# Understanding the Economic Concepts and Characteristics of Food Access

**January 23, 2009**  
Economic Research Service  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
2nd Floor Conference Room  
1800 M Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20036

## Agenda

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Session</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8:00 - 8:30 AM</td>
<td>Continental Breakfast</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| 8:30 - 8:45 AM | Welcome & Introduction  
Sheldon Danziger, University of Michigan                                                             |
| 8:45 - 9:15 AM | Overview of USDA Research on Food Access  
Shelly Ver Ploeg, USDA Economic Research Service                                                      |
| 9:15 - 10:00 AM | **An Economic View of Food Deserts in the United States**  
Steven J. Haider, Michigan State University  
Marianne Bitler, University of California, Irvine                                                   |
| 10:00 - 11:15 AM | **Measuring Food Access in Urban Areas**  
Kathryn M. Neckerman, Michael Bader, Marnie Purciel, and Paulette Yousefzadeh,  
Columbia University  
**Food Access in Urban Areas: Context, Concepts, and Community Interventions**  
Donald Diego Rose, Tulane University  
Discussant: Tom DeLeire, University of Wisconsin                                                   |
| 11:15 - 11:30 AM | Break                                                                                                |
| 11:30 AM-12:45 PM | **Alternative Measures of Food Environments**  
Jessie Fan, Lori Kowaleski-Jones, Cathleen D. Zick, Ken R. Smith, Barbara Brown, and Ikuho Yamada, University of Utah  
**Obesity, Fast Food, and Grocery Stores: Evidence from Geo-referenced Microdata**  
Susan E. Chen, Raymond J.G.M. Florax, and Samantha D. Snyder, Purdue University  
Discussant: Parke Wilde, Tufts University                                                          |
<p>| 12:45 - 1:45 PM | Lunch                                                                                               |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>PresentationTitle</th>
<th>Presenter(s)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1:45 - 3:00 PM</td>
<td>Characteristics of Food Access, Availability, and Affordability in Rural Areas</td>
<td>Joseph R. Sharkey, Texas A &amp; M University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Finding Food Deserts: A Comparison of Approaches to Measuring Spatial Accessibility to Supermarkets in Portland, Oregon</td>
<td>Andrea L. Sparks, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Neil Bania and Laura Leete, University of Oregon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Discussant: Marie-Soleil Cloutier, Institut National de la Recherche Scientifique, Centre Urbanisation Culture Société</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3:00 – 3:30 PM</td>
<td>Closing Comments</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>