



# Urban Agriculture

Mary O'Connor, ASA  
Partner, Valuation and  
Dispute Advisory Services  
[Mary.oconnor@Sikich.com](mailto:Mary.oconnor@Sikich.com)



# 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
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- › 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



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