



FOOD POLICY COMPENDIUM

**Prepared for the Manatee
County Food Policy Council**

August, 2012

Health Council of West Central Florida

WHO WE ARE

The health councils were created in 1983 by Florida Statute to identify, address and resolve health care issues of local concern. Each health council is a private, non-profit organization governed by a Board of Directors. The Board members are appointed by County Commissioners to represent the concerns of health care consumers, providers and purchasers.

The Health Council of West Central Florida, Inc. (HCWCF) serves Hardee, Highlands, Hillsborough, Manatee and Polk counties. The Council has extensive experience working with for-profit and non-profit agencies, public health organizations, consumers and professionals. Collaboration and cooperation are critical to the success of our mission.

We have three strategic goals: (1) influence the accessibility of health care and social support systems through *comprehensive health planning*; (2) provide *education* about essential community health challenges and solutions; and (3) participate as a collaborative partner to address current and emerging health issues to develop and sustain efficient and cost effective *service delivery* systems.



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FOOD POLICY COMPENDIUM

Government at all levels has responsibility for food in varying degrees. This document illustrates the interrelatedness and complexities of those relationships to better understand of how food policy can be impacted on the local level.

This compilation is not meant to be all-inclusive, but as an overview of key functions and responsibilities. We have included references to statutes, regulations and policies that may be helpful in making improvements to the local food system.

Information is presented in three broad categories:

- Food Safety
- Food Production and Distribution
- Nutrition, Hunger Prevention and Health Promotion

Highlights of responsibilities are outlined by topic for federal, state and local government. In some cases a brief description is provided for a particular initiative being implemented.

In addition, a food policy audit is included which identifies to assist in identifying Manatee County's existing food-related efforts to promote economic development, public health, environmental protection, land conservation and social equity. This document is based on a slightly revised tool developed by the Institute for Environmental Negotiation (EIN) at the University of Virginia.

The audit illustrate areas where Manatee County is successfully addressing the economic, environmental, social and health aspects of the local food system, and it points the way to areas where the Food Policy Council may wish to focus its efforts in the future.

I. FOOD SAFETY

Food safety includes establishing standards for safe food handling and production, food labeling, use of pesticides, water quality, inspection of food and monitoring food-borne disease outbreaks.

Federal Government

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA)

- Regulates both domestic and imported foods, except meat and poultry, and processed eggs.
- Has primary responsibility for enforcing food safety laws including food import and export regulations, including the sampling and inspection of imported food.
- Inspects food production establishments and food warehouses, collects and analyzes samples for physical, chemical, and microbial contamination.
- Protects consumers against food that is impure, unsafe, produced under unsanitary conditions, or fraudulently labeled.
- Establishes good agricultural practices and good manufacturing practices and other production standards, such as plant sanitation, packaging requirements, and Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point programs.
- Takes appropriate enforcement actions.

- Educates industry and consumers on safe food handling practices.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA)

- The Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) regulates meat, poultry and egg products and maintains a comprehensive system of import inspection and controls.
- The Economic Research Service (ERS) provides estimates of costs of food-borne disease and conducts benefit/cost analyses of alternative regulatory options.
- USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) inspects imported agricultural products for disease and pests which might infect plants and animals. Through monitoring activities at airport terminals, seaports, and border stations, it guards U.S. borders against the entry of foreign agricultural pests and diseases.

The U.S. Customs Service

- Assures the safety of imported foods by sampling and inspection. All foods imported into the U.S. must meet the same requirements as those produced domestically.

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

- Regulates pesticides and assuring that drinking water meets standards for health.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

- Works closely with state and local public health epidemiologists and laboratories to identify illnesses and clusters of illnesses that may be food-borne.
- CDC surveys and studies various environmental and chronic health problems and administers national programs for prevention and control of vector-borne diseases (diseases transmitted by a host organism) and other preventable conditions.

Department of Commerce (DOC)

- National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) (formerly known as the National Bureau of Standards) which works cooperatively with federal agencies (e.g., FDA; USDA) in regulating standards, weights, and measures as they pertain to food products; and
- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), which is primarily involved in conservation and management of marine and coastal resources.

Department of Labor (DOL)

- Food processing and handling facilities are covered by regulations regarding worker safety administered by the DOL/Occupational Safety & Health Administration (OSHA).

Federal Trade Commission (FTC)

- Enforces a variety of laws that protect consumers from unfair, deceptive, or fraudulent practices. The agency's food related activities are primarily involved with preventing deceptive and unsubstantiated advertising on food and dietary supplement packages.

USDA, FDA & CDC

- A model food code was developed jointly by the Food and Drug Administration, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the US Department of Agriculture for all levels of government and the regulatory agencies involved in food safety for institutions, retail sales and childcare centers.

State of Florida

In Florida, the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Division of Food Safety is the primary agency charged with assuring food safety. The division is comprised of four bureaus: Bureau of Food and Meat Inspection, Bureau of Food Laboratories, Bureau of Chemical Residue Laboratories, and Bureau of Dairy Industry. The Division is assisted by an Administrative Support Section, a Compliance Monitoring Section, and a Methods Development/Data Evaluation Section.

Inspection of food establishments is divided between six agencies: the Agency for Health Care Administration (AHCA), the Department of Children and Families (DCF), the Agency for Persons with Disabilities (APD), the Department of Health (DOH), the Department of Business and Professional Regulation (DPR) and the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services.

Specific areas of responsibility for the inspection of food establishments are described by agency according to the appropriate Florida Statutes (F.S.) as follows:

Chapters 395, 400, 408, F.S. (AHCA)

- Institutions (residential)
- Hospital kitchens except those operations involving central food processing using reduced oxygen packaging/sous vide (vacuum packed, low temperature cooking)

- Nursing homes

Chapter 402.311 F.S. (DCF)

- Child care facilities
- Group treatment homes for dependent children
- Youth services group treatment homes
- Youth services start centers and halfway houses
- Child care services program
- Licensed child care facilities that choose to offer food service (full or limited)
- Religious exempt child care facilities that request food service verification to qualify for USDA food program only

Chapter 393 F.S. (APD)

- Institutions serving the disabled(residential)
- Some group care facilities

Section 381.0072 F.S. (DOH)

- Recreational camps
- Schools

Chapter 509 F.S. (DBPR)

- Bars and lounges
- Caterers
- Country clubs (golf and/or tennis), yacht clubs
- Make-your-own-lunch/dinner establishments
- Mobile units
- Some public food service establishments

- Homeowners and condo associations, mobile home park management or park resident associations advertising and serving food to the public
- Temporary events
- Theaters
- Vending machines

Other Florida Statutes:

Chapter 487 F. S. - Pesticide Regulation and Safety

- Misbranding
- Restricted use pesticides
- License classification
- Anti-siphon requirements for irrigation systems
- Inspection, sampling and analysis
- Tolerances, deficiencies and penalties
- Education program

Chapter 500 F. S. - Food Products labeling and advertising

- Food and building permits
- Inspection of food establishments and vehicles
- Transporting shipments of food items
- Seizure and destruction of condemned foods,
- Unlawful sales
- Use of horse meat
- Water vending machines, packaged ice plants
- Sale of meat

- Tomato safety

Chapter 502 F. S. - Milk, Milk Products, and Frozen Desserts

- Labeling of shelf life
- Permits and licenses
- Inspection
- Milk and milk products which may be sold
- Future dairy farms and milk and frozen dessert plants
- Imitation and substitute products

Chapter 504 F. S. - Specialized Agricultural Produce Labeling (Produce Labeling Act of 1979)

- Label markings

Chapter 531 F.S. - Weights, Measures and Standards

- Systems of weights and measures
- Misrepresentation of quantity.
- Information required on packages



Local Government

Environmental protection

Manatee County Ordinance 11-21- Bans nitrogen-based fertilizers from June 1 through Sept. 30 (Florida's rainy season), and requires nitrogen-based fertilizers to be at least 50% slow-release for the remainder of the year. It also bans fertilizers from being applied within 10 feet of the water's edge. Additionally, phosphorous applications are banned year round, unless a soil analysis proves a phosphorous deficiency and the deficiency is put on record with the county administrator, among other restrictions.

Manatee County Code of Ordinances, Chapter 1-9 - Prohibits any emission or discharge into the atmosphere, soil, or waters of any substance, or committing any act, which may cause injury, detriment, or nuisance to the public or which endangers the comfort, repose, health, or safety of any person of the public or which causes or may be reasonably be expected to cause injury or damage to business, vegetation, or animals.

Manatee County Code of Ordinances Sec. 1-12-1 to 1-12-9. - Prohibits net fishing in certain interior waters and taking of certain salt water fish by net.

Manatee County Code of Ordinances Sec. 2-31-51. - Allows the board of county commissioners to regulate the temporary use of water from time to time in various areas of the incorporated and unincorporated portions of the county when there is an emergency drought condition which endanger the potable water supply as well as the health, safety and the welfare of the residents of and the people in the county.

II. FOOD PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION

For purposes of this document, food production includes raising livestock, growing fruits and vegetables, fishing, aquaculture. It also includes land use, water and soil management, farmworker housing, the distribution, transportation, import/export, and marketing of food.

Federal Government

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA)

- The Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) carries out a wide range of programs aimed at facilitating the marketing of agricultural products, assuring consumers a quality food supply, and ensuring fair trade practices.
- The Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS) has primary responsibility for the USDA's overseas programs, including market development, international trade agreements and negotiations, and the collection of statistics and market information.
 - Agricultural research
 - Crop and Livestock Insurance
 - Farm loans and loan guarantees
 - Farmers market promotion
 - Organic cost share program, certification and marketing

- Specialty crop block grants
- Soil and water conservation initiatives

Department of Transportation (DOT)

- The shipping of food products is subject to the appropriate regulations of the Department of Transportation (DOT)/Surface Transportation Board (formerly known as the Interstate Commerce Commission).
- In the event of a natural or intentional food contamination the Surface Transportation Board also works cooperatively with the FDA and other agencies in recalls, seizures, and traceback.

Department of Labor

- Migrant and Seasonal Agricultural Worker Protection Act (MSPA) provides migrant and seasonal farmworkers with protection concerning pay, working conditions, and work related conditions and requires farm labor contractors to register with the Department of Labor.

State of Florida

Chapter 373 F.S.-Water Resources

- Makes Water Management Districts responsible for projecting future water
- Districts develop regional water supply plans that identify water sources and water resource development projects sufficient to meet or exceed expected needs, while at the same time sustaining the water resource and related natural systems
- Manatee County is served by the Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFWMD)

Chapter 379 F.S. - Fish and Wildlife Conservation

- Saltwater fish regulations
- Catching food fish for the purposes of making oil
- Use of Nets
- Spear fishing
- Oyster bottom lands grants, labeling and tracing rules
- Commercial production of sturgeon
- Non-cultured shellfish harvesting

Chapter 534 F.S. - Livestock; Marks and Brands; Stamping Beef

- Inspection and protection of livestock; jurisdiction of Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services.
- Recording of marks or brands
- Transfer of ownership of cattle, marks and brands
- Duties of livestock haulers

Chapter 576 F. S. -Agricultural Fertilizers

- Labeling
- Nitrogen and phosphorus best management practices
- Inspection, sampling and analysis
- Anti-siphon requirements for irrigation systems
- Seizure, condemnation

Chapter 578 F.S.-Seed

- Label requirements

Chapter 580 F. S. -Commercial Feed and Feedstuff

- Labels
- Laboratory certification
- Adulteration, misbranding
- Inspections
- Detained feed

Chapter 582 F.S.-Soil and Water Conservation

- The Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS) administers the soil and water conservation programs assigned to it by the Legislature. Regional staff are located throughout Florida with Manatee County being served from the Sarasota office.
- Some of the programs that are coordinated between FDACS and SWFWMD include Best Management Practices (BMP) implementation and cost-share programs, mobile irrigation labs (MILs), and public land management.
- In addition, the Water Program for Restaurant Outreach, also known as Water PRO, is a free educational program that helps restaurateurs lower operating costs and conserve water by making a few adjustments in procedures and appliances.

Chapter 597 F. S. -Aquaculture

- Declaration of public policy respecting aquaculture
- Certificate of registration
- Cultured shellfish theft reward program
- Shellfish regulation
- Shellfish processor regulations

Chapter 823.14 F.S. - Florida Right to Farm Act

- Recognizes agricultural production as a major contributor to the economy of the state and agricultural lands constitute unique and irreplaceable resources of statewide importance.
- Protects reasonable agricultural activities conducted on farm land from nuisance suits and defines conditions that constitute evidence of a nuisance.
- Eliminates duplication of regulatory authority over farm operations.

Marketing

The Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS), Division of Marketing and Development promotes Florida products and facilitates agricultural commerce through a variety of programs and initiatives. The Department licenses and bonds dealers in agricultural products, and operates 13 State Farmers' Markets are operated that provide Florida producers with marketing facilities necessary to move farm products from farm to consumer. Two state farmers markets are located in Manatee County.

The Department also administers the "Fresh from Florida," campaign which includes promotional and advertising programs to help Florida producers market their products, including an online advertising forum, the Florida Market Bulletin, for placement of ads to buy or sell agriculture-related items.

Local Government

Economic

Manatee County

Property Taxes-(In conjunction with Florida Department of Revenue)

Classifying Property as Agricultural for Property Tax Purposes -By having property classified as agricultural for property tax purposes, farmers receive reductions in their property tax bills. Under the law, farmers must actively certify to property appraisers that they are entitled to the agricultural classification. If they fail to fill out and send in the application, the applicant may lose the tax benefit they receive from their agricultural classification.

Code of Ordinances, Section 1-5-1- Provides funding to employ an Agricultural County Agent and Home Demonstration worker.

Code of Ordinances, Chapter 2-26- Manatee County Purchasing Ordinance defines local preference criteria for purchasing and contracting.

Manatee County Economic Development Department's "Economic Incentive Program" assists with development/expansion of food/beverage businesses

able to locate in other states and serving multi-state and/or international markets.

City of Palmetto

Code of Ordinances Sec. 2-56. (c) - Local purchasing preference.

Environmental Protection

Code of Ordinances, Chapter 1-9 - Prohibits any emission or discharge into the atmosphere, soil, or waters of any substance, or committing any act, which may cause injury, detriment, or nuisance to the public or which endangers the comfort, repose, health, or safety of any person of the public or which causes or may be reasonably be expected to cause injury or damage to business, vegetation, or animals.

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safety and the welfare of the residents of and the people in the county.

Land Use and Zoning

Manatee County

The Future Land Use element of the Manatee County Comprehensive Plan includes goals and policies related to Agriculture.

Goal 2.5 Protect Agriculture as a viable long-term and short-term user of Land, and as a major Economic Asset to Manatee County.

The Land Development Code permits agricultural use in an Environmental Preserve, subject to approval of those uses in an Environmental Management Plan or General Development Plan.

Farmworker Housing

Manatee County

Comprehensive Plan-Policy: 6.1.2.4

Provide safeguards to ensure that rural farmworker housing needs are addressed.

City of Palmetto

Comprehensive Plan- Objective 3.9

Continue to recognize the need for safe and sanitary farm worker housing within the City.

Keeping of Livestock

City of Bradenton

Code of Ordinances Sec. 14-1- 14-5.

Prohibits the breeding of livestock, keeping poultry or hogs within the city limits, and prohibits horses, goats, mules or cattle from running at large.

City of Palmetto

Code of Ordinances Sec. 6-26 and 6-27

Prohibits livestock from roaming at large within the city and requires secure fencing for fowl kept in the city.

Code of Ordinances Sec. 6-28 - 31

Prohibits swine and hogs on land that is zoned residential, commercial or industrial according to the most recent zoning ordinance of the city; describes procedure for obtaining permission to keep swine; prohibits goats within the city; describes sanitary conditions, fencing and setbacks for livestock in approved areas; permits fowl with a minimum of 50' set back from a residence and requires consent of owner or occupant of the residence.

Restaurants/Food Service

Manatee County

Code of Ordinances Sec. 2-19-21. - 25.
Operating restrictions, warning signal requirements,
inspection and licensing of ice cream trucks

City of Bradenton

Code of Ordinances Sec. 62-58. - Vending on public
roads; activities of ice cream trucks on roadways.
Requires compliance with Manatee County Ordinance.



III. NUTRITION, HUNGER PREVENTION AND HEALTH PROMOTION

For purposes of this document, this section includes emergency and supplemental food access, nutrition and health promotion initiatives related to food.

Federal Government

U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA)

- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance (SNAP)
- Women, Infants and Children (WIC)
- Commodity Food Distribution
- National School Lunch program
- National School Breakfast program
- Special milk program
- Fruits and vegetables program for low income elementary schools
- Consumer education and nutrition

Public Law 104-210 -“The Bill Emerson Good Samaritan Food Donation Act”

- Promotes food recovery by limiting the liability of donors to instances of gross negligence or intentional misconduct.
- Absent gross negligence or intentional misconduct, persons, gleaners, and nonprofit organizations shall not be subject to civil or

criminal liability arising from the nature, age, packaging, or condition of apparently wholesome food or apparently fit grocery products received as donations

- Establishes basic nationwide uniform definitions pertaining to donation and distribution of nutritious foods and will help assure that donated foods meet all quality and labeling standards of Federal, State, and local laws and regulations

Department of Defense (DOD)

- DOD works cooperatively with the FDA with regard to emergency food supplies, and conducts research activities on military food rations

State of Florida

Chapter 383 F.S. -Maternal and Child Health Care

- Protects the right to breast feed anywhere, public or private
- Allows facilities to use the term “baby-friendly” when breastfeeding policies are established.

Chapter 768 F.S. -Negligence

- Protection from liability for perishable and non-perishable food distributed free of charge (passed before PL 104-210 became permanent)

Chapter 1003 F.S. - Public K-12 Education

- Defines physical education requirements for K-12
- Requires the development, posting and review of school wellness, nutrition and physical education policies

Local Government

Health Promotion

Manatee County School Board

Wellness Policy covers nutritional requirements for school meals; limits a la carte selections in nutritional and caloric content; prohibits sale foods of minimal nutritional value in vending machines; prohibits energy drinks; classroom parties, rewards and fundraisers related to food; physical activity (implementation of Chapter 1003 F.S).

Manatee County

Comprehensive Plan Policy 2.9.1.2

Promote the connection and integration of community pedestrian, bicycle and vehicular systems to the larger county systems.

Comprehensive Plan Policy 2.9.1.9

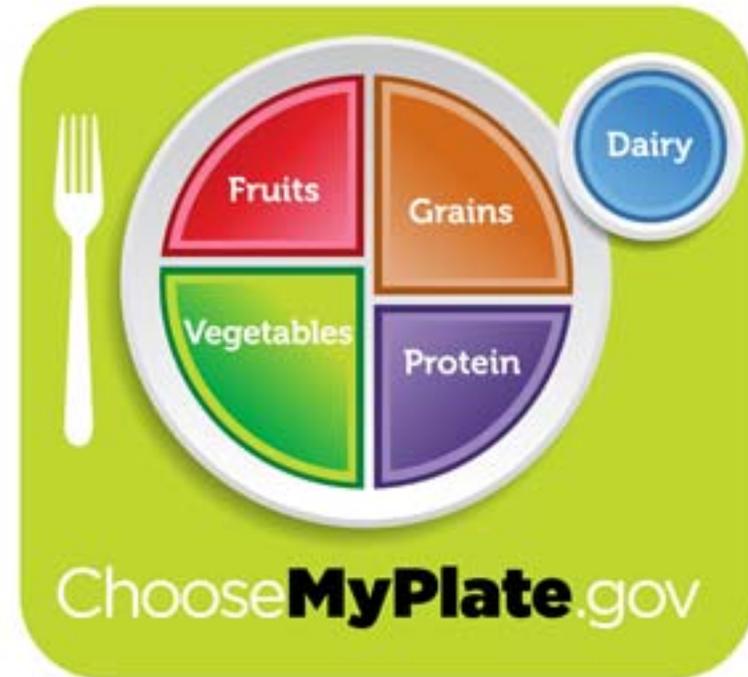
Require where feasible, pedestrian and bicycle access to community spaces, schools, recreational facilities, adjacent neighborhoods, employment opportunities, professional and commercial uses.

Local Government

Health Promotion continued

Achieve Project

The Manatee County Achieve project is coordinated by the Health Department to promote healthy lifestyles for every generation in Manatee County by fostering increased physical activity, good nutrition and tobacco-free living through community education and changes in systems and policy. Collaboration between multiple agencies and individuals is central to the Achieve project.



IV. Food Policy Audit

1. PUBLIC HEALTH	Yes/No n/a	Notes
a. Reduce and prevent community obesity and chronic illness		
Does the locality express a concern or a goal for improving public health?	Y	Manatee County Achieve project
Does the locality mention a goal to reduce obesity and/or chronic illness?	Y	Manatee County Achieve project
Does the locality have an overall wellness plan?	N	Schools have wellness plans for students and staff Some larger employer sponsored wellness plans.
Does the locality clearly allow, support, or advocate for Farm to School (or similar) programs - for educational purposes, or for provision of food for school cafeteria?	Y	
Does the locality have other provisions for school purchasing of local or organic foods?	N	
Does the locality clearly have a policy to reduce availability of junk food in schools and public buildings (e.g., vending machines and purchasing options)?	Y	School Wellness Plan
Do the schools have a policy or program to educate cafeteria workers on preparation of fresh, local food and/or nutrient-rich food?	Y	Extensive training.
Is the locality clearly encouraging or supporting the inclusion of food-based lesson plans in schools?	Y	Links to information provided on Manatee County Schools website.
Does the locality clearly encourage and/or directly support establishment of school garden programs at all levels of K-12?	Y	Several schools have gardens.
Is the locality currently employing or considering a "joint use" agreement to open the use of school land for food production (school gardens, community gardens, community urban farm)?	N	Use thus far is not "joint use".

Does the locality encourage that chain restaurants provide consumers with calorie information on in-store menus and menu boards?	Y	Affordable Care Act will require in 2014- most have information on websites and beginning to offer at point of sale. Local initiative on healthy dining promoted by Manatee County Health Department.
Does the locality have a clear tax or other strategy to discourage consumption of foods and beverages with minimal nutritional value, such as sugar sweetened beverages?	N	
Does the locality have educational/ promotional programs to discourage the use of Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) for sodas, high sugar and low nutrient foods?	N	
Does the locality promote breastfeeding?	Y	Manatee County Achieve and Women, Infants and Children (WIC). Baby-friendly designations for facilities adopting breastfeeding policies.
b. Engage public by increasing awareness of healthy and local food options		
Does the locality have a goal for increasing awareness of healthy food or lifestyle choices?	Y	Manatee County Achieve project
Has the locality adopted a clear policy defining "local" food?	N	
Does the locality publish or support a public guide to local food?	N	
Does the locality develop media campaigns, utilizing multiple media channels (print, radio, internet, television, social networking, and other promotional materials) to promote healthy eating?	Y	Depends upon funding available. On a project specific basis.
Does the locality support or participate in a Food Policy Council?	Y	
c. Flexible policies and zoning for creative and adaptive uses		
Does the code allow for and support protection of open space?	Y	Open space-yes(Comprehensive Plans and Land development Codes have minimum open space requirements)
For community gardens?	N	Gardens-No
Does the locality promote or enable easy accessibility to community gardens, including offering them in smaller pocket parks?	n/a	

Are there land protections for farmers' markets?	N	
Does the code allow for temporary and conditional use of abandoned lots for neighborhood gardens and/or urban farms?	In some areas	Within the unincorporated County, temporary agricultural uses are allowable. No policies within City of Bradenton.
Does the municipality sponsor or work with an area community land trust in setting aside land for community? Or nonprofit gardens?	N	
Does the zoning code have language that supports residential "farm" animals; chickens, goats, roosters? (look for re-defining domestic animals)	Y	City of Palmetto allows chickens but not goats. City of Bradenton does not permit. Unincorporated County allows in appropriate zoning and land use categories.
Are there funding streams available for food related projects, such as Community Development Block grants	Y	State of Florida has targeted investment incentives for qualified food and beverage manufacturing. Manatee County CDBG has provided funding for Meals on Wheels improvements in the past.
Are there regulations allowing flexibility for food producers to engage in minimal on-site processing?	Y	Within certain limitations: Cottage foods are limited to baked goods; candy; honey; jams and jellies; dried fruits; herbs and seasoning mixtures; pasta; nuts; granola; vinegar and popcorn.
d. Promote multi-modal transportation options to food sources		
Does the locality offer multi-modal transportation in the community?	Y	To a limited degree (some bikeways, bus system) Rural areas face greater challenges
Does the locality have a policy or programs to provide multimodal transportation options in the community to enable transportation of low-income populations to grocery stores? Does it reference or include transportation for migrant farm workers from camps?	Y	Comprehensive Plans of County and Cities call for multimodal transportation.
	N	Farmworkers are not referenced.
Does the locality have a program that, alternatively, transports local produce to low-income neighborhoods and migrant farm worker camps? (e.g., trucks, food carts, etc.)	N	

Do safe biking and walking paths exist between neighborhoods and food stores and markets? Between low income neighborhoods and food stores?	In some areas	Designated food desert areas and rural areas have limited non-vehicular access.
Does the locality have a bus service that connects neighborhoods directly with food stores and markets? Requiring no more than one bus change?	In some areas	Bus service in rural areas is more limited than service within Bradenton and Palmetto.
Does the locality have a low-cost taxi or ride-sharing service that connects neighborhoods directly with food stores and markets?	N	
Are these transportation services available at multiple times of day and evening?	Y	Bus service reduced schedules on weekends
Does the locality have a bike path or sidewalk plan?	Y	Plans for sidewalks and bike paths exist but funding may not. Not all areas will have equal access.
Are multiple transportation services available in rural and urban areas?	N	Urban areas have more options than rural areas.
e. Reduce community exposure to pesticides and chemicals in foods		
Does the locality have a policy or program to reduce pesticide use, with appropriate enforcement?	N	State rules apply but no local policy or program.
Does the locality have or support a policy or program to ensure appropriate protection of all farm workers from exposure to pesticides? (e.g., training in farm worker language about dangers of pesticides, appropriate application and protection measures, provision of equipment, etc.)	Y	Training provided by Manatee Technical Institute (MTI) at migrant camps.
Does a program or regulation exist that ensures proper communication of sanitation and hygiene practices for farm workers to ensure food safety?	Y	Training provided by Manatee Technical Institute (MTI) at migrant camps.
Does a policy or program exist to encourage transition to low-spray, sustainable, or organic agricultural methods, to reduce human and environmental exposure to potentially harmful chemicals?	To some extent	Florida Organic Growers Association and IFAS have held programs to encourage organic production and to transition to organic production, but no ongoing efforts.

Does a policy or program exist to encourage transition to sustainable or organic agricultural methods, to provide increased carbon sequestration?	To some extent	Florida Organic Growers Association and IFAS have held programs to encourage organic production and to transition to organic production, but no ongoing efforts.
Is there a policy or program that offers incentives to farmers to switch to more sustainable growing methods?	To some extent	SWFWMD has two programs to assist growers who improve water usage - FARMS and mini-FARMS. USDA -NRCS offers conservation programs
Does a policy of program exist to reduce fertilizers, pesticides and herbicides in groundwater and surface waters?	Y	County ordinance Fertilizer ban during rainy season
2. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT		
a. Support local food production		
Does the locality offer working farmland tax incentives, such as agriculture/forestal districts?	Y	Property tax reductions on Agricultural lands
Does the locality have a clear policy of encouraging (or giving preference to) event caterers or vendors that will use locally sourced food?	N	
Is there a local government policy or preference for local agencies to purchase low-spray, sustainably grown, or organic food?	N	
Does the locality have economic development goals to support regional food production?	N	
Is there a local government purchasing preference of local food when available?	N	
Is there a support system to supply existing farmers with steady and seasonal farm labor?	N	Growers hire crew leaders who hire laborers. Immigration is becoming a political issue in the State
Are there local government or other programs to inspire and train new farmers, including assistance to immigrants who may come from farming families?	Y	State Department of Agriculture, County Extension

Are there economic development programs or incentives or other tools for retailers to favor purchasing local food?	N	Customized incentives may be considered for the two designated Community Redevelopment areas.
b. Support development of local processing infrastructure		
Are the financial or other programs to support or incubate food-related businesses?	Y	Manatee County CDBG has provided funding for Meals on Wheels improvements in the past. State of Florida has targeted investment incentives for qualified food and beverage manufacturing.
Is there a USDA-inspected community cannery, kitchen, or other processing facility open to local farmers, food entrepreneurs, and the public?	N	
c. Support development of local distribution infrastructure		
Does the locality have a policy to allow local farmers' markets, tailgate markets, or farm stands?	Y	
Does the locality provide institutional support for local farmers' markets or tailgate markets?	Y	State support two farmers markets, Achieve project developing additional markets
Is there economic development support for businesses that provide regional distribution of regional food, such as a Food Hub?	N	Manatee County Economic Development Division would assist and identify any available incentives on a case by case basis.
d. Support development of new businesses using locally sourced products & heritage foods		
Does the locality provide tax incentives, leasing agreements, or other incentives to support development of businesses using locally produced food?	N	
Does the locality have a policy or program to support the identification and development of local heritage seeds, crops, foods, and heritage food products?	N	
e. Support increased Security of food supply		
Does the locality have an emergency preparedness plan that includes contingency plans for short-term interruption of food deliveries?	Y	

3. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS		
a. Reduce community carbon footprint and reduce nonpoint source stream pollution		
Does the locality have a policy or goal to reduce its community environmental "foodprint"?	N	
b. Reduce nonpoint source stream pollution from agriculture		
Does the locality have a policy or goal to reduce nonpoint source pollution from agricultural operations?	Y	Non-point source pollution efforts are implemented cooperatively by Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Florida's water management districts, Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Department of Health, and local governments. Local government does not have any authority in this area under Florida Right to Farm Act.
Does the locality provide support for the establishment of riparian buffers along farmland stream banks, to reduce nonpoint source pollution?	N	Local government does not have any authority in this area under Florida Right to Farm Act.
Does the locality have a policy or goal to fence out all livestock from stream ways?	N	Local government does not have any authority in this area under Florida Right to Farm Act.
Does the locality have a policy or goal or participate in a program to manage excess animal manure?	N	Local government does not have any authority in this area under Florida Right to Farm Act.
c. Reduce Food Waste		
Is there a policy or program to encourage foraging from unused home fruit and other gardens?	N	
Does the locality have a map for local food foraging?	n/a	
Is there a policy, program or opportunity for gleaning from local farms and restaurants?	Y	Excess is donated to food bank
Does the locality offer demonstration programs to encourage composting?	Y	County extension offered education for household composting
Does the locality offer a central site for composting home food and yard materials?	Y	No home food composting- Yard waste pickup available

4. SOCIAL EQUITY		
a. Increase transportation system access to markets that sell fresh and healthful foods by underserved communities		
Does the locality have a policy to provide access to quality food for all citizens, especially those with greater need?	N	
Has the locality done any infrastructure, transportation or other studies to identify issues of low-income neighborhoods gaining access to quality food, in rural as well as urban areas?	N	USDA has identified two food deserts -Achieve Project pursuing citing of farmers markets
Are farmer's markets geographically accessible by low income neighborhoods, in rural as well as urban areas?	To some extent	Rural areas may have less access due to transportation issues. Achieve project is exploring location of farmer's markets in designated food deserts.
b. Support location of grocers providing healthy local, foods in diverse and underserved locations		
Does the locality have an expedited development and/or permitting process for groceries that will provide healthy, local foods in underserved locations - in rural as well as urban areas?	To some extent	If located in one of the Community Redevelopment Areas, there is a rapid response in reviewing site plans and building permits.
Does the locality recognize through policy or programs the need for low income, immigrant populations, and migrant farm workers, to have access to grocers that provide local, fresh foods - in rural as well as urban areas?	N	
Are tax credits available to developers for opening a grocery store in certain areas?	To some extent	State tax credits may be available within designated enterprise zones or Brownfield sites. Not specific to grocery stores.
Are there any regulatory incentives, such as relaxed zoning requirements, that can facilitate new stores in underserved areas?	N	
Does the locality offer any predevelopment assistance to developers to expedite the review process?	Y	Rapid response permit assistance is potentially available.
c. Increase availability of fresh and healthful foods for underserved communities		
Does the locality support the policy of \$2 or \$3 for every EBT dollar, when the EBT is used at grocery stores or market venues for fresh, local food?	N	Support for the idea exists but funding not in place

Do farmer's markets and/or grocery stores accommodate WIC coupons, Senior Nutrition coupons, or EBT machines?	Y	Grocery stores, some farmer's markets accept EBT/WIC
Are markets and stores accessible at multiple times and days to accommodate varying work schedules?	Y	For most grocery stores- farmers markets may have more limited hours
Does the locality support, or are there programs for mobile farms stands and mobile food carts?	N	Under development through Achieve project.
Do local faith, nonprofit organizations, and educational institutions (public and private) have policies to buy local food for events when available?	N	
d. Support an effective emergency food infrastructure		
Does the locality have a policy that its citizens have a "right to food security"? (cf: Belo Horizonte, Brazil)	N	
Does the locality support the provision of a central directory of all emergency food providers?	Y	2-1-1
Does the locality have a system for directing / referring people in need of food to the places that can help?	Y	2-1-1
Does the locality support coordination and cooperation among emergency food providers?	Y	Emergency Management, Meals on Wheels Plus
Does the locality support a method, structure or storage facility for donations of fresh foods to emergency food providers?	Y	Manatee Food Bank
e. Support equitable working conditions for farm labor		
Does the locality support a living wage policy for all those who work, including migrant farm labor?	N	
Does the locality support access to fresh, healthful food by the farm laborers who are helping to produce the food?	N	
Does the locality provide or ensure that training for farm workers is provided in a comfortable training environment, and that the training is adequate and in their native language, and that someone is available to answer farm worker questions in their own language?	Y	Training is provided in native language at migrant camps by Manatee Technical Institute.
Does the locality provide or ensure that adequate protection against pesticides is provided to farm workers?	To some extent	Training provided but there is no monitoring or enforcement mechanism in place.

Does the locality host a program to encourage and enable transitional farm labor to become engaged in, participate in, or become integrated into community events - such as through volunteering for county fairs, agricultural events?	N	
Does the locality have a clear contact for migrant farm workers to contact, to participate in any aspect of the community?	N	
Does the locality have a map of where farm worker camps are, to facilitate understanding and planning for their needs?	Y	
Are housing options available for migrant workers?	Y	Camps are inspected by the Department of Health.
f. Promote community involvement and ownership in local food system		
Are community members involved in the organization of markets, gardens or other food opportunities?	Y	Achieve, Food Policy Council, Two Community Supported Agriculture sites
Is there support for diverse, local, traditional - and fresh - food options and practices?	Y	To a limited degree
Does the locality support or have a program to incorporate the participation of local migrant workers into local food farmers' markets and farm stands, to integrate and protect workers while they're in the community, as isolation is a major factor in migrant worker life?	N	
5. LAND CONSERVATION / ACCESS TO LAND FOR FOOD PRODUCTION		
Does the locality have a policy to support and encourage land conservation, including easements, for food production?	Y	
Are there creative leasing or financing models to reduce start-up farming debt?	N	
Does the locality have a map of its prime agricultural lands for conservation?	Y	County Future Land Use Map, current zoning map
Does the locality have incentives for supporting agri-tourism, heritage tourism, or other purposes supporting local food production?	N	

Does the locality limit development potential in prime agricultural land through purchase of development rights, transfer of development rights, establishment of agricultural districts, infill, or through other means?	To some extent	Agriculture categories A-1 and A-2. Basic transfer of development rights in comprehensive plan. County explored the creation of AG Stewardship program, but developers no longer interested in purchasing development rights with economic downturn.
Does the locality have a green infrastructure plan that incorporates consideration for food production into the plan?	N	

RESOURCES:

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention- www.cdc.gov

City of Bradenton Comprehensive Plan- http://www.cityofbradenton.com/index.asp?Type=B_BASIC&SEC={D4E23BDC-DFE7-47CB-A970-03EB4ADF3143}

City of Bradenton Code of Ordinances - <http://www.municode.com/Library>

City of Bradenton Land Use Regulations and Zoning Maps-
http://www.cityofbradenton.com/index.asp?Type=B_BASIC&SEC={FAF3A8DF-0E19-47AF-A16D-0F244FFF0CC8}

City of Palmetto Comprehensive Plan and Land Development Code- <http://www.palmettofl.org/index.aspx?NID=767>

City of Palmetto Code of Ordinances - <http://www.municode.com/Library>

Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services- <http://www.freshfromflorida.com/>

Florida Statutes - <http://www.leg.state.fl.us/STATUTES/>

Food and Drug Administration- www.fda.gov

Institute for Food and Agricultural Sciences, University of Florida - <http://www.ifas.ufl.edu>

Manatee County Code of Ordinances - <http://www.municode.com/Library>

Manatee County Comprehensive Plan - <http://www.mymanatee.org/home/government/departments/building-and-development-services/planning/comprehensive-planning-section/comprehensive-plan.html>

RESOURCES CONTINUED:

Manatee County Future Land Use Maps- <http://www.mymanatee.org/home/government/departments/building-and-development-services/planning/maps.html>

Manatee County Health Department-<http://www.doh.state.fl.us/chdmanatee/index.htm>

Manatee County Land Development Code - <http://www.municode.com/Library>

Manatee County Schools Wellness Policy - <http://www.manateeschoolfood.net/wellpolicy.pdf>

Manatee County Zoning Map- <http://www.mymanatee.org/home/government/departments/building-and-development-services/planning/maps.html>

University of Virginia, Institute for Environmental Negotiation - <http://ien.arch.virginia.edu/courses/food-systems-resources#audit>

U. S. Department of Agriculture - www.usda.gov

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Manatee County Food Policy Council consists of stakeholders from diverse food-related sectors and exists to examine the local food system and identify ideas and recommendations for improvement through changes in policy.

The Health Council of West Central Florida and our implementing partner, the Manatee County Health Department, invite interested parties to participate in the Council's activities. Stakeholders may include:

- Processors
- Distributors
- Retailers
- Health Providers
- Consumers
- Agriculture and Natural Resources
- Restaurants
- Institutional Food Services
- Hunger Prevention Advocates
- County/City/State Government
- Growers/Ranchers/Commercial Fishing
- Education

MEMBERS

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Jody Baden - New Medicine Community at Health Park East

Dr. Jennifer Bencie - Manatee County Health Department

Chef Garry Colpitts C.E.C. - Manatee Technical Institute Culinary Arts Program

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Lilian Elliot - PepsiCo

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Shelby King - King Family Farm and Market

Megan Jourdan - Manatee County Health Department

Steve Lezman - Government Affairs Manager, PepsiCo

Mary Murray - The Fresh Market

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Blane Turpin - Meals on Wheels Plus

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