

FOOD INFRASTRUCTURE IN SHAWNEE COUNTY

PROCESSING, AGGREGATION, PACKAGING, STORAGE, DISTRIBUTION, AND MARKETING



Most food consumed by humans does not go directly from harvest in the field or livestock operation to a home dinner table. It is far more common to have many intermediate steps in transporting, processing, packaging and distribution before foods reach retail outlet shelves or restaurant kitchens. Once there, most foods undergo additional preparation before being eaten by consumers.

In the conventional food system, most foods are not sold and consumed in the communities where the products originate. Instead, farm products are produced in larger quantities and sold to processors that may be long distances from the farm. Processors, in turn, sell and ship their finished products to distributors and wholesalers, who then sell products to retail stores or restaurants. By the time the food reaches the consumer's plate, it may have traveled thousands of miles over days, weeks, or even months and changed hands numerous times.

Food manufacturing business in Shawnee County

employ more than **2,300** people

and pay wages totaling more than **\$99 million** annually

Facts & Trends

- Farview Farms is the only meat processing facility located within Shawnee County.
- There is currently one Incubator located in Shawnee County. The 305 LLC facility, located at 305 SE 17th Street.
- Several large food manufacturing facilities are located within Shawnee County including: Reser's Fine Foods, Mars Candy, Bimbo Bakery, Frito-Lay, Pedro Lopez, Heartland Coffee & Packaging, PT's Coffee Roasting Company, Blind Tiger Brewery, Glaciers Edge Winery, Downtown Craft Brewery, Pepsi, Coca-Cola, Canada Dry Dr. Pepper/Seven Up Bottling plants.
- Distribution facilities in Shawnee County include the following: U.S. Foods, Leonard Meats, Prairie Land Food, and Harvesters.

Strengths

- Farmers Markets
- Fresh Farm HQ (new Food Hub)
- 305 LLC Commercial Kitchen
- Variety of processing, manufacturing, distribution, warehouse, wholesale and other food related businesses

Challenges

- Aggregating, processing, packaging, and distributing foods produced in small quantities by small-scale producers to better match to the needs of potential retail and institutional purchasers
- Little connection between infrastructure businesses and local producers
- Confusing food safety regulations

Policy Needs

- Establishment of a Food and Farm Council
- Zoning, tax, and incentives for food retail and processing that does not already exist
- Comprehensive review of planning, licensing and zoning to ensure inclusivity of health, equity, hunger and agriculture

Community Needs

- Private sector buy-in for healthy food guidelines and local food purchasing preferences
- Education on food safety regulations
- A local-minded approach to development
- Additional meat processing, and certified kitchen facilities
- A system-wide approach to healthy food