Your center wants to buy local food! Let's assess center’s readiness for local food.

Thinking about how your cook uses the kitchen and how food has been prepared in the past, does your center…

Use fresh foods on a regular basis, like every day?

Use fresh foods occasionally, like once or twice a week?

Great! You are ready for local purchasing, but may need to be mindful of cook experience and kitchen set-up limitations

Cool! You are ready for local purchasing, but may need to be mindful of cook experience and kitchen set-up limitations

Not use fresh foods yet in meals and snacks?

You’re not quite there yet to start purchasing local food. Try starting with fresh food first to help you explore what cook skills and kitchen equipment you need.

Now take a look at your center and determine your needs and capacity. Do you…

Need enough food for meals, snacks and taste tests

Only need food for snacks and/or taste tests

Want to outsource cooking to a meal service?

Need enough food for meals, snacks and taste tests

Have less than 50 children enrolled?

Have more than 50 children enrolled?

Okay with indirect access to your farmer?

Want a direct relationship with your farmer?

Want a direct relationship with your farmer?

Willing to start a new account and work with a farmer to figure out delivery

Need delivery and don’t want to start a new account

Just enough of each item to try something new?

Shop and choose each item?

Want a direct relationship with your farmer?

Willing to start a new account and work with a farmer to figure out delivery

Want to outsource cooking to a meal service?

Have less than 50 children enrolled?

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Shop and choose each item?

Want a direct relationship with your farmer?

Willing to start a new account and work with a farmer to figure out delivery

Need delivery and don’t want to start a new account

Cool! You are ready for local purchasing, but may need to be mindful of cook experience and kitchen set-up limitations

Great! You are well equipped and experienced to jump into local food purchasing!

Step 2: Assess your needs, capacity, and preferences

Step 3: Choose the local food option that works for you!