

# EDIBLE ENDEAVORS

## Johnson County Local Food Alliance:

### When Was The Last Time You Were This Close To Your Food?

In December, 2004 a small group of about 20 farmers, restaurateurs, University of Iowa students, consumers and others interested in local food leaders met in Iowa City to talk about bringing a Buy Fresh Buy Local chapter to Iowa City. They also discussed additional ways to foster a broader vision for sustainable agriculture, local food and environmental stewardship for Johnson and its surrounding counties. This meeting was the genesis of the Johnson County Local Food Alliance (JCLFA), which was officially incorporated in 2006.

Now, JCLFA's mission is to assist farmers, business people, consumers and related organizations to work together cooperatively to foster local, sustainable food commerce in Johnson and surrounding counties and to conduct outreach and education with the general public. To do this JCLFA has a set of commitments for its members to endorse, including:

- Supporting local farmers and the people and businesses who buy from them
- Supporting local farmers and businesses who are good stewards for the environment and natural resources
- Supporting food democracy by building a fair and just food system, accessible by all
- Supporting ethical business practices including responsible animal husbandry
- Supporting community based agriculture and a community based organization.

In its brief history, the Johnson County Local Food Alliance has emerged as a leader in local food and sustainable agricultural issues for Central and Eastern Iowa. JCLFA has coordinated over 30 businesses and farmers to participate in the Johnson/Linn Buy Fresh Buy Local campaign and be part of the regional directory. It has hosted the first of what will become an annual Johnson County Local Food Summit to harness community resources and foster sustainable food systems in the area. And, it is involved in the University of Iowa Sustainable Food Systems Project to develop a five year strategic plan for installing sustainable food system indicators at the University.

In addition, to all these activities, the Johnson County Local Food Alliance also organizes Iowa City's annual Field to Family Festival which promotes local food, healthy farms, good eating in Johnson, Linn and surrounding counties. This year's Field to Family Festival will be held September 6-9 and will include a culinary walk featuring local food at some of Iowa City's best restaurants, a film screening at Iowa City's Englert Theate, a community potluck and agro-environmental fair at Solon's ZJ Farm

and a special salsa-making event for kids at the Johnson County Fairgrounds. Visit the JCLFA website for a full event schedule.



Johnson County Local Food Alliance

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*Edible Endeavors is our way of recognizing some of Iowa's non-profits and organizations that foster and support Iowa's local food system. Each issue, Edible Iowa River Valley is proud to use this space to feature an organization so you can learn more about what they do, and how to assist these amazing efforts. Subscribe to Edible Iowa River Valley now, and we will make a donation to our featured Edible Endeavor. If you know of an organization that is an Edible Endeavor and supports Iowa's unique food culture, please let us know at [info@EdibleIowa.com](mailto:info@EdibleIowa.com).*

**It's all happening here...**

**Sierra Leone Refugee All Stars**  
Tuesday, September 4th at 8:00 PM

**Andrew Bird**  
Saturday, September 22nd at 8:00 PM

**Suzanne Vega**  
Friday, October 5th at 8:00 PM

**Ralph's World**  
Saturday, October 6th at 4:00 PM

**Todd Agnew - Better Questions Tour**  
Thursday, October 11th at 7:00 PM

**Sarah Vowell**  
Thursday, October 25th at 8:00 PM

**The Englert THEATRE**  
live music | theatre | visual arts

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