

# District of Saanich Agriculture & Food Security Plan Community Survey Results

August 2016

The results of the Agriculture & Food Security Plan Community Survey that was open from May 25 to July 31, 2016 are presented below:

A total of 289 respondents  
30 farmer responses

1. **Do you reside within the District of Saanich?**  
80% - Yes (231/289)
2. **Do you reside within an urban area or rural area?**  
76% - Urban (220/289)
3. **Do you have a personal connection with food production?**

Do you have a personal connection with food production? (Choose all that apply)		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
I am a farmer (I make food, fibre, and/or food products for sale)	10.6%	30
I am a gardener (I make food and/or food products for personal use)	62.7%	178
I forage for food (such as mushroom or berry picking)	35.2%	100
Previous generations of my family were food producers	32.4%	92
My family has been involved in food processing or retail	9.5%	27
No, my family has not been directly involved with agriculture	21.8%	62
Other (please specify)	9.9%	28
<i>answered question</i>		<b>284</b>
<i>skipped question</i>		<b>5</b>

Other responses:

29%	Grow or forage own food
25%	Purchase locally grown food
25%	Other
14%	Work in agriculture or food sector
7%	Produce own food products (i.e. wine, canned foods, freezing, dehydrating, etc.)

Responses in the “other “ category are:

- I own farmland leased for food production
- My father was a consulting geologist who advised on well- drilling to supply water for irrigation

- Medicinal products
- Connection with planning large school garden
- I have started to learn about indigenous food systems, which is why this survey particularly interests me.

**4. Do you personally know any food producers in the District of Saanich?**

57% - Yes (163/284)

**5. How would you rank your knowledge about local food production and agriculture within the District of Saanich?**

<b>How would you rank your knowledge about local food production and agriculture within the District of Saanich?</b>		
<b>Answer Options</b>	<b>Response Percent</b>	<b>Response Count</b>
Very good	15.5%	44
Good	34.9%	99
Limited	35.9%	102
Very limited	11.3%	32
Don't know	2.5%	7
<b><i>answered question</i></b>		<b>284</b>
<b><i>skipped question</i></b>		<b>5</b>

**6. In your opinion, how would you describe the overall change in the production of food and agriculture products in Saanich over the past 5 years?**

<b>In your opinion, how would you describe the overall change in the production of food and agricultural products in Saanich over the past 5 years?</b>		
<b>Answer Options</b>	<b>Response Percent</b>	<b>Response Count</b>
Significant increase	5.6%	16
Slight increase	32.7%	93
No Change	8.8%	25
Slight decline	14.8%	42
Significant Decline	7.0%	20
Don't know	31.0%	88
<b><i>answered question</i></b>		<b>284</b>
<b><i>skipped question</i></b>		<b>5</b>

**7. If you have children, do they learn about gardening, farming, and/or other aspects of food production at school?**

If you have children, do they learn about gardening, farming, and/or other aspects of food production at school?		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	16.5%	47
No	14.4%	41
I don't know	5.3%	15
N/A (don't have school-aged children)	63.7%	181
<b>answered question</b>		<b>284</b>
<b>skipped question</b>		<b>5</b>

**8. How much land do you actively farm?**

How much land do you actively farm?		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Less than 2 acres (0.8 ha)	40.7%	11
2-5 acres (0.8-2 ha)	29.6%	8
5-10 acres (2-4 ha)	7.4%	2
10-20 acres (5-8 ha)	7.4%	2
>20 acres (>8 ha)	14.8%	4
<b>answered question</b>		<b>27</b>
<b>skipped question</b>		<b>262</b>

**9. What are your main agricultural crops?**

What are your main agricultural products? (Choose all that apply)		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Vegetables (please specify):	76.9%	20
Herbs (please specify):	42.3%	11
Berries (please specify):	42.3%	11
Fruit orchard (please specify):	38.5%	10
Grapes for wine making	0.0%	0
Flowers	19.2%	5
Nuts	11.5%	3
Grains	19.2%	5
Medicinal crops (e.g. cannabis, herbs to support holistic medicine etc.)	3.8%	1
Livestock (please specify type and number):	15.4%	4
Poultry (please specify type and number):	19.2%	5
Honeybees (please specify number of hives):	15.4%	4
Other (please specify):	19.2%	5
<b>answered question</b>		<b>26</b>
<b>skipped question</b>		<b>263</b>

**Specified crops:**

**Vegetables:**

- Mixed x6
- Tomatoes x6
- Squash x6
- Salad greens x5
- Beans x5
- Carrots x5
- Lettuce x5
- Potatoes x4
- Beets x4
- Garlic x4
- Peas x3
- Onions x3
- Cabbage x3
- Parsnips x3
- Corn x2
- Broccoli x2
- Leeks x2
- Cucumbers x2
- Peppers x2
- Cauliflower
- Asparagus
- Spinach
- Eggplant
- Kale
- Chard
- Scallions
- Tomatillos

**Herbs:**

- Basil x6
- Mixed x3
- Chives x3
- Rosemary x2
- Oregano x2
- Parsley x2
- Peppermint
- Stevia
- Catnip

- Celery
- Thyme
- Shiso

**Berries:**

- Raspberries x6
- Strawberries x6
- Blackberries x4
- Mixed x2
- Saskatoon berries
- Blueberries
- Marionberries
- Black currants
- Haskap berries
- Elderberries

**Fruit orchard:**

- Apples x6
- Figs x4
- Pears x3
- Plums x3
- Grapes x2
- Cherries x2
- Persimmons
- Hops
- Quince
- Kiwi

**Flowers:**

- Mixed x2
- Sweet peas
- Foxglove
- Sunflowers
- Lupin
- Bleeding hearts
- Poppies
- Dahlias

**Nuts:**

- Walnuts

- Hazelnuts
- Almonds

**Grains:**

- Hay
- Corn
- Amaranth
- Black quinoa
- Barley
- Oats
- Forage

**Medicinal herbs:**

- Calendula
- Ox knee
- Yerba de lobo

**Livestock:**

- Beef cattle x2 (50)
- Pigs (9)
- Milk goats (2)

**Poultry:**

- Chickens (50) x3 – layers
- Turkeys (20) x2
- Ducks x2
- Chickens (100) - broilers
- Heritage chickens (3)
- Heritage cattle (2)

Honeybees: 8-400 hives

**Other:**

- Hay x2
- Blue Orchard Mason Bees
- Nursery plants

**10. Are you involved in any form of agri-tourism activities on your farm?**

74% - No

**11. If you answered yes to the last questions, please indicate which agri-tourism activities you are involved in:**

<b>If you answered yes to the last question, please indicate which agri-tourism activities you are involved in. (Choose all that apply)</b>		
<b>Answer Options</b>	<b>Response Percent</b>	<b>Response Count</b>
Bed and Breakfast	0.0%	0
Farm tours	50.0%	4
Harvest festivals or other farm events	12.5%	1
Weddings or other non-farming events	12.5%	1
Selling products at the farm gate	75.0%	6
Selling products at farmers markets	75.0%	6
U-Pick	25.0%	2
Other (please specify)	50.0%	4
<b>answered question</b>		<b>8</b>
<b>skipped question</b>		<b>281</b>

Other:

- Workshops
- Would like to have a farm stand
- Farm tours
- WOOFer hosting, Farm Experience Program for community members

**12. When you think of "local food", what is your idea of "local"?**

<b>When you think of "local food", what is your idea of "local"? (check as many that apply)</b>		
<b>Answer Options</b>	<b>Response Percent</b>	<b>Response Count</b>
My property	43.9%	122
Saanich	47.5%	132
Saanich Peninsula (Saanich, Central Saanich, North Saanich, Sidney)	57.6%	160
Capital Regional District	59.4%	165
Vancouver Island	62.6%	174
Lower Mainland/Fraser Valley	20.9%	58
Within BC	23.0%	64
Alberta and/or Washington, USA	5.4%	15
Other (please specify)	4.3%	12
<b>answered question</b>		<b>278</b>
<b>skipped question</b>		<b>11</b>

Other:

- Southern VI and Gulf Islands
- depends on the specific type of food
- Not all of BC but acknowledge the Okanagan has growing climate the island and lower mainland don't have for certain things
- Whole Foods
- Tree Fruit, stone fruit - local is BC

- Must be produced within 100 kilometers
- I buy fruit for canning from the Okanagan. It's from local farms there but not here and there is a family-owned company that brings it to the island.
- within a 1000 kms
- in descending order
- California
- Grocery stores in walking distance from home.
- The beaches, woods and land of this island

**13. When you have the option do you buy locally grown items at regional farmers markets, grocery stores, and/or restaurants and cafes?**

**When you have the option, do you buy locally grown items at regional farmers markets, grocery stores, and/or restaurants & cafes?**

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Always	47.8%	133
Sometimes	49.3%	137
Rarely	2.5%	7
Never	0.4%	1
<b>answered question</b>		<b>278</b>
<b>skipped question</b>		<b>11</b>

**14. What prevents you or limits you from purchasing locally grown food and products?**

**What prevents or limits you from purchasing locally grown food and products? (Choose all that apply)**

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Supply (products not available in sufficient quantities)	35.6%	99
Access and availability (difficult to find)	48.2%	134
Seasonality (need for items when they are not locally in season)	51.4%	143
Cost	51.8%	144
None	6.1%	17
Other (please specify)	7.6%	21
<b>answered question</b>		<b>278</b>
<b>skipped question</b>		<b>11</b>

Other responses:

38%	Other
24%	Driving around to farms is not feasible
19%	Quality
19%	Convenience

Responses in the “other” category:

- I am not sure how an apple from California is cheaper than from Saltspring or the Okanagan, and labelling is often misleading
- Saanich taxes and environmental policies make farmers want to move up island where there are less restrictions and lower costs
- Time - not available in major grocery stores, have to drive out to special places/times to get them
- I'm happy to buy in the seasons and won't buy many fruit (blackberries, for instance) in the winter when they're all the way from Chile
- I grow much of our summer produce and eat what we grow. We mostly buy meat, grain and dairy products.
- I do not eat foods out of season...with few exceptions. I am generally able to buy locally based on my criteria of local.
- We try to grow / produce our own food & products
- Because ... farmers markets and direct sales residential growing (are not allowed).

**15. What crops, livestock, or products do you feel are hard to find from a local source and you would like to have better access to?**

<b>What crops, livestock, or products do you feel are hard to find from a local source and you would like to have better access to? (Choose all that apply)</b>		
<b>Answer Options</b>	<b>Response Percent</b>	<b>Response Count</b>
Vegetables	32.0%	89
Tree fruits	40.6%	113
Berries	19.1%	53
Nuts	45.0%	125
Herbs	16.2%	45
Medical crops (e.g. cannabis, herbs for medicinal purpose, etc.)	11.2%	31
Flour/Grains	42.4%	118
Eggs	14.0%	39
Dairy (cow)	24.5%	68
Dairy (sheep/goat)	14.7%	41
Poultry (chicken/duck/turkey)	29.9%	83
Beef	31.7%	88
Pork	20.5%	57
Game (e.g. Venison)	21.6%	60
Fibre/yarn (sheep/alpaca)	10.4%	29
Jams and pickles	10.4%	29
Honey	15.8%	44
Flowers	7.2%	20
Mushrooms	17.3%	48
Other (please specify)	12.9%	36
	<b>answered question</b>	<b>278</b>
	<b>skipped question</b>	<b>11</b>

Other responses:

- Seasonal availability is a bigger problem x6
- None x6
- Shellfish (oysters, clams) x3
- Fish x3
- Cost is a limiting factor x2
- Seafood x2
- Lamb x2
- Canned tuna
- Mushrooms
- Goat
- Rabbit
- Tea
- Halal chicken
- Frozen and canned food

**16. Are you willing to pay a higher price in order to support local farmers?**

<b>Are you willing to pay a higher price in order to support local farmers?</b>		
<b>Answer Options</b>	<b>Response Percent</b>	<b>Response Count</b>
Yes, up to 25% more	63.7%	177
Yes, up to 50% more	15.8%	44
Yes, up to twice the price	3.6%	10
No	16.9%	47
<b>answered question</b>		<b>278</b>
<b>skipped question</b>		<b>11</b>

**17. Are you familiar with the work being done by local organizations directly involved in food security?**

62% - Yes (172/278)

**18. If you answered yes to the last question, please indicate which local organizations you are familiar with:**

<b>If you answered yes to the last question, please indicate which local organizations you are familiar with. (Choose all that apply)</b>		
<b>Answer Options</b>	<b>Response Percent</b>	<b>Response Count</b>
CR-FAIR	37.9%	69
LifeCycles	68.1%	124
Mustard Seed	69.2%	126
Food Share Network	28.6%	52
Saanich Neighbourhood House	22.5%	41
Local food banks	48.9%	89
Community gardens	81.3%	148
Other (please specify)	23.1%	42
<b>answered question</b>		<b>182</b>
<b>skipped question</b>		<b>107</b>



Other responses:

- Shelbourne Community Kitchen x10
- Gorge Tillicum Urban Farmers x4
- Compost Education Centre x3
- Haliburton Community Farm x3
- Saanich Neighbourhood Place x2
- Local farms x2
- Island Chefs Collaborative x2
- Food Not Bombs x2
- Southern VI Direct Farm Marketing Assn x2
- Vic West Food Security Collective x2
- Linking Land and Future Farmers x2
- Local markets
- VICRA
- Fernwood NRG
- Extreme Outreach
- PAAC
- Community kitchens
- Fernwood permaculture/Haultain St
- North & South Saanich Agricultural Society
- BC Housing
- Cowichan Green
- Sooke Food CHI
- Young Agrarians
- BC Herdshare Association
- Saanich Peninsula Ag Commission
- Open Door
- City Harvest Co-op
- LifeCycles
- Island Health

**19. A changing climate may mean warmer winters, drier summers, and more intense, albeit shorter, precipitation events. In your opinion, what overall effect will climate change have on growing food in Saanich?**

**A changing climate may mean warmer winters, drier summers, and more intense, albeit shorter, precipitation events. In your opinion, what overall effect will climate change have on growing food in Saanich?**

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Positive impact	7.2%	20
Mixed impact (positive and negative)	66.2%	184
Negative Impact	20.5%	57
Don't know	6.1%	17
<b>answered question</b>		<b>278</b>
<b>skipped question</b>		<b>11</b>

**20. Do you feel that you are able to afford healthy foods that are appropriate to your needs?**

**Do you feel that you are able to afford healthy foods that are appropriate to your needs?**

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Always	30.2%	84
Most of the time	53.2%	148
Some of the time	15.1%	42
Never	1.4%	4
<b>answered question</b>		<b>278</b>
<b>skipped question</b>		<b>11</b>

## 21. Approximately what percent of your household income is spent on food?

Approximately what percent of your household income is spent on food?		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
0 % – 10%	8.6%	24
10% - 25%	49.3%	137
25% - 50%	28.1%	78
50% - 75%	3.6%	10
75% - 100%	1.1%	3
Don't know	9.4%	26
<b>answered question</b>		<b>278</b>
<b>skipped question</b>		<b>11</b>

## 22. Do you access services, such as food banks, in the community to help meet your food needs?

Do you access services, such as food banks, in the community to help meet your food needs?		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes, weekly	1.1%	3
Yes, monthly	1.1%	3
Only occasionally (e.g. Christmas)	1.8%	5
Never	96.0%	267
<b>answered question</b>		<b>278</b>
<b>skipped question</b>		<b>11</b>

## 23. How would you rate the draft vision statement?

How would you rate the draft vision statement?		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Very good	28.7%	76
Good	41.9%	111
Poor	15.8%	42
Very poor	4.5%	12
No opinion	9.1%	24
If you answered "poor" or "very poor", please explain why:		79
<b>answered question</b>		<b>265</b>
<b>skipped question</b>		<b>24</b>

Comments in general:

- Too wordy
- Flowery language – lots of jargon (vibrancy, thriving, etc.)
- Not realistic

- Not measurable – needs to have targets
- Should include something about self-sufficiency
- More focus on ALR retention

**24. What do you think are the top STRENGTHS of FARMING and FOOD PRODUCTION in Saanich?**

<b>What do you think are the top STRENGTHS of FARMING AND FOOD PRODUCTION in Saanich? (Choose all that apply)</b>		
<b>Answer Options</b>	<b>Response Percent</b>	<b>Response Count</b>
Public is well educated about local food	27.9%	74
Farmers receive support from various levels of government (i.e. through regulations and extension services)	15.5%	41
Farmland is affordable and accessible through either purchase or lease	6.8%	18
Great climate, soils, and water	75.5%	200
Fair water pricing (for irrigation and livestock watering)	28.7%	76
Farmland parcels are large enough to accommodate a diversity of endeavours (small lots tend to limit some livestock and dairy options)	18.5%	49
Strong protection of Agriculture Land Reserve boundary	36.2%	96
Local market is large enough to support farm businesses	60.8%	161
Local farmers are supportive of one another	42.3%	112
Good labour force available when needed	13.2%	35
Easy access to storage, value-added processing, and distribution channels for food products	9.1%	24
Wildlife and ecology is managed to compliment and support a healthy farm (e.g. bees, birds, windrow of natural areas, setbacks to streams)	25.3%	67
Strong cultural history of farming in the area	51.3%	136
Other (please specify)	11.3%	30
	<b>answered question</b>	<b>265</b>
	<b>skipped question</b>	<b>24</b>

Other responses:

- None of the above x5
- Don't know x7
- large residential lots provide for opportunities for growing food.
- More support in terms of tax incentives or water reprieves to grow your own foods.
- The wetlands, by swan lake that replenish soil by the change from fall through spring

- My family would like to be self-sufficient but the costs of buying an acreage are too high which is frustrating because we could supplement our income by selling what we don't use, which is sad because we end up having to buy our fruits and vegetables, meat etc.
- Do not allow non-resident owners to purchase farmland. Farmers must farm the land, live on or near the land and not build multi million estate mansions with the intention of privacy and future inflated resale potential
- much better for the atmosphere as food is not being transported
- Food prices are reasonable for average Saanich residents.
- farm tax breaks
- These are questions for discussion, not for checking off in this fashion. To date, I do not think Saanich has been nearly as supportive of local agriculture as it could be. However, it is encouraging to see this survey and planning to promote local agriculture. The sooner, the better.
- deer and geese need to be controlled to protect crops/more support in all areas for farmers needed to ensure food production is maintained and hopefully increased/opposed to any land being removed from the air
- Food and grower groups are strong and vocal
- People want to access local fresh healthy produce
- people eat better and have a healthier life
- Lots of potential
- I believe farmers suffer financial loss from the unchecked deer population in all areas of the Greater Victoria area.
- whether a small or large production, cost is a huge factor, we're on a very limited income so \$\$ is scarce
- Farmland in Saanich could be more dense housing - wouldn't consumer any more water but would promote more grocery stores.
- Where do indigenous food systems fit in here?

**25. What do you think are the top CHALLENGES affecting FARMING AND FOOD PRODUCTION in Saanich?**

<b>What do you think are the top CHALLENGES affecting FARMING AND FOOD PRODUCTION in Saanich? (Choose all that apply)</b>		
<b>Answer Options</b>	<b>Response Percent</b>	<b>Response Count</b>
Lack of education or misconceptions about food amongst the public	50.2%	133
Lack of regulatory support for farmers at the provincial and federal levels (meat processing, supply management, environmental monitoring etc.)	42.6%	113
Restrictive regulations at local government levels (i.e. zoning, signage, etc.)	39.6%	105
Difficulties accessing land for farming due to high costs and capital inputs	72.8%	193
Climate change	30.2%	80
Lack of water (access or cost barriers)	24.2%	64
Poor soils and climate	7.2%	19

Competing non-farm uses for farmland (urban, industrial, commercial, rural edge issues) and pressure for development	74.3%	197
Lack of opportunities and support to sell locally	23.4%	62
Lack of time and capacity for farm industry to work together to support each other (growers' associations etc.)	15.5%	41
Lack of supporting infrastructure (processing, cold storage, distribution etc.)	32.8%	87
Lack of succession planning (age of farmers, no new young farmers)	46.4%	123
Wildlife threats to livestock and crops	40.4%	107
Other (please specify)	16.2%	43
<b>answered question</b>		<b>265</b>
<b>skipped question</b>		<b>24</b>

Other responses:

18%	Lack of protection of ALR
16%	Other
13%	Cost of farming (land, equipment, labour, etc.)
13%	Government regulations and interference
13%	Wildlife (deer, raccoons, grey squirrels, etc.)
13%	Lack of processing infrastructure
13%	Unsure

Responses in the "other" category:

- There's no farmer's market!
- There is something wrong when food travelling from far away is cheaper than food down the street. People also need to accept that sustainable food is seasonal, may not be perfect in shape and colour, but is better for the environment and is more nutritious.
- Productive farm land sitting empty
- lack of reliable labour. lack of support at municipal level
- Please watch Cowspiracy it's on Netflix. Watch Forks over knives and Earthlings.com Read the World peace diet and The China study. There is so much information out there please spread the word. Animal Agriculture will collapse the ecosystem, it is approx 13 times less efficient than feeding plants directly to the people. We need to create a sustainable non violent future where we do not kill, torture and seriously abuse 3 trillion animals every year on this planet. Thank u!!!
- Water wasted on non-recreational lawns.
- need urban farm stand
- Public institutions should have a buy local value when purchasing

- The climate is good for some crops but not ideal for all. I don't know how adequate and affordable the water supply is. Climate change could affect everything, and how Saanich is affected by climate change is interrelated with how other parts of North America are affected, so this is difficult to comment on with any degree of accuracy.
- Cost and pricing of the produces
- No limits on lower quality, GMO imports
- lack of extension services for farmers
- All of the above
- I'd love to see Saanich encourage (with funding and by advertising) a growers association for micro farmers/food producers
- beach contamination and agriculture run off

**26. In your opinion, what are the top areas that should be addressed to improve FARMING AND FOOD PRODUCTION in Saanich?**

**In your opinion, what are the top areas that should be addressed to improve FARMING AND FOOD PRODUCTION in Saanich? (Choose all that apply)**

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Regulations at the local level (urban and rural growth policies, land use regulations)	50.2%	133
Regulations at the provincial level (agri-tourism, farmworker housing, meat inspection regulations)	41.9%	111
Enforcement of existing regulations and bylaws	20.4%	54
Access to land and water	45.7%	121
Market access (farmers' markets, large & small retail, local restaurants, etc.)	40.8%	108
Public education	53.2%	141
Supporting infrastructure (Processing and value-added, cold storage, abattoir, distribution, other facilities)	46.4%	123
Improve waste management facilities (composting) for soil amendment	37.0%	98
Work with the ecology of the land to support successful growing	40.8%	108
Succession planning on farms with aging farmers (Ensure that production continues after farmers retire)	54.7%	145
Other (please specify)	23.0%	61
	<b>answered question</b>	<b>265</b>
	<b>skipped question</b>	<b>24</b>

Other responses:

22%	Support for farmers (i.e. equipment co-op, fencing for wildlife, access to labour resources, education, etc.)
16%	Enforcement within and preservation of ALR and farmland
10%	Taxes and/or incentives to buy local and provide local food supply in stores
10%	Other
9%	Increase support for urban agriculture
4%	Reduce cost of water
9%	Encourage environmentally sound farming practices
3%	Help establish food processing infrastructure

7%	Community education around agriculture and water
9%	Don't know

Responses in the “other” category:

- Too much regulation
- public doesn't support animal killing, so concentrate on plant agriculture
- Veganic Farming Please watch Cowspiracy it's on Netflix. Watch Forks over knives and Earthlings.com Read the World peace diet and The China study. There is so much information out there please spread the word. Animal Agriculture will collapse the ecosystem, it is approx 13 times less efficient than feeding plants directly to the people. We need to create a sustainable non-violent future where we do not kill, torture and seriously abuse 3 trillion animals every year on this planet. Thank u!!!
- Support microdairy herdshares.
- more public land Land Trusts for growers, and Regional Funding. More training on how to manage Trusts and create networks.
- Saanich should not exist. It should all be Victoria. Too many cooks in the kitchen.
- we can't change our history but we can make a difference for our future, comparing is essential, make it easier for all peoples

## 27. What are the top STRENGTHS for FOOD SECURITY in Saanich?

What are the top STRENGTHS for FOOD SECURITY in Saanich? (Choose all that apply)		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Increased interest and opportunities for urban farming / gardening areas	74.1%	192
Supportive regulations at the local level for food production on private property (front and back yards)	35.1%	91
Supportive regulations at the local level for food production on public property (parks, boulevards, etc.).	28.2%	73
Good climate (soil and/or water)	68.7%	178
Access to healthy affordable local food at locations close to the population	43.2%	112
Opportunities to educate the public about the local food system	33.2%	86
Growing and selling food provides a source of income and/or sustenance	37.5%	97
Partnerships with outreach services (food banks and other organizations)	33.6%	87
Partnerships with schools	33.6%	87
Other (please specify)	8.5%	22
<b>answered question</b>		<b>259</b>
<b>skipped question</b>		<b>30</b>

Other responses:

- Ferry that ships in food
- There will never be enough support for food security. There will never be enough food grown for food security on a small scale, esp organic.
- I'm confused: is this about local food production and increasing the supply of locally produced food (which can be a way to food security by not relying on imported food); or is this about poverty and providing security to a healthy supply of food for all? I think you need to focus on each issue separately. The solutions to each are quite different. The definition above does not jive with the questions you are asking in 23 and 24. Supermarkets qualify as a remedy to food security if you apply the definition above.
- Local free urban farming groups like the Gorge Tillicum Urban Farmers. Community gardens.
- Stop over taxing farmer's income. They and their workers need more unrestrictive cash flow to support the farming lifestyle
- Why are we paying more for water for our vegetable and fruit garden? The water stays here. Meanwhile snowbirds are paying nothing while they are the problem contributing to climate change.
- How are you defining "climate"?
- homelessness and income support. there is lots of food in Saanich but people can afford it or they do not know how to cook well for less money. all this nonsense about Boulevard gardens is just that nonsense. teach a 10 year old to peel a potato and brown some hamburger and add an onion and put the lid on till cooked.
- cooperation amongst farmers
- Allowing backyard goats.
- None of the strengths listed here are implemented to a useful extent currently. Saanich needs to do any of these activities that are within the municipality's control. A little is done currently, but not nearly enough if we are serious about food security and promoting agriculture.
- need to work hard on all these topics as we are not being successful in all these areas
- supportive staff and Council
- Enforce Agricultural Land Bank
- It's difficult to identify strengths in Saanich beyond the physical landscape. While there is an expression of intention toward support for food security initiatives, I have seen little to no action in the last few years. This process is a step in the right direction, but thus far I have received much more support from the City of Victoria than the District of Saanich.
- A propaganda question
- addressability to gleaning programs for the families
- Partnerships with grocery stores needed too.



## 28. What are the top CHALLENGES affecting FOOD SECURITY in Saanich?

What are the top CHALLENGES affecting FOOD SECURITY in Saanich? (Choose all that apply)		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Lack of opportunities for urban farming / gardening	39.0%	101
Restrictive regulations at the local level for food production on private property (front and back yards)	33.6%	87
Restrictive regulations at the local level for food production on public property (parks, boulevard, etc.).	32.0%	83
Climate change	30.9%	80
Poor soil and/or water	13.9%	36
Lack of access to healthy affordable local food	36.3%	94
Lack of education amongst the public	44.8%	116
Low wages	49.4%	128
Lack of outreach services (food banks and other organizations)	5.8%	15
Other (please specify)	20.1%	52
<b>answered question</b>		<b>259</b>
<b>skipped question</b>		<b>30</b>

### Other responses:

27%	Other
12%	More support for urban agriculture needed
12%	Not enough public support or education
12%	External factors - low priced imports
12%	Wildlife enroachment - deer
10%	Cost of farming - land, inputs and water
8%	Don't know
4%	Lack of good labour
4%	Lack of processing facilities

### Responses in the "other" category:

- No municipal interest in successful small-scale farm operations
- help for farmers from the government; keeping marketing boards, supply management; jot enacting the TTP trade deal!!! There will never be enough support for food security. There will never be enough food grown for sufficient production on either a small scale, esp organic.
- Lack of education about the negative impacts of animal agriculture on the surrounding and global ecosystem, and the benefits and great taste, of a plant-based diet.
- parks are not the place for agri-business, it needs its own space
- no presence in the school system
- Not enough farmer's markets.
- poverty

- Loss of the provincial organic extension agent
- Too much ag land not being used for food production. Equestrian estates, tree farms, etc. should not receive as large a property tax benefit as food producers. Farmers who grow real food for humans (not horses) on owned or leased land should be offered more support and financial incentives to help their operations work financially.
- -Isolated nature of island, especially in a natural disaster or emergency
- farmers now retiring and mainly horse farms and estates are buying the land
- Food waste from local distributors and grocers
- Hard for Saanich but Inflation and the effects of inflation

**29. What do you see as opportunities to improve food security in Saanich?**

23%	More urban agriculture, including municipal plantings
16%	Other
15%	Support farmers (i.e. accessing land, labour, education, etc.)
13%	Increase consumer education around agriculture, including in school curriculums
11%	Preserve ALR and farmland
6%	Develop strategies to control nuisance wildlife (i.e. deer, raccons, geese, etc.)
4%	Support environmentally sound agricultural practices
4%	More farmers markets
3%	Support outreach services and food security organizations
2%	Encourage processing infrastructure
2%	Reduce water costs

Responses in the “other” category:

- on the small and larger scale not a heck of a lot
- If you grow food, a reduced rate on the soil made by Saanich from the curb side pick up greens.
- Availability to low income families at a reasonable cost.
- Connect food production with community organizations and schools; review policy on private/public regulations in consultation with SMEs and public. (Don't sacrifice parks)
- Use threatened green space like Townley Lodge, could be purchased by municipality from owners.
- there's an interest from the public and we need the infrastructure to allow for items to be grown and processed here; less red tape and archaic health rules; progressive changes like how food truck rules were relaxed some years ago, etc.
- Again this is an income issue not a supply problem.
- Being friendly to those who purchase the items, social accountability. Snobby farmer, i could care less if its organic.
- change policy which requires owners of farmland to be actively farming
- Where is the missing food at panama flats????????? It has been 6 or 7 years since Saanich purchased it.
- Saanich government needs to actively participate in ways that enhance local food production. Talking about it fixes nothing - all while approving development permits and persecuting urban farmers through outdated bylaw infractions. FAILURE to act.

- The producers/farmers and sellers (if not the farmers themselves) need to get together and find a way to offer produce and meat/chicken etc to locals at affordable prices. That is my biggest 'beef' with the current situation not only here, but other places I have lived in Canada where I am bordering on an agricultural area. However, I must say it is worse here than any other region I have lived in across Canada. And that's sad.
- Reclaim golf courses and return to food production. Assist with rebuilding aggregation and distribution infrastructure.
- Flexible regulations - zoning and support for farming in urban and rural areas of Saanich.
- What is the definition of food security. That the farm land will be preserved and used or that if there is a ferry strike that food will still come over from the mainland? this terms is very very broad and most people have no idea what they mean when they use this term.
- Put restrictions on importing cheap food from China and other countries that makes it impossible for our farmers to earn a decent living.
- Lack of legislation to support more local production and less importing of what the island could be growing to be more self sufficient. Need a target percentage of local products over imports. California droughts are skyrocketing prices anyway. I would rather pay more for local.
- To increase local vegetable production, allow farmers to subdivide their marginal all lands within existing zoning to provide capital to existing farms and create new, smaller all parcels and farming opportunities, to share the burden of developing infrastructure (e.g. fences) within a district where there is no wildlife control. Encourage and support small farms in production of high-value crops (e.g. medical marijuana) that could provide income/capital for expanded, more intensive mixed farming. Discourage large-lot pastoral farming, which is grotesquely inefficient land-use in a suburb. Ensure that transportation infrastructure (ferries, highways etc.) are efficient, since that is the the actual source of our 'local' "food security."
- Vision statement
- Establish bigger and better communication with the action plans of similar "agriculturally-significant" communities in BC.
- Glanford Green houses has a terrible traffic flow problem that Saanich created. Try pulling in, the car does a hairpin turn (180 degrees) and then sign indicates can't go left when pulling out even though it is often safe... fix the parting lot if you want them to stay in business!
- Make a facebook page called 'The District of Saanich' and have staff manage the page and keep the wall open to public comments, and respond to feedback, just like emails. And DO NOT BE AFRAID OF CRITICISM, and allow for public discussion (others responding to others feedback) .. you can chime in to the discussion, only to remind people to comment on the issue, to keep on topic. Simply stop cutting grass! All land public, private, commercial, industrial, institutional DOES NOT NEED GRASS. Schools should have wild areas, and have school gardens. .... And it's all about MONEY. Firing your .... dinosaur ... staff would do a GREAT benefit for everyone... and don't replace them. Most of the Activities of Saanich can be handled from the CRD or moved to Victoria. Allowing for small grocery stores in residential areas, and for homes to sell what they grow as their own small business. Taxing the Churches, and converting them to Community centres, then using the land to host farmers markets. There is a lot of so-called 'Park space' where all it is is GRASS, when it should be left alone.
- Collective Impact with food system stakeholders engaged and working together to strengthen the system.
- I feel, for my household, personally, is more financial in nature. Cost of seeds, cost of soil boosters (compost, fish compost/fertilizer) I guess I could mention that my soil I've

been told is river bed silt, so it needs to be tilled and enriched to make it better for gardening. Cost to do this is substantial.

- Zone more of Saanich for grocery stores, work with grocery stores to fill in the food deserts in Saanich. Don't waste time on boutique "food security" gardens.
- Saanich should be working with the school district to support local food use in schools. Check out Renyolds who are doing amazing things -- they need municipal support.
- The District could also change its own purchasing policies - I have been to open house events with pop and catering that is NOT local
- See the food system broader than agriculture and create an environment that is accessible.

### 30. What is your gender?

<b>Female</b>	161	70%
<b>Male</b>	67	29%
<b>Other</b>	2	1%
<b>Didn't respond</b>	1	0%
	231	

### 31. Age range:

Age range:		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
15-25	2.4%	6
26-35	10.2%	25
36-45	19.5%	48
46-55	19.5%	48
56-65	24.8%	61
66-75	17.9%	44
76+	5.7%	14
<b>answered question</b>		<b>246</b>
<b>skipped question</b>		<b>43</b>

### 32. How many people live in your household?

Number of People	Response Count	Percentage
1	37	15%
2	106	43%
3	34	14%
4	38	16%
5	15	6%
6	9	4%
Other	6	2%
	245	

### 33. What is your postal code?

Postal Code	Response Count	Percentage	Location
V8Z	52	24%	Saanich Central
V8X	33	15%	Saanich South
V8N	26	12%	Saanich East
V9E	19	9%	Saanich West
V8P	20	9%	Saanich Southeast
V9A	18	8%	Esquimalt
V8R	13	6%	Oak Bay North
V8Y	11	5%	Saanich North
V8M	12	5%	Saanichton
V8T	4	2%	Victoria North
V0R	2	1%	Mill Bay
V8L	3	1%	Sidney
V9B	3	1%	Highlands
V8W	2	1%	Victoria Central
V8B	1	0%	Squamish
V9C	1	0%	Metchosin
V0X	1	0%	Hope
	221		