



Local Foods Purchase Assistance Program

Dakota Fresh, LLC

Program Goal: Procure and deliver locally grown food to South Dakotans in need and provide a market opportunity for South Dakota producers.

What It Is: The Local Foods Purchase Assistance Program (LFPA) is a new two-year cooperative program between the United States Department of Agriculture's Agricultural Marketing Service (USDA) and the South Dakota Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources (DANR). DANR will partner with Feeding South Dakota and Dakota Fresh, LLC to procure and deliver locally grown foods from South Dakota producers to communities in need across the state. The Dakota Fresh Food Hub is a sub-recipient of this program.

Who Does LFPA Benefit? The program serves both South Dakota's farmers and ranchers and South Dakotans in need of food assistance by giving farmers and ranchers, including underserved producers, opportunities to deliver their products to local markets through Feeding South Dakota's extensive network of food assistance partners. Dakota Fresh will provide assistance with the planning and logistics of this process for producers who choose to participate in this program through the Food Hub.

How Can I Participate Through Dakota Fresh? DANR and its LFPA partners are seeking to procure and deliver as much healthy food as possible to as many communities as possible. Dakota Fresh is serving as a connection between producers and communities by purchasing and arranging delivery of those South Dakota producer's products to Feeding South Dakota sites. Producers do not need to be member/owners of Dakota Fresh to participate in this opportunity.

Producers: If you are a South Dakota producer and would like to participate in the program, please contact abby@dakotafreshllc.com or **(507) 476-7051**.

- You may also complete the questionnaire found here to identify more about your operation and available products. The Dakota Fresh manager will then contact you.
- Even if you are not prepared to source food to the LFPA program right now there are opportunities to participate throughout this two-year program and beyond through Feeding South Dakota's standing producer food sourcing network as well as the ongoing opportunity to join the Dakota Fresh Food Hub.
- USDA's LFPA program particularly provides a market opportunity for producers in a disadvantaged or underserved social or racial group, as well as our women, veteran, beginning, and small-scale farmers, particularly those growing fresh produce.

- However, all South Dakota producers are encouraged to participate and there is no requirement to identify with any of the above groups.

Partners: If you are connected to other producers who may be interested in selling their products to the LFPA program or are involved with a local community food relief organization and would like to assist with product pickup or delivery, please contact abby@dakotafreshllc.com or info@feedingsouthdakota.org.

Communities: If your community would benefit from increased access to locally grown foods through LFPA deliveries please contact abby@dakotafreshllc.com or info@feedingsouthdakota.org.