

Assessment Tool: Dot Survey

Come to the Table Project - www.cometothetablenc.org

Adapted from Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon, Interfaith Food and Farm Partnership

Instructions: The following suggested four questions can be written on giant sheets of paper and hung on walls, windows, or easels in public places in order to collect some basic information. You can post them outdoors near a bus stop, indoors in the entryway of your congregation or organizational office, or anywhere else you are interested in polling passers-by. Write one question on each piece of paper and leave room next to each response for round stickers (the dots). Also, you might find it useful to keep a notebook or clipboard nearby so that people can write down the zip codes or neighborhoods in which they live. There are several advantages to this kind of survey: it's interactive; people often think it's intriguing and even fun; and the data are easy to tally and present back to your group.

Materials you will need: Four sheets of large paper, a package or two of round stickers, pen, clipboard, paper, a busy location, and a large vertical surface for hanging paper.

1. What would you like to see more of in your neighborhood?

- fresh, local produce
- convenience stores
- supermarkets
- garden plots/ community gardens
- free cooking classes
- food co-op
- food pantry

2. What is the biggest factor that keeps you from buying more locally-grown food?

- cost
- not sold where I shop
- I do get all that I want
- preparation

3. What are your top two priorities when making food purchases?

- price
- health/ product quality
- convenience
- locally grown

4. Besides supermarkets, where do you regularly get the majority of your food?

- convenience store
- farmers' market
- food co-op
- food pantry
- community-supported agriculture
- hunting and fishing
- garden

Optional: If you are conducting the survey at a congregation and are considering a farm-to-congregation partnership such as a CSA drop-off or after services farmers table, you may want to add a question about level of interest and/or convenient times and locations.