

Public Act 96-579 -- Local Food, Farms, and Jobs: A Strategy for Growing Illinois' Economy

Why Now?

We have an unprecedented opportunity to create jobs, economic opportunity, and revitalize our rural and urban communities by Illinois farmers growing the farm and food products we purchase.

- 95% of the food we eat is imported from outside the borders of Illinois
- The majority of the \$48 billion we spend annually for food is exported
- Illinois has the soils and agricultural heritage to grow what we purchase
- Illinois' 12.8 million people increasingly want Illinois-grown products
- Many of our urban, suburban, and rural communities are food deserts, meaning they lack nearby access to fresh, healthy foods

What did The Illinois Local Food, Farms, and Jobs Act do?

The Illinois Local Food, Farms, and Jobs Act of 2009:

- Implements an economic development strategy to enrich Illinois families, businesses, rural and urban communities, and the state's treasury.
- Creates economic development by uniting our abundant resources: rich farmland, a temperate climate, a rich farming heritage, and a large, diverse customer population.
- Supplements long-term public health strategies designed to curb childhood diabetes and obesity
- Ensures our preparedness in the event of a natural or humanly created emergency.
- Created the Illinois Local Food, Farms, and Jobs Council to implement the mandates of the Bill
- Releases the entrepreneurial spirit of every Illinois citizen.

For more information:

Visit: www.Food.Farms.Jobs.org

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