A Snapshot of the St. Louis Regional Foodshed in 2017

100 mile radius of St. Louis:

- **Location and population:** This 100 mile radius of St. Louis is home to about 4 million people.
- **Consumer Spending:** In 2017, St. Louis Regional Foodshed residents spent $20.2 bil on food.¹
- **Dollars in the Hands of Farmers:** In 2017, farmers received a mere **7.8 cents** for every “food dollar” spent.²
- **Employment:** In 2017, the Foodshed employed only 25,193 hired farm workers³, or 0.79% of the Foodshed’s adult population.⁴
- **Poor Diet:** Overall, Foodshed residents are eating more food than previous generations but still not getting proper nutrition.
- **Poor Health:** Of the total Foodshed population in 2016, 8.57% was diabetic and 23.79% was obese.⁵
- In 2017, 80.7% of the Foodshed’s cropland produced **corn and soy** and 93.6% of the cropland produced crops used mostly for livestock feed, processed food ingredients, and ethanol.⁶
- **Less than 0.05%** of the Foodshed’s cropland produced fruits and vegetables in 2017!⁷
- **Limited Healthy Food Access:** Current production trends and policies often decrease access to healthy, affordable food options.
- Meanwhile, 543,150 people, or 13.4% of the Foodshed population, were **food insecure** in 2017.⁸ In the same year, 276,824 food insecure people, or 6.8% of the Foodshed population, were below the low threshold for poverty.

For more information on the St. Louis Regional Food Study, visit [www.moenvironment.org/stlfoodshed](http://www.moenvironment.org/stlfoodshed).

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³ 2017 County Data from U.S. Census of Agriculture (2019). “Hired” is emphasized because there are also statistics for “unpaid” farm workers.
⁴ U.S. Census Bureau, QuickFacts, [https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/US/PST045218](https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/US/PST045218) (search for county and select “Age and Sex” topic). Adult population represents estimated number of persons 18 years old or over.
⁷ See Quick Stats Database, USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service.
150 mile radius of St. Louis:

- **Location and population:** This 150 mile radius of St. Louis is home to **over 6 million people**.
- **Consumer Spending:** In 2017, St. Louis Regional Foodshed residents spent **$30.5 bil on food**.¹⁰
- **Dollars in the Hands of Farmers:** In 2017, farmers received a mere **7.8 cents** for every “food dollar” spent.¹⁰
- **Employment:** In 2017, the Foodshed employed only 50,230 hired farm workers¹¹, or **1.03%** of the Foodshed’s adult population.¹²
- **Poor Health:** Of the total Foodshed population in 2016, 8.73% was diabetic and **24.21%** was obese.¹³
- In 2017, **80.9%** of the Foodshed’s cropland produced **corn and soy** and **92.9%** of the cropland produced crops used mostly for livestock feed, processed food ingredients, and ethanol.¹⁴
- **Less than two tenths of one percent** of the Foodshed’s cropland produced fruits and vegetables in 2017¹⁵
- **Limited Healthy Food Access:** Current production trends and policies often decrease access to healthy, affordable food options.
  - Meanwhile, 822,220 people, or **13.4%** of the Foodshed population, were **food insecure** in 2017.¹⁶ In the same year, 437,485 food insecure people, or **7.1%** of the Foodshed population, were below the **low threshold for poverty**.

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¹⁰ Econ. Research Serv., U.S. Dep’t of Agric., *Food Dollar Series Data*.
¹¹ See Quick Stats Database, USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service.
¹² U.S. Census Bureau, *QuickFacts*.
¹³ Center for Disease Control and Prevention, *Diabetes Atlas*.
¹⁴ See Quick Stats Database, USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service.
¹⁵ See Quick Stats Database, USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service.
¹⁶ Map the Meal Gap 2019: *Overall Food Insecurity in Missouri by County in 2017*. 