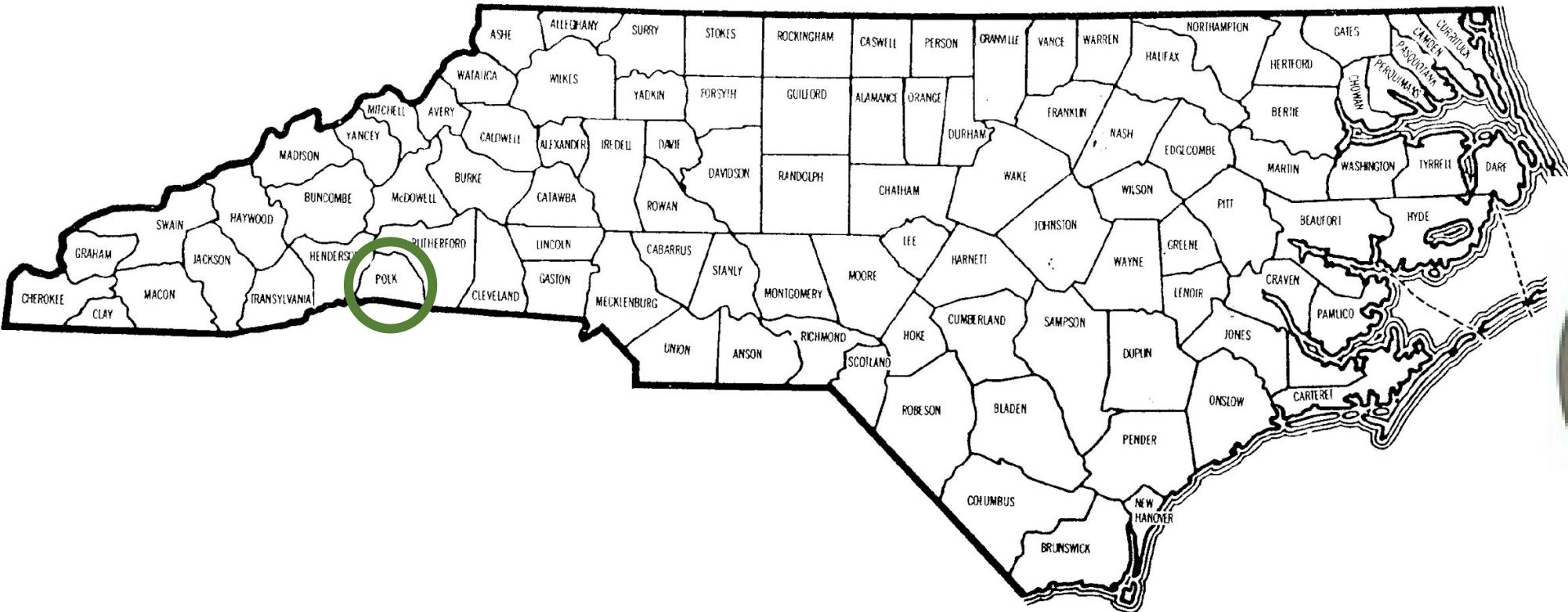


Polk County, NC

County scale methods for creating a sustainable, equitable, and accessible local food system



Key Takeaways

- County Support
- Diverse partners
- Community engagement
- Action!!

Polk County Office of Agricultural Economic Development



- Est. in 2007 (first in NC)
- For farming to be sustainable, it must make farmers money
- Programs:
 - Farmland Preservation
 - Agricultural Outreach/Education (AmeriCorps Project Conserve)
 - Friends of Agriculture Breakfasts
 - Farmer resources and support
- *Contact: Dawn Jordan, Director, djordan@polknc.org*



Community of Opportunity

- Grant awarded by USDA Growing Food Connections in Sept. 2015
- Polk County, NC one of eight “Communities of Opportunity” in the U.S.
- Provides technical support and resources to gain an understanding of and work towards establishing a sustainable food system at a County Scale
- *Contact: Dawn Jordan, Director, Polk AED, djordan@polknc.org*

GROW Food

WHERE PEOPLE LIVE
POLK COUNTY

www.growfoodwherepeoplelive.org

Direct action to address childhood and rural poverty and the related nutrition epidemic with garden and permaculture food based solutions.

- In 2015, the Grow Food Where People Live partnership included: Groundswell International, Polk County Office of Agricultural Economic Development and the Mill Spring Agricultural Center.
- Collaboration now includes: GRO, a newly established 501c3 in Polk County as well as Thermal Belt Outreach.
- Additional Partners:
 - Department of Social Services
 - Polk County Agricultural Extension
 - Master Gardeners
 - Polk Office of Economic Development
 - Local Businesses & Community Members



Sydney Klein
Program Coordinator
Sydney@growfoodwherepeoplelive.org



- Polk County Agricultural Non-Profit est. January 2016
- Main Program Areas:
 - Farmer/Consumer Relationship Building
 - Furthering Polk's Farmer's Markets
 - Grow Food Where People Live (Polk) *in collaboration with Groundswell International*
 - Establishing Incubator Farm & LandLink Program
- *Contact: Patrick McLendon, Executive Director, Patrick@growrural.org*

DON'T JUDGE
EACH Day
BY THE
HARVEST
YOU REAP BUT BY
the Seeds
THAT YOU Plant.

—ROBERT LOUIS STEVENSON

Robert Stevenson