



October 2026
Local Food Town Hall



K-STATE Research and Extension | Local Food Systems

Today's Agenda:

- Presentations:
  - 302 Delaware: From Vacant to Vital – Shelby Bohnert
  - Farm to Plate Strategic Plan – Eryn Davis, KSDE
- K-State Community Food Systems Plans for 2027
- Program Updates from Across the State
  - Funding, grant programs, and staffing changes
  - Upcoming events
  - New resources or opportunities
- Evaluation

Notes & Recordings of all Town Halls can be found at: https://www.k-state.edu/kansaslocalfoods

Welcome Poll:

- Have you attended a quarterly Local Food Town Hall in the past?
  - Yes, more than one time
  - Yes, one other time
  - No, this is my first
  - I'm not sure

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Welcome Poll:

- What part of the state are you from?
  - Northeast
  - North Central
  - Northwest
  - Southwest
  - South Central
  - Southeast
  - KC Metro, MO
  - Not from Kansas

- Please put your name, location, and organization or business affiliation (if any) in the chat.

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Announcement

302 Delaware

JEWELL, KS

From Vacant to Vital: Community Restaurant & Market

Presented By: Shelby Bohnert

How It Started



Land Bank Survey

Restaurant Sub Committee

Planning & Mobilizing

Closed On Building: 302 Delaware

Frozen in Time Video

New Fund with Jewell County Community Foundation

Alumni Outreach & Donor Relations

Launch Facebook Communications

Built By Community



Invite Skilled Labor In-Kind

Heavy Equipment Donated
Demolition 100% Volunteer
Concrete Work
Electrical
Painting

Invite Other Skillsets

Communications
Meal Coordinator
302 Restaurant & Market

Demolition Video

Hire Locally from Day One

Ongoing Communications

The first grant sparked momentum. Everything after that helped carry it forward.

Community Buy In	Raised $175,000 in a few short months through our Jewell Legacy Fund in partnership with the Jewell Co. Community Foundation allowed us to start to grant write.
First turning point	The Dane G. Hansen Grant became the first grant catalyst that got 302 Delaware rolling.
December 2025	A $25,000 SEED Grant from KS Department of Commerce - Office of Rural Prosperity helped build out the 302 Market.
March 2026	A $100,000 Kansas HEAL grant followed to assist with building infrastructure.
September 2026	Doors opened locally first with regional roll-out following.



From Idea to Impact

1. Started with a plan

Land Bank survey, restaurant subcommittee, planning and mobilizing, and the purchase of 302 Delaware turned a vacant building into a shared opportunity.

2. Built by community

Donated equipment, volunteer demolition, concrete, electrical, painting, local hiring, communications, meal coordination, and other skillsets moved the work forward.

3. Momentum attracted investment

Community buy-in led to the Dane G. Hansen Grant, a KDOC HEAL grant and SEED Grant after $175,000+ raised locally through the Jewell Legacy Fund.







Local action created the momentum for 302 Restaurant & Market.

Sneak Peek



Kansas Farm to Plate Strategic Plan

October Local Foods Town Hall

October 28th, 2026

KANSAS
STATE DEPARTMENT OF
EDUCATION

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Kansas leads the world in the success of each student.

Two Pillars of Farm to School

Local Food Procurement



Agricultural Education



Farm to Plate at KSDE

Technical assistance for Child Nutrition Program operators

Promotion of Farm to Plate with stakeholders outside of CNPs

Farm to Plate Programming Creation/Implementation

Grant activity to support local food procurement and ag education

Farm to Plate Strategic Plan

- Farm to Plate is changing across Kansas
  - Shifting from creating awareness to addressing barriers
- Farm to Plate is becoming more challenging
  - Increased food prices, aggregational difficulty, changing farm availability
- KSDE can leverage foundational work that has been done to move the needle

Strategy 1: Network & Relationship Infrastructure:

1. Attend conferences and gatherings to continue Farm to Plate Awareness
2. Identify key partners at the Kansas Department of Agriculture
3. Create a Farm to Plate Champions Network
4. Create a listserv and community of practice for Child Nutrition Program Sponsors
5. Recruit statewide Local Foods Champions

Strategy 2: Early Childhood Education & Workforce Pathways

1. Connect Farm to Plate with Career and Technical Education (CTE)

2. Continue to invest in Early Childhood Education.

Strategy 3: Procurement Infrastructure

1. Support food hub aggregation efforts in Northeast Kansas
2. Explore Service Centers as regional infrastructure for food procurement
3. Develop relationships with and explore collaboration with food service management companies

Strategy 4: Create a More Supportive Environment for Local Food Procurement

1. Develop a model policy for local food procurement

2. Explore best practices and the potential impact of increasing funding for Farm to Plate
3. Disseminate findings to statewide partners

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Questions?

K-State Local Food Program Updates

2027 Plans – Town Halls Transition

- Quarterly Town Halls will not continue in 2027.
- Food Systems in Focus webinars:
  - Third Friday at 9:30 a.m.
  - Jan, Mar, May, July, Sept, Nov
- Look for details and registration information soon!

Local Food Producer Workshops

- Feb. 13th – Wichita
- Feb. 18th – Lawrence (Haskell)
- Feb. 25th – Salina
- Feb. 26th – Pittsburg
- Mar. 3rd – Hays
- Mar. 4th? - Liberal

Summits

- Food Business Start Up Summit – April 2027

- Local Food Summit – November 2027







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The Community Food Systems Team works to provide evidence-based information for food system questions, identify and respond to the significant challenges and opportunities that our food system faces, and highlight projects within Kansas that strengthen the distribution, processing, access, consumption, and recovery of local foods.



Our Newsletter

Sign up for our monthly newsletter provides updates about upcoming events and local food happenings in the state.



Kansas Food First

Subscribe to our magazine & read inspiring success stories about hardworking food businesses thriving across Kansas.



Resources

Learn more about food and farm business services and tailored to your nee aspirations.

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Program Updates from Around the State

Closing Poll:

- How much do you agree or disagree that the Town Halls have helped you stay connected to statewide local food efforts?
  - Strongly Agree –Agree—Neither—Disagree—Strongly Disagree

- Did you learn something new today?
  - Yes
  - No

- Which topics were valuable to you today?
  - 302 Delaware Project
  - Farm to Plate Strategic Plan
  - K-State Updates
  - Program Updates

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Closing Poll:

- How many people will you share something with from today's town hall?
  - None
  - 1
  - 2-5
  - 6 or more

- Do you have suggestions for speakers or topics for our webinar series?

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Thank you!

