COMMUNITY FOOD SYSTEMS: FOOD HUBS

GOALS

A **BRIDGE** between consumers, buyers, producers and food businesses; by providing a middle ground for the food system. This business or organization manages aggregation, distribution and marketing of products that are primary from local or regional producers. This fills a gap from the current distribution industry that distributes 80% of wholesale products from typically large scale producers. In turn, food hubs provide an efficient service for **LOCAL AND REGIONAL FOOD SYSTEMS** and enhance the ability to serve the wholesale, regional and institutional demand. Food Hubs + Boxes create an opportunity to build economic sustainability for multiple agricultural programs in the food system, leading to a **HOLISTIC AND DIVERSE DISTRIBUTION NETWORK.**

BENEFITS

- Stimulate local economy
- Locally-grown food creates a multiplier effect
- Create jobs
- Increased farmer income
- Decreased transportation costs:
- -Improved environment + carbon footprint
- Increase volumes of local products sold to local and regional community
- Expand market opportunities
- Potential to serve underserved areas and food deserts
- Fresh local product that is delivered directly to community site

COMMUNITY IMPACT

- **Innovative business models that are financially viable:**
  Annual revenue increases between 50-80%; and substantial increase number of producers supplying product.

- **Provide support for various existing food production amenities:**
  Investment in local food economies creating numerous jobs.

- **Build capacity to grow additional products:**
  Hubs provide a consistent market base allowing producers to plan production

NATIONAL BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

Walsma & Lyons: Distributor of Mother Natures Finest
https://www.facebook.com/WalsmaAndLyons/photos/

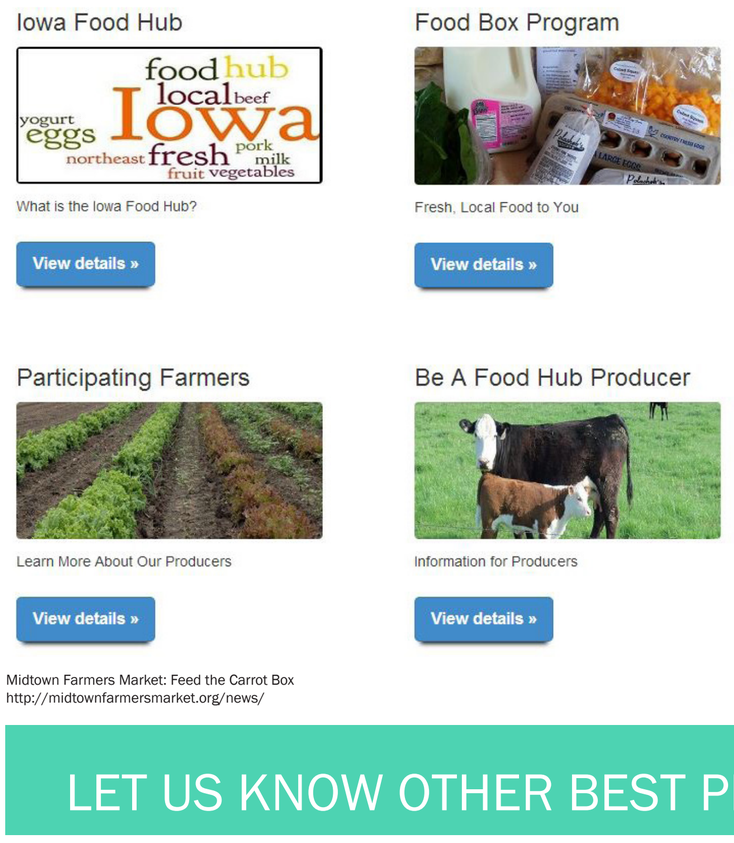
WALSMA + LYONS: Grand Rapids, MI:

A distribution company with 15 small and mid-size producers- established to provide a premium product with safety and regional identity at the heart of the operation.

Common Market Warehouse
https://www.facebook.com/pages/Common-Market-Philadelphia/

COMMON MARKET: Philadelphia, Pennsylvania:

Provides nutritious, affordable, locally grown food to all, including vulnerable communities; connecting more than 150 organizations to local producers.



Midtown Farmers Market: Feed the Carrot Box
http://midtownfarmersmarket.org/news/

IOWA FOOD HUB:

A educational and research-driven food hub; with an online food box program, delivery, market development, farm to school, and local procurement and sales

Quad Cities Food Hub: Veggie Mobile
http://www.qcfoodhub.com/page/2/

QUAD CITIES FOOD HUB: Quad Cities, IA + IL:

Supports local food production through the connection of producers and consumers; fosters education and training; a significant new program includes the veggie mobile that was created in 2014 to increase access to local food.

LET US KNOW OTHER BEST PRACTICES

TITLE: CONTACT INFORMATION:

INTERESTED IN HELPING? SHARE YOUR INFO

NAME: CONTACT INFORMATION: