
SOUTHWEST FLORIDA RESILIENCE COLLABORATIVE

STRENGTHENING SOUTHWEST FLORIDA

From Coastlines to the Heartland

SOUTHWEST FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL



Webinar: #3

EST. 1973

SERVING CHARLOTTE, COLLIER, GLADES, HENDRY, LEE AND SARASOTA COUNTIES



Today's Agenda

Webinar Series #3:

Visualizing Resilience: Exploring the Resiliency Hub & 3D Planning Tools

Presenter: Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council
GEO Hub and 3D Modeling

**Presenter: East Central Florida Regional Planning
Council**
Agriculture & Resilience Data Integration

Part 2: Stakeholder Working Session

Stakeholder Feedback & Discussion

- Data Gaps, Additional suggestions for Hub
- Current/Future Projects Across the Region
- Opportunities for Cross-Regional Coordination

Next Steps & Wrap-Up

Presentation: Tampa Bay RPC

Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council

The Southwest Florida Resiliency
GEO Hub and 3D Modeling



Vulnerability Assessment Guide

As communities across Southwest Florida face increasing risks from flooding, sea level...

Explore



Southwest Florida Flood Explorer

The Southwest Florida Flood Viewer is a resilience planning tool developed by the...

Explore



Southwest Florida Resilience Projects Map

Explore

Open Data

The Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council uses open-source GIS data from state, regional and local partners to make informed resilience planning decisions. Click on the categories below to access the data.



Boundaries



Community Assets



Agriculture



Conservation Lands



PRESENTATION: TAMPA BAY RPC

- Southwest Florida Resiliency Hub live demonstration walk through
- GEO Hub and 3D Modeling
- <https://resiliency-swfrpc.hub.arcgis.com/>

Building a Resilient Southwest Florida

The Southwest Florida Resiliency Hub is a regional platform designed to support resilience planning, data sharing, and collaboration across Southwest Florida. Developed by the [Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council](#) (SWFRPC), the Hub connects local governments, community partners, and residents with the tools and information needed to prepare for flooding, sea-level rise, extreme weather, and other climate-related challenges.

Since 2009, SWFRPC has led regional resilience initiatives focused on technical assistance, GIS mapping, vulnerability assessment, and long-term adaptation planning. In 2024, SWFRPC received funding through Florida's [Resilient Florida Program](#) to develop the Southwest Florida Resiliency Hub and strengthen regional resilience planning capacity.

Presentation: East Central Florida RPC

East Central Florida Regional Planning Council

Agriculture & Resilience Data Integration

Southwest Florida Regional Food Systems Analysis



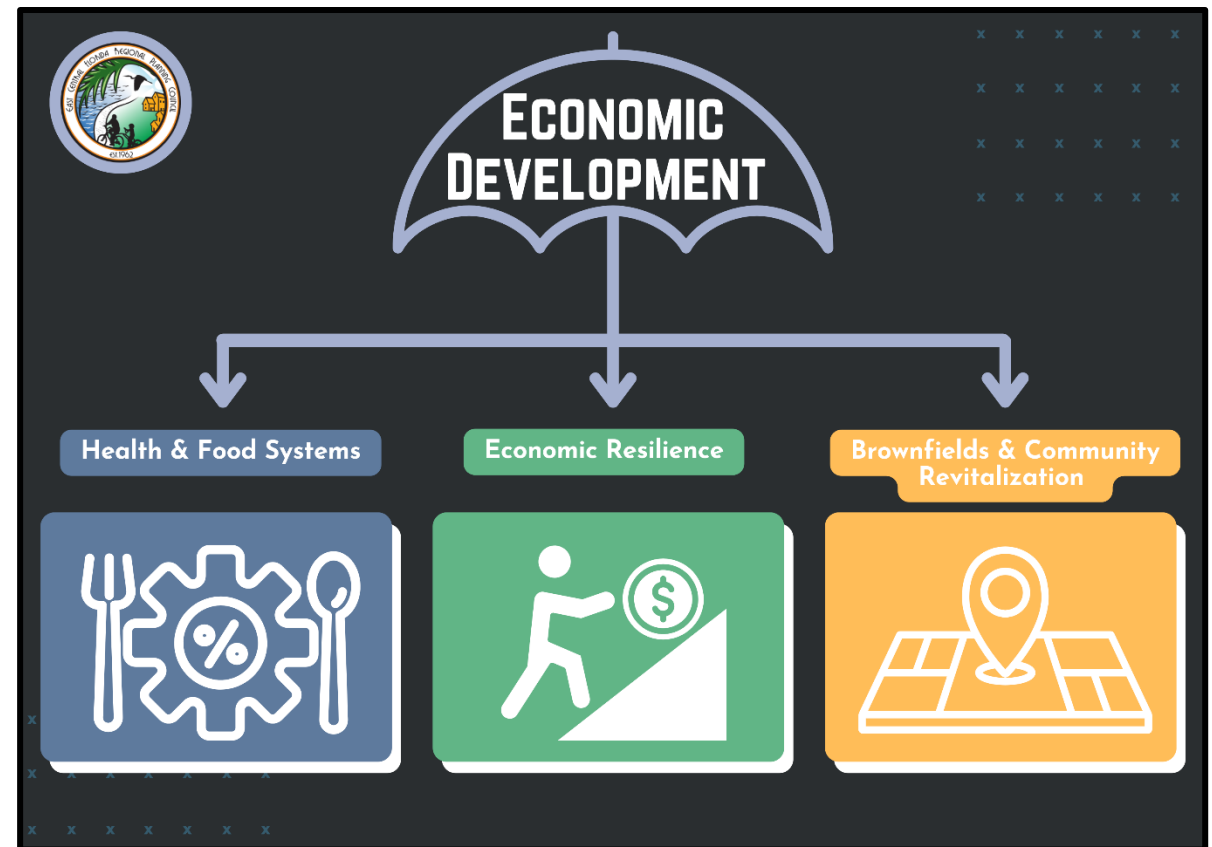
Luis Nieves-Ruiz, FAICP
East Central Florida Regional Planning Council

East Central Florida RPC



Project Team

- Luis Nieves-Ruiz,
FAICP
- Sebastian Castro
- Alexander Ball



Regional Food Systems



What is the Regional Food System?

- Complex Set of Interconnected Activities and Processes Involved in the **Production, Processing, Distribution, Preparation, Consumption, and Disposal of Food**



Mapping Food Systems Assets



Regional Food Production Assets Inventory

- Agricultural lands
- Food production businesses
 - Farms
 - Processors
 - Distributors

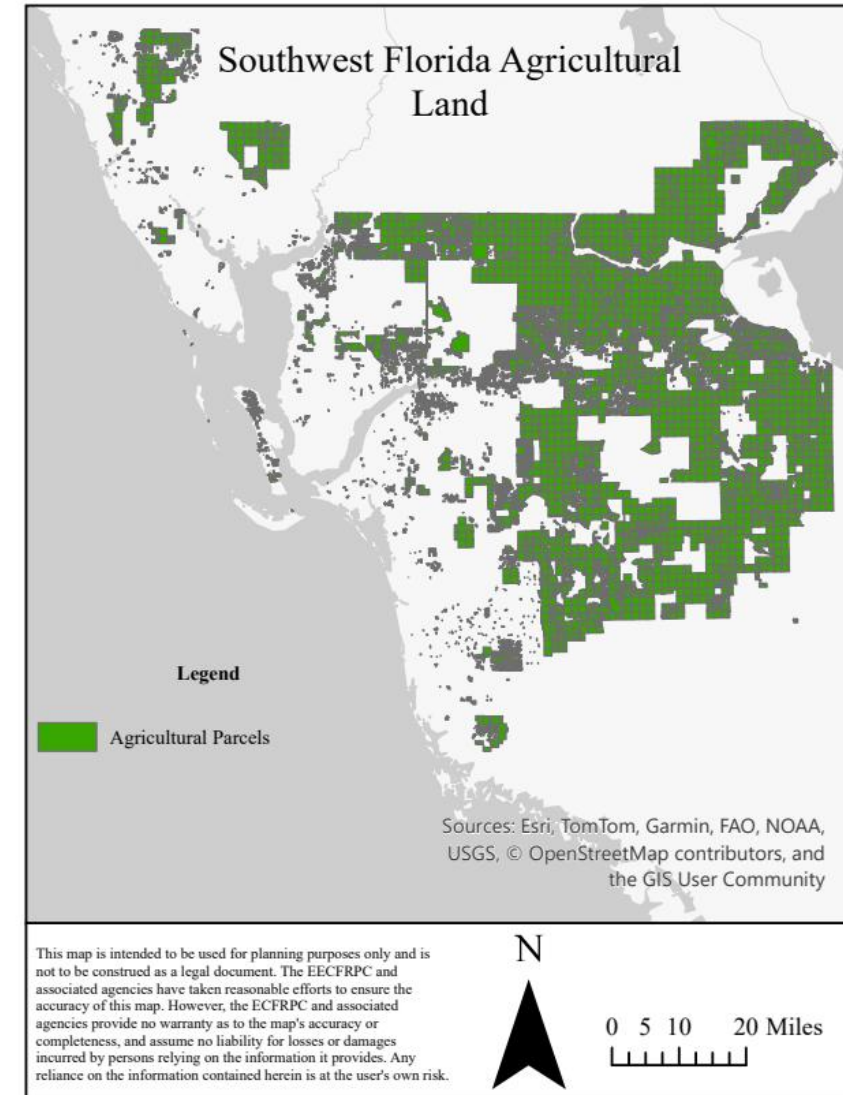


Mapping Food Systems Assets



Agricultural Land Analysis

- Property Appraiser Offices
- Includes Detailed Parcel Information Such as Owner Name, Property Address, and Size, Among Others
- Each Parcel is Also Assigned a Use Code that Explains the Most Current Use of the Property

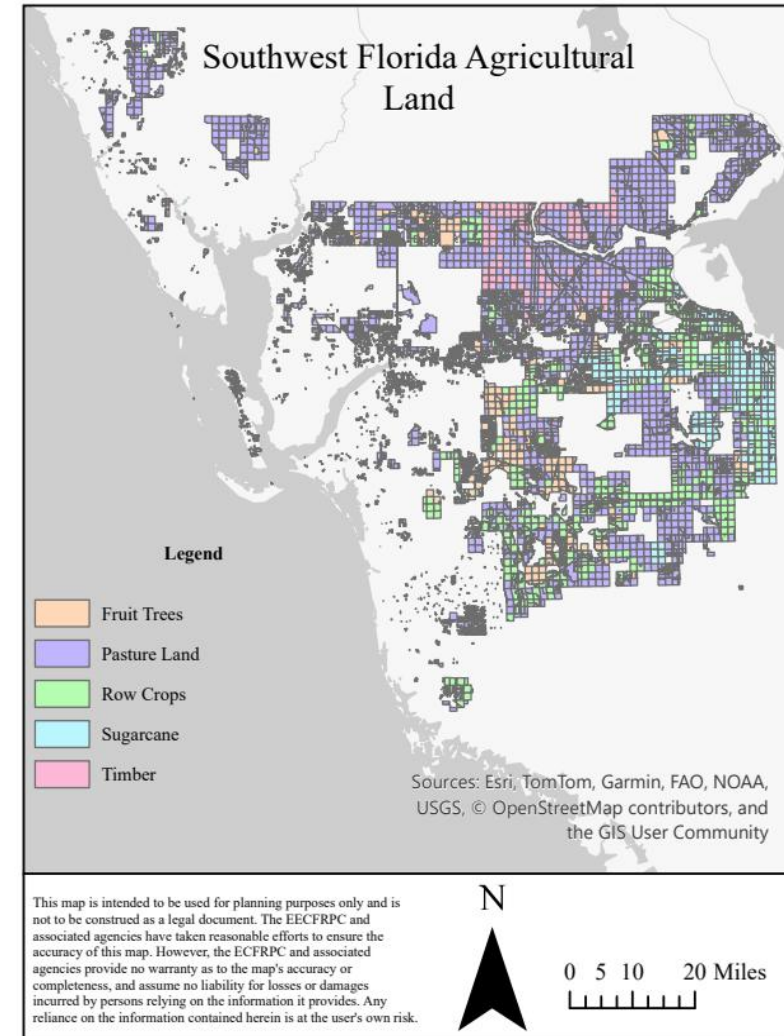


Mapping Food Systems Assets



Southwest Florida Agricultural Land Atlas

- Five land use categories based on main agricultural commodities:
 - Fruit Trees
 - Row Crops
 - Cane Sugar
 - Pastureland
 - Timber





Mapping Food Systems Assets

Regional Agricultural Acreage

- Total Agricultural Acreage: 1.22 million acres
- Dominant Land Use: Pasture (745,638 acres | 61%)
- Other Major Uses:
 - Row Crops: 251,095 acres (21%)
 - Fruit Trees: 114,632 acres (9%)
 - Sugarcane: 107,305 acres (9%)
- Pastureland is the primary agricultural land use regionwide.
- The region supports a diverse mix of livestock and crop production.
- Citrus and sugarcane remain significant specialty crops.



Mapping Food Systems Assets



Regional Fruit Tree Acreage

- Total Citrus Acreage: 114,631.9 acres
- Largest Citrus Producer: Hendry County
- County Breakdown
 - Hendry County: 49,106.5 acres (42.8%)
 - Collier County: 29,906.2 acres (26.1%)
 - Charlotte County: 18,117.9 acres (15.8%)
 - Lee County: 11,904.3 acres (10.4%)
 - Glades County: 4,974.2 acres (4.3%)
 - Sarasota County: 622.8 acres (0.5%)
- Hendry County dominates regional citrus production.





Mapping Food Systems Assets

Regional Row Crop Acreage

- Total Other Crops Acreage: 251,094.8 acres
- Largest producer: Hendry County
- County Breakdown
 - Hendry County: 119,714.4 acres (47.7%)
 - Collier County: 68,849.4 acres (27.4%)
 - Glades County: 36,476.1 acres (14.5%)
 - Lee County: 14,870.8 acres (5.9%)
 - Charlotte County: 8,932.8 acres (3.6%)
 - Sarasota County: 2,251.3 acres (0.9%)
- Nearly half of all regional “other crops” acreage is located in Hendry County.



Mapping Food Systems Assets



Regional Pastureland Acreage

- Total Pasture Acreage: 745,638.2 acres
- Largest agricultural land use category in the region
- Glades and Hendry counties contain the largest pasture areas
- County Breakdown
 - Glades County: 291,861.7 acres (39.1%)
 - Hendry County: 193,531.5 acres (26.0%)
 - Charlotte County: 86,372.1 acres (11.6%)
 - Sarasota County: 70,536.6 acres (9.5%)
 - Collier County: 66,269.4 acres (8.9%)
 - Lee County: 37,066.8 acres (5.0%)
- Pasture land is heavily concentrated in Glades and Hendry counties.



Mapping Food Systems Assets



Regional Sugarcane Acreage

- Total Sugarcane Acreage: 107,304.9 acres
- Sugarcane production concentrated in only two counties
- County Breakdown
 - Hendry County: 98,966.0 acres (92.2%)
 - Glades County: 8,338.9 acres (7.8%)
- Hendry County overwhelmingly dominates regional sugarcane production.



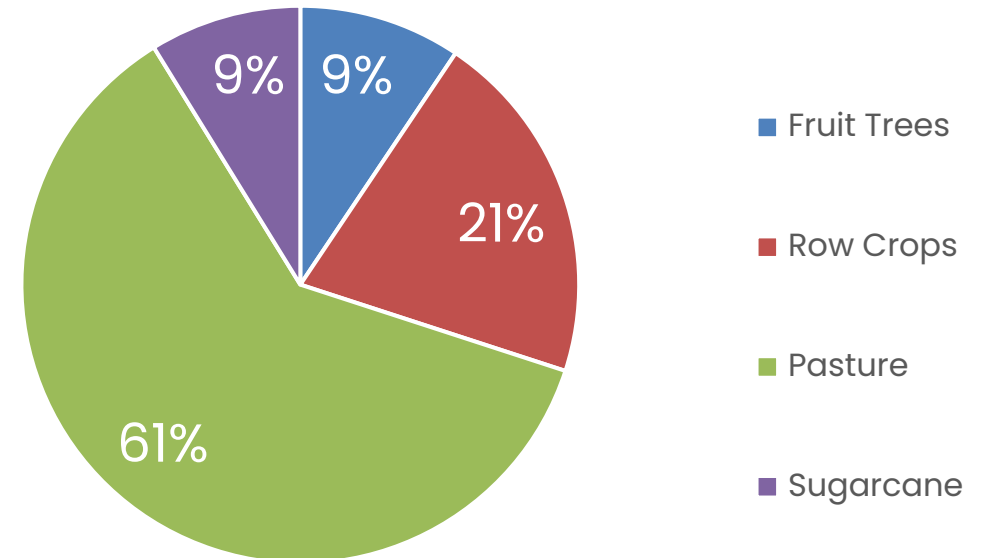
Resilience and Strategic Planning



Land Use Trends

- Pastureland dominates with over 745,000 acres (61%)
- Eastern Counties Have Majority Acreage
- Hendry County dominates citrus and sugarcane production
- Coastal counties show smaller but more diversified agricultural systems

Agricultural Land Use





Mapping Food Systems Assets

Institutional Land

- Publicly/quasi-publicly controlled
- 1,150 parcels found, 484.9 acres
- Potential community gardens, urban forests, or bioswales

Institutional Land Acreage		
Institutional landowners	Count of Parcels	Total Acreage
Charlotte County	88	50.4
City Of Cape Coral	415	124.3
City Of Fort Myers	58	23.9
Lee County	311	142.9
Sarasota County	121	57.8
Others	157	85.6
total	1150	484.9



Mapping Food Systems Assets

Business Inventory

- Develop food production business inventory
 - Farms
 - Food Processors
 - Food Distributors
- Identified 240+ food production businesses

Components of the Food Production





Mapping Food Systems Assets

Business Inventory Data Sources

- **Data Axle**
- USDA
- Property Appraiser
- State and Local Offices
- Florida Department of State
- Social Media

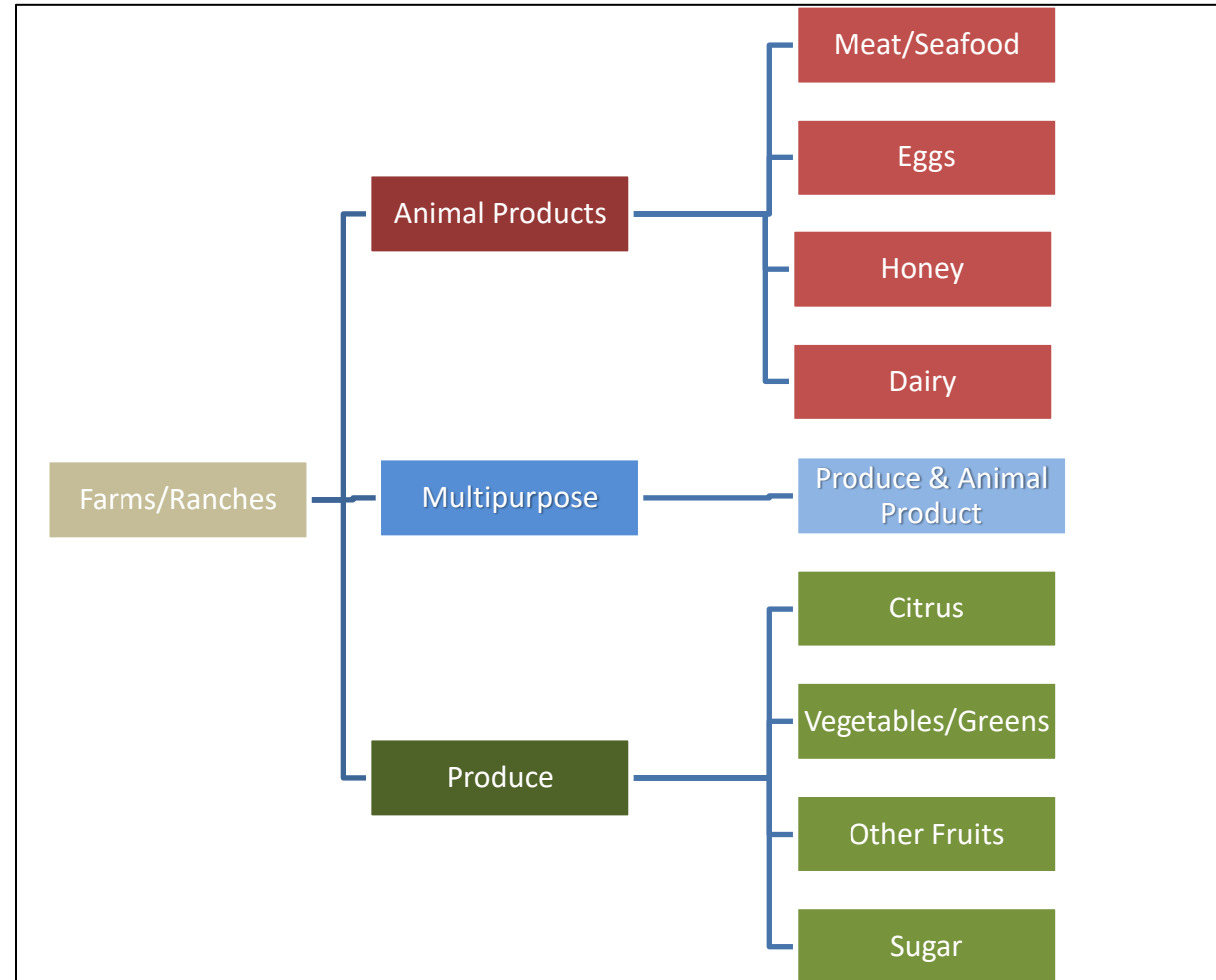


Mapping Food Systems Assets



Inventory Nomenclature Standards

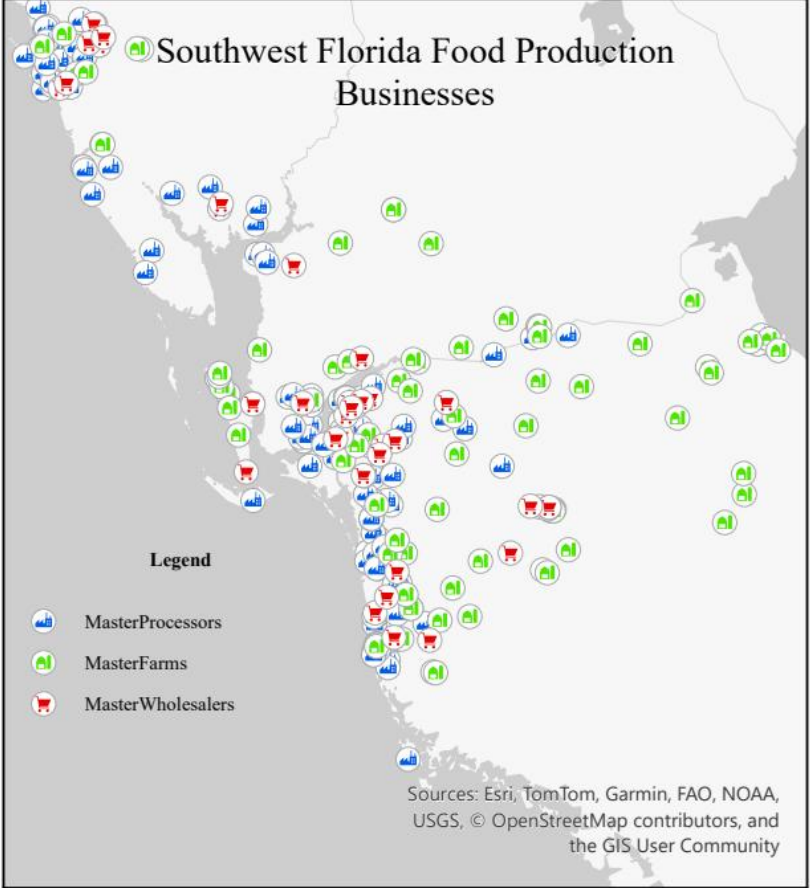
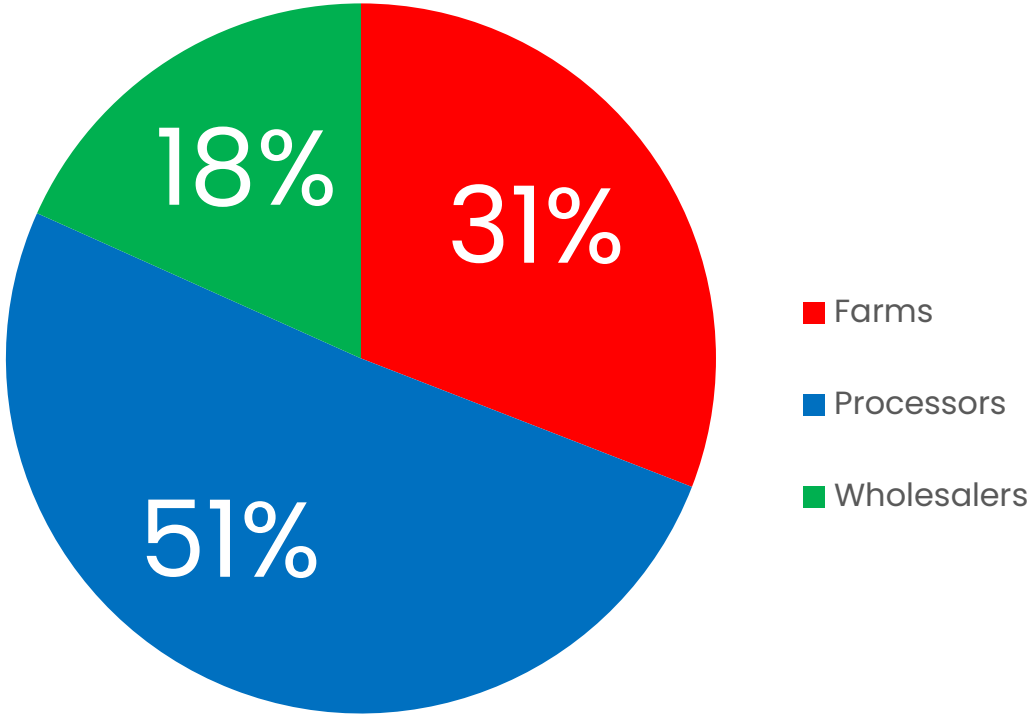
- Developing a Simple Nomenclature Allows for Easier Analysis and Visualization:
 - Operation
 - Product Type
 - Main Product
- Created Specific Subcategories for each Operation Type





Mapping Food Systems Assets

Distribution of Food Businesses by Type in SW Florida



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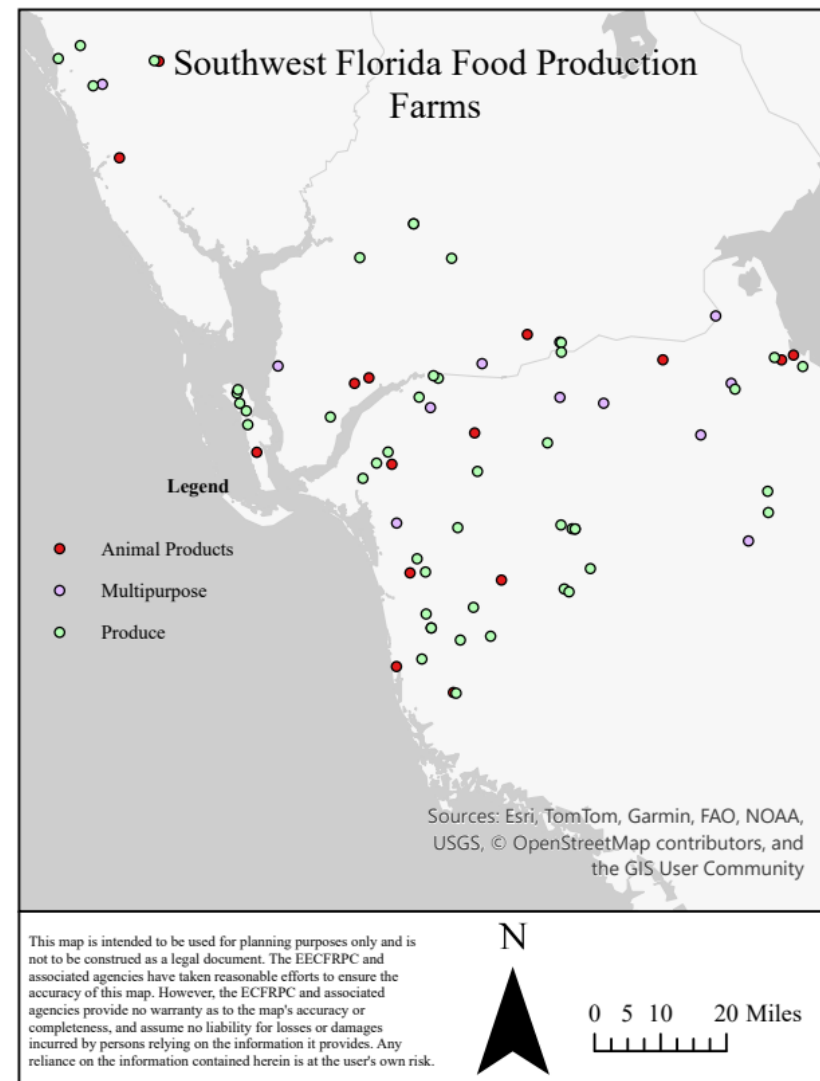
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Mapping Food Systems Assets



Distribution of Food Production Businesses: Farms

- Total Farms Catalogued: 76
- Largest Farm Type: Produce Farms (60%)
- Animal Production and Multipurpose Farms each account for roughly 20%
- Main Product Breakdown
 - Vegetables: 17 farms
 - Fruits & Vegetables: 14 farms
 - Meat & Seafood: 10 farms
 - Fruits: 8 farms
 - Honey: 5 farms
 - Citrus: 3 farms
- Coastal counties dominate small-scale produce farming, while Hendry leads in multipurpose agricultural operations.

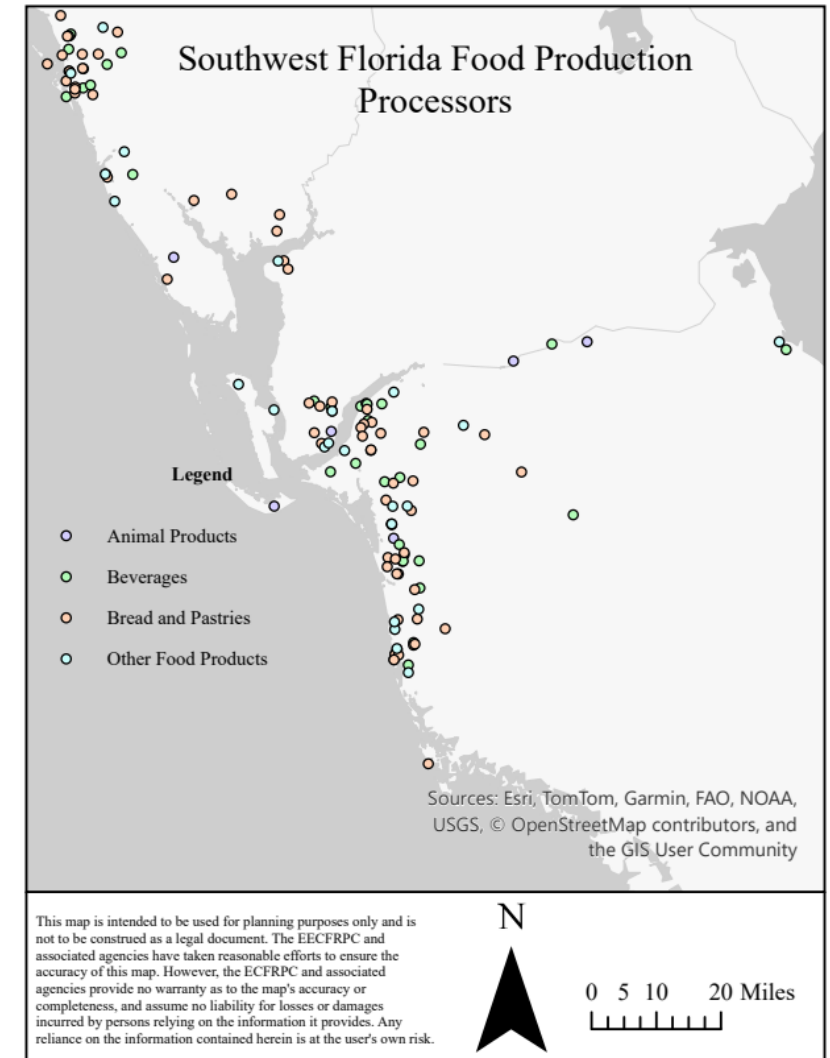


Mapping Food Systems Assets



Distribution of Food Production Businesses: Processors

- Total Food Processors: 125
- Largest Category: Bread & Pastries (50% of processors)
- Beverage production is the second-largest category
- Main Product Breakdown
 - Bakeries & Pastries: 62 processors
 - Beverages: 34 processors
 - Other Food Products: 22 processors
 - Animal Products: 7 processors
- Food processing activity is heavily concentrated in Lee County and dominated by retail-oriented bakery operations.

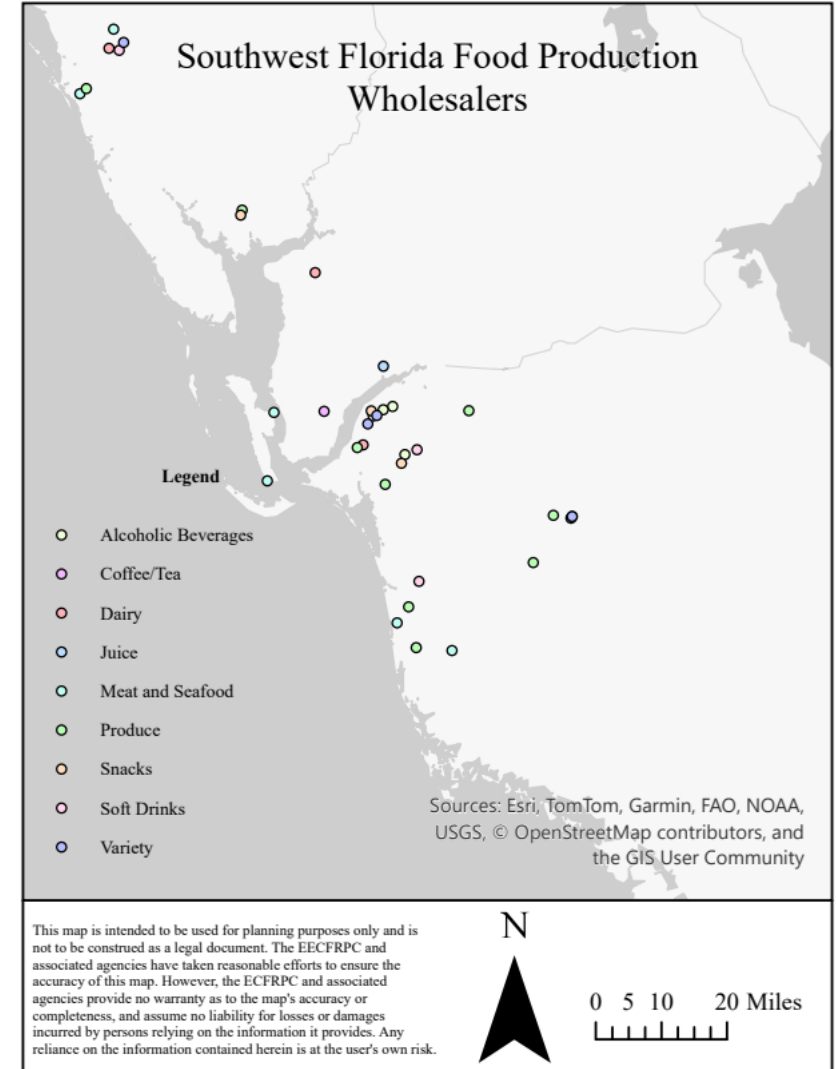


Mapping Food Systems Assets



Distribution of Food Production Businesses: Wholesalers

- Total Distributors: 45
- Distribution activity concentrated in Lee and Collier Counties
- Most distributors specialize in packaged grocery products
- Main Product Breakdown
 - General Groceries: 14 distributors
 - Beverages: 13 distributors
 - Fruits & Vegetables: 11 distributors
 - Animal Products: 6 distributors
- Lee County serves as the primary regional distribution hub for packaged goods and beverage wholesalers.

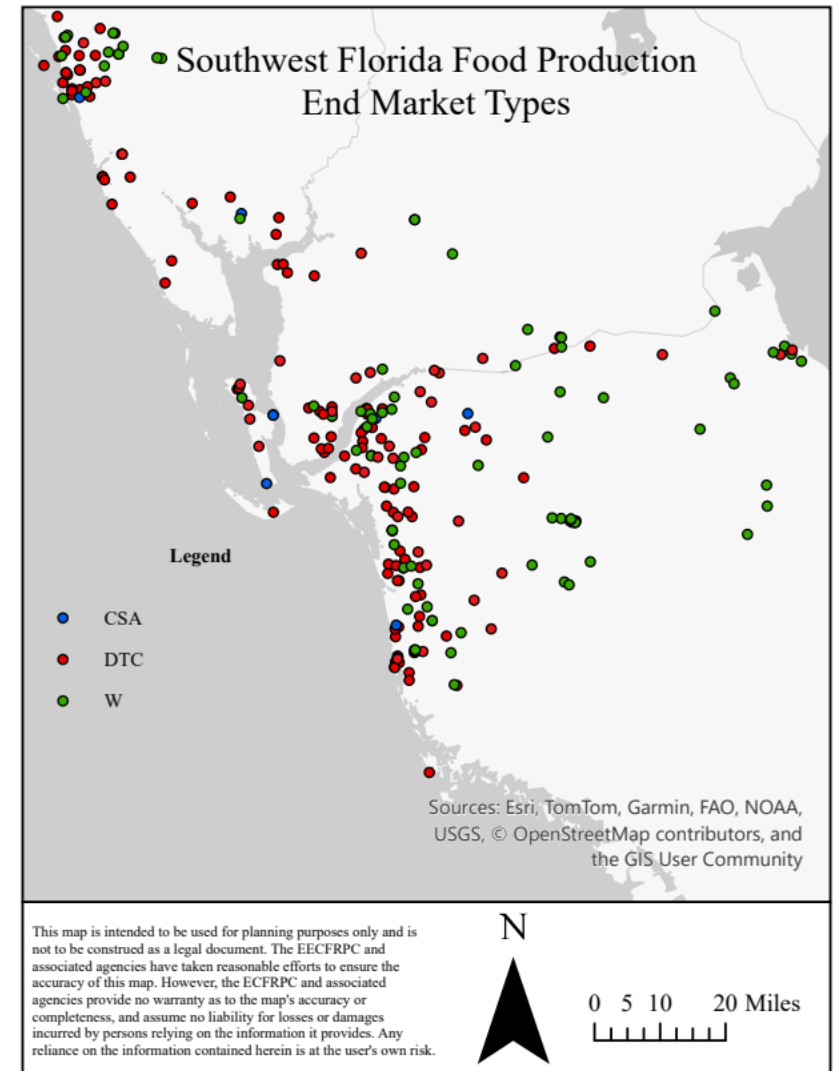


Resilience and Strategic Planning



Food Business Trends

- Lee and Collier Counties contain the highest concentration of farms
- Strong growth in Direct-to-consumer sales:
 - Farmers markets
 - Online sales
 - U-pick operations
- Regional farm economy evenly split between Wholesale operations, DTC models
- Food processing heavily concentrated in Lee, Sarasota, and Collier Counties



Planning and Regional Food Systems

Questions?

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Questions & Answers

Q & A

Part 2: Stakeholder Working Session

Stakeholder Working Session

Gather Stakeholder Input

Stakeholder Feedback & Discussion

Stakeholder Feedback & Discussion

- Data Gaps, Additional Suggestions for Geo Hub
- Current or Future Projects Across the Region
- Opportunities for Cross-Regional Coordination

Next Steps & Wrap Up

Southwest Florida Regional Resiliency Coalition Project Completed!

Deadline for application for next funding cycle:
June 19, 2026

Thank you!!!

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