### Core Partners

- Ag South
- Southeast Health District
- Ware Children's Initiative
- Destination Church Downtown
- Slow Food South Georgia
- The Society of St. Andrews
- Waycross Ware Co. Public Library
- Waycross Ware Chamber of Commerce
- Okefenokee Heritage Center

### Grassroots Network

- **Established:** 2014  
- **Organizational Structure:** Community Org.  
- **Fiscal Agent:** WayGreen, Inc.  
- **Background:** Grassroots projects + local markets.  
- **Meet-Up:** Second Thursdays 6-8pm, Okefenokee Heritage Center.

### Community Initiatives & Projects

- Harvest & Veggie of the Month: taste-tests at Waycross library + WayGreen Local Fare Market.  
- Ware Children's Initiative: children's learning garden at Ware County Head Start.  
- Southeast Georgia Glean Team: 4 partner organizations gleaning produce, 4,000+ lbs to-date.  
- Cooking Matters: culinary and nutrition education in partnership with Open Hand.  
- Biannual Conference: local conference for sustainable living.

### Local Food Access Points

- **WayGreen Local Fare Market**, May-Nov, 1st Saturdays 9-12pm  
- **WayGreen Online Co-op**, biweekly pick-up on Thursdays 5-6pm

*accepts EBT/SNAP

### Local Policies & Programs

**City of Waycross zoning permits residents to raise back-yard fowl and rabbits/hares:**  
A. Up to 25 fowl allowed if located 100 ft. from any occupied building.  
B. 26+ fowl allowed if located 1,000 ft. from any occupied building.  
C. 5 or more rabbits/hares if located 150 ft. from any occupied building.
**WARE COUNTY HEALTH RANKINGS**

- **Food Insecurity:** 19%
- **Children Eligible for Free & Reduced Lunch:** 90%
- **Adult Obesity:** 34%
- **Food Environment Index Rating:** 5.7*

*Scale of 1-10, 10 being best. Rating factors local food insecurity rates + access to healthy foods in local environment. Source: Univ. of Wisconsin, 2019

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**Low Access Area(s)**

Neighbors in the green area travel 1-10 miles to a grocery store and earn $39K or less for a family of 4.

**Retailers Accepting SNAP**

- **Grocery Stores:** 4
- **Convenience Stores:** 38
- **Supercenter/Club:** 1

**Direct-to-Consumer Farms**

- **Overall Farms:** 10
- **Farms harvesting vegetables:** 6
- **Farms harvesting fruit:** 23+


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**Georgia Food Oasis Network (GFON)** is a community outreach initiative of Georgia Organics. GFON seeks to elevate and connect pioneering communities that recognize food is a powerful tool to unite residents, build local economies, and foster public health. As a GFON member, this community is dedicated to a coalition strategy that promotes:

1. **Public Engagement**
2. **Partnership**
3. **Planning**
4. **Policy**

Georgia Organics connects organic food from Georgia farms to Georgia families.