

LOCAL FOODS: ESTIMATING CAPACITY FOR OHIO

OHIO FOOD POLICY COUNCIL — FOOD ASSESSMENT TASK FORCE

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The Problem. While countless activists and many organizations advocate for increased consumption of locally-produced foods, little research has investigated what percentage of foods can be consumed locally, given existing production patterns. To alleviate this gap, Timmons, Wang, and Lass (2002) devised a methodology that could establish the upper limit of foods that could be produced and consumed locally by comparing an estimated nationwide per capita consumption $[(\text{production} + \text{imports} - \text{exports})/\text{per capita}]$ with the production for each state. Since the authors only report aggregated amounts for each state, this brief disaggregates agriculture into major subsectors to determine the percentage of Ohio food consumption that Ohio production could potentially satisfy.

Methodology. To identify what proportion of local foods Ohio's production currently meets, we compare Ohio's per capita production of various commodities to the per capita production of these goods nationwide. In essence, we believe that nationwide per capita figures, adjusted for imports and exports, represent the closest estimate of individual consumption. For Ohio, we divided the 2002 market value of nine commodity categories by a 2002 estimate of Ohio's population. We borrow the U.S. data from Timmons, Wang, and Lass (2002).

Results. Results for the study are in the table below. For each category, the table lists US and Ohio production per capita, and maximum amount of consumption that could be met locally, and the percentage of consumption that could come from local sources. Overall, slightly less than half of consumption in Ohio could be met with Ohio-produced foods. Our research shows that Ohio consumers could meet all of their grain and nearly all of the poultry, eggs, and dairy consumption with food produced within the state. These are strengths to build on. In contrast, the state's aquaculture, fruits, berries, and nuts production significantly lags consumption within the state. In the case of these products, Ohio has an opportunity to fill gaps in production.

USDA Category	Production per Capita		Maximum Local Food
	US (\$)	OH (\$)	OH (%)
Grains, oilseeds, dry beans, and dry peas	109.04	134.93	100.00%
Vegetables, melons, and potatoes	45.74	11.98	26.19%
Fruits, tree nuts, and berries	59.90	3.02	5.05%
Other crops and hay	27.50	8.86	32.22%
Poultry and eggs	73.70	52.95	71.85%
Beef, pork, and other meat	202.96	39.38	19.40%
Milk and other dairy	71.79	48.32	67.31%
Aquaculture	3.93	0.29	7.44%
Other animals and other animal production	2.50	2.32	92.71%
TOTAL	597.07	299.05	46.25%

Timmons, D., Q. Wang and D. Lass. 2002. "Local Foods: Estimating Capacity". *Journal of Extension*. 46(5): <http://www.joe.org/joe/2008october/a7.shtml>