

Kayla Fowler<sup>1</sup>, Lauren Errickson<sup>2</sup>, Tiffany Gathright<sup>3</sup>, Jennifer Papa<sup>4</sup>, Meredith Taylor<sup>1</sup>, Laura Lawson<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Rutgers University, Department of Landscape Architecture, <sup>2</sup>New Brunswick Community Farmer's Market, <sup>3</sup>Greater Newark Conservancy, <sup>4</sup>City Green

## Introduction

The New Jersey Farmland Assessment Act is responsible for "permits farmland and woodland acres that are actively devoted to an agricultural or horticultural use to be assessed at their productivity value" (Farmland Assessment Overview).



FIGURE A/B: City Green, Clifton, NJ, <http://www.citygreenonline.org/>.

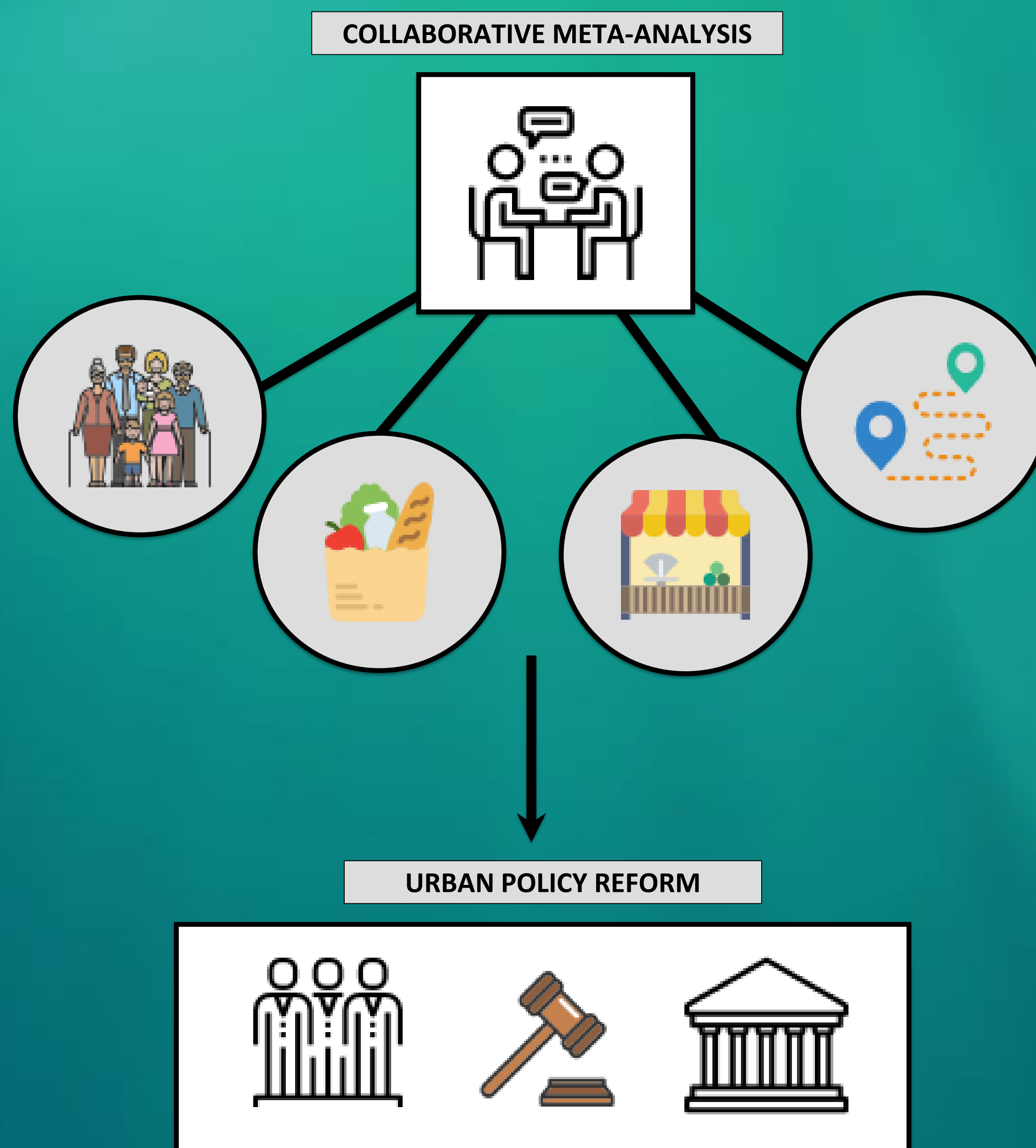
As of now the act creates commercial sale barriers to urban farmers' markets through the 'Five-Acre' Rule, where a farm is not considered a farm unless it consists of five contiguous acres, among other additional requirements.

The purpose of this research project is to propose urban policy reform to make food stamps and other federal assistance vouchers more accessible and allowed for use at New Jersey farmers' markets to expand sales and purchases, while simultaneously increasing fresh produce accessibility in low-income communities.

## References

- [1] Farmland Assessment Overview, July, 2015. (2015). United States. State of New Jersey. Department of Agriculture. New Jersey Department of Agriculture: Agricultural and Natural Resources. <http://www.state.nj.us/agriculture/divisions/anr/pdf>
- [2] Santo, Raychel, Anne Palmer, and Brent Kim. (2016) Vacant Lots to Vibrant Plots: A Review of the Benefits and Limitations of Urban Agriculture. Rep. Johns Hopkins Center for a Livable Future. [http://www.jhsph.edu/research/centers-and-institutes/johns-hopkins-center-for-a-livable-future/\\_pdf/research/clf\\_reports/urban-ag-literature-review.pdf](http://www.jhsph.edu/research/centers-and-institutes/johns-hopkins-center-for-a-livable-future/_pdf/research/clf_reports/urban-ag-literature-review.pdf).
- [3] McClintock, N, Wooten, H, and Brown, A. (2012). Toward a food policy "first step" in Oakland, California: a food policy council's efforts to promote urban agriculture zoning. Journal of Agriculture, Food Systems, and Community Development JAFSCD, 2.4, 15-42.
- [4] Lawson, L. (2004). The planner in the garden: a historical view into the relationship between planning and community gardens. *Journal of Planning History* 3.2, 151-76.

## Methods & Discussion



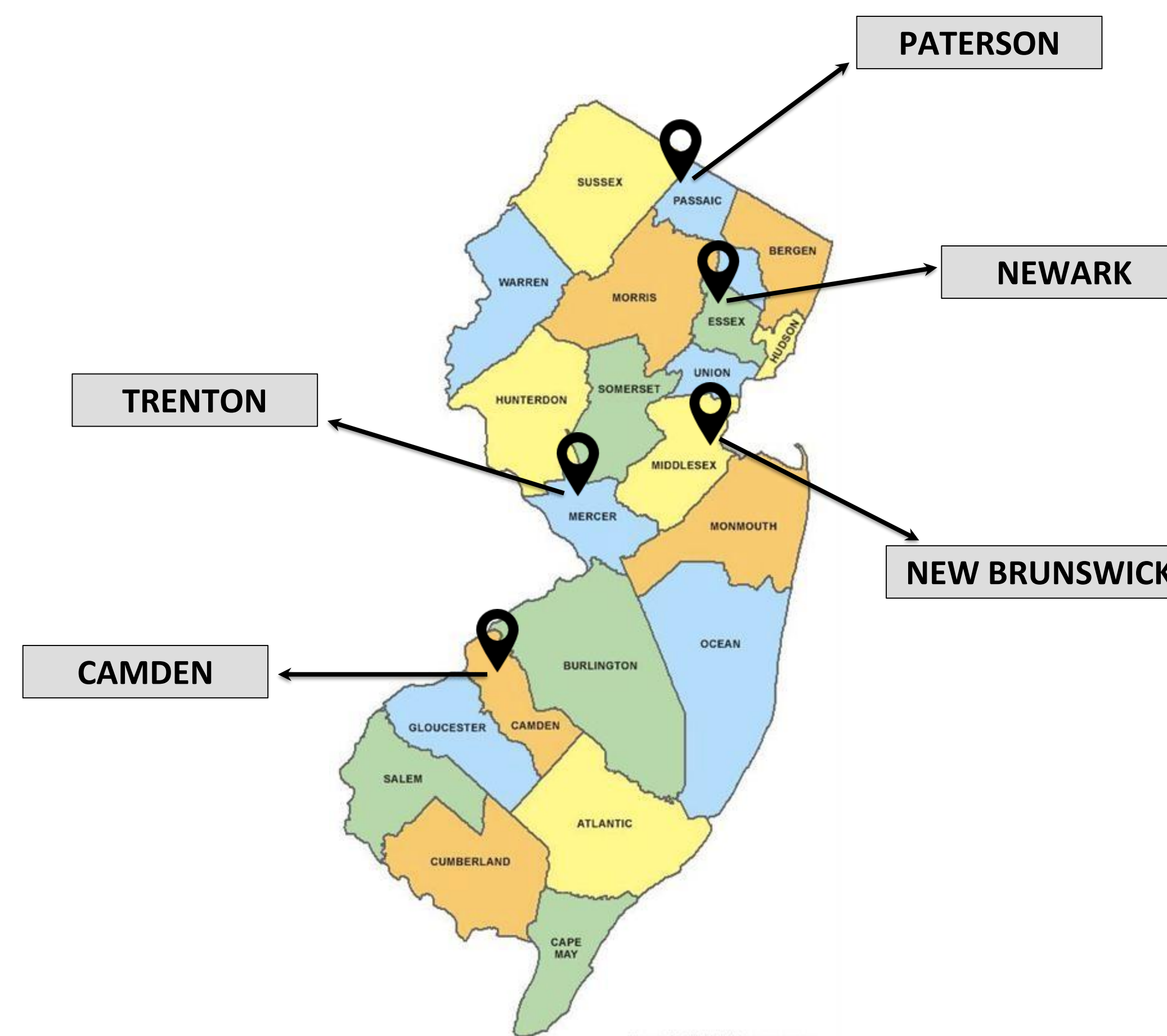
## Results

From the meta-analysis, the preliminary results gathered showed the following:

- SNAP universally accepted due to entitlement
- WIC/FMN more restricted because it is not an entitlement program
- Establishing a food policy council/department of food would aid in the process of linking government and community initiatives involving food security

## Future Work

Complete surveying and evaluating each site in the respective demographic regions of New Jersey and how their communities are impacted by the restrictions of the New Jersey Farmland Assessment Act's 'Five-Acre Rule.'



Future Project: Highlighting the importance of establishing a New Jersey Food Policy council and/or Department of Food by county

## Acknowledgements

I would like to acknowledge and thank my family & friends who have supported me over the past eight weeks with their encouraging and uplifting support and motivation. I would especially like to thank Alice Cooper, Melissa James, Kelsie Thorne, and Jada Anderson for their never-ending support, laughter, and love. I would also like to thank Laura Lawson & Meredith Taylor from the Department of Landscape Architecture for being patient and endearing faculty mentors. Lastly, I would like to thank our collaborators for their time and knowledge at the various sites across the state of New Jersey.