

# PERCEPTIONS OF LOCAL FOOD PRODUCTION IN FLORIDA AMONGST DECISION-MAKERS

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 INDICATE LOCAL FOOD PRODUCTION IS BENEFICIAL AND IMPORTANT FOR ALL COMMUNITIES

The results of this study indicate that local decision-makers had overall positive attitudes toward local food production and believed local food production was beneficial, useful, important and overall good for both urban and rural communities.

Thirty-six percent of respondents reported they managed issues related to local food production as part of their job description. Respondents who were involved in local food production demonstrated higher levels of knowledge regarding local food production topics.

Respondents reported that members of their communities who engaged in local food production activities primarily did so for personal consumption, as a hobby or to supplement household income.

The local food production activities identified by respondents as those most frequently conducted in their communities were farmers' markets, beekeeping, backyard chickens or goats and community gardens.

RESPONDENTS  
HAD OVERALL  
**POSITIVE**  
ATTITUDES  
TOWARD LOCAL  
FOOD PRODUCTION



## PERCEIVED BENEFITS AND BARRIERS

Respondents agreed most that local food production provides opportunities for youth development programs and educational experiences for community members, and increases food access and security.

Perceived barriers were assessed by asking respondents to indicate the extent to which they believed 12 items hindered local food production in their cities/counties. The most frequently reported barriers were lack of agricultural knowledge in urban areas, available funding for local food producers and knowledge of local food production among decision-makers.

### BENEFITS



**YOUTH  
DEVELOPMENT  
PROGRAMS**



**COMMUNITY  
EDUCATIONAL  
EXPERIENCES**



**FOOD  
ACCESS &  
SECURITY**

### BARRIERS



**LACK OF  
UNDERSTANDING  
IN URBAN AREAS**



**LACK OF  
FUNDING**



**LACK OF  
KNOWLEDGE IN  
DECISION-MAKERS**

Rampold, S. D., & Telg, R. W. (2020). Local food production in Florida: Knowledge, attitudes, and needs of local decision-makers. PIE2020/21-1. Gainesville, FL: University of Florida/IFAS Center for Public Issues Education.

