

San Diego State University

Consent to Act as a Research Subject

**“Systems Analysis of Hydroponic, Aquaponic, and Aeroponic Food Production (HAAFP) in Six US Cities”**

**You are being asked to participate in a research study. Before you give your consent to volunteer, it is important that you read the following information and ask as many questions as necessary to ensure you understand what you will be asked to do.**

This study is being completed by Blaire O’Neal (principal investigator), a postdoctoral researcher in the Department of Geography at San Diego State University.

Purpose of the Study:

The purpose of this research is to understand the state of hydroponic, aquaponic, and aeroponic food production (HAAFP) throughout the US. I seek to understand its presence and distribution in these cities, as well as the people involved and what motivates them to participate in this growing sector. I also hope to gain an understanding of the socio-economic effects and environmental impacts of HAAFP, as well as the local opportunities and barriers to this form of urban agriculture. I will use this comparative approach to identify the key factors that promote and constrain the expansion of HAAFP and its ability to address socio-economic and environmental concerns in various settings throughout the United States. Ultimately, I hope to contribute to advancing knowledge on HAAFP and its potential benefits, as well as potential opportunities and constraints, in urban foodscapes. The results will inform best practices in urban HAAFP projects and regional and national policy. To this end, I am talking to participants in HAAFP in the US (owners, managers, growers, employees, and volunteers) to take a survey that covers economic, environmental, and social topics related to HAAFP. You may want to participate in this research because you would like to contribute your opinions and experiences. You may not want to join the research if you are uninterested in discussing the topic or lack the time necessary to complete the survey (approximately 15 minutes). Potential subjects of this study should be adults (18+).

Description of the Study:

If you are also willing to be take the survey, please follow the survey link in the recruitment email to which this letter is attached. Survey responses will be anonymized into individual and group codes after collection. Surveys are an important part of my research, the completion of which would not be possible without the help of people like you. Please note that participation is completely voluntary on your part and that it might take some time out of your day. Your choice of whether or not to participate will not influence your future relations with San Diego State University. If you decide to participate, you are free to withdraw your consent and to stop your participation at any time without penalty or loss of benefits to which you are allowed. I am also obliged to make you aware that the responses you provide may be reprinted in the published version of my research; however, your private information collected as part of this research, will not be used or distributed for future research studies without first contacting you to obtain your consent. Regardless of your answers or opinions, your participation in this study will be greatly appreciated. Unfortunately, no compensation can be offered for completion of this study. Thank you for your consideration, and I sincerely hope you are able to help.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the following:

Blaire O’Neal, the principal investigator, at [boneal@sdsu.edu](mailto:boneal@sdsu.edu)

If you have any questions about your rights as a participant in this study, you may contact the Division of Research Administration San Diego State University (telephone: 619-594-6622; email: [irb@mail.sdsu.edu](mailto:irb@mail.sdsu.edu)).

**By participating, you indicate that you have read the information in this document and have had a chance to ask any questions you have about the study. Your participation also indicates that you agree to be in the study and have been told that you can change your mind and withdraw your consent to participate at any time.**