



Northeast Indiana Local Food System Assessment & Strategic Plan

The **Northeast Indiana Local Food Needs Assessment and Strategic Plan Initiative** is being conducted to increase awareness, understanding, and appreciation of the local food system in Northeast Indiana. This planning process will also help Northeast Indiana stakeholders determine how to build capacity and resilience within the local food system, increase inclusivity, and serve vulnerable and marginalized communities.

1 Who? Everyone Involved with Food

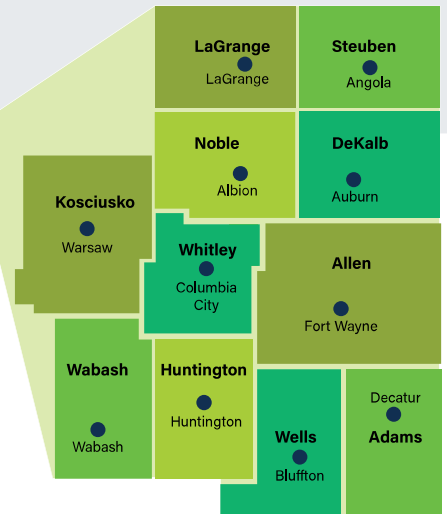
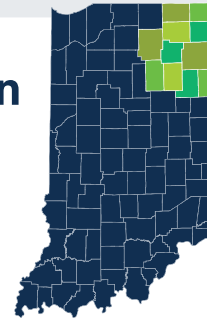


2 What? Local Food System Value Chain





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3 **Where?** Rural-Suburban-Urban Communities across Northeast Indiana

Northeast Indiana is made up of
11 counties and 805,656 people.

4 **Why?** Local Food Systems Support Our Shared Values

Food Entrepreneurship
Inclusive Economic Opportunity
Thriving Local Economy

Community Health & Wellness
Food Access & Security
Self-Sufficiency

Environmental Stewardship
Farmland Preservation
Healthy Soils & Biodiversity

Resilient Communities
Small & Medium-size Farm Viability
Strong Urban-Rural Connections

5 **When?** Local Food Systems Address Today's Challenges

- Vulnerable food supply chains exposed during the COVID-19 pandemic
- Food price increases leading to increased food insecurity
- Communities with inadequate access to healthy food
- High rates of obesity, diabetes, and heart disease
- Environmental degeneration of soil and water quality
- Shifts in temperatures and weather patterns impacting food production

6 **How can YOU help?**



Learn more at
neifood.org

- Know your farmer
- Buy local food
- Share your ideas
- Partner with us

Together we can develop a resilient and inclusive
Local Food System, where the bounty from our
land can nourish everyone in our region.