

About This Role:

Douglas County in partnership with K-State Research and Extension Local Food Systems is seeking a Local Food Fellow to complete the local food system project: *Enhancing SNAP Access to Small Food Businesses*

This part-time, sixteen-week fellowship will run from February 3 to May 23, 2025.

Responsibilities:

- Research and analyze Point-of-Sale (POS) systems and third-party processors to identify those best suited for small Kansas farmers, independent grocers, and CSA operators.
- Evaluate affordability, ease of use, and compatibility with SNAP/EBT technology for selected systems.
- Engage with small business owners, particularly immigrant and non-English-speaking grocers, to gather insights and understand unique challenges.
- Create a comprehensive report comparing POS systems and processors, including recommendations tailored to local food businesses.
- Develop outreach and educational materials to inform small business owners about becoming SNAP-authorized and the benefits of implementing EBT technology.
- Provide hands-on technical support to small businesses adopting new systems.
- Collaborate with partners such as the Kansas Department for Children and Families (SNAP), USDA, and the National Grocers Association to ensure resources align with community needs.
- Present findings and recommendations to the Douglas County Food Policy Council and local food entrepreneurs.
- Track and report project outcomes, including the number of businesses engaged and systems implemented.
- Complete final report to be submitted to K-State Research and Extension Local Food Systems Program Coordinator before finishing fellowship time period.

Location:

This is a hybrid position located at: Douglas county Sustainability Office, 1006 New Hampshire ST. Lawrence, KS 66044 and via Teams.

Why Join Us:

Douglas County offers a unique opportunity for fellows to engage in innovative food systems work, rooted in a rich history of leadership and collaboration. As the home of Kansas's first Food Policy Council and a founding member of the Kansas Food Action Network (KFAN), you'll work alongside a dynamic team shaping statewide food policy and supporting equitable food entrepreneurship. Our fellowship provides hands-on experience in research, outreach, and community engagement while directly impacting food access and sustainability. If you're passionate about making a meaningful difference in local food systems

and developing your skills in a supportive, forward-thinking environment, this fellowship is for you.

For more information about K-State Research and Extension Local Food Systems, please visit <http://www.kansaslocalfoods.org/>

We Support Diversity and Inclusion:

Kansas State University embraces diversity and inclusion. The university actively seeks individuals who foster a collegial environment and cooperative interactions with coworkers, students, and others. The University is dedicated to promoting the **Principles of Community**.

What You'll Need to Succeed:

Minimum Qualifications:

- Requires a high school diploma or equivalent; a bachelor's degree in food systems, business, or a related field is preferred but not required.
- Strong written and verbal communication skills, with the ability to effectively engage with individuals, groups, and diverse communities.
- Ability to work independently and as part of a collaborative team to meet project goals and deadlines.

Preferred Qualifications:

- Cultural competency is essential, with an emphasis on understanding and respecting the diverse backgrounds, experiences, and needs of the communities served.
- Experience working with diverse audiences.
- Bilingual in English and Spanish is preferred but not required.
- Ability to organize and analyze data, creating clear and concise reports.

Other Requirements:

- Applicants must be currently authorized to work in the United States at the time of employment.

How to Apply:

Please submit the following documents to Amanda Lindahl, Local Food System Program Coordinator: alindahl@ksu.edu and Connie Fiorella Fitzpatrick, Douglas County Food Systems Specialist: cfitzpatrck@qgcoks.gov

1. Letter of interest
2. Resume

Screening of Applications Begins:

January 6, 2025

Stipend Amount:

\$5,600 for the 320 hour fellowship project

Equal Employment Opportunity:

Kansas State University is an Equal Opportunity Employer. All applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity, age, national origin, disability, or status as a protected veteran.