Urban Agriculture: Growing in America's Cities

Chestnut Street Garden, Trenton NJ

Northgate Garden, Camden NJ

Grown In Detroit Cooperative

Barry Seymour, Executive Director, Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission
Holly Freishtat, Director, Baltimore City Food Policy Initiative
Randell McShepard, Founding Partner, Cleveland Rid-All Green Partnership
Moderator: **Domenic Vitiello**, Assistant Professor, University of Pennsylvania

Four Seasons Hotel
Philadelphia PA

NYC Green Markets

DC Central Kitchen, Washington DC

Urban Agriculture (UA): definition

The growing, processing, and distribution of food and other products through intensive plant cultivation and animal husbandry in and around cities

Homestead/CSA farm
Philadelphia PA

Manatawna hay farm (Saul HS) and
community garden, Philadelphia PA

Hope Food Cupboard Camden NJ

UA as economic development: history

- Trend: urban farming and gardening has grown during economic crises, contracted in prosperous times
- 1890s: Vacant Lot Cultivation Associations
- WWI, 1930s, WWII, ‘77-96: federal garden programs
- 2000s: civic agriculture and local food
  - Is this a fad or paradigm shift?

Pingree potato patches, Detroit MI

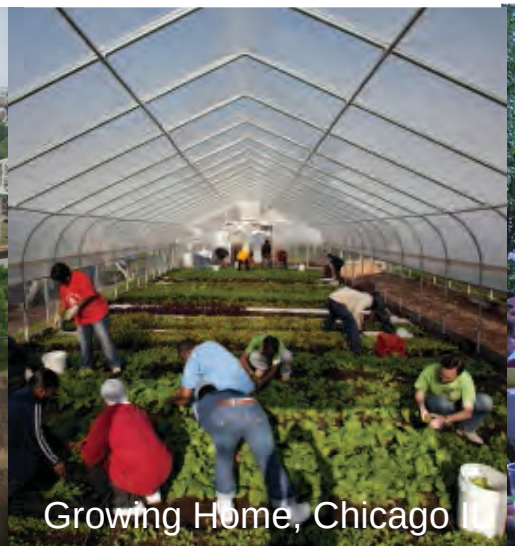
WWI garden

Camden NJ Men’s Garden

UA as economic development: logic

- Import substitution and multiplier effects of localization
- Changes in consumption behavior: increased local spending
- Attraction of new entrepreneurial, creative residents
- Innovation/experimentation leading to new export sectors
- Increased land values and productivity
- Low barriers to entry for firms and workers
  - But… Good jobs? Job ladders? Tax revenue? Resilience?
- Social enterprise and workforce integration
- Supplemental income and social support

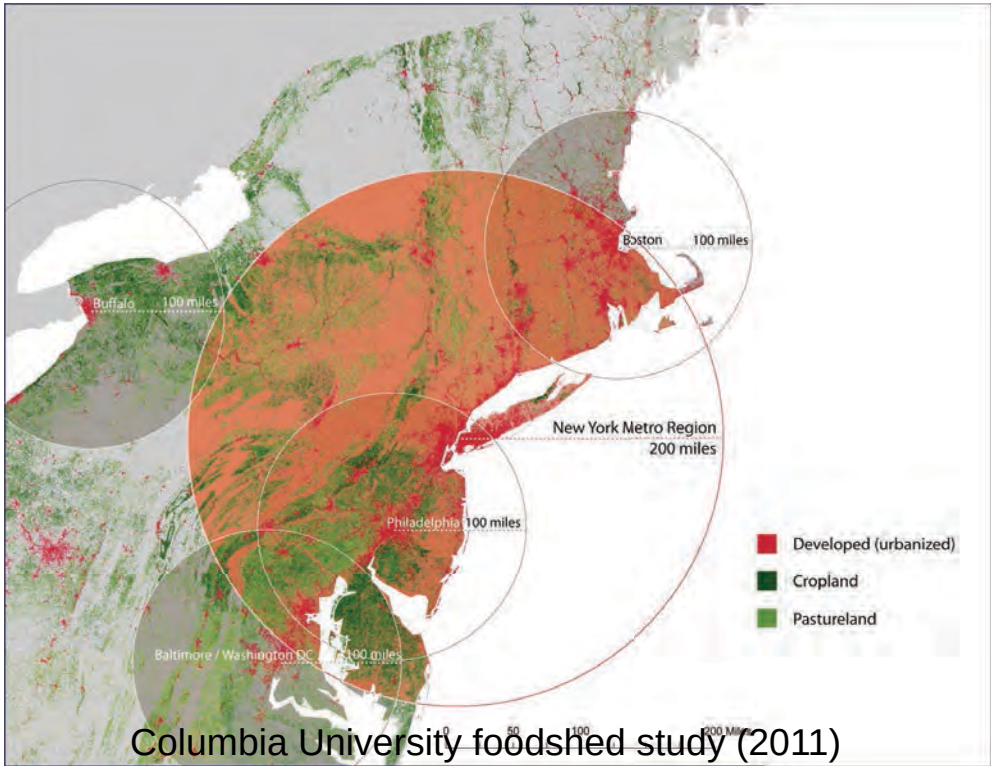
Ohio City Farm, Cleveland OH


Growing Home, Chicago IL

Las Parcelas Garden, Philadelphia PA

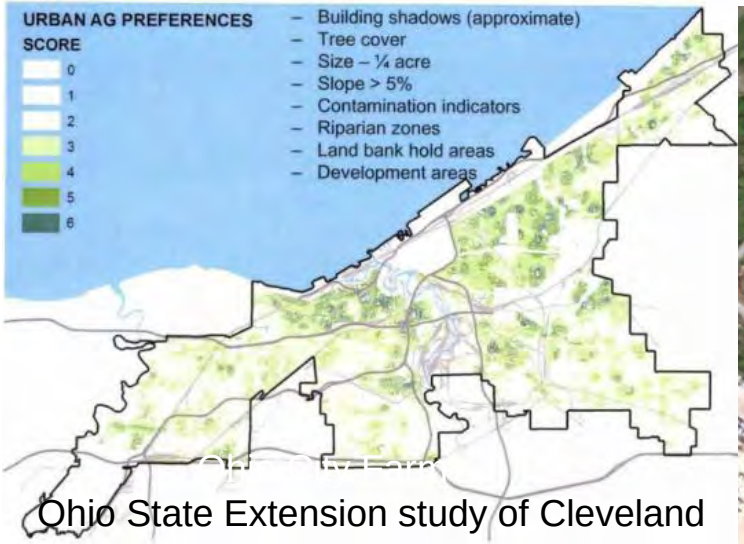
UA: economic development and resilience

…at different scales



Columbia University foodshed study (2011)

Fairhill farm stand, Philadelphia PA



Ohio State Extension study of Cleveland

Airport Garden, Philadelphia PA

Luca Vitiello doing research