



PROCESSING

Research Goal

Identify opportunities to promote economic development within the local food processing¹ industry to support regional farmers and create jobs for the under-employed residents of our region.



Defining Terms

1. Local Food Processing – food that is grown/raised and processed within the 11-county foodshed of the Greater Capital Region.
2. Value-Added Goods – food that has been changed in its physical state or form, thus enhancing its value.
3. Food Processing Industry – business which add value to products, including slaughter, drying, smoking, freezing, vacuum sealing, salting, sugaring, pickling, fermenting, packing, washing & cutting, and prep/cooking

Objective	Strategy
1. To understand local food processing in the region.	Map local food processing in the Greater Capital Region and identify gaps and overlaps in available services.
2. To identify barriers and solutions to expanding local food processing.	Interview regional processors and those in related fields to understand local food processing strengths, weaknesses, barriers, potential development, and current/future demand in regional processing services.
3. To identify food in high demand that can be produced and processed regionally.	A. Identify opportunities for regional producers to add value to what they produce.
	B. Interview local food processors to identify food that can be grown regionally which is in high demand by processors.
	C. Interview buyers to identify local <u>value-added goods</u> ² in high demand.
4. To identify regional markets for locally produced and processed food.	A. Map local food markets and identify barriers to accessing them through interviews with regional farmers and buyers.
	B. Determine gaps in local food markets and purchasing capacity in those gaps.
5. To identify opportunities and requirements for regional processors to expand markets.	Interview regional buyers to determine current and future processing demand and corresponding requirements.
6. To inventory <u>food processing industry</u> ³ job training programs and identify successful models geared towards at-risk adults.	A. Inventory regional food processing industry job training programs.
	B. Research models geared towards underemployed, unemployed, and hard-to-employ adults that would be appropriate in the Greater Capital Region.

