

# EXTENSION OPPORTUNITIES FOR DECISION-MAKERS IN LOCAL FOOD PRODUCTION

The purpose of this study was to gain a better understanding of local food production in Florida cities and counties. Local food production (LFP) refers to the production, processing, distribution and sale of food within urban and suburban areas for noncommercial/hobby, commercial, educational or nonprofit purposes. Decision-makers are defined as local government officials and agency personnel involved in establishing and/or carrying out policies and practices that impact local food production in Florida. Examples of decision-makers include county or city commissioners, mayors and clerks. This study was conducted in November 2019 and included 225 decision-makers.

## DECISION-MAKERS' KNOWLEDGE OF LOCAL FOOD PRODUCTION TOPICS

Decision-makers in this study were moderately knowledgeable about local food production topics. Respondents agreed most that they understood the impact of zoning ordinances on local food production. Respondents agreed least that they were familiar with the Florida Right to Farm Act and how it impacts their jurisdictions' abilities to regulate local food production.

**RESPONDENTS UNDERSTOOD THE IMPACTS OF ZONING ON LOCAL FOOD PRODUCTION MOST AND THE FLORIDA RIGHT TO FARM ACT LEAST.**

## OPPORTUNITIES FOR TRAINING ON LOCAL FOOD PRODUCTION TOPICS

Understanding the knowledge and needs of decision-makers regarding local food production can provide opportunities for extension faculty to conduct trainings on local food production topics.

The informational topics respondents' perceived as most useful for trainings were environmental best practices associated with local food production activities, effective models other communities have implemented to enhance local food production and evidence-based research on the impacts of local food production.

If decision-makers were to receive this type of information or training through extension, respondents indicated downloadable print materials and face-to-face training workshops as the most useful methods of delivery. Recorded videos and live webinars were also indicated as useful training options.

### TOP 5 USEFUL LFP TRAINING TOPICS

- 1 Environmental best management practices associated with local food production**
- 2 Effective models other communities have used to enhance local food production**
- 3 Evidence-based research on the impacts of local food production**
- 4 Food safety measures related to local food production**
- 5 Strategies for incorporating LFP into city/county comprehensive plans**

### MOST PREFERRED TRAINING METHODS



**Print materials**



**In-person trainings**



**Recorded videos**



**Live webinars**

