

## Snapshot of Chester County's Local Food System

| <b>Production</b>  | <b>County</b>   | <b>South Carolina</b>   |
|--|---|---|
| Farms by size (by gross sales)*  | Small family farms (<\$250k) 95%<br>Large family farms (\$250k-\$499k) 1%<br>Very large family farms (\$500k+) 2%<br>Nonfamily farms 3%       | Small family farms (<\$250k) 92%<br>Large family farms (\$250k-\$499k) 1%<br>Very large family farms (\$500k+) 3%<br>Nonfamily farms 3%       |
| Proportion of principal farmers younger than 35                          | 2.5%  | 4.3%  |
| Number of farms  | 477 (1.9% of SC farms)  | 25,266  |
| Proportion of farms growing fruit & vegetables                           | 7.5%  | 7.9%  |
| Change in farmland acres 2007-2012                                       | -14.6%  | +1.7%   |
| Proportion of farms reporting positive net income                        | 34.8%   | 37.7%   |
| Proportion of farms with direct sales                                    | 7.5%  | 6.3%  |
| <b>Retail Infrastructure</b>   | <b>County</b>   | <b>South Carolina</b>   |
| Grocery stores/1,000 pop   | 0.3   | 0.19  |
| Full service restaurants/1,000 pop                                       | 0.52  | 0.77  |
| SNAP-authorized stores   | 50 (1% of SNAP-auth. stores in SC)  | 5,146   |
| Farmers markets  | 2 (2% of SC farmers markets)  | 121   |
| <b>Consumption, Access, and Health</b>                                   | <b>County</b>   | <b>South Carolina</b>   |
| Proportion of population with inadequate fruit and vegetable consumption | 81%   | 80.9%   |
| Rates of diabetes and obesity  | Diabetes (11.3%); Obesity (31.8%)   | Diabetes (10.5%); Obesity (31.5%)   |
| Proportion of children eligible for free/reduced price lunch             | 66.8%   | 54.5%   |
| <b>Waste Management</b>  | <b>County</b>   | <b>South Carolina</b>   |
| Tons of food waste recycled  | 0.0   | 274,594   |
| <b>Equity</b>  | <b>Charlotte-Gastonia-Rock Hill**</b>   | <b>South Carolina</b>   |
| Wages throughout the food system sectors                                 | <u>Average annual wages:</u><br>farmworkers and laborers (\$22,590); animal slaughter and processing (\$23,140); food prep/service (\$20,830) | <u>Average annual wages:</u><br>farmworkers and laborers (\$19,840); animal slaughter and processing (\$23,620); food prep/service (\$19,610) |

\*"Farms by size" is 2007 Census of agriculture data. Data for 2012 will not be released until December 2014. All other production data uses 2012 Census data.

\*\*Bureau of Labor Statistics Metropolitan Region defined as: Anson, Cabarrus, Gaston, Mecklenburg, and Union counties in NC, and York County in SC.

For more information on this county's agricultural statistics, visit its [2012 Census of Agriculture profile](#)

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