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Survey Seeks to Gauge Local Interest in Local Foods

There is a growing interest in fresh local food in Cumberland and surrounding counties.

The Cumberland County Cooperative Extension, the N.C. Farm Center for Innovation and Sustainability, and Sustainable Sandhills are seeking your input to determine if a Community Supported Agriculture subscriber service would be supported in Cumberland County.

The population of Cumberland County in the 2010 Census was 319,431, which accounts for \$1.27 billion spent annually on food. If only 10 percent of those purchases were for local food, it would inject an estimated \$127 million into our local farm economy.

“Basically, we are trying to get consumers to buy more locally produced food,” said Kenny Baily, an extension agent with Cumberland County Cooperative Extension. “This is a great opportunity to support local agricultural products that were grown right here in our county and surrounding counties.”

Community Support Agriculture, or CSA, is a way for consumers to purchase locally grown, seasonal fruits and vegetables directly from farmers. A CSA works like a magazine subscription. You pay a fee for a weekly supply of fresh, local food. Local growers supply whatever is at its peak that week.

Please visit www.surveymonkey.com/s/5SV6NQK and complete a quick survey. This survey will help determine if a CSA would be supported in Cumberland County. You can also contact your County Extension Office for a local foods coordinator who can help you locate farms, farmers markets and restaurants where you can buy local food. You can sign up for the 10 percent campaign on the Web at www.nc10percent.com.

For more information, call (910) 321-6860 or go online at http://co.cumberland.nc.us/coop_extension.aspx.

