Archive


- This is the official site for the Ohio City Fresh Food Collaborative, a group that runs the Ohio City Farm, a 6-acre urban farm in Cleveland. This site provides images, facts, and perspectives about the Urban Farming Movement in Cleveland from a very immediate source.


- This is the official site for the RidAll Green Partnership, a group in Cleveland that runs an urban farm and does outreach about sustainable living and agriculture. It provides images of the farm, testaments from the people involved, and information about their mission.


- This article from Cleveland.com gives a lot of raw data about the most popular/successful urban farms/gardens in Cleveland, including Ohio City Farm, Stanard Farm, Kinsman Farm, and Chateau Hough. It includes a first-person account of the farms and quotes from people involved with them, as well as detailed information about location and contact info for the farms. The quotes are a great resource for getting the motive behind the people who are running the farms.


- This is a page that provides access to the City of Cleveland’s ordinances regarding urban agriculture policies. The ordinance “Urban Garden District”, passed in 2007, provides location-specific definitions of key terms to use in my argument, such as
"community garden," “market garden,” “greenhouse,” and “hoophouse”. It also states laws regarding urban agriculture and zoning.

"Urban Farmer Steakhouse | Cleveland's Modern Steakhouse Restaurant."
<http://urbanfarmercleveland.com/>

- This is the site of a steakhouse in Cleveland called “Urban Farmer”. The steakhouse supports local farms and sources their ingredients locally and organically. This provides recipes and specific examples of the ways produce from urban farms is used by the broader community in Cleveland.

Conversation


- This article discusses the idea of local cultures being considered obsolete in today’s world, and argues that this is an unrealistic and non-lucrative view from which to study society. I plan to use this as rhetorical support for the idea that local communities can be valued in a universal culture.


- This article by Cindy Ott attempts to answer the question “what do people living in an underserved neighborhood in St. Louis, Missouri, think about the urban gardens that have sprouted up around them during the last ten years?” Ott ends up arguing, much like the other Gastronomica article, that the urban gardens are valued most for their ability to create strong community, a virtue that has given pride to generations of Americans and especially African Americans. I plan to use this source to connect my argument to a broader context by expanding the geographic area of my research.

Paulp992. Comment on “Urban farms are taking root in Cleveland, bringing home surprising harvests.” The Plain Dealer, 21 September 2012.

- This comment on the article listed below, “Urban Farms...” by Debbi Snook, is part of a small web debate in the comments section below the post. A few anonymous bloggers commented their contrasting opinions on the urban farming movement in the City. This one, “paulp992”, argues that these new urban farms take credit and legitimacy from “true” family farms that have been working for generations outside the cities to provide for themselves and the community. In my argument, this source will provide a particular lens through which to view urban farming, and a
perspective that I would like to explore more.


This article discusses the importance of the urban farming movement in Cleveland to black Americans. It cites the voices of blacks in the city and uses the examples of these communities to discuss the way mainstream American culture tends to look down on African American social values. Ultimately, the authors argue for the recognition of black Americans’ ability to build and maintain incredibly strong communities. I want to use this source as a way to connect the issue of localism in urban farms to a broader issue.


Smith and Kurtz define and discuss politics of scale in the context of the urban garden movement in NYC, citing how the political struggle for local space was fought on many broader platforms. I plan to use this to provide rhetorical support for my argument, and also to use politics of scale as a lens to examine localism in urban farming.

Research Question

Do urban gardens create a broader sense of community, or nurture a localized sense of exclusive community within a larger city? I want to see if it’s possible to truly create local farming communities in an urban environment where traffic and patrons include people from far outside the range of the local space. I want to explore the difference between urban farms in wealthy areas and urban farms in impoverished areas. Ultimately, I may argue that urban farms have the potential to create really strong local communities or to further universalize a culture through the “movement” aspect.