



NEWS RELEASE

United States Department of Agriculture
NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE
WYOMING FIELD OFFICE
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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STILL TIME TO BE COUNTED IN THE 2020 LOCAL FOOD MARKETING PRACTICES SURVEY

CHEYENNE, WY – MARCH 11, 2021 – Farmers and ranchers still have time to respond to their 2020 Local Food Marketing Practices Survey, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS). NASS will continue to accept responses through early May to ensure an accurate picture of U.S. local and regional food systems.

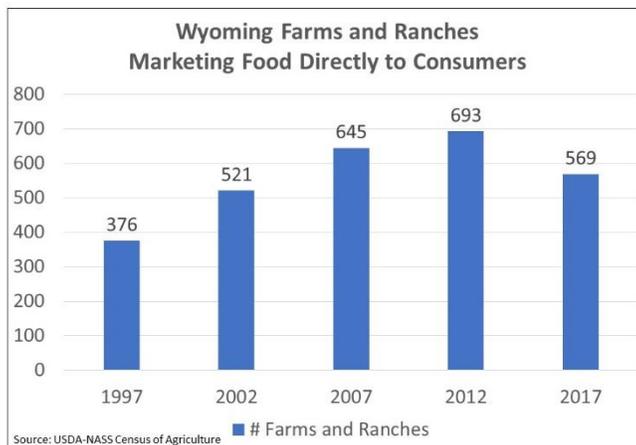
"The Local Food Marketing Practices Survey is conducted in support of the growing demand for local and regional food systems," said Rhonda Brandt, Wyoming State Statistician. "The pandemic and a short time with empty grocery store shelves a year ago has shown everyone the importance of knowing how much food we have and where to get more. Wyoming's farmers and ranchers have a great opportunity to let everyone know they have food to sell with this survey. NASS is committed to giving producers every opportunity to be counted in this special study."

The 2020 Local Food Marketing Practices Survey is part of the Census of Agriculture program. In 2017, 569 Wyoming farmers and ranchers marketed their agricultural products directly to consumers for human consumption, down 18% from 693 in 2012. Brandt added, "The downturn in the number of farms and ranches marketing directly to consumers in 2017 follows 15 years of increases since 1997. This decline shows how much farmers and ranchers need the general public's continued support to stay in business and to keep directly offering their products for sale." The 2017 total value of sales directly to consumers was \$3.51 million in Wyoming. There were also 80 Wyoming farms and ranches that sold products directly to retailers for a total of \$18.5 million.

Over the next several weeks, NASS will follow-up with additional mailings and phone calls to farmers and ranchers who have not yet responded. Producers are encouraged to complete their questionnaire online at www.agcounts.usda.gov, by mail, or phone as soon as possible. All information collected will be used for statistical purposes only and published on the NASS website in aggregate form in November 2021.

To learn more about NASS, farmer and rancher marketing statistics, and the Local Foods Marketing Practices Survey, visit www.nass.usda.gov.

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