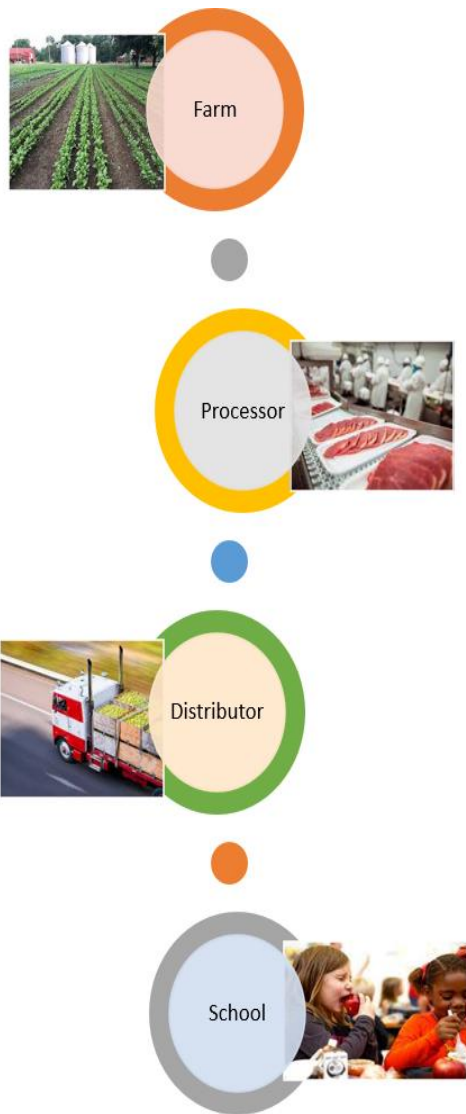


# Resources for Sourcing Local Foods

If you are like many schools, figuring out where to get local foods from can feel very overwhelming and can often cause a roadblock in moving forward with local food purchasing. We put together a list of places to start on your journey of sourcing local foods to serve in your school meal programs. Our list is not all-inclusive but does include a variety of methods for sourcing, from online search engines to one-on-one assistance from organizations that have experience with farmers, ranchers, producers and farm to school.

When purchasing local foods, it is the responsibility of the SFA to ensure that the food items meet the definition of local, that they are unprocessed or minimally processed, that all foods safety requirements are met and that they follow all applicable procurement rules.



- ISBE Known Farmer, Rancher, Producer, Processor, Distributor List
  - Located in the WINS System under Sponsor Tasks. Click on Local Food for Schools (LFS) Farm Search, then select a county and the results will display.
  - Please note this is not a required list, recommended list or approved list. This is a list of those that sell local foods that completed a survey and indicated that they are interested in selling to schools.
- IL Farm to School Network
  - <http://illinoisfarmtoschool.org/>
  - [Where to Find Food](#) – listing of search engines, directories and maps to locate sources of food grown near you.
  - [farmtoschool@sevendgenerationsahead.org](mailto:farmtoschool@sevendgenerationsahead.org)
- Illinois Market Maker
  - <https://il.foodmarketmaker.com/>
- IL Farm Bureau
  - County Contacts: <https://www.ilfb.org/about-us/directory/>
  - Main webpage: <https://www.ilfb.org/>
- Local Farmers Market
  - IL Farmers Market Association: <https://www.ilfma.org/>
- Uofl Extension
  - Find a Uofl Ext. Office: <https://extension.illinois.edu/global/where-we-serve>
- Ask Your Current Distributor or through a new local food distributor
  - Finding out if local foods are available through your current distributor starts with you inquiring about it and letting the know what you are looking for.
  - Creating a consistent needs for local products could create motivation for a distributor to source more local products.
- Through Your DoD Provider
  - SFAs will need to set up a separate account with their DoD provider for purchasing your LFS eligible foods. SFAs cannot purchase LFS foods through FAVORS and will need billed separately for LFS foods.
- Through Your Current Purchasing Cooperative
- Contact a Food Processor