

# Farm to School Arizona

## Report 2011

Food service directors from 104 school districts in Arizona responded to the survey. The survey respondents represent about 20 percent of school districts state-wide on the National School Lunch Program.

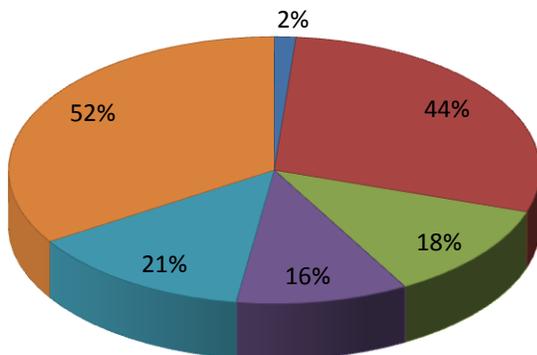
### 1. How often do you serve locally/regionally produced foods?

50% of respondents stated that they serve locally and/or regionally produced foods at least once per week.

### 2. What is preventing you from buying locally/regionally produced foods?

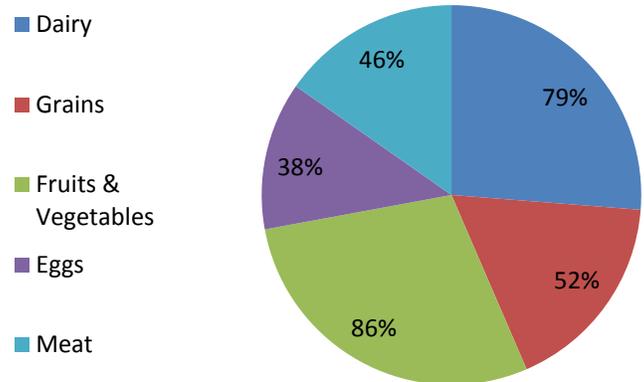
#### *Preventing Factors*

- Parents are concerned about the safety of locally sourced foods
- There is not enough produce available to sustain our food service system
- Procuring foods can be tricky because paperwork cannot be completed in a timely manner
- I have to provide a delivery system to pick up the food
- Costly
- Other



### 3. What foods do you purchase locally/regionally?

#### Locally Purchased Goods



### 4. Where does your food come from?

#### Ranking of location

- 1) Commercial vendors
- 2) Commodities
- 3) Commercial Vendors (local/regional)
- 4) Non-commercial vendors (local/regional)
- 5) DOD Program

### 5. If you purchase any of your supplies from locally/regionally produced vendors how do you procure these items?

*Fifty-two percent of respondents of the survey reported purchasing locally and/or regionally produced foods through a traditional wholesaler while ten percent reported purchasing directly from individual farms.*

**6. How do you know that the products are locally/regionally produced?**

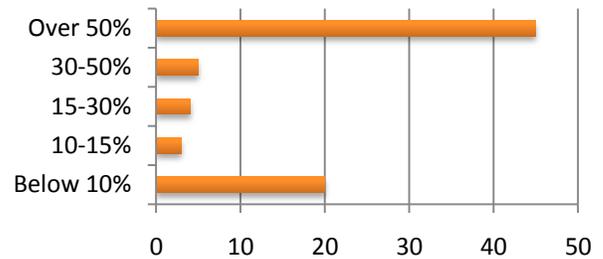
*Sixty-six percent of foodservice directors reported relying on what their distributor says and what the labels on the boxes state.*

**7. Are there certain times of the year that you focus on serving locally/regionally produced foods vs. non-locally/regionally produced foods?**

*Forty-three percent reported that they serve locally and/or regionally produced food during more temperate climates in the fall and spring. Thirty percent of Arizona school districts continue to serve locally and/or regionally produced foods in severe climates during the winter and summer.*

**8. What percentage of your schools serve locally/regionally sourced foods in their National School Lunch Program or Breakfast Program?**

**Percentage of Arizona and regional foods provided in National School Lunch or Breakfast Program**



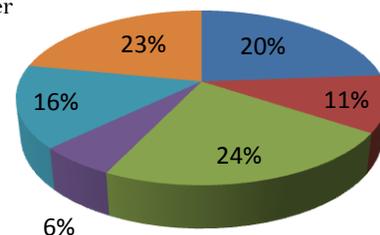
**9. If you advertise your locally/regionally sourced foods, what media do you use?**

*Sixty-five percent of Arizona school districts do not advertise locally and/or regionally sourced products yet. Of those that do advertise, most use a menu or posters, fliers, and/or product labeling.*

**10. What are the challenges with buying Arizona grown produced products directly from the farm or small vendor?**

**Purchasing challenges**

- Az growing seasons are limited in variety
- Expensive
- There are not enough local food sources to replace non-local fruits and vegetable sources
- Buying completely local would require extensive menu changes
- The delivery of local foods is too time consuming or costly
- Other



**11. Does it usually take you more or less time to procure locally/regionally produced food vs. non-locally/regionally produced foods?**

*Fifty-nine percent of Arizona school districts report procuring locally and/or regionally produced foods take about the same time as non-locally/regionally produced food.*

**12. Does it usually take you more or less time to prepare locally/regionally produced foods vs. non-locally/regionally produced foods?**

*Eighty-five percent of Arizona school districts report taking about the same time preparing locally and/or regionally produced foods as non-locally and/or regionally produced foods.*

*Time constraints do not seem to pose a problem in procuring locally and/or regionally produced foods in comparison to the standard procuring process.*

**13. Have you found locally/regionally produced foods to be more or less expensive than non-locally/regionally produced foods?**

*Fifty-seven percent of school districts in Arizona report that locally and/or regionally produced foods are similar in price to non-locally and/or regionally produced foods when purchasing what is in season.*

**14. Overall, are you satisfied with the quality of your locally/regionally produced foods?**

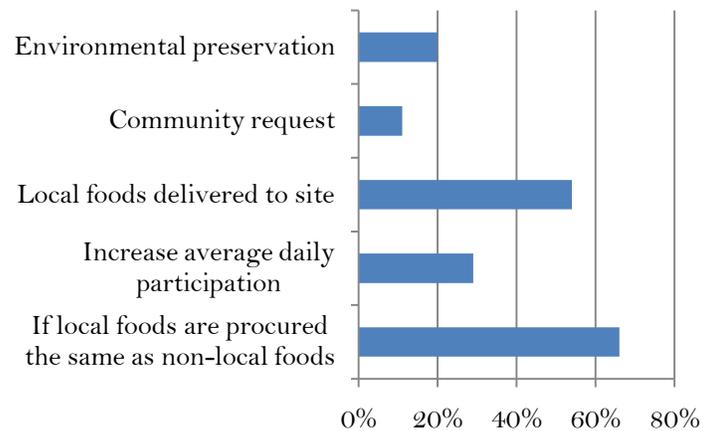
*Sixty-five percent of school districts in Arizona are satisfied with the quality of locally and/or regionally produced foods.*

**15. Did you know that you can buy local foods from your current foodservice and produce vendors such as US Food Service or Sysco?**

*Fifty-nine percent of Arizona school districts responded “yes” while forty-one percent responded “no”. Certain distributors involved with school lunch provide local purchasing preferences; Shamrock, Rainbow and Sysco are a few examples.*

**16. What would or does motivate you to buy locally/regionally produced foods?**

**Motivating factors for purchasing local and/or regional foods**



*More districts in Arizona would be motivated to purchase locally and/or regionally produced foods if the system would allow them to procure local foods in the same manner in which non-local foods are procured and if the local and/or regional foods are delivered to the school.*

# School Garden Programs

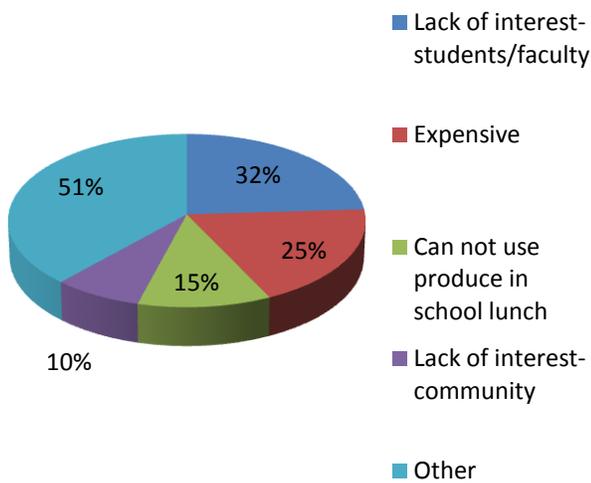
**17. Do you have an active school garden at any of the sites within your district?**

*24% of respondents do not currently have active school gardens*

*76% of respondents currently have active school gardens*

**18. If no, what is preventing you from building a school garden?**

## Factors preventing the initiation of school gardens

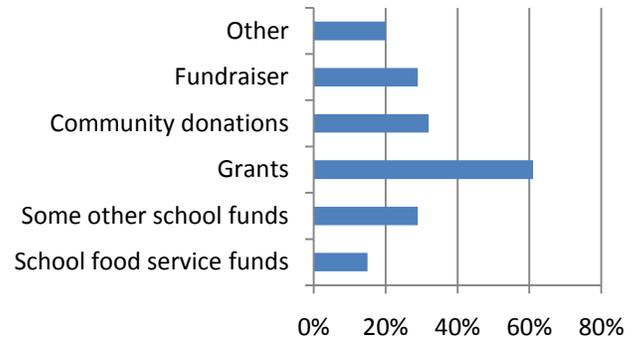


**19. Are you planning on adding a garden to one or all of your sites?**

*39% of respondents are planning on adding a garden to one or all of their sites while 61% of respondents are not planning on adding gardens to their sites.*

**20. If you are planning to add a garden to any of your school sites, how do you plan to fund this program?**

## Funding

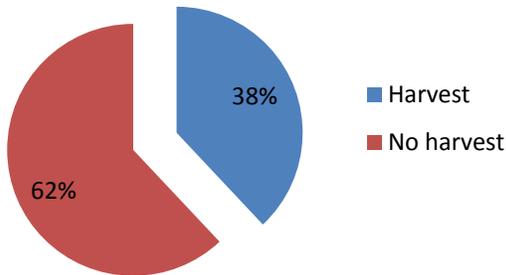


**21. How many gardens currently operate within your LEA and how long have you had your school garden(s)?**

*Most school districts surveyed only have one garden, but there are a few school districts that have up to five. Most schools that do not currently have school gardens are in the planning and implementing stage and will be established within the academic year.*

**22. Have you had successful harvest in the past?**

### School garden successful harvest



**23. Would you be interested in receiving information on Arizona agriculture and innovative ways to increase product yield?**

*70% of Arizona school districts are interested in receiving information on Arizona agriculture and innovative ways to increase product yield.*

**24. Would your LEA be interested in culinary education for food service staff?**

*71% of Arizona school districts are interested in culinary education for their food service staff.*