

Creating  
a  
Hunger  
Free  
North  
Dakota  
Summit

9/24,  
2019

# Changes in Grocery Availability in Rural North Dakota

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North Dakota Association of Rural Electric Cooperatives

# N.D. Rural Grocery Initiative Partners

N.D. Assoc. of  
Rural Electric Co-ops  
Broadband Association of N.D.  
North Dakota Grocers Association  
Creating a Hunger Free N. D.  
Coalition  
Dakota College at Bottineau  
North Dakota Farmers Union  
NDSU Extension  
Great Plains Food Bank  
Bowdon Community Cooperative  
Market on Main (Edinburg)  
Main Street Market (Hazelton)  
Star Grocery (New Leipzig)  
Tuttle Community Store  
Wangler Foods  
Wimbledon Community Store



# Surveys

## **Grocers:**

Primary challenges were cost of product, access to product, labor, declining customer base and energy costs.

## **Consumers:**

Price, variety, local foods and convenience

# By the numbers

2013 baseline: 137 stores

{9 removed – baseline pop. lowered to 2,100  
30 closed or no longer full-service}

2019 : 98 full-service stores

57 : Independent  
{13 have on-going concerns}

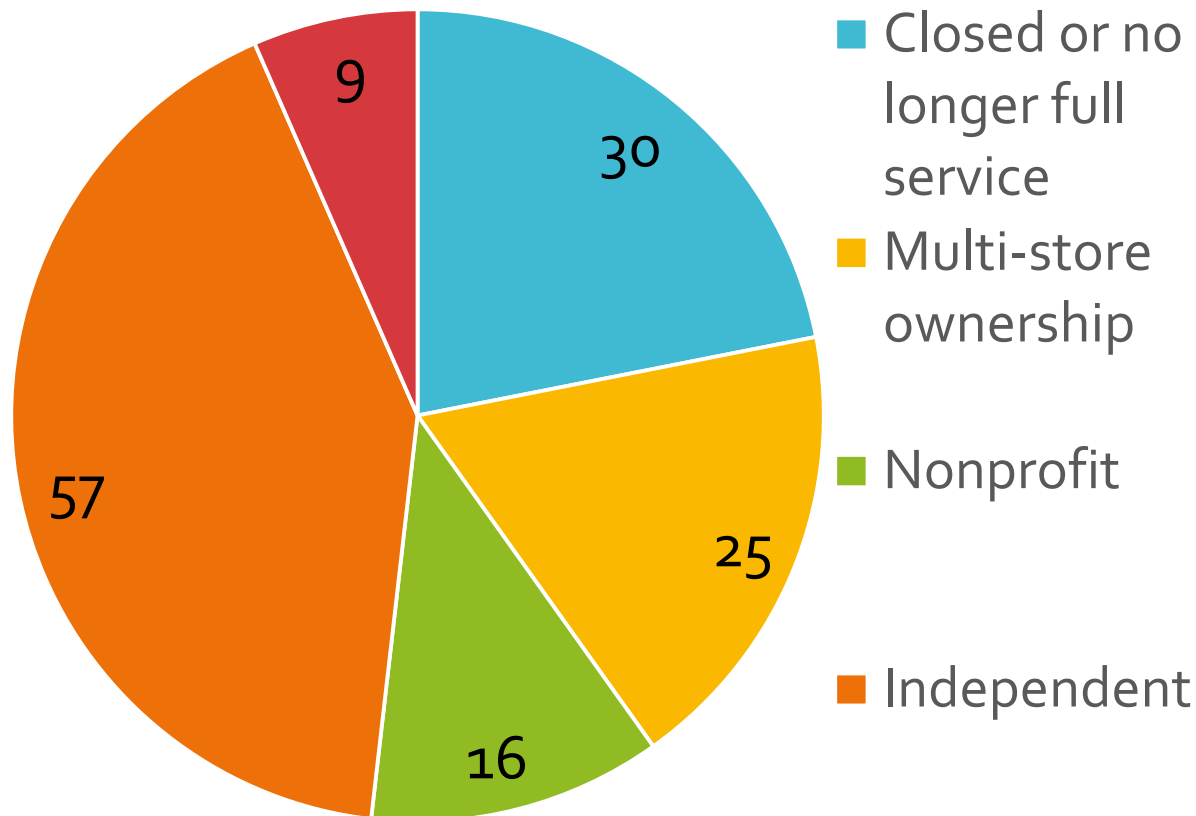
16: Non-profit

9: Cooperative

25: multi-store owner

\*Estimates – there is not a formal reporting system.

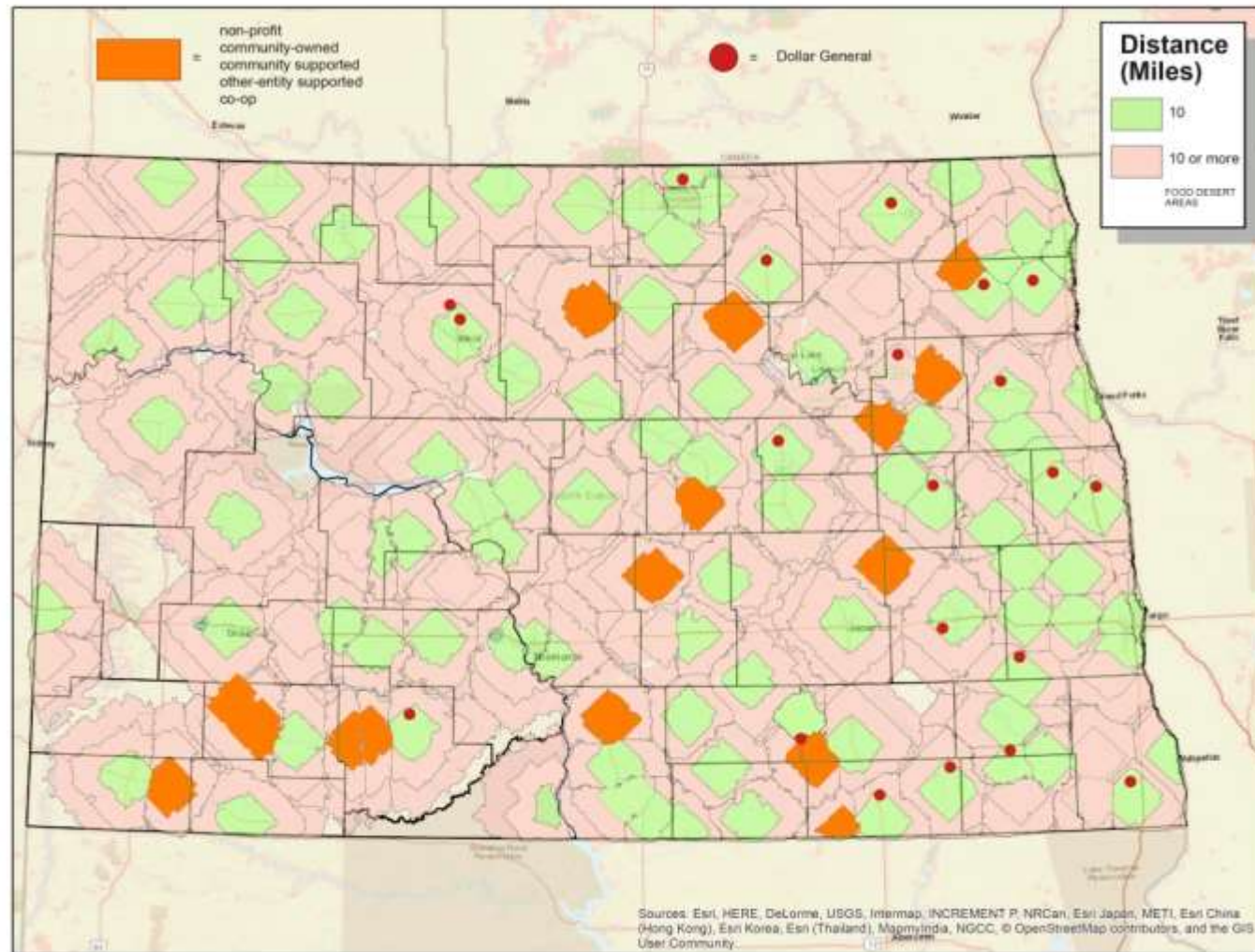
## Number of grocery stores in communities of 2,100 people or less – August 2019



# North Dakota's "Food Deserts"

North Dakota Rural Grocer Initiative

By Upper Great Plains Transportation Institute





Can we  
stop  
the  
leak?

- Identify your existing assets, your capacity and your resources:
  - Commercial kitchen? A baker?
- Is there a business (restaurant, school, hospital) buying pre-prepared dishes from a supplier that could be made in town? (soups, salads, ready to bake dishes)

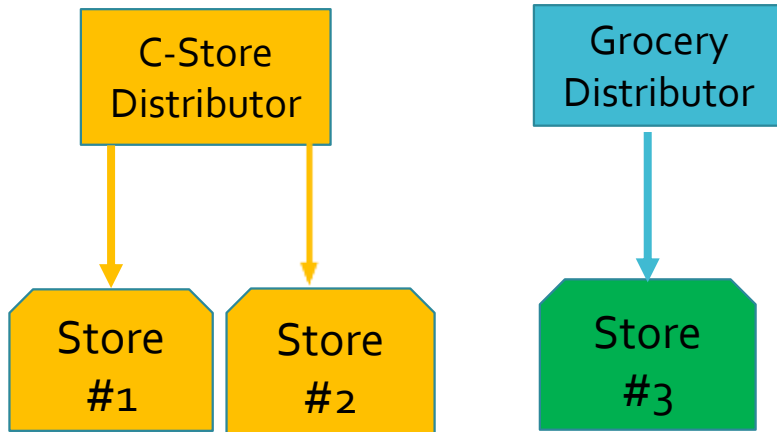


# Regional collaborations

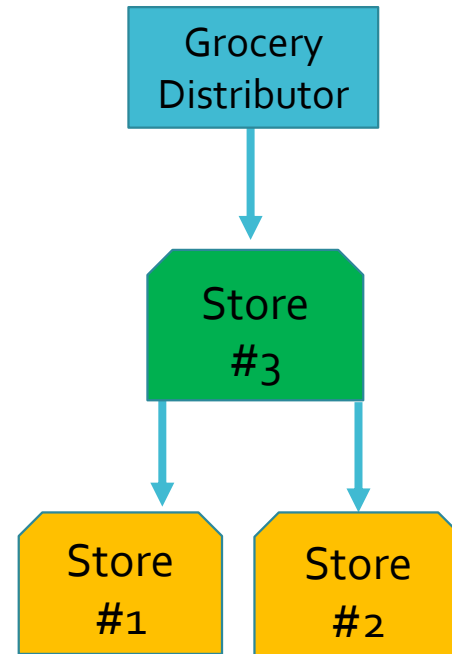
# Pilot Project

*Collective purchasing can on average 14% of wholesale costs*

- Current Distribution



## Proposed Distribution



Wholesale cost difference on average 14%





Exploring partnerships with existing distribution networks

# Climate controlled grocery lockers



# State legislative study

19.3109.01000

Sixty-sixth Legislative Assembly of North Dakota

Introduced by

## **SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 4013**

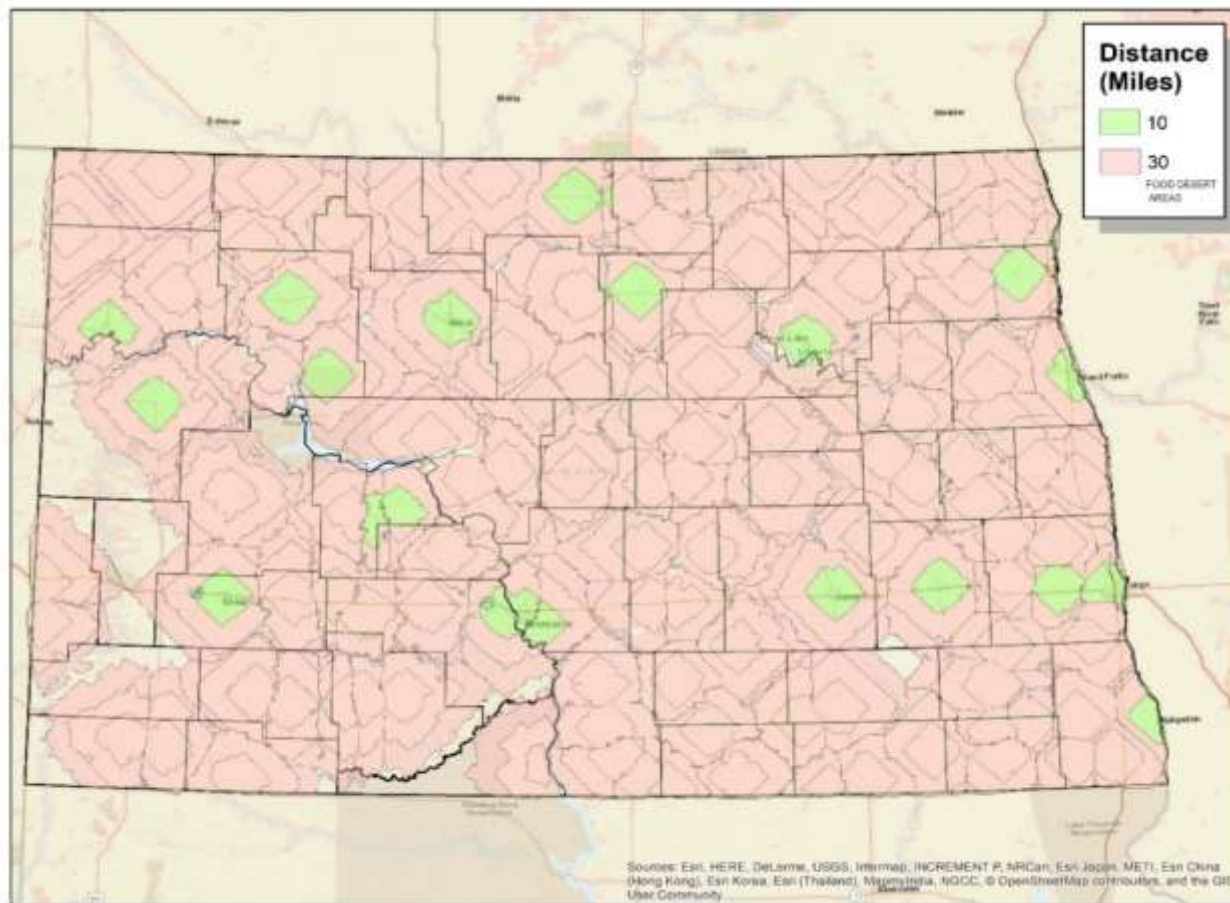
Senators Dotzenrod, Kannianen, Klein, Vedaa

A concurrent resolution directing the Legislative Management to considering studying the distribution and transportation of food in the state necessary to the lives of individuals in rural communities, and the roles of state entities in facilitating the movement of food to rural areas of the state.

**WHEREAS**, since 2013, North Dakota has lost 15 percent of its grocery stores in towns with populations of fewer than 2,100 people; and

# Implications

This is what North Dakota's food deserts could look like if we lose grocery stores in towns of 2100 or fewer people



Source: Upper Great Plains Transportation Institute