



United States Department of Agriculture
National Agricultural Statistics Service



December 23, 2015

TO: Ferd Hoefner, National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition

Thank you for your comments on the 2015 Local Food Marketing Practices Survey. With the increasing public and private sector interest in the direct marketing and local foods industries, data needs have also increased. NASS will use this survey to establish benchmark data that is sorely needed, as your comments indicate. These data will support both public and private sector policy decisions that affect the producers and consumers of local foods.

Thank you once again for your support,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Nathan Vandermeer".

Nathan Vandermeer
Census Administrator
U.S. Department of Agriculture
National Agricultural Statistics Service