



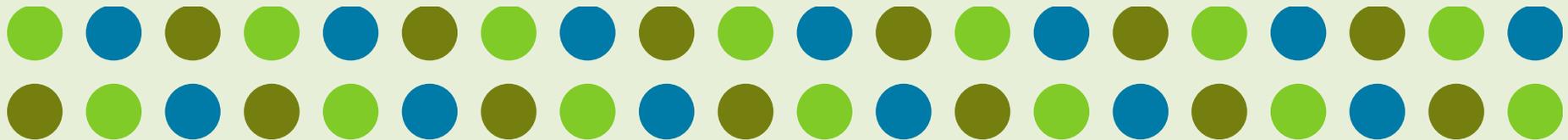
The Power of Policy:  
Food, Families, Farms, and Communities

**Janet Mullins, PhD, RD**  
**University of Kentucky**  
**School of Human Environmental Sciences**

# Everyone Eats



# Socioecological Model



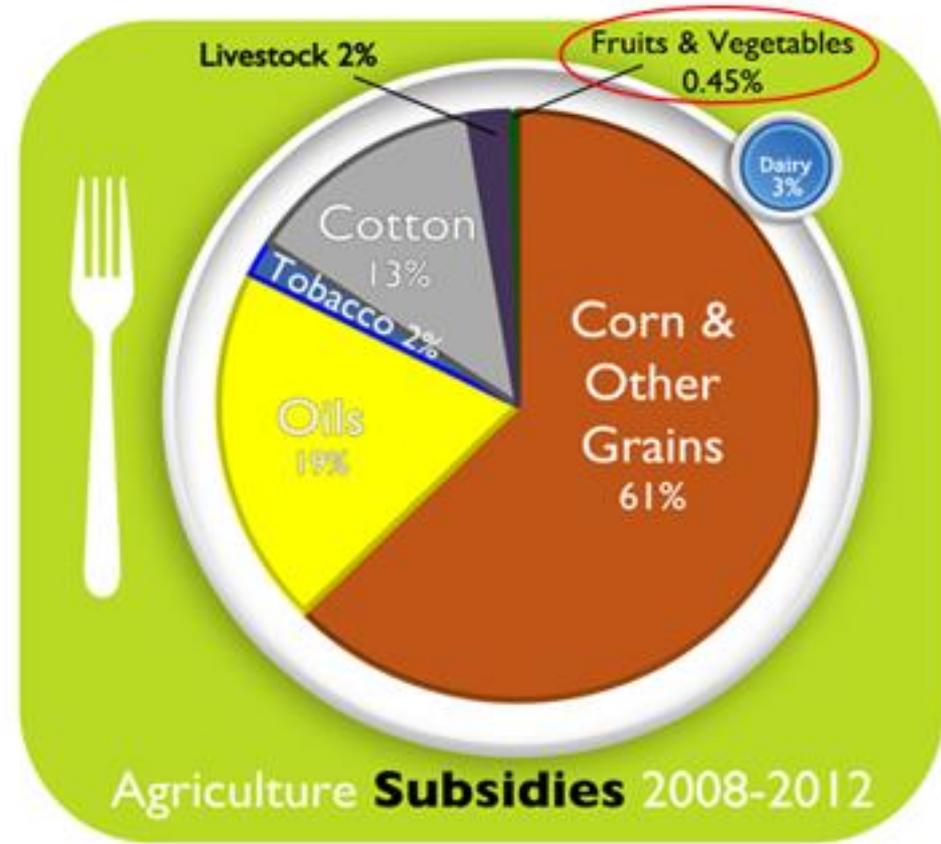
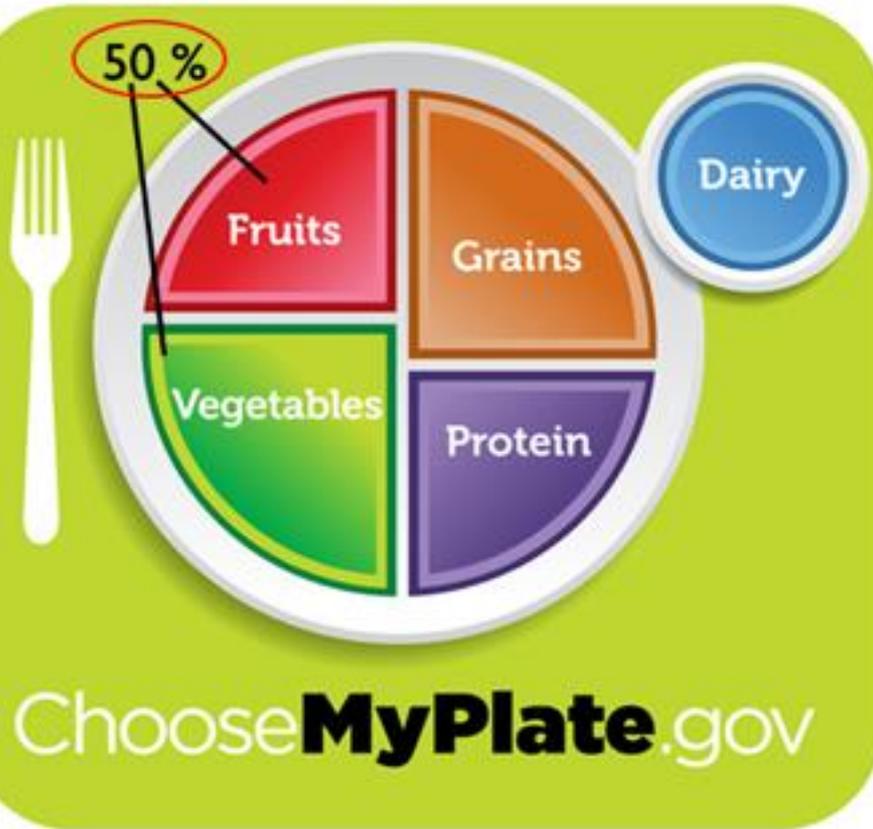
# Reforming National Food Policy

After years of work, the President signed a 2014 Farm Bill containing many of the reforms proposed in Congresswoman Chellie Pingree's Local Farms, Food, and Jobs Act. These reforms take important steps to support local farmers, invest in regional food systems, and give all consumers better access to nutritious food that benefits the local economy.

## **Among others, victories include:**

- » Making it easier to use SNAP benefits to purchase local food
- » More funding to promote farmers markets and farm stand, assist farmers seeking organic certification, and make local value-added products.
- » Reforming federal insurance programs that work better to protect organic and diversified farms

# Food and Health Policy Alignment



# Food Policy Councils work with policymakers to create:

- Access to healthy and affordable food, especially in lower income communities
- Access to markets that provide fair prices to farmers
- Access to decision makers and policy making forums

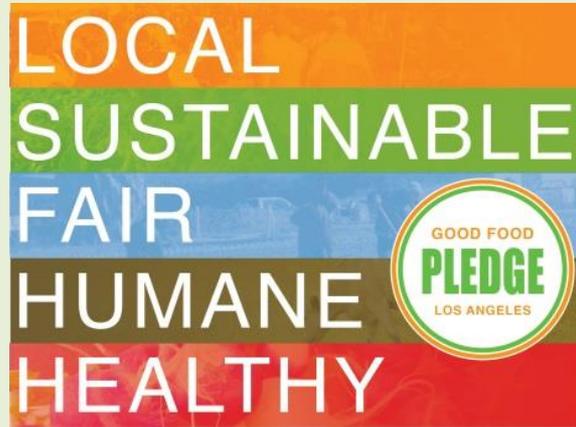
• Pam Roy, Feb 3, 2015

# Lessons Learned

- Effectiveness of coalition determined by strength of vision and leadership
- Engage food system stakeholders, community, policymakers
- Work for consensus; foster healthy debate; rank policy options
- Educate council members, the public, and policy makers constantly
- Develop strong internal and external communication
- Set measurable goals and evaluate regularly
- Community food assessment is an on-going enterprise, not a one-time act
- Look for synergy between all levels of government
- Practice good facilitation skills

• Mark Winne, Feb 3, 2015





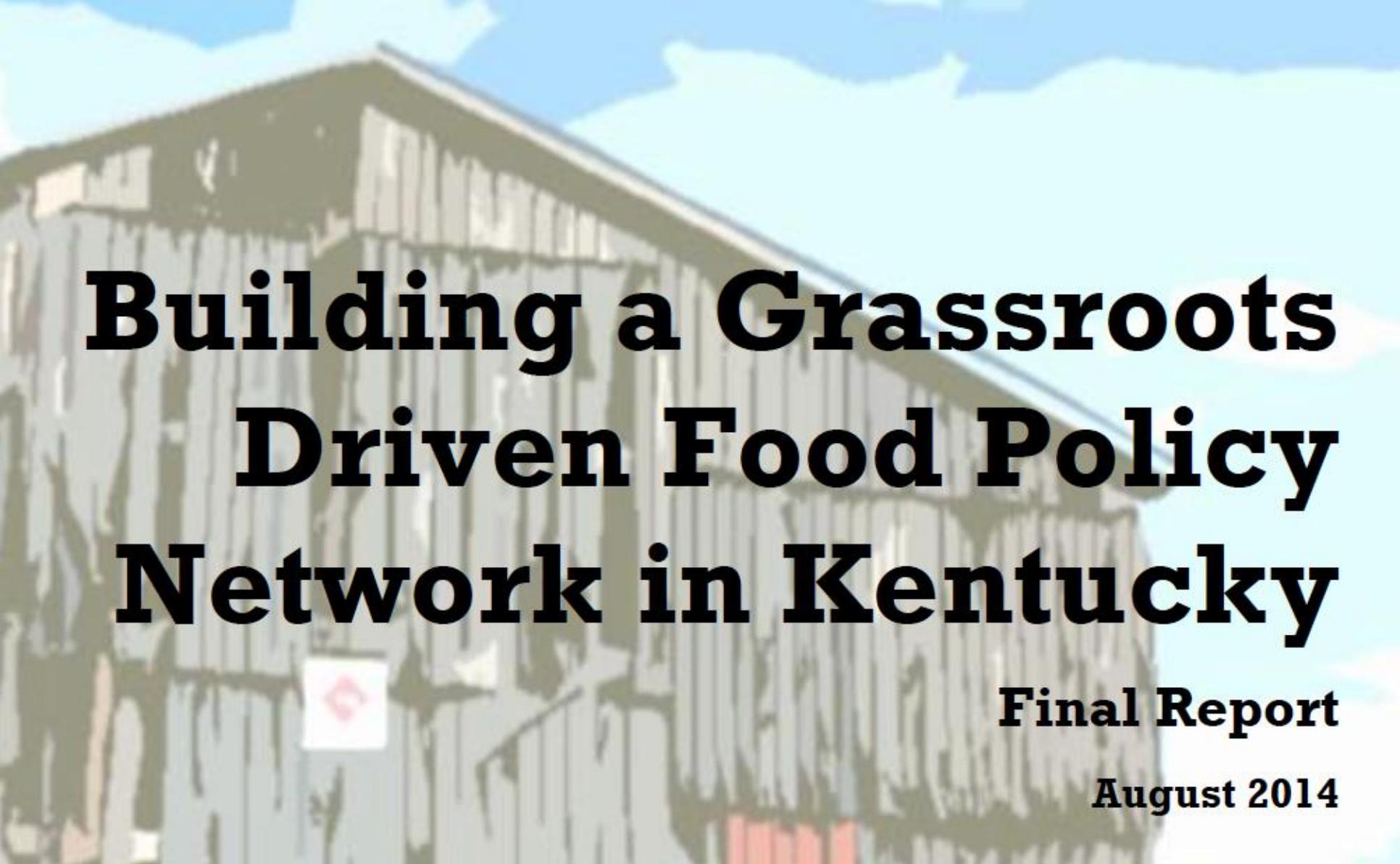
Create spaces for food systems work:

- Economic
- Environmental
- Social
- Political



*What policies about food might benefit Kentucky families and communities?*

**KENTUCKY FOOD POLICY COUNCIL**



# **Building a Grassroots Driven Food Policy Network in Kentucky**

**Final Report**

**August 2014**

USDA NIFA Community Food Project Planning Grant  
Community Farm Alliance

<http://cfaky.org/test/wp-content/uploads/2014/08/CFA-CFP-Final-Report-82914.pdf>

# Kentucky Food Policy Network

## Lessons Learned, Community Farm Alliance 2014

### Increase **coordination**

- Create intentional opportunities for collaboration and effective, results-based networking
- Provide statewide policy and program development, strategic planning and coordination of local/regional groups
- Build off of existing efforts and assets
- Work with government, not against it

### Increase **low-income involvement**

- Create leadership opportunities on the FPC for low-income residents and especially people of color
- Develop incentives for low-income participation
- Programs and projects with tangible results are more attractive than policy
- Meet people where they are

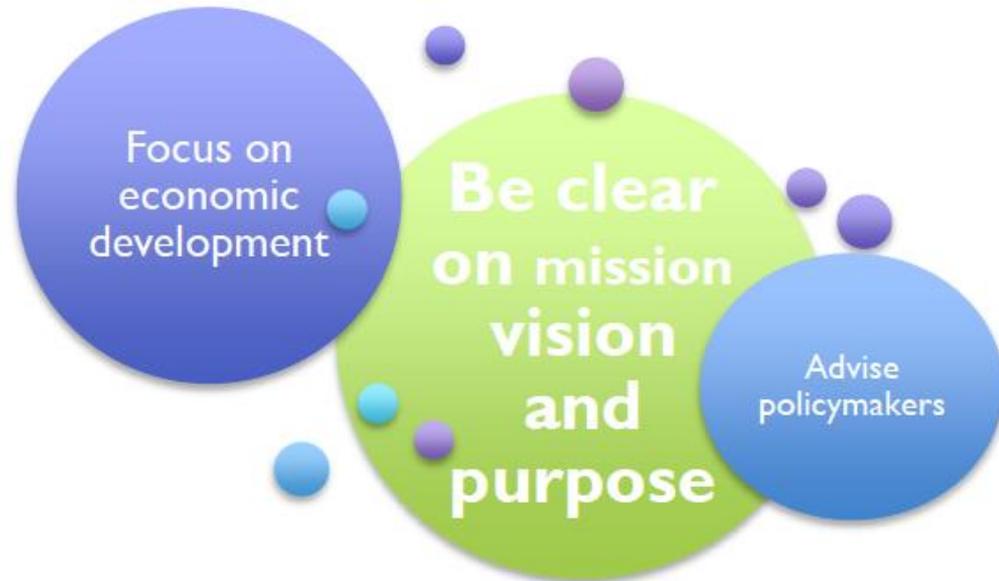
# Kentucky Food Policy Network

## Lessons Learned, Community Farm Alliance 2014

### Clearly communicate the role of KFPN

- Clearly communicate the mission, goals, and purpose of the KFPN
- Increase education and awareness of Food Policy Councils and their value
- Use language that's not restrictive or scary. Connect food system issues and food policy to what people care about
- Utilize tools such as "food stories" that connect policy to personal experiences

<http://cfaky.org/test/wp-content/uploads/2014/08/CFA-CFP-Final-Report-82914.pdf>



Community Food Projects Final Report 2014

The conversation about food  
is too important  
to leave off the table.

