



2014

**Employee Wellness & Local Foods:
*A survey opportunity for your organization***

As the costs of healthcare continue to increase, companies and organizations are acutely interested in improving employee health and wellbeing. I am writing to introduce an idea that you may find helpful that's related to employee wellness programming and community outreach.

We have developed a new "*Employee Local Foods Survey*" aimed at helping better understand employee interests and perceptions of *local foods*. This can serve as an entrée through which you may encourage healthy eating behaviors and active lifestyles.

This introductory survey is part of our *Farm-to-Institution* program. It aims to provide both process and content to help organizations increase employee wellness. Components include:

- Baseline surveying to determine employee interest in and use of local foods.
- Employees information campaigns on where *and why* to purchase healthy, local foods.
- Planning and curriculum design assistance for employee training, learning campaigns, food events, farm tours, and other activities.
- Encouraging workers to eat a healthy, local diet.
- Supporting local economies and creating jobs in agriculture.

We originally offered *pilot* programs in which organizations participated at no cost. However, due to our limited staffing, a modest cost recovery schedule may be required for the basic survey (understanding employee interests, patterns, preferences), or other programming and services as desired. The cost recovery range is \$800 to \$2,500 for most organizations.

I have attached a draft of the survey. Questions may be customized depending on your interests. The surveys would be conducted electronically using our Survey Monkey subscription.

Would you be interested in discussing this idea? I look forward to speaking with you.

Brian Raison
Assistant Professor
Ohio State University Extension