

ONE HUNDRED THIRD LEGISLATURE

SECOND SESSION

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 545

Introduced by Kolowski, 31.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this resolution is to study state-wide efforts that can be taken to improve Nebraska's access to local food supply and distribution networks. The study will focus on the following issues:

(1) Economic development and entrepreneurial opportunities related to local food production and consumption;

(2) Improved health outcomes;

(3) Positive environmental quality impacts;

(4) Increased access to, and distribution of, wholesome, local food;

(5) Support for local producers of sustainable food products;

(6) Identification, preservation, and sustainable development of local resources including soil, agricultural land, important breeds and cultivars, water, skilled labor, capital, and markets;

(7) Increased education and awareness on the part of Nebraskans regarding the benefits of locally produced foods;

(8) Access to land for beginner farmers;

(9) Incentives for farmers to transition their land to non-family members and beginner farmers;

(10) Zoning requirements to allow farmers to grow food on vacant lots in municipalities; and

(11) Funding sources for schools to purchase local food.

The study committee shall work with interested individuals and organizations to develop a state-wide food system assessment by December 1, 2014. Questions asked in the food system assessment shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

(1) How does the food we eat today make it from the farm to our plates?

(2) How much food does our state produce for export?

(3) How much could be locally grown and consumed?

(4) How much do we currently spend on food?

(5) How do our food purchases impact our health and economy?

(6) Do all members of our community have access to wholesome food?

(7) Could our food choices actually help shape a robust local economy?

(8) What is our food security?

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MEMBERS OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA, SECOND SESSION:

1. That the Agriculture Committee of the Legislature shall be designated to conduct an interim study to carry out the purposes of this resolution.

2. That the committee shall upon the conclusion of its study make a report of its findings, together with its recommendations, to the Legislative Council or Legislature.