

# Vision West ND Local Food Hub Study

Diversifying and Building Local Economies in Western North Dakota



# VWND and the Local Economy

- 19 Local County Plans
  - Value-Added Ag
  - Downtown Development
  - Economic Diversification



# Building on our work

- Economic Diversification and Cluster Development
  - EIIO & WDEA
  - Local Clusters = 64% of employment in VWND region
- Mainstreet Success Project
  - 94% of participants want to do more shopping locally
  - 33.5% do majority of shopping 60 miles outside of community
- GoLocal!ND
  - Bush Foundation
  - Shift 10% of resident spending back to local economy



# Why a Food Hub?



- **Food Hubs** are different from Farmer's Markets and Community Supported Agriculture (CSAs): Food Hubs focus on small producer services such as marketing, collection, distribution, education, processing and value-added activities
- **Food Hubs** increase access to local food in local places reducing risk associated with global markets
- **Food Hubs** create local jobs
- **Food Hubs** create opportunities for youth retention and entrepreneurs
- **Food Hubs** help to address food insecurity and food deserts



**PARTNER FARMS  
& PRODUCERS**  
Small family farms &  
specialty producers



**FARM SOURCED  
FOOD**



**SUPPORT SERVICES  
& RESOURCES**



**DISTRIBUTION**  
Partner distributors,  
institutions, retailers & schools



**COMMUNITY  
PARTNERSHIPS**  
Area nonprofits, hunger &  
food access organizations,  
farm to school



**PUBLIC KNOWLEDGE**  
Increasing knowledge of  
local food to all segments  
of the community



National Good Food Network <http://www.ngfn.org/resources/food-hubs>

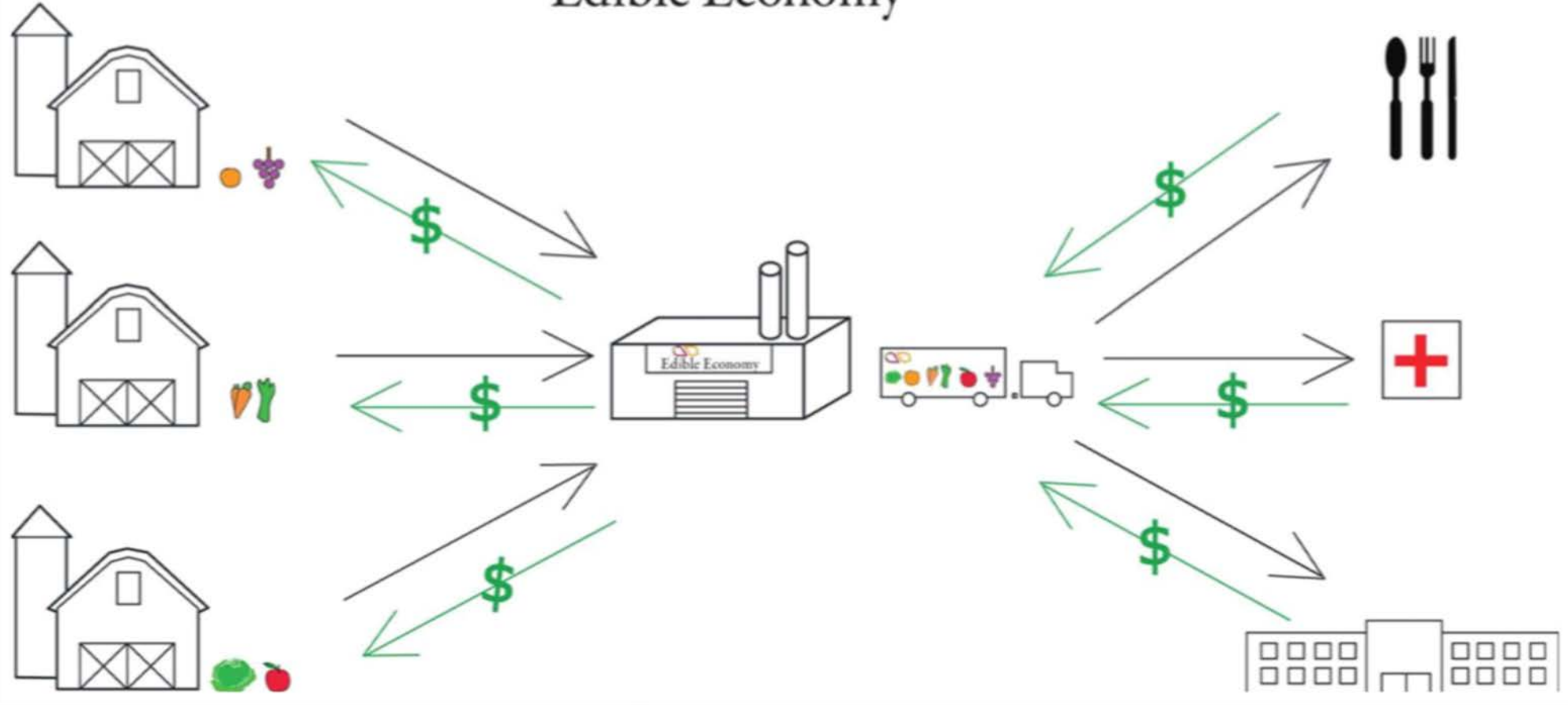
# What we need to know

- Consumer interest in purchasing locally grown/produced foods
- Availability, affordability and accessibility of locally grown/produced foods
- Interest of local producers in “food hub” services and increasing production
- Interest of local producers in desire to aggregate individual production to meet local demand
- Barriers and challenges for consumers and producers in the local food system
- Necessary infrastructure and capital to implement food hubs in local communities





# Edible Economy



**Small Local Producers**

**Producer Services**

**Local Consumers**



## Who we will work with

- ND Dept. of Agriculture
- Dakota College at Bottineau
- ND Dept. of Commerce
- ND Farmers Market and Growers Association
- ND Farm to School Program
- Regional Planning Councils



# Deliverables from the Study

- **Recommendation** to the Dept. of Commerce
  - Potential Food Hub **locations, partnerships and resources** necessary for viable Food Hubs throughout the region, based upon level of interest and support from local producers and consumers
- **Food Hub Toolkit**
  - Identification of **Food Hub Models** (co-op, non-profit, for-profit) with corresponding business plan
  - A simple, specific **step-by-step process** for implementing a food hub within a 12 month timeframe

