

Growing Food Connections Community of Opportunity

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Dougherty County



Growing Food Connections

- Partners
 - University at Buffalo, American Farmland Trust, John Glenn School of Public Affairs, Cultivating Healthy Places, American Planning Association, and the National Advisory Committee
- Goals and Strategies
 - To promote community food security and agricultural viability through research, policy & practice, and education



Growing Food Connections

- Application Process
 - Completed proposal
 - In-person interview
 - Award notification



Communities of Opportunity

- Chautauqu County, NY
- Cumberland County, ME
- Dona Ana County, NM
- Dougherty County, GA
- Douglas County, NE
- Luna County, NM
- Polk County, NC
- Wyandotte, County, KS



Dougherty County Community of Opportunity

- Steering Committee Members
 - Dougherty County Board of Commissioners
 - Albany/Dougherty Planning Commission
 - Tift Park Community Market
 - Farm Bureau
 - Local farmers
 - Southwest Georgia Project for Community Education, Inc.



Dougherty County Community of Opportunity

- Steering Committee Members
 - Albany Water Planning Commission
 - Fort Valley State University
 - Albany Technical College
 - Federation of Southern Cooperatives
 - Dougherty County Economic Development Center
 - Southwest Georgia Regional Commission



Dougherty County Community of Opportunity

- Steering Committee
 - Ensuring everyone's voice is heard
 - Contributing to goal setting
 - Providing guidance
 - Expanding networks and partnerships
 - Opening doors to opportunities
 - Developing and ultimately delivering and action plan



Dougherty County Community of Opportunity

- Growing Food Connections (GFC) Team visit
 - Project overview
 - Getting to know the Dougherty County food system
 - Food system worksheets and activities



Dougherty County Community of Opportunity

- Vision Statement

Connect community to create viable and sustainable food systems that economically and culturally nourish our community with access to local food and education through partnership with government, producers, and consumers.



Dougherty County Community of Opportunity

- Goals to be accomplished in the next 10 years
 - Establish growers' cooperatives and niche markets
 - Build up infrastructure for food processing, aggregation, distribution, etc
 - Increase jobs and economic prosperity through the food system
 - Support food hub plans



Dougherty County Community of Opportunity

- Next steps????
- Growingfoodconnections.org

