

AGRICULTURE & FOOD SYSTEMS

5-YEAR GOAL:

- ***Increase agriculture’s contribution to the region through diversification of cropping and livestock operations, value-added activities, and new market development.***

S.M.A.R.T Goals/Objectives:

1. Increase by 30% the number of businesses in the region engaged in value added agriculture by the end of 2016.
2. Establish heritage farming training programs to increase by 12% the number of "new farmers" in the region by 2020.
3. Establish a regional center to encourage and support agriculture, education, arts & crafts and tourism activity in the region by 2020.
4. Revitalize sustainable agriculture practices in the region to increase people's access to fresh and healthy food at one or more senior centers and schools and two or more local markets (food stands, farmers markets) by January 2016.
5. Increase by 40% the number of elder/youth inter-generational programs in the region that teach the youth to value and care for the land by December 2016.
6. Independent rural businesses in the region implement cooperative purchasing practices to meet the minimum purchasing threshold requirements set by distributors by 2016.
7. Develop a network of producers in the region to aggregate and distribute agriculture products to meet regional demand by 2018.

Barriers	Opportunities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aging Farmers • Youth Involvement • General Interest in Farming & Agricultural Practices • Water Supply • Land Inventory 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Passion & Independence of current individuals involved in agricultural practices • Demo Farms • Training Available • Community Collaboration • Educational Programs • New Equipment