

FACT SHEET:

LOCAL FOOD MATTERS IN NEBRASKA

Buying locally produced food has a host of benefits for Nebraska: It is fresher, healthier, and more flavorful, it strengthens the local economy, and it is better for the environment.

Dollars spent on local foods stay in our communities, helping our small businesses and small farms while supporting the regional economy:

“On average, for every \$100 spent at a locally-owned business, \$45 goes back into the community. However, for every \$100 spent at a non-local business, only \$14 goes back into the community. Currently, 4 of the 10 lowest-income counties in the nation are located in Nebraska. By buying locally, we provide a local stimulus package entirely earmarked for the surrounding economy.”

—University of Nebraska-Lincoln

When you buy locally, more of the money goes to the farmer, rather than intermediary food corporations.¹ Local food is a win for the farmer and the consumer alike.

Sources

1 Dunning, Rebecca. “Research-Based Support and Extension Outreach for Local Food Systems.” Center for Environmental Farming Systems, North Carolina, August 2013, cefs.ncsu.edu/wp-content/uploads/research-based-support-for-local-food-systems.pdf. Accessed March 2021.

2 Miller, Henry, and Nathan Beacom. “A Strong Meat Sector for the Beef State.” Center for Rural Affairs, January 2021, cfra.org/publications/strong-meat-sector-beef-state-examining-state-meat-inspection-and-other-state-level. Accessed March 2021.

3 Swenson, Dave. “Investigating the Potential Economic Impacts of Local Foods for Southeast Iowa.” Leopold Center for Sustainable Agriculture, Iowa State University, Department of Economics, September 2009, leopold.iastate.edu/files/pubs-and-papers/2010-01-investigating-potential-economic-impacts-local-foods-southeast-iowa.pdf. Accessed March 2021.

4 Ibid.

NEBRASKA'S NEW LOCAL MEAT LAW

Legislative Bill 324, now before the Legislature, would ease the process of buying local meat directly from a trusted farmer and would create a program to support our local meat processors. As with other forms of local food production, buying meat locally has a number of benefits:



Local meat processing supports the local economy. 85% of the meat raised in the U.S. is processed by the same four large, international corporations, and 98% of our meat is processed at only 50 facilities.² Local meat processing keeps money growing in local communities rather than sending that money to multinational companies.



Buying meat locally means wealth stays and grows in your own community. When you spend money on local meat, you multiply your impact on the local economy. Every dollar put into local meat processing can produce an additional \$1.36 in regional economic output.³



Local meat strengthens small family farms. Local meat processing gives small farmers an alternative to selling to the big factories and establishes connections between customers who want high quality, local meat and the farmers who raise it.⁴



Local meat tends to be more sustainable and humane. Small family farms are most likely to include sustainable practices and better living conditions for livestock.

Nebraska grows some of the best meat animals in the world. If you support a meat industry that works better for farmers, better for small towns, better for the environment, and better for customers, call or write your senator today to tell them to support LB 324.

