) or less than \$10/mo for the service (31%).

Q19: Do you recycle	Count	%
Yes	1099	58%
No	798	42%
Total Respondents	1897	

Q22: I compost	Count	%
Yes	391	21%
No	1485	79%
Total Respondents	1876	

Q21: Barriers to recycling	Count
I don't know where in the community to go to recycle	257
I can't afford the additional cost to recycle	232
I'm unsure of what can be recycled	230
It's not a priority for me and my family	219
Recycling is too difficult	141
Recycling is not offered in my part of the county	111
Other (please specify)	67
Total Respondents	777

Q23: I would participate in a composting program	Count	%
Yes	834	64%
No	467	36%
Total Respondents	1301	

Q24: Willing to pay for composting program	Count	%
Less than \$10/month	570	31%
\$10-\$20/month	114	6%
\$20-\$35/month	10	1%
I would not pay for this service.	1173	63%
Total Respondents	1867	

Recycling barriers by location

Looking at barriers to recycling by location did not yield conclusive results as there were only a between 1-6 respondents per city, no strong conclusions could be drawn.

Q21 x Q30: Recycling Barriers x Town	I can't afford the addition al cost to recycle	It's not a priority for me and my family	Recycling is too difficult	I'm unsure of what can be recycled	I don't know where in the community to go to recycle	Recycling is not offered in my part of the county	Total
Fort Riley	3	1	2	4	6	3	13
Leonardville	1	2	0	5	3	7	23
Manhattan	181	157	122	189	199	60	1500
Ogden	2	3	2	4	2	1	21
Randolph	1	2	1	0	2	6	18
Riley	6	4	1	2	3	4	30
All Other	16	26	7	11	24	20	164

FULL SURVEY RESULTS

Q1.

Q1: Top Food Sources	Count	%
Grocery store (Dillon's, Wal-Mart, Aldi, Hy-Vee, Target, etc.)	1917	94%
Restaurant or diner (sit down, carry out or delivery)	1008	50%
Fast food restaurants (McDonald's, Sonic, Taco Bell, etc.)	822	40%
Farmers' market, farm stand, Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) program	458	23%
Cafeteria or dining service (school, workplace, hospital cafeterias, senior center, health care center, residential care facility)	297	15%
Grow your own, hunt, fish	271	13%
Dollar store (Dollar General, Dollar Tree, etc)	244	12%
Food pantry or food bank (Breadbasket, Cats' Cupboard, Ogden Friendship House of Hope, church pantries, etc.)	219	11%
Specialty food stores (ethnic markets, bakeries, etc.)	208	10%
Warehouse club (Sam's Club, Costco, etc.)	180	9%
Gas station or convenience store (Shop Quik, Kwik Shop, Dara's, etc.)	76	4%
Meal or grocery home delivery (Meals on Wheels, Friendship Meals)	62	3%
Other (please specify)	33	2%
Total Respondents	2033	

Q2.

Q2. Worried food would run out	Count	%
Often	162	8%
Sometimes	457	23%
Never	1411	70%
Total Respondents	2030	

Q3.

Q3: Food Ran Out	Count	%
Often	92	5%
Sometimes	296	15%
Never	1642	81%
Total Respondents	2030	

Q4.

Q4: Covid Impact Buying Food	Count	%
The pandemic made it easier for me to buy food	16	4%
The pandemic made it more difficult for me to buy food	286	67%
No change	122	29%
Other (please specify)	1	0%
Total Respondents	425	
Other:		
Order online & pick up		

Q5.

Q5: Why You Don't Have the Foods You Want	Count	%
Not enough money for food	283	67%
Kinds of food we want not available in stores or pantries	118	28%
Not enough time for shopping or cooking	122	29%
Too difficult to get to the store	91	22%
On a special diet	52	12%
No kitchen equipment available to cook (stove, pots, knives)	22	5%
Not able to cook or eat because of health problems	39	9%
Not applicable	36	9%
Other (please specify)	2	0%
Total Respondents	423	
Other:		
Covid Precautions		

Q6.

Q6: Free or reduced cost food outlets / programs	Count	%
Blessing Boxes	114	6%
Cats' Cupboard	102	5%
Common Table	50	3%
Flint Hills Breadbasket	73	4%
Food Pantries outside Manhattan	71	4%
Harvesters or other Mobile Food Distributions	380	19%
Kansas Seniors Farmers Market Nutrition Program	27	1%
Konza Student Table	117	6%
Manhattan Emergency Shelter	16	1%
Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)	102	5%
Women, Infant, Children Program (WIC)	63	3%
School lunch/breakfast or feeding programs	215	11%
I have not accessed these resources	1210	61%
Other (please specify)	35	2%
Total Respondents	1969	
Other:		
Food waste salvage		
Gov. commodities		
Manhattan Senior Citizens Center		
Mutual aid		
Work		

Q7.

Q7: Distance to Groceries	Count	%
less than 1 mile	242	12%
less than 1-5 miles	1126	57%
less than 5-10 miles	360	18%
more than 10 miles	249	13%
Total Respondents	1977	

Q8.

Q8: Primary Transportation to Buy Food	Count	%
Car/personal vehicle	1801	91%
Ride with a friend or relative	78	4%
Walk	37	2%
Bicycle	35	2%
aTa Bus	33	2%
Ride share service (i.e. Uber)	2	0%
Total Respondents	1986	

Q9.

Q9: Driving Challenges	Count	%
The distance to a store	245	13%
I can't pay for gas or ride fare	131	7%
I share rides with others, which limits when I can go	94	5%
It's hard to keep my car fixed up or to pay for needed repairs	144	8%
Traveling to get food takes me away from my farm/ranch operation	40	2%
Not applicable	1256	69%
Other (please specify)	53	3%
Total Respondents	1826	
Other:		
Child Care		
Handicapped		
Health/Safety Precautions		
Residential Parking		
Time		
Traffic/Other drivers/Construction		

Q10.

Q10: Walking Challenges	Count	%
The distance to a store	14	40%
There are no sidewalks or they are uneven/incomplete	6	17%
I can only carry a limited amount of food, making my trips more frequent	20	57%
I don't feel safe walking in my neighborhood	7	20%
Not applicable	9	26%
Other (please specify)	4	11%
Total Respondents	35	
Other:		
Road Conditions (other drivers/traffic)		
Handicapped/Medical Issues		

Q11.

Q11: Bus Challenges	Count	%
The trip takes too long	9	27%
The bus stop is far from my destination	6	18%
I can only carry a limited amount of bags onto the bus	26	79%
I don't feel safe riding the bus	4	12%
Not applicable	2	6%
Other (please specify)	4	12%
Total Respondents	33	
Other:		
Handicapped		

Q12.

Q12: Biking Challenges	Count	%
The distance to a store	10	29%
There is not a clearly designated bike route from my home to the store	10	29%
I can only carry a limited amount of food.	19	54%
I don't feel safe biking in my neighborhood	5	14%
Not applicable	6	17%
Other (please specify)	2	6%
Total Respondents	35	
Other:		
Poor roads		
No bike racks		

Q13.

Q13: Cooking Qs	Yes	%	No	%
I know how to cook	1879	96%	76	4%
I have enough space to cook	1778	91%	176	9%
I have the tools I need to cook (i.e knives, pots, pans, stove etc)	1819	93%	136	7%
I have enough time to cook	1455	74%	499	26%
I have a safe place to cook	1877	96%	73	4%
Total Respondents	1955			

Q13 x Q31: Cooking Environment x City`	I know how to cook		I have enough space to cook		I have the tools I need to cook		I have enough time to cook		I have a safe place to cook		Total
	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%	
Fort Riley	0	0%	2	15%	1	8%	2	15%	2	15%	13
Manhattan	56	4%	130	9%	103	7%	404	27%	51	3%	1500
Randolph	1	6%	1	6%	1	6%	5	28%	1	6%	18
Riley	1	3%	2	7%	2	7%	4	13%	1	3%	30
Ogden	1	5%	0	0%	1	5%	1	5%	0	0%	21
Leonardville	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	2	9%	0	0%	23
All Other	10	6%	21	13%	14	9%	37	23%	7	4%	164
Total Respondents	1769										

Q14.

Q14: Interested in cooking _____. Count %		
None of the above	370	19%
healthy food	1147	59%
simple, easy meals	1049	54%
low-cost meals	836	43%
Total Respondents	1951	

Q15.

Q15: Healthy Eating	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
Overall, I eat healthy foods	353	932	445	147	59
In general, my community has sufficient options for healthy eating	278	805	518	243	87
I have access to fresh fruits and vegetables in my community	601	900	279	97	58
Total Respondents	1938				

Q16.

Q16: Growing your own food	Yes	%	No	%
I currently garden and know how to grow food	704	37%	1210	63%
I participate in a community garden	71	4%	1842	96%
I raise animals in my yard (e.g., chickens)	133	7%	1779	93%
I know where the community gardens are in my community	715	37%	1196	62%
I currently hunt or fish for food	223	12%	1688	88%
I would like to learn more about how to grow/hunt/fish for my own food and regulations about these activities.	771	40%	1139	59%
Total	2617		8854	
Total Participants	1916			

Q17.

Q17: Threw Away Food	Count	%
Never	497	26%
Once per week	1082	57%
Twice per week	255	13%
More than three times per week	68	4%
Total Respondents	1902	

Q18.

Q18: Reasons for Throwing Food Away	Count	%
I bought too much food and couldn't eat it before it spoiled	806	54%
I didn't know how to prepare some of the food I purchased	61	4%
Restaurant portions were too big and I couldn't eat it all	374	25%
It was past the "best if used by" date and I threw it away	691	46%
The food quality was questionable (i.e. the fruit was bruised)	544	36%
Our schedule changed and we didn't get meals made as planned	462	31%
Recognition of religious holidays or belief	7	0%
Other (please specify)	59	4%
Total Respondents	1506	
Other:		
Did not throw food out		
Handicapped		
Kids didn't like/eat		
spilled water on toast		

Q19.

Q19: Do you recycle	Count	%
Yes	1099	58%
No	798	42%
Total Respondents	1897	

Q20.

Q20: Materials you recycle	Count
glass	658
cardboard	909
aluminum	833
paper	817
plastic	923
Other (please specify)	84
Total Respondents	1093
Other:	
Appliances	
Batteries	
Brass	
Clothes	

Compost	
Copper	
e-waste	
Magazines	
Metal	
Oil	
Paint	
Printer cartridges	
Steel	
Tin	

Q21.

Q21: Barriers to recycling	Count
I don't know where in the community to go to recycle	257
I can't afford the additional cost to recycle	232
I'm unsure of what can be recycled	230
It's not a priority for me and my family	219
Recycling is too difficult	141
Recycling is not offered in my part of the county	111
Other (please specify)	67
Total Respondents	777

Q22.

Q22: I compost	Count	%
Yes	391	21%
No	1485	79%
Total Respondents	1876	

Q23.

Q23: I would participate in a composting program	Count	%
Yes	834	64%
No	467	36%
Total Respondents	1301	

Q24.

Q24: Willing to pay for composting program	Count	%
Less than \$10/month	570	31%
\$10-\$20/month	114	6%
\$20-\$35/month	10	1%
I would not pay for this service.	1173	63%
Total Respondents	1867	

Q25.

Q25: Food Learning Sources	Count	%
Radio	143	8%
TV	418	23%
Print (Manhattan Mercury, Little Apple Post, Riley Countian, others))	228	12%
Online news	598	32%
Social media	957	52%
From friends and family	1000	54%
K-State Extension	321	17%
Riley County Health Department	83	5%
My doctor or health clinic	254	14%
The library	204	11%
University For Man (UFM)	55	3%
Food assistance programs (SNAP, WIC, etc)	82	4%
Nourish Together (local Food and Farm Council website)	38	2%
My religious/faith community	57	3%
Food Background	9	0%
Books, Cookbooks, and Magazines	29	2%
Classes	16	1%
None of the above	22	1%
Online (Google/Youtube)	65	4%
Other (please specify)	17	1%
Total Respondents	1841	
Other:		
Chicago Community Kitchens		
Food professional/nutritionist		
Garden Club		
I don't but need		
Kansas Beef Council		
Meditation		
Store products		
Work		

Q26.

Q26: Family Goals	Count	%
Invest in a thriving local food economy.	397	22%
Increase the production, sales, and consumption of locally-grown foods.	592	34%
Promote conservation practices to protect soil and water health.	402	23%
Ensure access to healthier food for all.	916	52%
Reduce hunger and food insecurity in our community.	1006	57%
Increase opportunities for food and agricultural education (cooking, gardening, food safety).	380	22%
Reduce food waste and related solid wastes.	570	32%
Support community health and wellness.	567	32%
Recognize and celebrate our community's diverse food cultures.	227	13%
Total Respondents	1765	

Q27.

Q27: Farm/Food Topics Important to Family	Count
Animals	8
Composting	3
Conservation	3
Costs/budgeting	20
CSA's/Co-ops	4
Distribution	1
Farm to Table	2
Farming/Humane practices	9
Food Access	39
Food Education	50
Food Requirements	1
Food Waste	6
Gardening	7
Goal planning	1
Grocery	4
Nutrition	13
Organic	11
Other	7
Plant based/Vegan	3
Poverty Rates	1
Preservation	3
School Food	6
Zoning	1

N/A	590
Total Respondents	793
Specific Topics:	
Animals: (laws, pet food, product nutrition)	
CSA's/Co-ops: (access, organic options)	
Farming/Humane practices: (biosecurity/chemicals, sustainable/regenerative)	
Food Access: (produce, non/GMO, sourcing local, networking, community meals, selling DTC, farmers markets, organic options, ethnic options, for kids, less requirements, transportation)	
Food Education: (access, cooking, farming, prepping & cooking/for special populations, nutrition, gluten/dairy free, labelling, GMO, organic, diverse food cultures, for kids, climate change, renewable food sources, seasonal crops/what to grow)	
Grocery: (portioning, pricing, sourcing local, quality)	
Other: (all of the above, buy nothing to help humans Facebook group, keep the government out of it, your goals are sorry)	
School Food: (sourcing local, nutrition, quality, recycling)	

Q28.

Q28: Community Goals	Count	%
Invest in a thriving local food and farm economy.	485	28%
Increase the production, sales, and consumption of locally-grown foods.	558	32%
Promote conservation practices to protect soil and water health.	372	21%
Ensure access to healthier food for all.	968	55%
Reduce hunger and food insecurity in our community.	1129	64%
Increase opportunities for food and agricultural education (cooking, gardening, food safety).	304	17%
Reduce food waste and related solid wastes.	401	23%
Support community health and wellness.	623	35%
Recognize and celebrate our community's diverse food cultures.	230	13%
Total Respondents	1758	

Q29.

Q29: Farm/Food Topics Important to Community	Count
Climate Change	2
Community Involvement	2
Composting/Recycling	3
Costs/Budgeting	14
Dairy Industry	1
Farming/Humane Practices	2
Food Access	20
Food Defense	3
Food Education	33
Food Waste	3
Gardening	3
Grocery	5
Meat Industry	3
Other	2
Pet Food	1
Pollinators	2
School Food	3
Urban Farming	1
Zoning	1
N/A	571
Total Respondents	673
Specific Topics:	
Climate Change: (nitrate pollution)	
Costs/Budgeting: (organic, ethnic foods, profits)	
Farming/Humane Practices: (sustainable, regenerative	
Food Access: (farmers markets, distribution, sourcing local, transportation, organic, plant based/vegetarian, vegan)	
Food Defense: (land preservation, biosecurity)	
Food Education: (farming, nutrition, prepping and cooking/for special populations, safety protocols, storage, GMO, organic, additives, religious traditions, food diversity)	

Q30.

Q30. City (Riley Co)	Count	%
Manhattan	1500	85%
Riley	30	2%
Leonardville	23	1%
Ogden	21	1%
Randolph	18	1%
Fort Riley	13	1%
All Other	164	9%
Total Respondents	1769	

Q30: County (ALL)	Count	%
Riley	1603	91%
Pottawatomie	64	4%
Geary	30	2%
Johnson	12	1%
Clay	10	1%
Marshall	7	0.4%
Wabaunsee	6	0.3%
Sedgwick	4	0.2%
Washington	4	0.2%
Douglas	3	0.2%
Jackson	3	0.2%
Dickinson	2	0.1%
Shawnee	2	0.1%
Other	21	1%
Total Respondents	1771	

Q31.

Q31: Age	Count	%
19 or under	183	9%
20-29	354	17%
30-39	300	15%
40-49	230	11%
50-59	213	10%
60-69	260	13%
70-79	156	8%
80 and over	53	3%
Prefer not to answer	289	14%
Total Respondents	2038	

Q32.

Q32: Gender Identification	Count	%
Male	419	21%
Female	1291	63%
Transgender	8	0%
Prefer not to answer	313	15%
Other (please specify)	7	0%
Total Respondents	2038	
Other:		
Agender		
Butch		
Non-binary		
Need more inclusive options		

Q33.

Q33: Education	Count	%
Less than a high school degree	52	3%
High school degree or equivalent	233	11%
Some college (1-4 years, no degree)	492	24%
Associate's degree (including occupational or academic degrees)	126	6%
Bachelor's degree (BA, BSc, AB, etc)	402	20%
Master's, Professional, or Doctorate degree	433	21%
Prefer not to answer	300	15%
Total Respondents	2038	

Q34.

Q34: Income	Count	%
Under \$20,000	383	19%
\$20,001 – \$40,000	304	15%
\$40,001 – \$60,000	238	12%
\$60,001 – \$80,000	164	8%
\$80,001 – \$100,000	154	8%
\$100,001 or over	279	14%
Prefer not to answer	516	25%
Total Respondents	2038	

Q35.

Q35: Ethnicity	Count	%
Asian / Pacific Islander	72	4%
Black or African American	74	4%
Hispanic or Latino	138	7%
Native American or American Indian	15	1%
White	1375	67%
Biracial	13	1%
Prefer not to answer	351	17%
Total Respondents	2038	

Q36.

Q36: Anything Else About Food System
Appreciate Harvesters/Cats Cupboard/Konza/etc
College kids need more affordable food
Need better education about nutrition and sustainable farming practices
Need better food access (organic, local, etc)
Need better transportation
Need more affordable food options (organic, local, gluten or free, etc)/ too expensive
Teach people how to farm/garden

Riley County Food System Assessment

April 2022

This report offers a glimpse of the local food system in Riley County, Kansas, and provides an update to the 2017 Community Food System Assessment.

The data presented in this assessment includes both secondary data collected by the Census, USDA, etc. alongside primary data collected through a citizen survey conducted in 2021 that was taken by over 2,000 residents.

These findings will be used to inform the **Master Food System Plan: Riley County and the City of Manhattan, Kansas**—a roadmap for local actions and policy changes to promote a healthy, vibrant local food system.



Prepared for the Food and Farm Council of Riley County and Manhattan, Kansas.

With funding from Blue Cross Blue Shield of Kansas, Pathways to a Healthy Kansas Initiative.

Prepared by New Venture Advisors.



Population in 2019

71,959

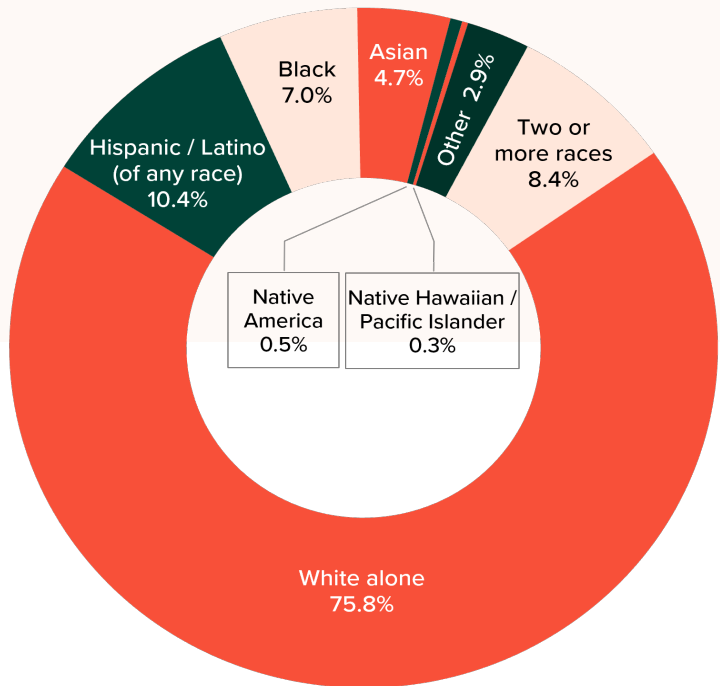


up 4.4%
since 2010

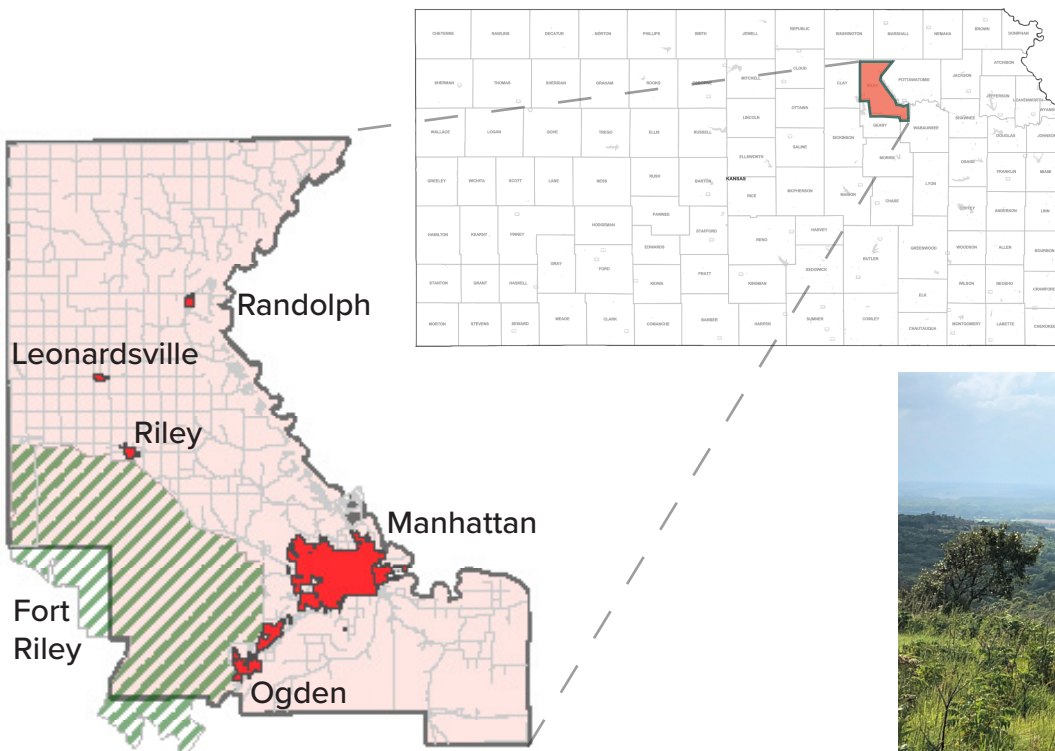
Local Region

Riley County is located in northeast Kansas, and is home to Kansas State University and includes a portion of Fort Riley, a U.S. Army base. These two institutions exert strong influence on the demographics, culture, and economics of the region.¹

racial
distribution



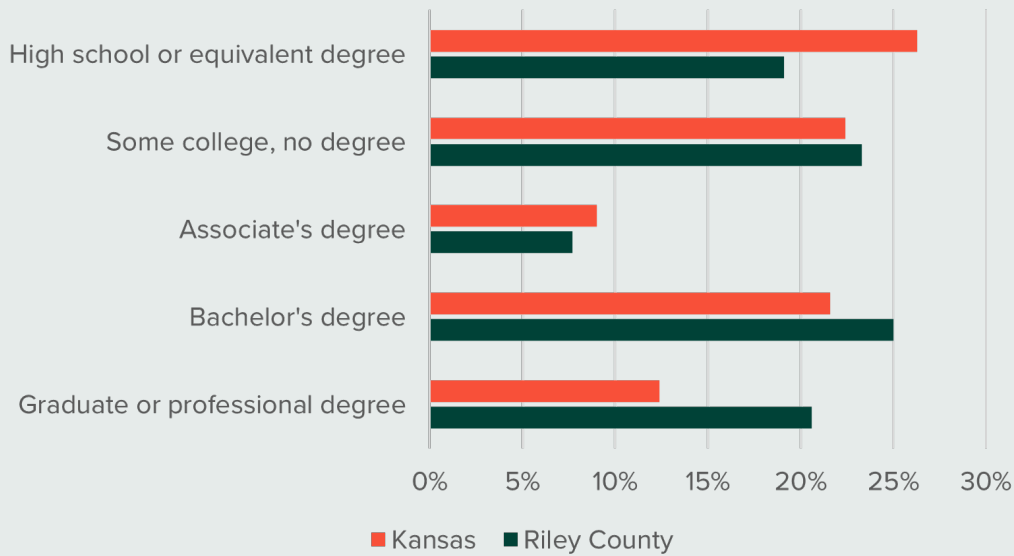
Metric	Riley Co.	Kansas
Median age	25.1	37.2
Employment rate	57.6%	63.5%
Unemployment rate	2.9%	3.9%
Median household income	\$50,920	\$62,087
Overall poverty rate	23.4%	11.4%
Language other than English spoken at home	11.2%	11.9%



Map and photo provided
by Manhattan Community
Development



Education Attainment

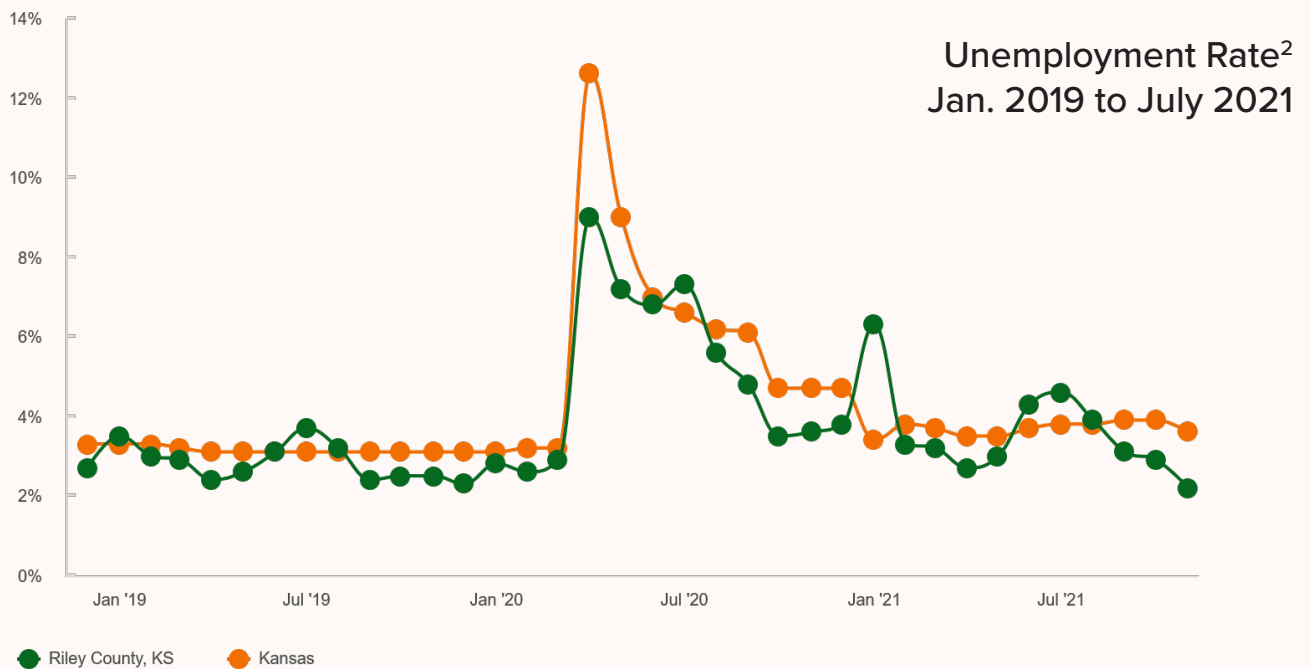


Local Region

Key Findings

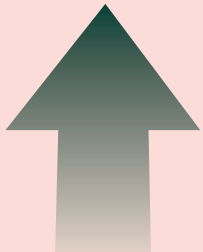
- Riley County is growing. The population is estimated to grow to 78,741 by 2027.
- Residents of Riley County are younger than the rest of Kansas, primarily due to the influx of students and active duty military into the community.
- Riley County's poverty rate is significantly higher the state average, and median household incomes are lower than the state average.
- Riley County residents have higher educational attainment than the state average, with a high proportion of residents with bachelor's degrees and graduate or professional degrees.

Unemployment Rate



No. of Farm
Operations in 2017

504



up 2%
since 2012

Agricultural Landscape

Farms and farmers are the backbone of our local food system; they are the producers that grow and raise the food we eat. Riley County boasts a rich agriculture sector, with significant production of grain crops, hay, and beef cattle. The vast majority of these producers sell to global markets, and only seven percent of producers are selling directly to consumers within the local region.³

Livestock Operations	No. of Operations
Cattle	211
Pork	10
Sheep	16
Egg Production	57

Produce Operations	No. of Operations	Acres in Production
Vegetable Farms	12	348
Fruit / Orchard Operations	7	6

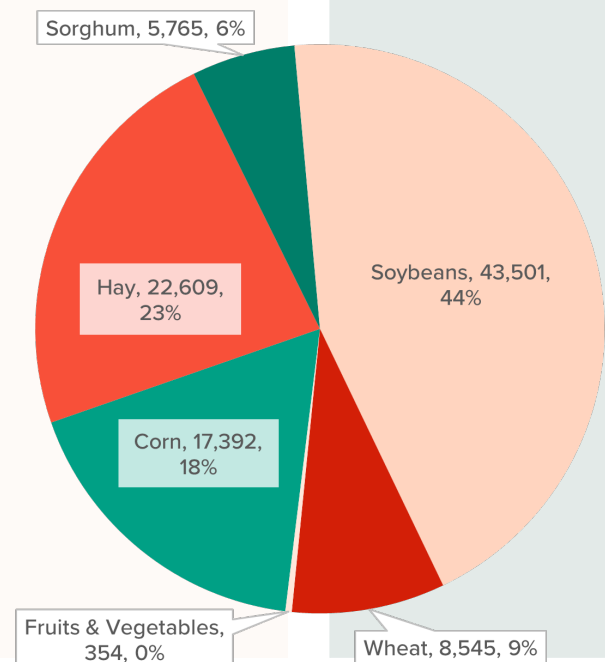
Metrics Snapshot

Acres in production	214,311
Average farm size (ac.)	425
Median farm size (ac.)	123
Price per acre	\$3,022
Total farm sales in 2017	\$51,171,000
Livestock	\$18,631,000
Vegetables / Fruit	\$1,606,000

Total number of producers	836
No. of new and beginning farmers	213
No. practicing rotational grazing	82
No. of BIPOC* farmers	15
Average age of producers	55.9
Percent farming organically	1%
Percent selling directly to consumers	7%
Average income per operation	\$21,039

*Black, Indigenous, People of Color

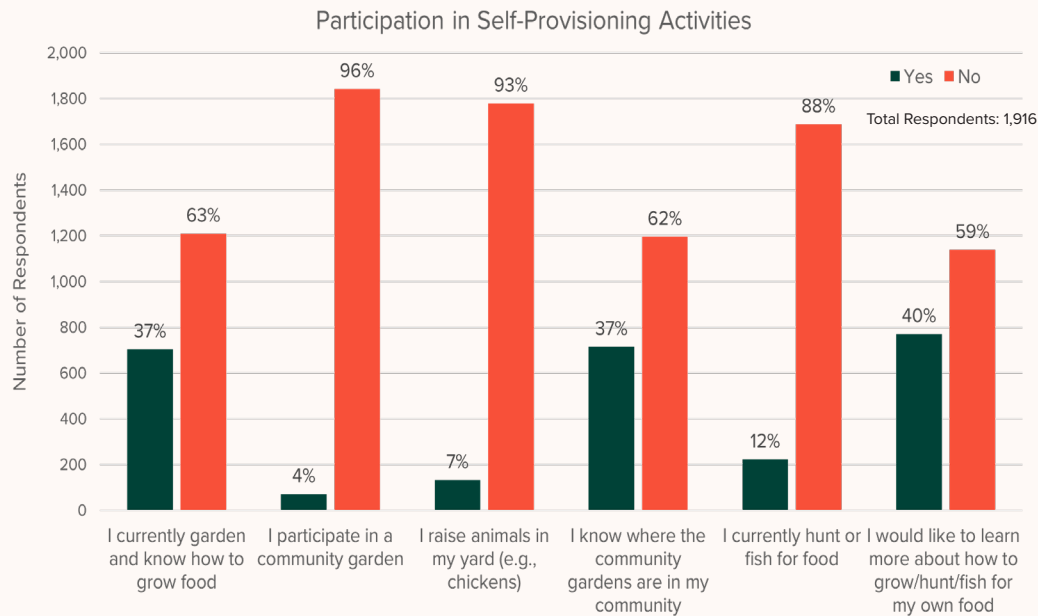
Acres of Crops Harvested
Riley County, 2017



Food Plan Survey Highlight: Growing Food

A total of 2,030 individuals from six cities in Riley County and 12 other surrounding counties took the Master Food Plan survey between July and September 2021. The survey asked respondents about their experiences in the food environment—from growing to eating to disposing of food.

Respondents were asked a series of questions about their participation in growing, hunting, or raising their own food and their interest in learning more about these activities. Full survey results can be accessed at nourishtogether.org



Estimates for unmet demand for locally produced food in Riley County

The New Venture Advisors MarketSizer tool can be used to determine how much local demand for food could be met with the current local supply if routed through robust local food markets.⁴

	Dairy	Meat	Poultry & Eggs	Fruits & Veggies
Local Quotient	0%	172%	0%	14%
Local Food Demand (in millions)	\$ 6.2	\$ 5.7	\$ 2.0	\$ 16.0
Unmet Market for Local Food (in millions)	\$ 6.2	*	\$ 2.0	\$ 13.0

[see table key at lower right]

Key Findings

- Most farm operations in the county produce commodities for global markets.
- There are 12 farms in the county engaged in vegetable production, and 7 fruit/orchard operations. Together they generate \$1.6 million in sales.
- Some sustainable agriculture techniques (i.e. rotational grazing) are in use, but only 1% of farms are certified organic.
- Farmers are aging (average = 55 years), but 213 producers in the county are new or beginning farmers.
- Local demand for all categories of food far outstrips supply, except in the case of meat production. However, most meat produced in the county is sold out-of-state and not through local channels.

Local Quotient is the percentage of category food sales produced within the area. A result greater than 100% indicates that local demand could be met entirely with local production if it were directed to these markets through a local food system.

Local Food Demand is the approximate value of category wholesale sales which could come from local sources if supply were available.

Unmet Market for Local Food is the difference between the value of local food demand and area production (supply).



Food Access

Access to healthy food options is essential to healthy eating habits which are, in turn, essential to good health. Food access considers a consumer's ability to physically get to places where healthy foods are available for purchase, the affordability of healthy food options; and the availability of assistance to ensure consumers have the means to purchase healthy food. The Covid-19 pandemic impacted food access throughout Riley County and the nation, causing food insecurity to rise.

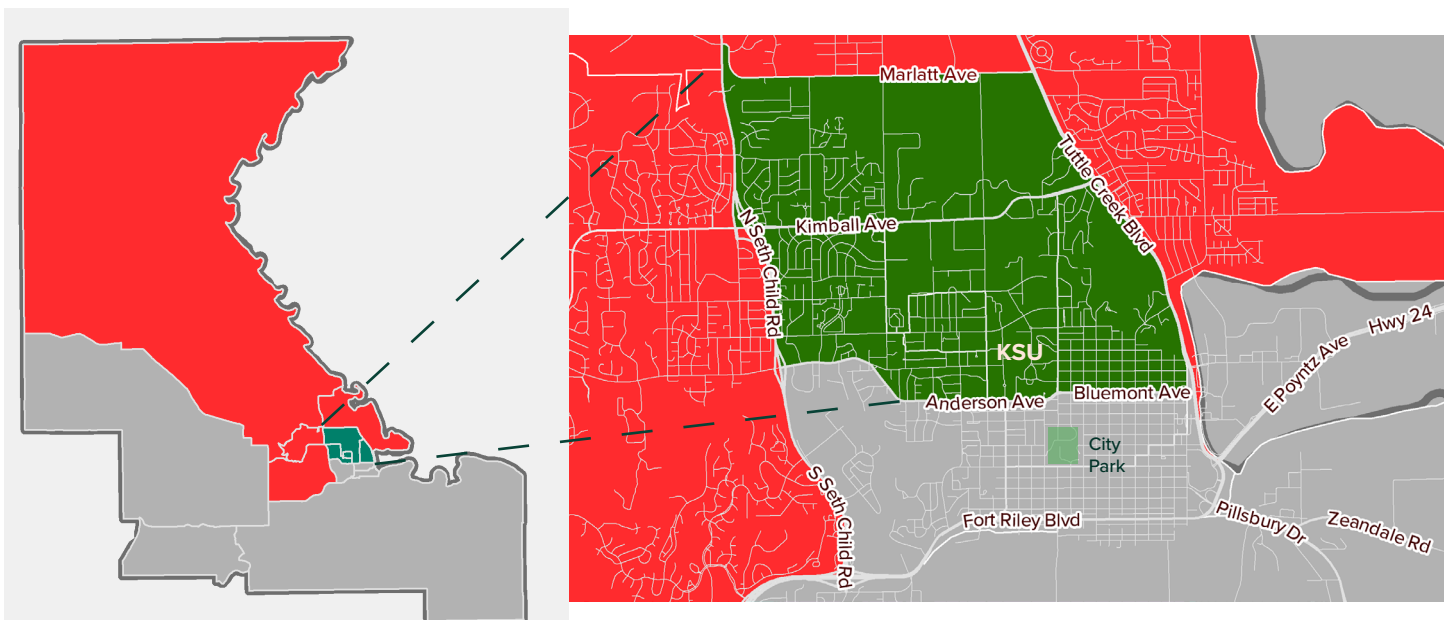
The Need ⁵

Overall food insecurity rate, 2019	13.5%
Projected overall food insecurity rate, 2021	14.8%
Childhood food insecurity, 2019	16.4%
Projected childhood food insecurity, 2021	18.3%
Projected Percent Increase in Food Insecurity Rate (2019–2021)	15.0%
Projected Percent Increase in Child Food Insecurity Rate (2019–2021)	22.0%

Two Snapshots of Low Access

On the left is Riley County broken into Census tracts. The orange tracts indicate **low access** to food. “Low access” is defined as tracts in which at least 500 people or 33% of the population lives farther than 1 mile (urban) or 10 miles (rural) from the nearest supermarket.

On the right is a zoom-in to the City of Manhattan. The four green tracts indicate both **low-access** and **low-income** tracts.



Source: Economic Research Service (ERS), U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), Food Access Research Atlas, <https://www.ers.usda.gov/data-products/food-access-research-atlas/>

Housing Units w/o complete kitchen facilities	626
Housing Units w/o complete plumbing	655

Low Access to Stores by Group

Children	10.2%
People	40.1%
Low-income people	18.7%
Households w/o a car and low access to store	2.1%

Low Access by Race ⁷

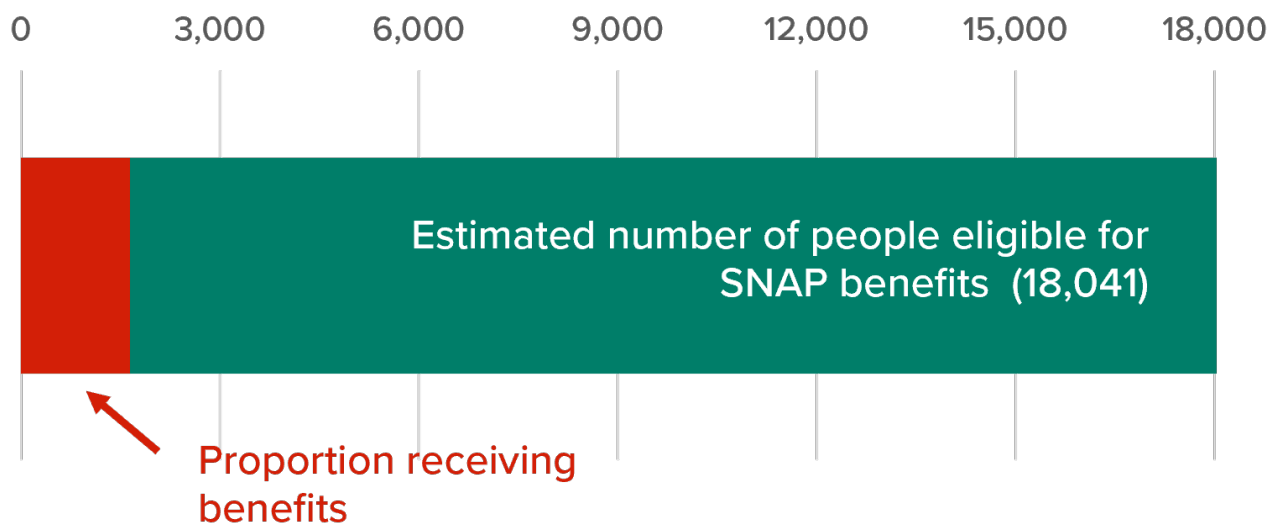
American Indian / Alaska Native	0.3%
Black or African American	3.21%
Native Hawaiian / Pacific Islander	0.1%
White	34.8%
Multiracial	2.3%
Asian	1.7% ⁶



Photo provided by Food and Farm Council of Riley County and the City of Manhattan, Kansas

The SNAP “Gap” (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) is the gap between eligible residents and actual SNAP participants. The gap is 16,396 individuals.⁷

Note: SNAP eligibility depends on income (130 percent federal poverty level) and household size as well as other conditions; however, not all data are available for the estimate. Instead, individuals living in households at or below 125 percent of the federal poverty level (FPL) was used to best approximate SNAP eligibility.



Local Food Access Programs



Photo provided by Common Table



Photo provided by Konza Student Table



Photo provided by Ogden Community Meal

- The Flint Hills Breadbasket Food Pantry in Manhattan distributed more than 1,013,322 pounds of food in 2020 and served approximately 22,394 individuals.
- Harvesters—The Community Food Network services a mobile food pantry eight times a month in various sites around Riley County plus monthly at the Kansas State campus (during academic semesters).
- Three new food pantries opened in Manhattan during the summer of 2021 with a client choice model of food selection.
- Common Table is a community coalition of churches that offers hot evening meals and sack lunches seven days a week at various sites around Manhattan. Common Table is open to all without restrictions.
- Ogden Community meal is offered once/month. This meal is open to all without restrictions.
- Konza Student Table is a community collaborative of partners serving noncontact delivery drive through or walk up hot meals and a brown bag breakfast to-go. Konza Student Table is offered once a week to all KSU students, faculty and staff who need a meal. Since Sept 2020, Konza Student Table has served over 28,000 meals.
- Cats' Cupboard, a KSU food pantry, provides perishable and non-perishable food, hygiene products, and gently used kitchen supplies to currently enrolled students, staff, faculty, and visiting scholars. The Purple Pantry is their satellite food pantry housed in the College of Veterinary Medicine.
- The Community Food Basket is a food pantry serving area residents from the western boundary of Manhattan to the northern part of the county. Community Food Basket is available to low-income community members that provide proof of address.
- Ogden Friendship House is a food pantry, thrift store, and emergency financial aid.

Local Food Access Programs (continued)

Kansas Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program (KSFMNP)

provides a once annual benefit to low-income seniors to purchase fresh fruits and vegetables, herbs and honey from certified farmers at Farmers Markets in Kansas

- Four markets/farm stands participated in Riley County in 2021.
- Nine approved vendors accept SFMNP coupons.
 - 207 seniors participated in Riley County.
 - At \$35 worth of coupons, that would have been \$7,245 spent with Riley County farmers in 2020.



Photo provided by Downtown Farmers Market of Manhattan

Double Up Food Bucks (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program

(SNAP) tokens are doubled up to \$25 to redeem on locally grown produce. Double Up is also available at select grocery stores and farm stands)

- The Downtown Farmers Market of Manhattan participates in the Double Up Food Bucks Program, offered at both the Saturday and Wednesday markets.
- In 2020:
 - \$14,168 in SNAP benefits were utilized at the market.
 - \$8,903 in DUFEB tokens were utilized at the market.
 - Total = \$23,071 spent by low-income households at the Manhattan Farmers Market.

Additionally...

- 21 Blessing Boxes throughout the county provide nonperishable foods in a small outdoor pantry setting.
- Two community gardens in Manhattan.



Photo provided by the Food and Farm Council of Riley County and Manhattan, Kansas

Key Findings

- Food insecurity jumped as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic.
- Four census tracts (all within Manhattan) qualify as “Low Income” and “Low Access”, which means that 21,239 residents may struggle to access food.
- Rural areas of the county also qualify as “Low Access”, as residents may have to drive 10+ miles to the nearest grocery store.
- Multiple community efforts exist to support community members’ access to food, including local pantries and federal assistance programs.

Food Plan Survey Highlight: Access to Food

A total of 2,030 individuals from six cities in Riley County and 12 other surrounding counties took the Master Food Plan survey between July and September 2021. The survey asked respondents about their experiences in the food environment—from growing to eating to disposing of food. Full survey results can be accessed at nourishtogether.org.

Non-white residents of Riley County reported a higher likelihood of worrying about food running out or having food run out than their white counterparts. The Covid-19 pandemic has made it harder for all residents to buy the food they like, but white respondents reported the lowest challenges to buying food.

Respondents shared their experiences of food insecurity, and the barriers that make it more difficult for them to access the food they want to eat:

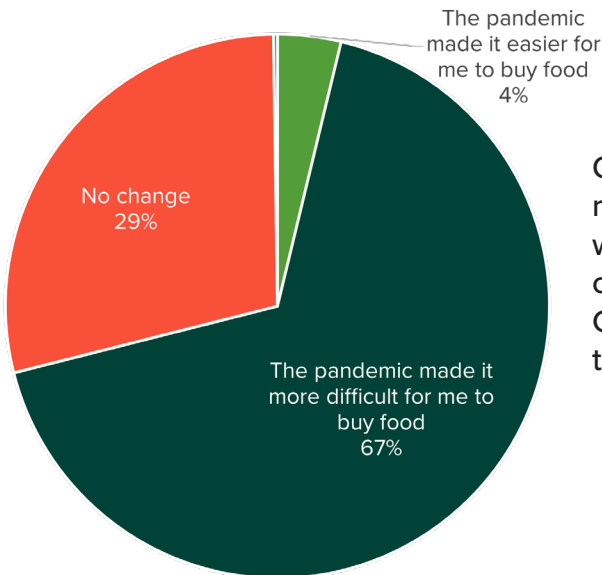
31%

of respondents were “often” or “sometimes” worried that food would run out before they had money to buy more

And within the past 12 months,

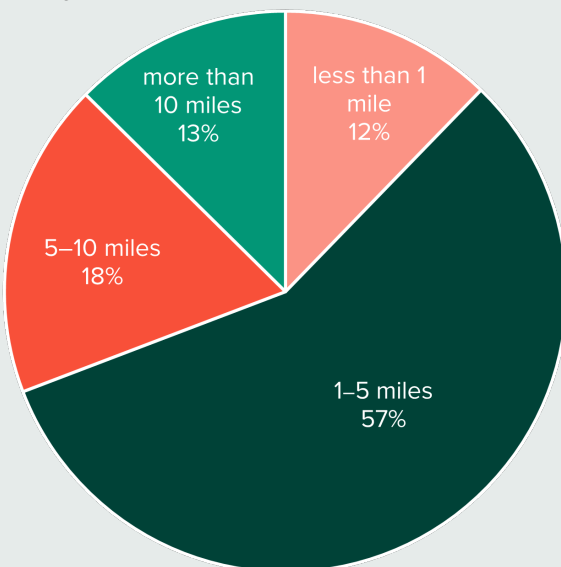
19%

of respondents actually did run out of food and didn’t have money to buy more

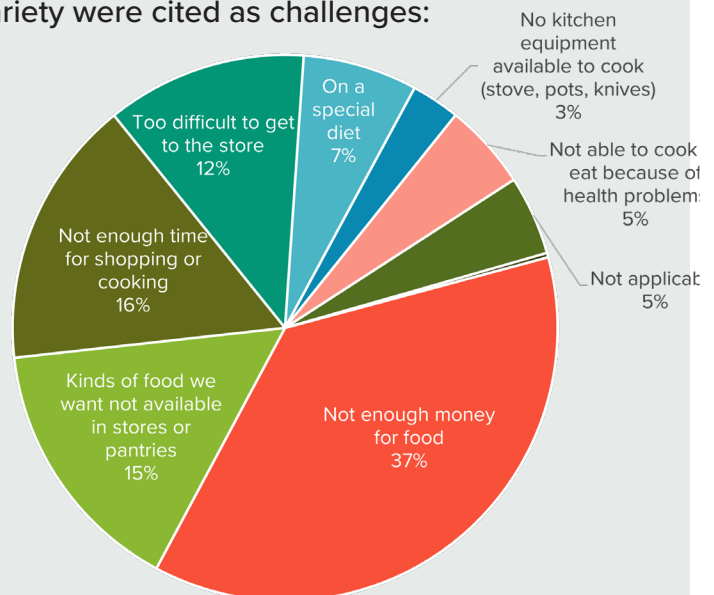


Of those respondents who reported “often” or “sometimes” worrying about food running out, they were asked how the Covid-19 pandemic impacted their ability to buy food

91% of survey respondents utilize a personal vehicle to access food resources, and travel various distances to access the grocery store:



Respondents’ reasons for not being able to access the food they want varied, but the cost of food, lack of time, lack of transportation, and food variety were cited as challenges:





Food Business and Consumption

Consumption is closely linked to the types of retail options available. Understanding the food retail landscape informs how consumer dollars are spent on food. The existing landscape of food infrastructure and retail outlets can signal the maturity of the local food system. Understanding what exists can help identify gaps in the system, and show where there are potential market opportunities for local producers.⁸

Local food infrastructure



"value-added" means a change in the physical state or form of the product (such as milling wheat into flour or making strawberries into jam).

There are

2
meat processors

(USDA certified)

meat processing, meat slaughter, poultry processing

There is

1
flour mill

Kansas State Grain Science Center

Hal Ross Flour Mill

There are

5
operations with value-added products*

There are

2 CSAs

(Community-Supported Agriculture) businesses

There are

3
on-farm markets

There is

1 year-round farmers market

held in Manhattan

Food retail landscape



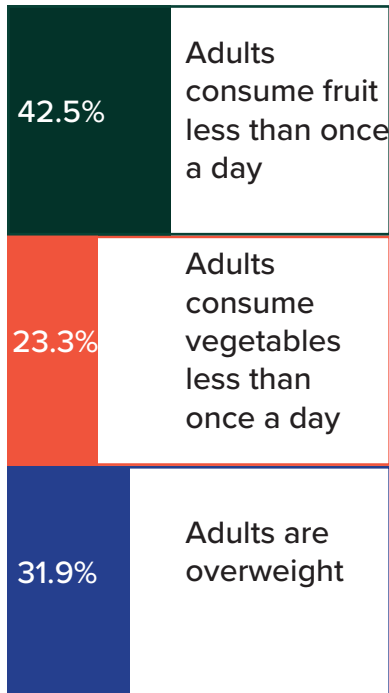
8 grocery stores
and
2 specialty food stores

12–15
food trucks

49
fast food restaurants

44
full-service restaurants

Consumption & Health ⁹



Key Findings

- Like the rest of the nation, Riley County is experiencing the obesity epidemic, and residents struggle to eat the amount of fruits and vegetables recommended to maintain a healthy diet.
- The region lacks the infrastructure needed to build a strong local food system. The current farmers market, CSAs, and farm stands have limited hours, which limits access to local foods. There are 162 registered farmers market vendors with about a hundred of those offering food/beverage at the market. The landscape indicates we have primary local vendors serving our area outside the county borders.
- All of the grocery stores are large chains with limited capacity for purchasing locally from farmers.
- 65 of the restaurants, caterers, and food trucks in Riley County are locally owned. Many participate in the Restaurant Champion Program (an initiative of the Food & Farm Council), which presents an opportunity to increase local food purchasing.



Photo provided by Downtown Farmers Market of Manhattan



Photo provided by Harvesters – The Community Food Network



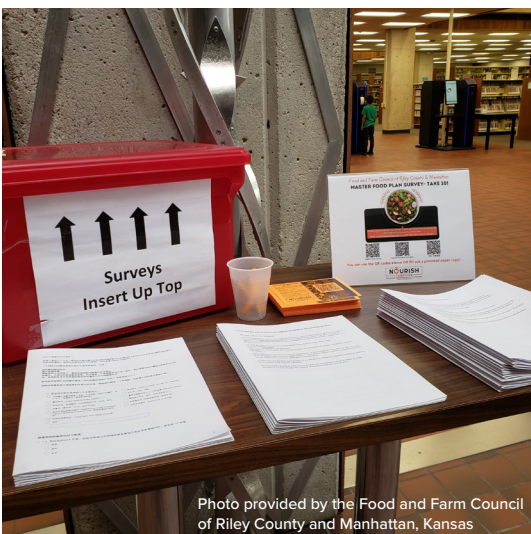
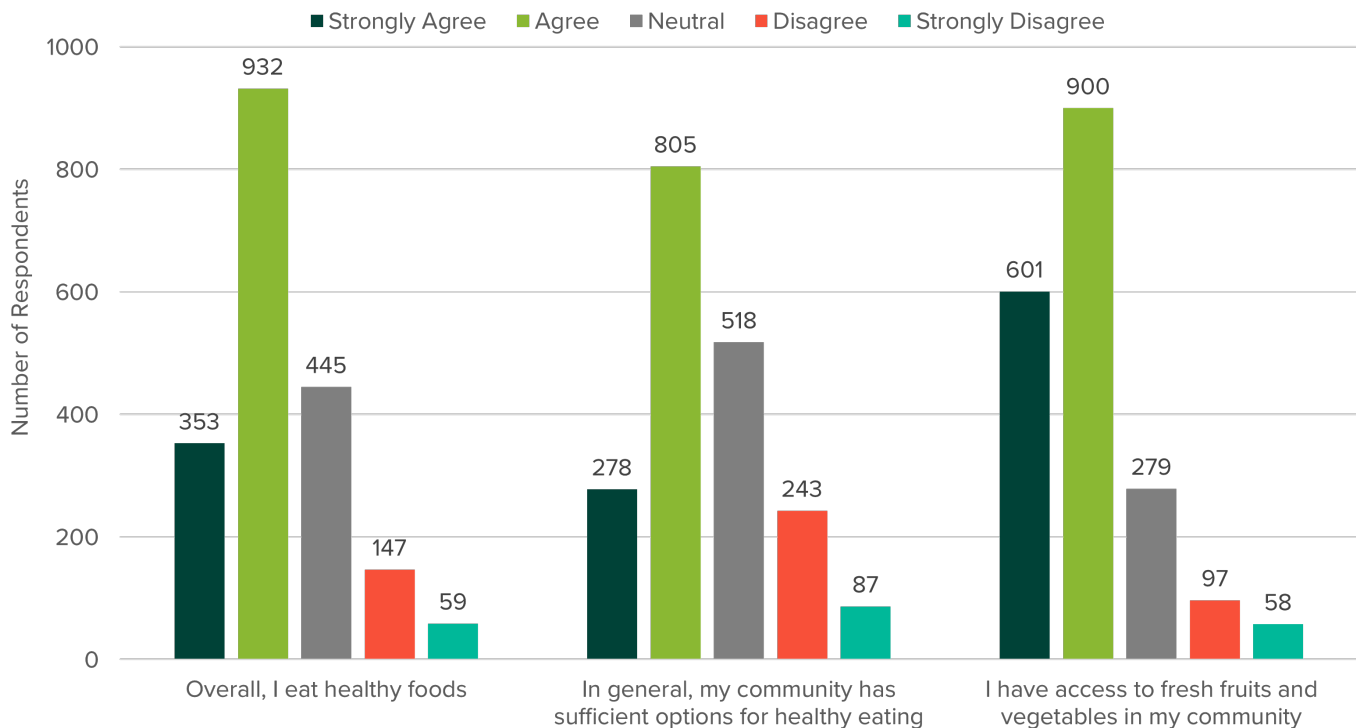
Photo provided by the Food and Farm Council of Riley County and Manhattan, Kansas

Food Plan Survey Highlight: Healthy Food Consumption

Respondents shared their food purchasing habits, and their perceptions of the health and nutrition of these food sources.

The majority of respondents strongly agreed or agreed that they eat healthy foods and have access to fresh fruits and vegetables, but fewer respondents agreed that the community provides sufficient options for healthy eating. Respondents aged 40–59 were the largest group to report not eating healthily or not being able to find healthy foods in their community. Black/African American, Hispanic, and Asian/Pacific Islander groups reported less availability of fresh fruits and vegetables in their community than their White counterparts.

A total of 2,030 individuals from six cities in Riley County and 12 other surrounding counties took the Master Food Plan survey between July and September 2021. The survey asked respondents about their experiences in the food environment—from growing to eating to disposing of food. Full survey results can be accessed at nourishtogether.org



Top food sources utilized by respondents:

- Grocery store
- Restaurant or diner
- Fast food restaurants
- Farmers' market, farm stand, Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) program
- Cafeteria or dining service

Food Waste

National studies suggest that up to 40% of all food produced is wasted. Loss occurs at each step in the food system. The amount of waste varies by the type of product, ease of transportation, and how long it stays good on the shelf or in the refrigerator.

Farmers may leave a crop in the field if they lack labor to harvest or a market to profitably sell their products. While approximately 40% of food waste occurs from the industrial sector, the largest volumes of food waste occur at the consumer or household level. Environmental, social, and economic costs arise when the food we produce ends up in landfills.¹⁰



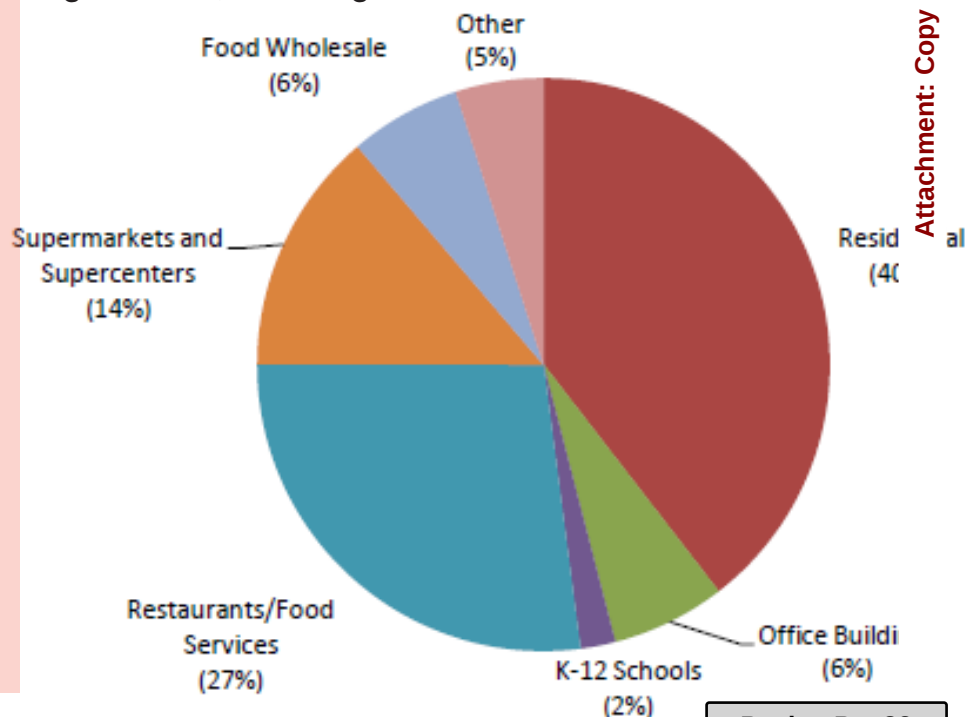
Key Trends

- The average household wastes 338 pounds of food per year.
- Although local-level measurements of food waste were not available, extending national per capita waste estimates to local population numbers suggest that annual food waste in Riley County might be in the neighborhood of 21 million pounds, with a value of \$27.8 million.
- Consumer confusion about “date labeling” on packaged foods, such as “use by” or “best by,” contributes to food waste
- Improper storage can make perishable foods spoil more quickly
- Composting is one way to redirect food waste. In Riley County there is one facility that composts yard waste and manure but none that compost food waste.



Photo source: <https://www.usda.gov/media/blog/2021/10/28/usda-roundtable-highlighted-food-waste-reduction-success-stories>

Percentage distribution of wasted food generation, excluding the industrial sector¹¹



Food Plan Survey Highlight: Food Waste

A total of 2,030 individuals from six cities in Riley County and 12 other surrounding counties took the Master Food Plan survey between July and September 2021. The survey asked respondents about their experiences in the food environment—from growing to eating to disposing of food. Full survey results can be accessed at nourishtogether.org.

Respondents shared their food waste frequency, reasons for wasting food, and barriers to food waste composting and food packaging recycling.

Top reasons for wasting food

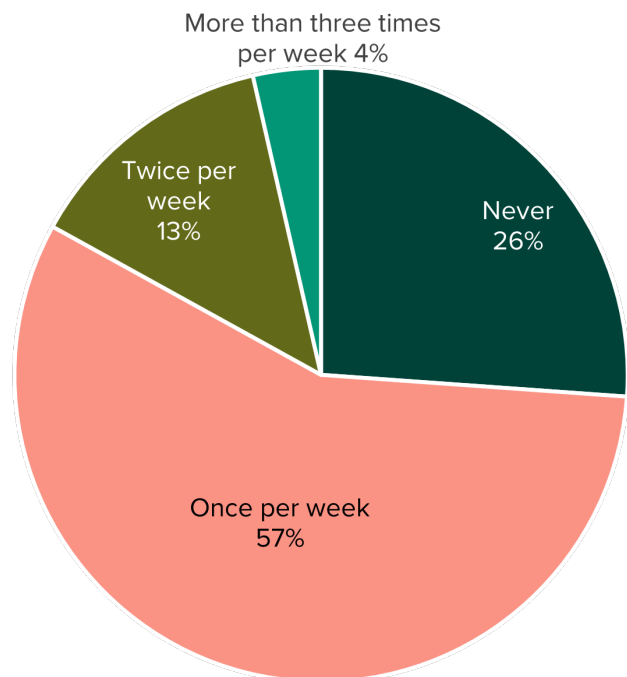
- I bought too much food and couldn't eat it before it spoiled.
- It was past the "best if used by" date and I threw it away.
- The food quality was questionable (i.e. the fruit was bruised).
- Our schedule changed and we didn't get meals made as planned.
- Restaurant portions were too big and I couldn't eat it all.

Top barriers to recycling

1. I don't know where in the community to go to recycle.
2. I can't afford the cost to recycle.
3. I'm unsure of what can be recycled.
4. It's not a priority for me and my family.

58% of respondents currently recycle, while 42% do not recycle

Frequency of food waste generation



21% of respondents currently compost, while 79% do not compost at all.

If a composting pickup program were offered, respondents were generally unwilling to pay much for such a program:

Less than \$10/month	570	31%
\$10-\$20/month	114	6%
\$20-\$35/month	10	1%
I would not pay for this service	1,173	62%

Total respondents: 1,867

Notes:

1. Data in the Local Region section of this report was gathered from the U.S. Census Bureau (census.gov). Profiles for Riley County, Kansas, can be found at <https://data.census.gov/cedsci/profile?g=0500000US20161> (accessed March 9, 2022) and <https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/rileycountykansas> (accessed March 9, 2022).
2. Unemployment rate data was gathered from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (<https://www.bls.gov/lau/tables.htm>).
3. Data in the Agricultural Landscape section of this report was gathered from the USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service 2017 Census of Agriculture (www.nass.usda.gov/Publications/AgCensus/2017/). A profile of Riley County, Kansas, can be found at www.nass.usda.gov/Publications/AgCensus/2017/Online_Resources/County_Profiles/Kansas/cp20161.pdf (accessed March 9, 2022), and “County Summary Highlights” for Kansas can be found at www.nass.usda.gov/Publications/AgCensus/2017/Full_Report/Volume_1_Chapter_2_County_Level/Kansas/st20_2_0001_0001.pdf (accessed March 9, 2022).
4. The MarketSizer tool can be accessed at www.newventureadvisors.net/tools/.
5. Feeding America, “State-by-State Resource: The Impact of Coronavirus on Food Insecurity,” accessed March 9, 2022, feedingamericaaction.org/resources/state-by-state-resource-the-impact-of-coronavirus-on-food-insecurity/.
6. Economic Research Service (ERS), U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), Food Environment Atlas, last updated December 18, 2020, <https://www.ers.usda.gov/data-products/food-environment-atlas/>.
7. Kansas Health Institute’s analysis of the U.S. Census Bureau’s American Community Survey 2019 (2015–19) 5-Year Estimates (<https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/acs>), email message to New Venture Advisors, [January 25, 2022].
8. Data for local food infrastructure was gathered from Kansas Department of Agriculture, “Kansas Farm Facts,” accessed March 9, 2022, agriculture.ks.gov/docs/default-source/ag-marketing/kansas-farm-facts-2019.pdf?sfvrsn=32b689c1_4 and USDA Agricultural Marketing Services, “Local Food Directories | Agricultural Marketing Service,” Agricultural Marketing Service, 2021, <https://www.ams.usda.gov/services/local-regional/food-directories-listings>, accessed September 7, 2021. Data for food retail landscape was gathered from USDA Economic Research Service, Food Environment Atlas, last updated on December 18, 2020, <https://www.ers.usda.gov/data-products/food-environment-atlas/>.
9. Kansas Health Matters, County Dashboard, Riley County, Kansas, accessed March 9, 2022, www.kansashealthmatters.org/index.php?module=indicators&controller=index&action=dashboard&id=83319366815456082&card=0&localeId=1020.
10. Data in the Food Waste section of this report was gathered from U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, “2018 Wasted Food Report,” November 2020, https://www.epa.gov/sites/default/files/2020-11/documents/2018_wasted_food_report-11-9-20_final_.pdf.
11. Ibid., 16.