

PROCLAMATION

“Adams County Food Policy Council”

May13, 2009

WHEREAS, The Adams County Food Policy Initiative recognizes food system issues significantly affect the public health, land use, economy and quality of life of Adams County citizens; and

WHEREAS, food security is a necessity of life, recognized as a condition in which all community residents must be able to obtain a safe, culturally acceptable, nutritionally adequate diet through a sustainable food system that maximizes community self-reliance and social justice; and

WHEREAS, it is estimated 10% of Adams County households are food insecure. 26% of families with children are food insecure. 20% who live in poverty survive on food stamps, county food pantries, church donations and trips to discount food vendors. However, only 4.0% of Adams County individuals are eligible for food stamps. In January 2009, 28% of children are enrolled in the Free and Reduced Federal Lunch Program, up from 23% in 2003. 4% of Adams County individuals are eligible for food stamps. Adams County unemployment was at 6.7% in January 2009, compared to 4.3% just 4 months earlier.

WHEREAS, food related health concerns are prevalent in the county. In 2008, 30% of adults were obese. In 2007, 40% of children in kindergarten through sixth grade were either overweight or obese. In 2008, 7% of individuals in the county had Type 2 diabetes; and

WHEREAS, food and agricultural sectors are central to the economy of Adams County, contribute significantly to the environmental and economic well-being of our region, and the market value of production increased by 55% in the last five years; and

WHEREAS, the local foods movement is rapidly growing with an 20% increase in sales in the last three years at the Adams County farmers' markets and the establishment of the Local Foods Network in 2008; and

WHEREAS, creative solutions are being implemented throughout the county, including nutrition classes, targeted food drives, donations of farmer's market surplus to low-income families and gleaning activities.

WHEREAS, Adams County Farmers Market Association, Adams County Local Foods Network, Adams County Office for the Aging, Gettysburg College, Healthy Adams County, Penn State Cooperative Extension of Adams County, South Central Community Action Programs, Inc., United Way of Adams County, and Wellspan Health System have provided input and expressed support for the creation of an Adams County Food Policy Council, and

WHEREAS over 100 school, city, county and state food policy councils exist throughout the United States and have been effective over the last 20 years in bringing together stakeholders from diverse food-related sectors to examine how food systems operate and to develop solutions to improve it; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that We the Commissioners of Adams County, in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, do hereby establish the Adams County Food Policy Council, which aims to close the food gap with a focus on building our local economy and educating our community about nutrition and the benefit of local food consumption in order to promote a more sustainable social, environmental and economic future; and

IN WITNESS THEREFORE, We have herewith set our hands and caused the Great Seal of the County of Adams to be affixed hereto on this 13th day of May, 2009.