



The University of Georgia

Center for Agribusiness and Economic Development

College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences

Investigating the Potential for Farm-to-School Program in Georgia: Food Service Directors Survey

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CR-03-09
August 2003**



Georgia Farm to School Program Initiative Survey

Introduction

Meals must meet the applicable recommendations of the Dietary Guidelines for Americans, that no more than 30 percent of an individual's calories come from fat, and less than 10 percent from saturated fat. Breakfasts must also provide one-fourth and lunches one-third of the Recommended Dietary Allowances for protein, Vitamin A, Vitamin C, iron, calcium, and calories. Within these guidelines, decisions about what specific food to serve and how they are prepared are made by local school food authorities.

In New York State, during the 2000-2001 school year, an average of 1,791,689 children from 6,049 schools ate school lunch each day, with 65% of them receiving lunch for free or at a reduced price. An average of 480,935 children from 5,299 schools ate school breakfast, and 86% of them received breakfast for free or at a reduced price.

Schools	# Schools	# Students	# lunches Served/Month	# Breakfasts Served/Month
High				
Middle/Inter.				
Elementary				

2. Where are the majority of the meals prepared? (Please check one)

Location	total (n=83)
One school and distributed	2%
Each school	97%
Other	1%

3. What food distributors do you purchase your food from? Please list distributors.

Distributor	Small	Medium	Large	X-Large	Total
Hall Produce 35	18.8%	0.0%	2.2%	0.0%	9.5%
Williams 16	7.3%	13.6%	10.1%	9.7%	9.2%
Leo Produce 36	18.8%	0.0%	1.1%	0.0%	9.2%
PGA Milton 33	17.2%	1.7%	1.1%	0.0%	8.7%
Moore's Foods 34	17.7%	0.0%	1.1%	0.0%	8.7%
U.S. Foods 1	2.1%	15.3%	7.9%	16.1%	7.5%
Glover Food Service 12	4.2%	11.9%	10.1%	3.2%	6.5%
Sysco 3	1.6%	5.1%	4.5%	11.3%	4.2%
Auten Food Service 13	2.6%	5.1%	4.5%	0.0%	3.0%
Miltons 2	1.0%	5.1%	2.2%	6.5%	2.7%
Samples Institutional Foods 4	0.5%	6.8%	1.1%	8.1%	2.7%
Pridges 25	1.6%	3.4%	4.5%	0.0%	2.2%
Sara Lee Bakery 7	0.5%	0.0%	1.1%	4.8%	1.2%
Tanner Grocery 18	0.0%	1.7%	2.2%	3.2%	1.2%
ACC Distribution 21	0.5%	1.7%	3.4%	0.0%	1.2%
Otis Spunk Meyer 8	0.0%	0.0%	2.2%	3.2%	1.0%
Carden Produce 14	0.5%	1.7%	2.2%	0.0%	1.0%
Flase Bakery 32	0.0%	3.4%	1.1%	1.6%	1.0%
PET 17	0.5%	1.7%	1.1%	1.6%	1.0%
Other	5%	22%	36%	31%	18%

4. It is important for local farms to understand the type and form of produce your school system purchases. Please fill out the following table to the best of your knowledge.

Produce Frequently Purchases by School System - All Schools			
Produce	Fresh	Frozen	Canned
<i>Vegetables</i>			
Cucumbers	97%	0%	2%
Carrots	95%	44%	65%
Tomatoes	94%	2%	77%
Cabbage	88%	3%	2%
Bell Peppers	86%	20%	9%
Sweet Onions	79%	21%	6%
Spinach	56%	3%	6%
Green Onions	36%	0%	1%
Squash	21%	42%	36%
Sweet potatoes	21%	26%	82%
Sweet Corn	9%	79%	77%
Zucchini	9%	6%	4%
Snap Beans	6%	27%	70%
Okra	6%	67%	9%
Eggplant	6%	0%	0%
Collard Greens	4%	27%	8%
Lima Beans	1%	62%	41%
Turnip Greens	1%	71%	23%
Mustard Greens	1%	28%	6%
<i>Fruit</i>			
Grapes	98%	2%	3%
Apples	94%	23%	53%
Cantaloupe	88%	3%	0%
Watermelon	85%	2%	3%
Strawberries	83%	68%	8%
Peaches	45%	61%	68%
Blueberries	21%	46%	7%
Pecans	16%	9%	4%

<u>Fresh Produce</u> Frequently Purchases by School System					
Produce	Small	Medium	Large	X-Large	Total
<i>Vegetables</i>					
Cucumbers	100%	100%	94%	94%	97%
Carrots	93%	94%	94%	100%	95%
Tomatoes	87%	94%	94%	100%	94%
Cabbage	87%	100%	76%	88%	88%
Bell Peppers	93%	88%	82%	82%	86%
Sweet Onions	73%	76%	88%	76%	79%
Spinach	20%	61%	44%	94%	56%
Green Onions	31%	28%	39%	47%	36%
Squash	25%	17%	6%	35%	21%
Sweet potatoes	20%	6%	35%	24%	21%
Zucchini	6%	6%	0%	24%	9%
Sweet Corn	13%	0%	18%	6%	9%
Eggplant	0%	6%	6%	12%	6%
Okra	13%	0%	0%	12%	6%
Snap Beans	7%	6%	6%	6%	6%
Collard Greens	7%	0%	6%	6%	4%
Lima Beans	0%	6%	0%	0%	1%
Turnip Greens	0%	0%	0%	6%	1%
Mustard Greens	7%	0%	0%	0%	1%
<i>Fruit</i>					
Grapes	100%	100%	94%	100%	98%
Apples	80%	94%	100%	100%	94%
Cantaloupe	93%	88%	82%	88%	88%
Watermelon	73%	94%	82%	88%	85%
Strawberries	67%	88%	82%	94%	83%
Peaches	33%	41%	53%	53%	45%
Blueberries	19%	24%	24%	18%	21%
Pecans	13%	22%	17%	12%	16%

Frozen Produce Frequently Purchases by School System					
Produce	Small	Medium	Large	X-Large	Total
<i>Vegetables</i>					
Sweet Corn	67%	82%	76%	88%	79%
Turnip Greens	93%	71%	71%	53%	71%
Okra	67%	76%	71%	53%	67%
Lima Beans	80%	53%	53%	65%	62%
Carrots	33%	53%	35%	53%	44%
Squash	50%	65%	24%	29%	42%
Mustard Greens	33%	29%	39%	12%	28%
Collard Greens	47%	24%	28%	12%	27%
Snap Beans	40%	24%	18%	29%	27%
Sweet potatoes	40%	18%	24%	24%	26%
Sweet Onions	20%	12%	12%	41%	21%
Bell Peppers	7%	18%	6%	47%	20%
Zucchini	6%	0%	11%	6%	6%
Cabbage	0%	0%	6%	6%	3%
Spinach	0%	6%	0%	6%	3%
Tomatoes	0%	0%	6%	0%	2%
Green Onions	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Cucumbers	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Eggplant	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
<i>Fruit</i>					
Strawberries	47%	76%	59%	88%	68%
Peaches	53%	59%	59%	71%	61%
Blueberries	38%	59%	35%	53%	46%
Apples	27%	18%	35%	12%	23%
Pecans	19%	0%	6%	12%	9%
Cantaloupe	0%	0%	6%	6%	3%
Watermelon	7%	0%	0%	0%	2%
Grapes	7%	0%	0%	0%	2%

<u>Canned Produce Frequently Purchases by School System</u>					
Produce	Small	Medium	Large	X-Large	Total
<i>Vegetables</i>					
Sweet potatoes	80%	88%	71%	88%	82%
Sweet Corn	80%	76%	76%	76%	77%
Tomatoes	67%	82%	82%	76%	77%
Snap Beans	67%	76%	65%	71%	70%
Carrots	60%	65%	71%	65%	65%
Lima Beans	40%	41%	41%	41%	41%
Squash	19%	29%	53%	41%	36%
Turnip Greens	27%	18%	29%	18%	23%
Okra	7%	0%	18%	12%	9%
Bell Peppers	13%	0%	6%	18%	9%
Collard Greens	13%	0%	18%	0%	8%
Sweet Onions	7%	0%	12%	6%	6%
Spinach	0%	6%	11%	6%	6%
Mustard Greens	7%	6%	6%	6%	6%
Zucchini	13%	0%	6%	0%	4%
Cabbage	0%	0%	6%	0%	2%
Cucumbers	0%	0%	0%	6%	2%
Green Onions	0%	0%	6%	0%	1%
Eggplant	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
<i>Fruit</i>					
Peaches	60%	71%	71%	71%	68%
Apples	27%	59%	59%	65%	53%
Strawberries	13%	12%	6%	0%	8%
Blueberries	19%	6%	6%	0%	7%
Pecans	6%	0%	6%	6%	4%
Grapes	7%	0%	0%	6%	3%
Watermelon	7%	6%	0%	0%	3%
Cantaloupe	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%

5. Would you be interested in participating in a farm to food program?

Response	Small	Medium	Large	X-Large	Total
No	7%	19%	6%	25%	14%
Yes	93%	81%	94%	75%	86%

6. Have you made any efforts to purchase local farm products?

Response	Small	Medium	Large	X-Large	Total
No	73%	67%	61%	78%	70%
Yes	27%	33%	39%	22%	30%

7. What percentage of the produce you buy is fresh, canned and frozen?

Response	Small	Medium	Large	X-Large	Total
Fresh	37%	44%	42%	48%	42%
Frozen	28%	28%	26%	26%	27%
Canned	36%	31%	30%	28%	31%

8. Would you be interested in talking with local growers about purchasing fresh and frozen produce?

Response	Small	Medium	Large	X-Large	Total
Fresh	93%	93%	93%	81%	90%
Frozen	100%	93%	94%	76%	90%
Canned	100%	79%	88%	82%	87%

9. Please fill out the following table. This information will provide local growers information on the interest levels for specific produce and its form.

Interest in Purchasing Local Produce by Form (please check all that apply)			
Vegetables	Raw Fresh	Fresh-cut	Frozen
Cucumbers	80%	13%	0%
Bell Peppers	77%	8%	5%
Cabbage	77%	19%	2%
Sweet Onions	69%	9%	3%
Carrots	63%	50%	16%
Green Onions	38%	9%	0%
Spinach	36%	8%	5%
Sweet potatoes	25%	5%	20%
Tomatoes	22%	9%	8%
Squash	19%	17%	25%
Sweet Corn	9%	20%	52%
Lima Beans	6%	13%	48%
Turnip Greens	5%	14%	47%
Okra	5%	17%	33%
Zucchini	5%	5%	5%
Collard Greens	3%	8%	23%
Snap Beans	3%	22%	39%
Mustard Greens	3%	9%	22%
Eggplant	2%	0%	0%
<i>Fruit</i>			
Apples	92%	14%	0%
Watermelon	91%	2%	3%
Cantaloupe	91%	0%	0%
Strawberries	86%	50%	2%
Grapes	86%	2%	0%
Peaches	52%	48%	0%
Blueberries	41%	27%	5%
Pecans	34%	13%	0%

10.

Interest in Purchasing Local Raw Fresh Produce (please check all that apply)					
Vegetables	Small	Medium	Large	X-Large	Total
<i>Vegetables</i>					
Cucumbers	87%	65%	76%	93%	80%
Cabbage	93%	76%	59%	80%	77%
Bell Peppers	80%	65%	76%	87%	77%
Sweet Onions	73%	71%	71%	67%	69%
Carrots	53%	59%	82%	53%	63%
Green Onions	47%	24%	47%	33%	38%
Spinach	13%	29%	35%	67%	36%
Sweet potatoes	27%	18%	35%	20%	25%
Tomatoes	15%	14%	14%	50%	22%
Squash	13%	12%	18%	33%	19%
Sweet Corn	7%	18%	12%	0%	9%
Lima Beans	7%	6%	12%	0%	6%
Turnip Greens	0%	6%	6%	7%	5%
Okra	0%	6%	12%	0%	5%
Zucchini	0%	0%	6%	13%	5%
Collard Greens	0%	0%	6%	7%	3%
Snap Beans	0%	6%	6%	0%	3%
Mustard Greens	0%	0%	6%	7%	3%
Eggplant	7%	0%	0%	0%	2%
<i>Fruit</i>					
Apples	80%	94%	100%	93%	92%
Watermelon	73%	88%	100%	100%	91%
Cantaloupe	100%	82%	88%	93%	91%
Strawberries	67%	89%	94%	93%	86%
Grapes	80%	82%	88%	93%	86%
Peaches	40%	53%	65%	47%	52%
Blueberries	27%	47%	59%	27%	41%
Pecans	47%	35%	24%	33%	34%

Interest in Purchasing Local <u>Fresh-cut Produce</u> (please check all that apply)					
Vegetables	Small	Medium	Large	X-Large	Total
<i>Vegetables</i>					
Carrots	53%	41%	47%	60%	50%
Snap Beans	27%	6%	35%	20%	22%
Sweet Corn	13%	12%	35%	20%	20%
Cabbage	20%	29%	12%	13%	19%
Okra	27%	0%	35%	7%	17%
Squash	20%	6%	35%	7%	17%
Turnip Greens	20%	6%	29%	0%	14%
Cucumbers	20%	12%	6%	13%	13%
Lima Beans	13%	18%	12%	7%	13%
Mustard Greens	7%	6%	24%	0%	9%
Sweet Onions	7%	0%	18%	13%	9%
Green Onions	0%	12%	18%	7%	9%
Tomatoes	13%	6%	12%	7%	9%
Collard Greens	20%	6%	6%	0%	8%
Bell Peppers	7%	6%	6%	13%	8%
Spinach	13%	12%	0%	7%	8%
Sweet potatoes	7%	6%	6%	0%	5%
Zucchini	7%	6%	6%	0%	5%
Eggplant	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
<i>Fruit</i>					
Strawberries	47%	41%	59%	53%	50%
Peaches	40%	24%	71%	60%	48%
Blueberries	33%	24%	29%	20%	27%
Grapes	7%	0%	0%	0%	2%
Watermelon	7%	0%	0%	0%	2%
Apples	27%	6%	12%	13%	14%
Pecans	13%	0%	29%	7%	13%
Cantaloupe	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%

Interest in Purchasing Local <u>Frozen Produce</u> (please check all that apply)					
Vegetables	Small	Medium	Large	X-Large	Total
<i>Vegetables</i>					
Sweet Corn	40%	47%	71%	47%	52%
Lima Beans	60%	29%	71%	33%	48%
Turnip Greens	73%	29%	53%	33%	47%
Snap Beans	40%	35%	47%	33%	39%
Okra	47%	24%	41%	20%	33%
Squash	33%	18%	29%	20%	25%
Collard Greens	40%	24%	18%	13%	23%
Mustard Greens	20%	24%	35%	7%	22%
Sweet potatoes	40%	6%	29%	7%	20%
Carrots	20%	6%	24%	13%	16%
Tomatoes	7%	6%	6%	13%	8%
Bell Peppers	7%	6%	6%	0%	5%
Spinach	7%	12%	0%	0%	5%
Zucchini	7%	0%	6%	7%	5%
Sweet Onions	0%	0%	0%	13%	3%
Cabbage	0%	0%	6%	0%	2%
Green Onions	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Cucumbers	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Eggplant	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
<i>Fruit</i>					
Blueberries	7%	12%	0%	0%	5%
Watermelon	13%	0%	0%	0%	3%
Strawberries	7%	0%	0%	0%	2%
Cantaloupe	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Peaches	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Pecans	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Apples	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Grapes	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%

11. Would you prefer to do business with individual growers or a group of growers (cooperative)?

Response	Small	Medium	Large	X-Large	Total
Individual	45%	17%	46%	18%	34%
Group	55%	83%	54%	82%	66%

12. How should local growers contact your to explore farm to school opportunities? _____

The Center for Agribusiness & Economic Development



The Center for Agribusiness and Economic Development is a unit of the College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences of the University of Georgia, combining the missions of research and extension. The Center has among its objectives:

To provide feasibility and other short term studies for current or potential Georgia agribusiness firms and/or emerging food and fiber industries.

To provide agricultural, natural resource, and demographic data for private and public decision makers.

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CR-03-09

August 2003

Issued in furtherance of Cooperation Extension Acts of May 8 and June 30, 1914, the University of Georgia College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture cooperating.

J. Scott Angle, Dean and Director