Local Food as an Economic Development Driver

Elgin, Texas — April, 2016
Introductions

- Elgin Mayor Marc Holm
- Economic Development Director Owen Rock
- Mike Morris, Project Director, NCAT

Agenda overview

Housekeeping

Follow up request card
What will we accomplish today?

- Awareness of economic impact
- Awareness of the opportunity for growth
- Understanding the need for more data
- Resources to learn more; follow up
Why Us?

- We form a foodshed
- We are interdependent
- We have the soil
- We have the market demand
- We have the transportation lines
Demand for Local Food

- Consumer demand for locally-produced food – currently estimated by USDA at over $6 billion -- is creating new business opportunities for farmers and ranchers.

- Community stakeholders are beginning to recognize that local food systems are a major contributor to community and economic development.

- USDA released Toolkit for Economics for Local Food Systems, April 2016
Demand: 18M people, 200 miles
Who gets our money?

- Most of our food comes from outside Texas
- We have some of the best soil on the continent
Let’s Learn Together

- Edwin Marty
- Chris Schrek
- Cameron Molberg
- Michelle Esper-Martin
- Jarred Maxwell
- Dr. Rebekka Dudensing
Summary

- We are aware of economic impact and opportunity for growth
- Have a sense of the demographic changes impacting our region
- What next?
Action steps

- Regional food study: 10 county CAPCOG region. Total cost $150,000.
- Interest in participating in interviews for the regional food study?
- Another gathering in fall?
- What would you like a fall seminar to include?
Thank you - Questions?

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