

Montezuma County Food System Framework -- Re-assessment January 2017

Local Food Increase viable options in our local food system	Accomplishments 2013-2016	Identifiable Gaps	Next steps over 3-5 years
<p>1. Maintain agricultural land base and increase capacity to produce - Create land use policies that maintain agricultural acreage county wide, as well as encourage urban farming, edible landscaping, gardening, and orchards. Build capacity of current producers and attract new producers to the area. Incentivize forage producers to grow food.</p>	<p>Established:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Montezuma Orchard Restoration Project (MORP) • Food distribution cooperative, Southwest Farm Fresh (SWFF) • Master Steward Program • Increased Ag trainings for producers • 80% of Old Fort Hesperus incubator program participants are still farmers 	<p>Land Access:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Montezuma Land Conservancy - size? Existing LC prop limitations? • CO Land Link efficacy? • County zoning issues – Can rezone land to non-ag easily “Zone of influence” • Policies: LC infrastructure & CRP grazing?? • Lack of knowledge about programs available for area farmers • Constant struggle with profitability 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create data base for land link in the area – Host workshops to inform • Work more closely with Guidestone and other landlink organizations statewide • Find ways to deal with rising transportation costs • Identify ways to increase storage facilities • Create processing facilities to cut costs and increase local economy
<p>2. Support small and midscale farming Strengthen local food system by decreasing regulatory barriers, dividing training and technical support. Increase Farmer access to land, capital and markets. Identify number of farmers amount of land needed to provide food for 20% of residents. Support creation of a local distribution and processing capacity.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local support of the Cottage Industries Food Act • 7 Farmers Markets • Increased institutional purchasing of local foods (farm to school bids) • High Desert Conservation District (HDCD) added ag consultant • Ft. Lewis added farm incubator program 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of regional cohesiveness • Lack of general public awareness of offerings of local food within the region • Awareness that producers in the region cannot fill the public demand for local food • SWFF needs more producer members to fulfill demand 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve SW Regional promotion and perception – create a “niche” marketing of area • Find ways to help producers with capital to; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ mechanize and scale up ○ hire labor to increase production • HDCD Hired staff person to do one on one with farmers in the Pleasant View, Louis Arriola, Yellow Jacket to help access available resources
<p>3. Increase urban food production Build capacity and equity around residents access to land and resources needed for community and personal food production. (I.E. Backyard, Community and porch Gardens)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased number of MSTF gardens in Cortez District • City of Cortez has passed ordinances allowing for; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Chickens ○ Edible landscaping in pubic areas ○ Community Gardens ○ Minimizing farm stand regs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of Urban Food Production on bigger scale • Lack of community gardens 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote ideas to residents to utilize available land to create more community gardens • Increase number of market stands that sell regional food products
<p>4. Encourage environmental, resource & conservation practices Sustain a resilient environment through policies that promote conservation and offer protection and improvement of soil and water which are critical for long-term community needs</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HDCD & MCD provided trainings to improve soil health • NRCS provided opportunity to obtain equipment – High Tunnels (30+) & irrigation • CO water plan – Basin wide involvement in water conservation practices • Establishment of Geer Natural Area 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water scarcity • Inefficient use of current water available and lack of incentives to practice water conservation • EQIP?? promotes more forage production and less food production 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Market and promote water efficiency • Identify irrigated ag land for future land use and 3 mile planning of city • Create new partnerships, strengthen existing partnerships through possible coordinator position county wide • Encourage increased food production • Decrease barriers/regulations for processing goods

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Next steps over 3-5 years	Identifiable Gaps	Accomplishments 2013-2016	Healthy Eating Make the healthy food choices an easy choice
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rebuild local food culture by: Increase marketing to residents about value, accessibility, viability of local food Eat 5 a day, buy \$5 a week Rebuild local food system by Creating a sustaining infrastructure of brokering, storage, distribution and processing Improve education and knowledge about what this system can do for county/region Full engagement by County Officials 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cortez District Wellness needs to implement a District wide health plan Lack of involvement by county officials Lack of coordination among agencies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Montezuma Inspire Coalition GOCO grt Cortez district adopted comprehensive Health & Wellness Policy Eat Local, Eat Healthy inspired restaurants & schools to offer local produce Cortez City Employee bike program Increased Ag tourism campaigns encouraging tourists to buy/eat local Dedication of land by the Ute Farm and Ranch for a Community Farm. Has accessible water and recently planted fruit trees 	<p>1. Apply county wide solutions to create healthy food environments</p> <p>Utilize a range of targeted strategies to include public investment land-use planning and policy that promote active lifestyles and healthy food environments where residents live, work, play and learn.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Acquire funding and implement school gardens and nutrition education in all area schools Prioritize local and consistent funding from City, County, School Districts Support the idea of a hops farm, production garden and processing facility at the old high school site Support utilization of EBT and Double up bucks at all markets 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No school gardens at: Cortez HS, Pleasant View, Lewis Arrola, Kiva, Battlerock, SWOS and area preschools Lack of funding for education and marketing about healthy and local foods Districts need more cash to pay for local food 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cortez district adopted comprehensive Health & Wellness Policy Farm to School Cooperative bid process between 5 districts SWFF distribution of local goods Care & Share Program allows food banks to share among organizations Creation of production garden at CMS where food goes into cafeterias Scratch cooking grant and new equipment for Cortez & Mancos Districts Use of SNAP/EBT at Farmer's Markets 	<p>2. Increase equitable access to healthy, affordable and culturally appropriate foods</p> <p>Enhance community health by increasing availability, affordability and accessibility of healthy foods while decreasing unhealthy food outlets and choices at work and school.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Area grocery stores offering healthier dessert options Bring Farmers Markets to soup kitchens Implement cleaning projects Coordinate efforts between organizations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lacking healthy food options at class room celebrations Educating parents about healthy food choices for school celebrations Lack of parent involvement and participation in healthy food activities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implementation of SMART snacks in school vending machines (Healthy, hunger free kids act) Implementation of City of Cortez Wellness Policies & Employee health challenges Increased scratch cooking in Cortez, Mancos and Dolores 	<p>3. Promote health by encouraging healthy food choices</p> <p>Slow and reverse rates of diabetes & obesity by encouraging residents to consume 5 servings of fruits and vegetables daily & decrease consumption of processed/unhealthy food</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Utilize area commercial kitchen spaces Implement more cooking classes at the middle and high school level Provide more cooking classes for residents 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Residents and students have identifiable need for cooking classes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> MSTF weekly cooking classes and taste testings Pinon Project cooking classes & Summer Feeding Program in Dolores Cooking Matters shopping tours Cooking Matters classes for kids/adults Gardening & cooking classes offered by: Bridge, 4 Seasons, Cliffrose, HDOD, FT Lewis, MORB, MCD CSU, Mt Lookout 	<p>4. Provide nutrition education to students and residents</p> <p>Improve the ability of all Montezuma County students and residents to lead healthier lives and become self-sufficient through nutrition education, gardening, cooking and shopping classes.</p>

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Food Security - Make local and healthy food accessible for all residents	Accomplishments 2013-2016	Identifiable Gaps	Next steps over 3-5 years
<p>1. Increase resident's self sufficiency Provide all residents with the tools and resources they need to make healthy eating and active living (HEAL) choices through public health initiatives.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New Geer Trail (10 miles of biking/walking) • Grant application for "Pickle Ball Courts" • City of Cortez is a HEAL community meaning "FIT" • Implementation of Employee Wellness <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ City Employee Bike Exchange ◦ Discounts to City Facilities ◦ Counseling Sessions • City of Cortez can demonstrate: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Successful wellness challenges ◦ Fewer sick days ◦ Utilization of insurance down ◦ 50-60 people use Recreation Center • Health Department provides: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Education ◦ WIC/Screenings ◦ Implemented Nurse Family Partnerships ◦ Wellness Newsletters 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Employee Wellness programs not accessible to all residents • No community gardens and no residential push to be more self sufficient • Lacking a student to family connection – How do we bring Montezuma School to Farm Home? • Cultural differences keep residents from exploring new venues for food access including gardening • SNAP programs not fully utilized • More children could receive free and reduced lunches • Awareness around dental/food connection 	
<p>2. Commit county and city resources Commit resources to teach residents and children how to grow, prepare and shop for healthy food. Continue the support and outreach of programs that currently provide the services. Become more actively involved with the local food campaigns, thereby strengthening their efficacy.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adopted Edible Landscape Policy – 20% of all new plantings must be edible • MSTF weekly cooking classes and taste testings • Pinon Project cooking classes & Summer Feeding Program in Dolores • Cooking Matters shopping tours • Cooking Matters classes for kids/adults • Gardening & cooking classes offered by: Bridge, 4 Seasons, Cliffrose, HDCC, Ft. Lewis, MORB, MCD CSU, Mt Lookout Grange 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of funding and buy in from County in all aspects of local food access, production, marketing etc • Need for producers to increase capacity to grow more food • Create stronger, more efficient food incentive programs by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Increasing farm stands ◦ Food prescription program ◦ Double bucks ◦ Increase cooking classes ◦ Increase gardens to all schools 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Initiate conversations with county that engage them more fully in developing a robust, localized agricultural economy • Engage Region 9 in local food production, processing and distribution
<p>3. Strengthen community food resilience Strive towards increased community resilience to threats such as food insecurity, fuel and energy shortages and cost</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • City of Cortez increased energy efficiency through use of LED 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of neighborhood farms stands and community gardens that are culturally relevant • Not enough land access for the above 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Incentivize gardens in low income housing areas • Increase farm production to lower costs • Increase access of local food • Re-establish community garden on Empire
<p>4. Facilitate equitable participation and decision making by all residents Involve a wide range of community members in developing and supporting food related issues, while building community control of food resources through participation in food councils and coalitions</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Heart and Soul Community Grant increased participation in local decision making by residents • Heart and Soul values translated into land use code 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Residents voices not valued • Lack of trusted liaison and links to community members • Lack of collaboration with UMU tribe • Lack of collaboration with county officials 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tribal relations improving but need stronger liaisons • Engage more tribal council members • Engage county commissioners

<p>thriving self reliant economy Economic Vitality - Promote a</p>	<p>Accomplishments 2013-2016</p>	<p>Identifiable Gaps</p>	<p>Next steps over 3-5 years</p>
<p>1. Promote local food producers and products Promote and support local producers and products, including local businesses that contribute to a healthy food system. Build a viable labor force to support agricultural producers. Encourage capacity building of a diverse and resilient regional food system. Encourage collaboration with other regions.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SWFF formed and operated for 3 seasons with: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ 18 participating producers ◦ \$78,000 in revenue for producers ◦ Collaboration and outreach to producers in other regions ◦ Deliveries to CZE, DRO & Telluride ◦ Participation in FTS bid/2016 • Increased number of vegetable growers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of funding for producers & distributors to increase volume and capacity (eg Mechanization, increased labor hiring, infrastructure capacity) • Lack a viable, trained labor force to help harvest • Identified barriers to using local food include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Culturally unfamiliar ◦ Don't know where to get it ◦ Not convenient ◦ Don't know how to prepare ◦ Lack time for preparation ◦ Find local food too expensive • Lack targeted marketing campaign to drive locals to purchase regional foods 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase outreach to local residents through place of work to join SWFF CSA (ie. hospital, city, schools) • Increase participation with other regional distribution cooperatives to increase regional foods available to residents (ie. SLV and Montrose) • Work with Rocky Mountain Farmer's Union on their BFRDP grant to assist farmers with scaling up • Explore the possibility of forming a labor cooperative to provide year-round pool of skilled labor • Obtain resources for outreach & marketing to residents
<p>2. Promote the continuation of Farm to School and Institutional purchasing of regional food products Ensure that area schools and institutions served fresh, sustainably produced food. Promote the development of institutional guidelines and policies that allow preference for local producers and businesses.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local foods served in 1+ restaurants, area schools and SVM hospital • Bow and Arrow Foods established with local and regional sales, increasing jobs and supply chain capacity • Increased number of vegetable growers and supply chain capacity • Many producers selling to institutions have food safety plans • Local FTS bidding process gives preference to local producers • SWFF now bids on FTS 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Schools lack funding to allow them to purchase more local foods • Increased demand for local foods is not being met by area producers • Need for improved safety standards, policies and equipment for producers to meet institutional buyers requirements (GAP and FSMA) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify and recruit area producers through personal contact and outreach • Educate producers about the value of participating in a regional cooperative distribution system • Provide trainings so all producers have complete food safety plans • Obtain funding for equipment needed for safety standards on local farms • Explore Group GAP certification for SWFF members
<p>3. Increase local supply chain capacity Create jobs and build long-term economic vitality by promoting development of locally owned processing distribution and storage facilities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bow and Arrow Foods established with local and regional sales, increasing jobs and supply chain capacity • Bow and Arrow now sells through Kroeger • Increased processing and storage capability county wide 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mainstream food purveyors don't offer local foods • Area lacks major processing facilities as an economic driver for large quantities of products grown regionally • Lack of funding for processing facilities • No policy incentives to encourage entrepreneurs to open processing businesses 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explore development of Value Added enterprise that would utilize local foods (see http://mmlocalfoods.com/) • Explore with Region 9 ways to increase availability of local, processed foods to the region • Work with Region 9, City and County to identify ways to draw agricultural businesses to county and utilize tourism
<p>4. Develop the food economy infrastructure Provide economic support of next generation food entrepreneurs. Facilitate business and producer incubator programs for all community members and youth to develop skills and cultivate leadership.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strong participation in High Tunnel workshops through Ft. Lewis • Business development and training offered through Ft. Lewis • Ft. Lewis farmer incubator program fully developed • MORP established 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of collaboration among regional agencies, businesses, government and producers • Lack of skill among new and existing farmers for planning and implementation of planting projections, how to identify markets and ways to more accurately forecast • Lack of interest in wholesale farming with those who have high tunnels 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HCDG hires more field staff that works one on one with producers to increase efficiency, profit, marketing, conservation, soil improvement, projections • Introduction of Farmer in Training program at Old fort at Hesperus • Increase winter business development and farmer training classes available to existing farmers