

## ABSTRACT

This research will describe the agricultural landscape of a fourteen county area in Northeast Minnesota and Northwest Wisconsin, including its capacity to provide food for the regional population based on the Standard American Diet (SAD) as well as a "regional pattern" diet. Community farmer interest and collaborations to explore the capacity of the region to produce food, based on local definitions of workable land, spawned the University involvement. The University expertise in this proposal includes ethnographic interviewing, geographic information systems data development and analysis, and community economic analysis. The outcomes of this work will provide a research-based assessment of the current food system; including community supported agriculture, livestock producers, wild food harvesters and commercial growers. A "regional pattern" diet will be conceptualized, which will be used to analyze the impact that a shift in local foods eating would have on the collective physical and economic health of the region in contrast to the SAD. The model for this regional diet will be explored in collaboration with tribal groups, who provide the historical precedent for what a regional diet could look like, and who conduct significant educational work related to the negative health impacts of the SAD diet on the health of indigenous populations in the region. The producers and supporters collaborating in this effort emphasize that information about the capacity of this region to produce food and to meet consumers' needs is vital to integrate local food systems into the long term sustainability of this region.