

# Food Systems & Enterprise Development

Technical assistance for food and farm businesses around food safety, nutrition, and regulatory standards.



Basil's Harvest's Food Systems & Enterprise Development program supports small and medium food producers by being a **"Trusted Translator"** - offering comprehensive services to overcome barriers to success. This program **bridges the gap between regenerative farmers, food entrepreneurs, institutions, municipalities, and regulators** through specialized regulatory guidance, operational consulting, and infrastructure development support.

## WHAT IS A TRUSTED TRANSLATOR?

Farms and food producers are often faced with a confusing and overwhelming task navigating institutions and regulations that feel as though they communicate in another language. Basil's Harvest experts help bridge communication gaps, build mutual understanding, and foster strong, positive, working relationships.



**Erin Meyer, RD, MS and Kelly Lay**  
*Basil's Harvest Trusted Translators*

**For examples of how we can support you, flip the page! →**



As a farmer, a food business owner, and a food systems advocate, I know the struggle of navigating regulatory compliance, of lacking critical infrastructure and market access. I've experienced the frustration of spinning my wheels on unfulfilling work instead of my passion. **This program is not only a critical service, it's also being offered by the right professionals.** Business owners like me and the many others I work with will benefit enormously from having the Basil's Harvest team in our corner.

### **Jeff Hake**

Funks Grove Heritage Fruits & Grains  
Illinois Food System Infrastructure Collaborative



## As a Trusted Translator, we're here to support you in...

- 1 Regulatory Navigation as Core Service:** Demystifying complex food safety requirements including HACCP plans, nutrition regulatory guidelines, county-level zoning and policy, and navigating multiple regulatory bodies (IDPH, IDOA). Acting as liaisons to build strong, positive working relationships and overcome barriers to communication.
- 2 Comprehensive Operational Support:** End-to-end enterprise development including menu development and analysis, operations development (profitability, procedure development), infrastructure planning (processing equipment systems, facility layout), and product development (market analysis, production analysis). This holistic approach ensures businesses are viable long-term.
- 3 Values-Driven Supply Chain Building:** Connecting regenerative farmers with schools, military, healthcare and local markets through local procurement support, value-added product development, and medically-tailored meal (MTM) program development. This creates market pathways that reward regenerative and organic farming practices while improving community health outcomes.
- 4 Resiliency Through Infrastructure and Relationships:** Network-building approach centering a resilient local food economy capable of weathering uncertainties by continuously building communication, relationships, and shared growth opportunities across food system stakeholders: farmers, food businesses, schools, healthcare, communities, regulators.
- 5 Community-Rooted Advocacy and Leadership Development:** Addressing practical barriers facing rural and urban food and farm entrepreneurs, specifically those who lack access to specialized regulatory expertise. Through community-rooted leadership and collaboration, this work empowers entrepreneurs with tools for self-determined growth rather than imposing external solutions.



**Contact us today to learn more!**

[basilsharvest.org](https://basilsharvest.org)



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