



United States Department of Agriculture  
National Agricultural Statistics Service



January 4, 2016

TO: Alan Hunt, Wholesome Wave et al.,

Thank you for your comments on the 2015 Local Food Marketing Practices Survey. As your letter notes, there are several data gaps concerning the local foods industry. The increased public and private sector interest in this growing industry demonstrates the need to fill these gaps. An example noted in your letter is the Farmers Market and Local Food Promotion Program from the Agricultural Act of 2014, which encourages Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) consumers to use SNAP benefits at farmers markets. Yet, to the best of my knowledge there is no national measure as to how common it is for producers to accept SNAP benefits as payment at farmers markets.

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  
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U.S. Department of Agriculture  
National Agricultural Statistics Service