Urban Agriculture

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Chicago Farm
Bright Farms Rochelle
Gotham Greens
City Hall Rooftop
Aqua Farmer Gets In Trouble In Springfield
Backyard Greenhouse
The what and why of urban agriculture

› Farming in heavily populated areas generally using sustainable and organic methods
› Vegetable crops using outdoor/soil based or indoor/contained environment; hydroponics and aquaponics
› Livestock and meat processing, beekeeping, chickens
› Generally not land intensive

› Increasing awareness of food quality
› Eat local movement
› Wellness
› Evolution of our food system particularly IL
› Private, public and business growth
Federal government initiatives

› USDA-NRCS funding of non-profit alliances
› Alliances provide education
› Alliances provide financing
› Liaison with local governments
› 100s of alliances

› Institutional and academic support
  › Chicago Botanical Garden
  › Morton Arboretum
  › College of DuPage
  › Purdue University
Municipal issues – to name a few

› Community gardens v urban farms
› Business license
› Zoning
› Building codes of accessory buildings
› Set back issues
› Compost
› Water, storm water and waste handling
› Food safety
› Property taxation – lowest rate
› Fertilizers and chemicals
› Livestock, bees and fish
› Parking and fencing