Carbondale Foodshed, Interactive Map
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Introduction
This project has developed out of an interest in sustainability and the desire to allow the local food industry to thrive. We have generated a tool that will allow the immediate Carbondale Community and any individuals interested in the local food market to easily obtain information and knowledge on local farms and the establishments selling their products.

Objectives
We have noticed the lack of information about the local food industry in the southern Illinois region surrounding Carbondale. We have taken the initiative to gather and process information about local farms and have compiled the data into a user-friendly, interactive Google Maps. Our goal is to target members of the community who are interested in learning about or buying from established local farmers. This tool will be a resource for patrons of Arnold’s Market, Carbondale Community Food Co-op, the Neighborhood Co-op, and the local Farmer’s Market who wish to learn more about where the food is coming from and learn more about how community members can access local food. We aspire to increase the demand on local food by raising awareness of the market and improving the means of finding and obtaining farm products.

Methods
We began our project by consulting Jerry Bradley and the staff at Food Works to induce a collaboration with our Carbondale Foodshed project and the www.eatsouthernillinois.org website. We first defined the distance buffer around Carbondale that we will be mapping at 100 miles. The 100 mile radius does not only include Southern Illinois farmers, but also Missouri, Indiana, Tennessee, and Kentucky. We compiled our list of farmers within the 100 mile distance from www.illinoisfarmdirect.org and www.LocalHarvest.org. We decided that the map tool we wanted to create should be interactive and readily available to the Carbondale community, therefore we have created a Google Map and a Google Earth Map. Individual farms were plotted on the maps by transferring addresses into latitude and longitude coordinates using www.GPSVisualizer.com/geocode.

Results
These interactive maps are a tool that we have made readily available to the general public but has the purpose of aiding Carbondale community members in learning about and accessing food grown locally while promoting the local farming economy. Users of the map can look up farmers by the dominant products they grow or by location. Contact information, products, driving directions, and geographic coordinates are provided for each farm within the 100 mile radius of Carbondale. We have also generated a website outlining the projects’ goals and methods, the link to our interactive map can also be found on our www.carbondalefoodshed.weebly.com website. The Carbondale Foodshed website is another opportunity for community members to gain knowledge and access to the local food market.

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www.GPSvisualizer.com/geocode
www.illinoisfarmdirect.org
www.LocalHarvest.org
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