

# Ways You Can Support Local Agriculture

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1. **Buy local foods instead of out-of-state product.** Buying local food is actually better for your health than buying out-of-state produce. Reduced time from field to table allows the farmer to harvest fully ripened, more flavorful product. By allowing the produce to ripen on its own, the natural flavor is enhanced so salts and other additives do not need to be used. Savings in energy use and pollution also favor buying local. Help promote a local food system by shopping at local farm stands and farmer's markets.
2. **Buy Seasonally.** Having access to Greene County farms helps encourage many people to eat properly. Eating fresh, seasonal foods contributes to maintaining a healthy diet, promotes overall wellness and supports an active lifestyle.
3. **Learn how to preserve foods bought during the growing season so you can enjoy their taste all year round.** By canning, freezing, or using other methods of preservation, you can enjoy the great taste of fresh foods all year round. Then when growing seasons start, you can buy extra, preserve it, and use it again later in the year when you are craving that homegrown taste and are tired of eating expensive hot house produce from local supermarkets.
4. **Join a CSA Program.** A CSA (Community Supported Agriculture) allows the consumer to be responsible for some of the initial costs of the products. The consumer pays for the cost of the products up front before the growing season starts. Then the farmer buys exactly what he needs and provides the consumers with the products that they paid for at a rate in which they can consume the products. (Contact our office for information on local CSAs).
5. **Take an active interest in your local farmers and help them understand outside perspective.** Take time out of your busy schedule to visit a farm. See what they have to offer and try to understand why they chose to farm. See how hard they have to work everyday and you take the time to really appreciate them. You may find yourself another friend.
6. **Support the Farmland Protection Plan and help save your local farms.** By supporting the Farmland Protection Plan, you are helping to save the landscapes in your community. For each acre cultivated for farming, an additional acre of forests and wetlands is also reserved. Together these areas bring out the natural beauty of Greene County.
7. **Incorporate Agriculture into your personal recreation.** Being out in nature is one of the great gifts that Greene County has to offer. Experiencing what Ag has to offer such as horseback riding, camping, hiking, hunting, fishing, swimming, and spending time with your family is priceless. Agriculture provides the means to enhance your relationship with nature and the appreciation to preserve its beauty.
8. **Learn, understand and appreciate the significance of our local food system.** Our local food system provides us with fresh, flavorful foods that are healthy to our bodies. It generates a lot of revenue and provides jobs to our local youth. Agriculture also promotes local businesses. It provides clean air, clean water and keeps your taxes low. Without learning about Agriculture, you can't begin to understand the important role that Agriculture plays in our community. However, appreciating Agriculture and taking full recreational advantage of it, will enhance your life.