

Example Definitions to Consider

Foodshed “Foodshed can be generally understood as the geographic areas with potential to feed population centers” (Peters et al., 2009)

“How better to grasp the shape and the unity of something as **complex** as a food system than to graphically imagine the **flow of food** into a particular **place**? Moreover, the replacement of “water” with “food” does something very important: it connects the **cultural (“food”) to the natural (“...shed”)**. The term “foodshed” thus becomes a unifying and organizing metaphor for conceptual development that starts from a premise of the unity of place and people, of nature and society.” (Kloppenburger et al. 1996, p. 34, emphasis added)

Alternative Grain Network "micro-systems that supplement conventional food production and distribution systems, emphasizing high quality food and leveraging regional, socio-cultural and socio-economic values." (Meyer et al. 2024)

Grainshed "A geographical region in which the production, processing, distribution, and consumption of grain for food occurs" (Definition we created for our grant proposal)

Focus: Distance

"The distance from where grain is produced to the place where it is consumed, including the land it grows on, the route it travels, the markets it passes through & the tables it ends up on..." ([UNH presentation](#) on grain production in New Hampshire)

Focus: National Boundaries

"The focus is on the Nigerian cowpea grainshed (NCG) comprising Benin, Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, and Togo in ECOWAS, and Cameroon, Chad, and Gabon in the Central African Economic and Monetary Community (CAEMC)." (Arndt et al [2005](#))

Focus: Economics

“Arizona’s local grain economy as the network of businesses involved in production (farms), primary processing (grain handlers, maltings, mills), and secondary processing (bread bakeries, pasta makers, pizzerias, tortillerias, breweries, distilleries, home brew stores) of small grains (wheat, barley, oats), intermediate products (clean grain, flour, malt), and end products (bread, beer, or pasta) for human consumption within a 150-mile (240-km) radius of central Arizona...” (Forrest & Wiek 2021)

Focus: Load-Out Facilities

Grainsheds are based on facilities that have the capability to load trains for export or river barges going to the Gulf. These individual load-out facilities serve as the focal point of each grainshed, and the production area and the elevators that feed into that particular facility make up the area surrounding each grainshed. Grainsheds are not defined by company but rather whether grain is moved from the county elevator, to the regional shipper and then on through the marketing chain domestically or internationally. ([Plains Grains Incorporated \(PGI\) Fact Sheet 2010](#))