

HOW ARE NEBRASKA SCHOOLS SOURCING LOCAL FOODS?



- Making purchases directly from farms, either by purchases under the micro-purchase threshold of \$10,000, or putting out a competitive bid request for contracts with farmers.



- Using fresh produce from school gardens and greenhouses in the school lunch and snack programs.

- Attending farmers markets to make purchases and establish future connections.



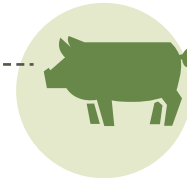
- Ordering through a food hub that can coordinate purchases from multiple producers in one sale.

- Using local grocery or food cooperatives who help find local foods for schools and coordinate purchases.



- Working with local meat, grain, or vegetable processors for purchasing local items after processing.

- Accepting local meat donations from the community, ranchers, or students involved in agriculture education programs like 4-H.



- Using “geographic preference” to target local purchases when ordering through broadline food service distributors.

- Utilizing federal programs like USDA Foods and Department of Defense Fresh. Producers sell into these programs by becoming a USDA vendor.

