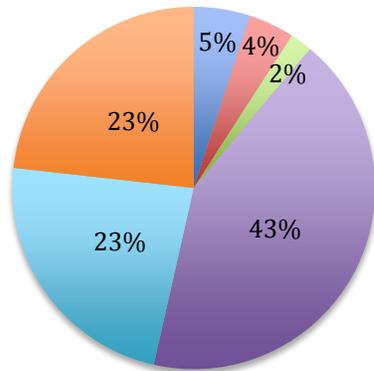


Arizona Farm to School Program Report 2012

In March 2012, the Health and Nutrition Services' annual Farm to School Program survey was distributed to food service directors in 500 districts. Of these school districts, 79 responded sharing information on what, where, and who they purchase local food from.

77% said they purchase local or regional food

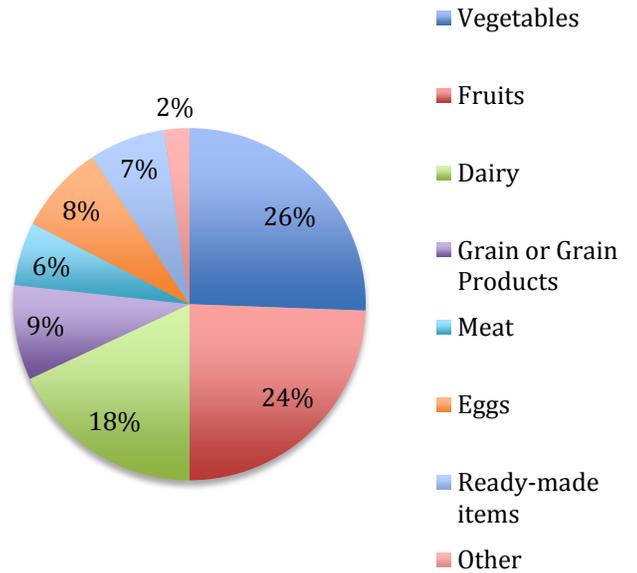
Source of Local or Regional Products



- Directly from Farmers
- Farmer's Markets
- Community Supported Agriculture
- Direct From Local or Regional Food Distributors
- Purchasing Cooperatives
- Do Not Purchase Any Local Food

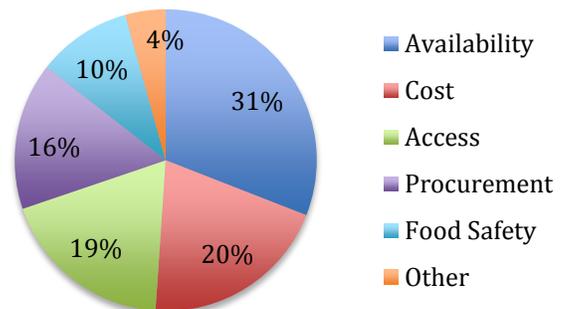
When districts buy locally purchased food, they spend 50% of their dollars on fresh fruits and vegetables

Locally Purchased Goods

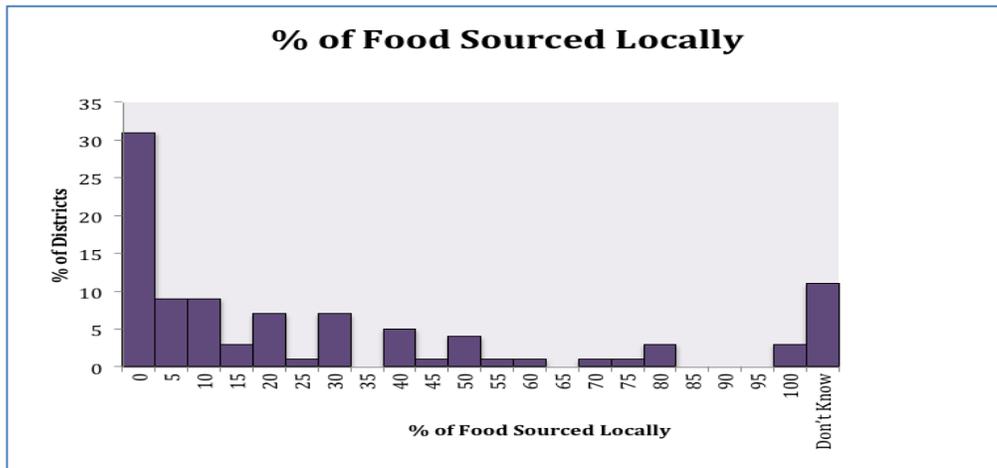


Districts often struggle with purchasing local products due to seasonal availability, additional costs in processing, distribution of the product, and finding direct access to local producers

Purchasing Challenges



Districts were asked what percentage of food they purchase from local sources. Local is defined by the Health and Nutrition Services as food grown or produced within the state of Arizona. The majority responded as purchasing anywhere from 5-100% local sources. The remainder responded as purchasing nothing from local sources or not knowing if they purchase from local sources.



The Health and Nutrition services will use the data gathered in this survey and previous surveys to assess the growth of Farm to School activities in Arizona.

Districts were also asked if they would like additional information about Arizona grown items and in what format they would prefer that information. Most respondents preferred more information on nutrition curriculum and Arizona grown items. This information will be disseminated to district food service staff in the form of electronic newsletters, technical assistance, and trainings.

