

FOOD & FARMING NETWORK

Building NW Michigan's
Agricultural Future



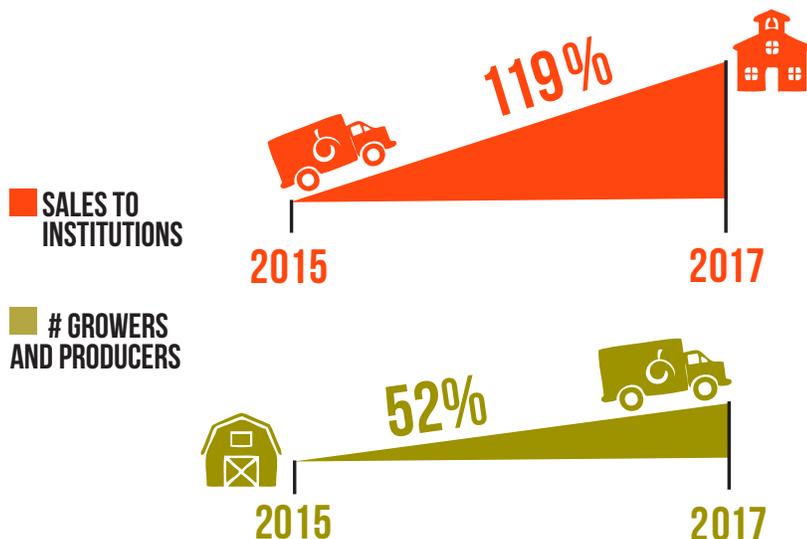
FARM TO INSTITUTION

INSTITUTIONALIZING LOCAL PROCUREMENT

Farm to institution programs support local agriculture by encouraging use of local foods in schools, hospitals, early childhood centers, and senior centers. The opportunity for access to this market supports the local food economy and public health by increasing availability of healthy food. Farm to institution projects are well established throughout the northwest Michigan region. This task force will build on current successes to expand local procurement and work to increase institutional market diversity.

CHERRY CAPITAL FOODS

Cherry Capital Foods is a Traverse City-based food hub that has been working for 10 years to build a resilient local food system. Their growing sales to institutions including hospitals, schools, senior centers, and early child care facilities throughout the 10-county region provide our community with nutrient-dense foods and amplify the local impact of produce, dairy, and proteins grown on diversified small and midsize area farms. *Source: Cherry Capital Foods*



10 CENTS A MEAL

By providing matching funds for schools to purchase local produce and legumes, 10 Cents a Meal encourages investment in the local economy and puts Michigan-grown, nutrient-dense food on children's plates. In 2016, the program became a state-funded pilot in Prosperity Regions 2 and 4. Grants totaling \$250K were administered through the MDE and supported seven school districts in Northwest Michigan. Responding to the program's success, the state expanded the pilot in 2017, extending it to Region 9 and administering a total of \$325K in grant funding.

Source: Groundwork Center for Resilient Communities

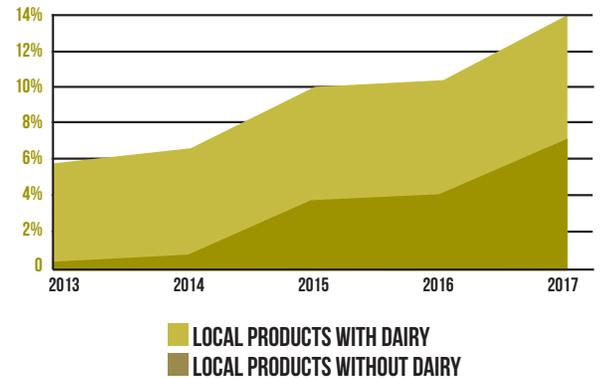


2017-2018 PARTICIPATING SCHOOLS:
 BENZIE, FRANFORD-ELBERTA,
 GLEN LAKE, LELAND,
 NORTHPORT, SUTTONS BAY,
 TRAVERSE CITY

FARM TO SENIOR

The Friendship Center of Emmet County (FCEC) provides programs and services to individuals 60 years of age or older who reside in Emmet County. In 2013, with support from the Petoskey-Harbor Springs Foundation and Michigan State University Extension, the FCEC initiated a pilot project to include locally sourced foods in its meal program. The initial project created significant growth in local food purchasing. The percentage of their budget spent on local products has shown little increase since 2015, due in part to the growth of the total food budget during that period.

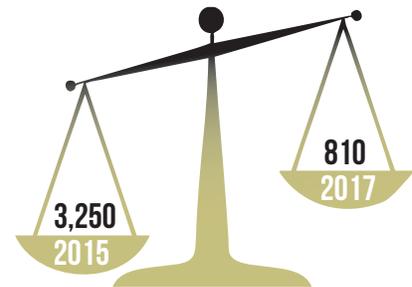
Source: Friendship Centers of Emmet County Accounting



FARM TO FREEZER

In 2013, Farm to Freezer emerged to provide season extension opportunities for farmers in Northwest Michigan. As their business has grown over the last several years, partnerships with local food hubs have become increasingly important to the efficiency of their organization. While the data reveal a decrease in direct sales, indirect institutional sales through Cherry Capital Foods in 2017 totaled 10,202 pounds of field-ripened, individually quick frozen (IQF) produce.

Source: Goodwill Northern Michigan Farm to Freezer



MI FARM CO-OP

MI Farm Co-Op is a collective of farmers from Grand Traverse, Leelanau, and Benzie Counties who provide locally grown, minimally processed produce to the schools in their counties. Their small-scale aggregation and distribution channels have allowed local school districts to source an increasingly diverse variety of products from small farms including: Apples, Salad Greens, Carrots, Potatoes, Tomatoes, Arugula, Asparagus, Baby Mustard, Basil, Beets, Grass Fed Beef, Squash, Chestnuts, Cilantro, Cucumbers, Radishes, Eggs, Garlic, Parsley, Oregano, Pork, Rubarharb, Escarole, Fennel Bulbs, Nectarines, Onions, Plums, and Grapes.

Source: MI Farm Co-op

