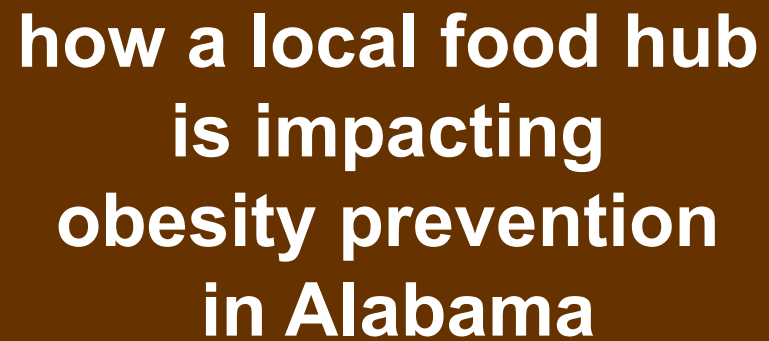


The logo for Farm Food Collaborative is located in the top left corner. It features the words "Farm Food" in a large, elegant, brown cursive font. A green vine-like graphic element starts under the letter 'F' in "Farm" and loops around the word "Food". Below "Farm Food", the word "Collaborative" is written in a smaller, white, sans-serif font inside a dark green rounded rectangular box.

Farm Food
Collaborative

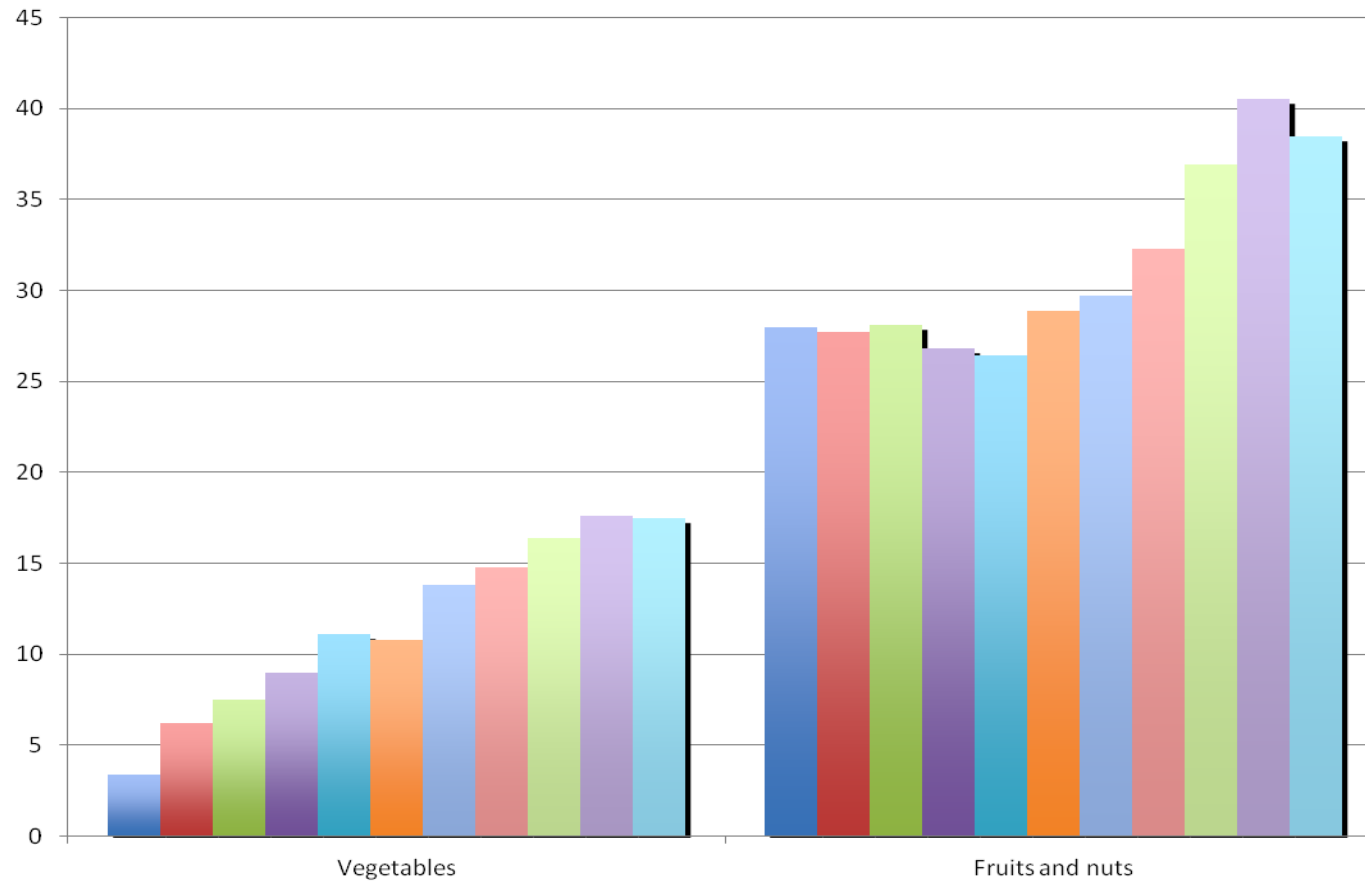
A dark brown rounded rectangular text box is positioned on the left side of the image. It contains white text that reads: "how a local food hub is impacting obesity prevention in Alabama".

how a local food hub
is impacting
obesity prevention
in Alabama



Food Imports from 1990 to 2009

(thousand metric tons – source USDA)

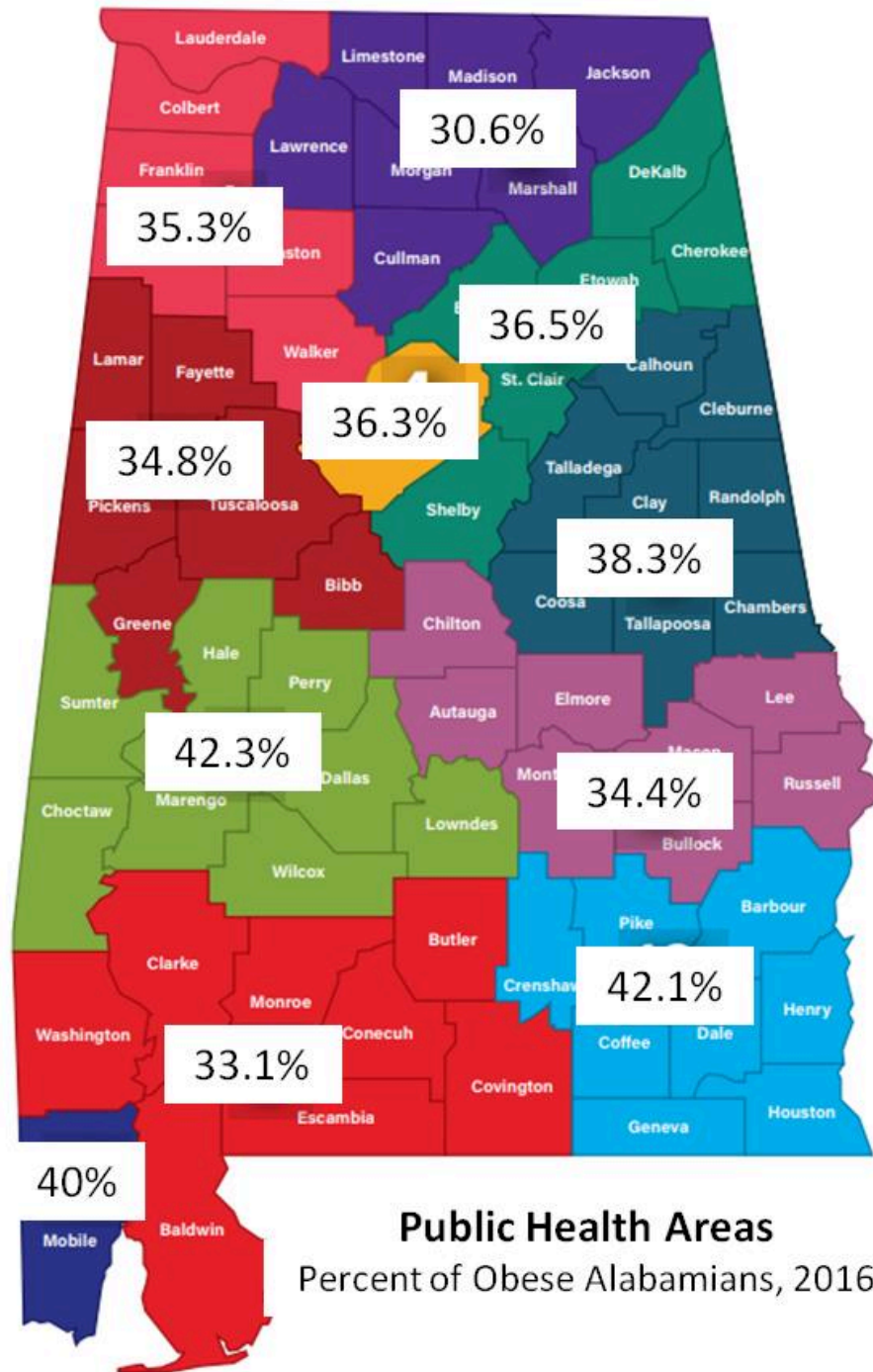




A 2011 study commissioned by
FBNA found that
North Alabama spends

**\$2.2
Billion**

on non-local foods each year



Public Health Areas
Percent of Obese Alabamians, 2016



**WHAT'S THE BIG DEAL
ABOUT LOCAL?**



ECONOMICS

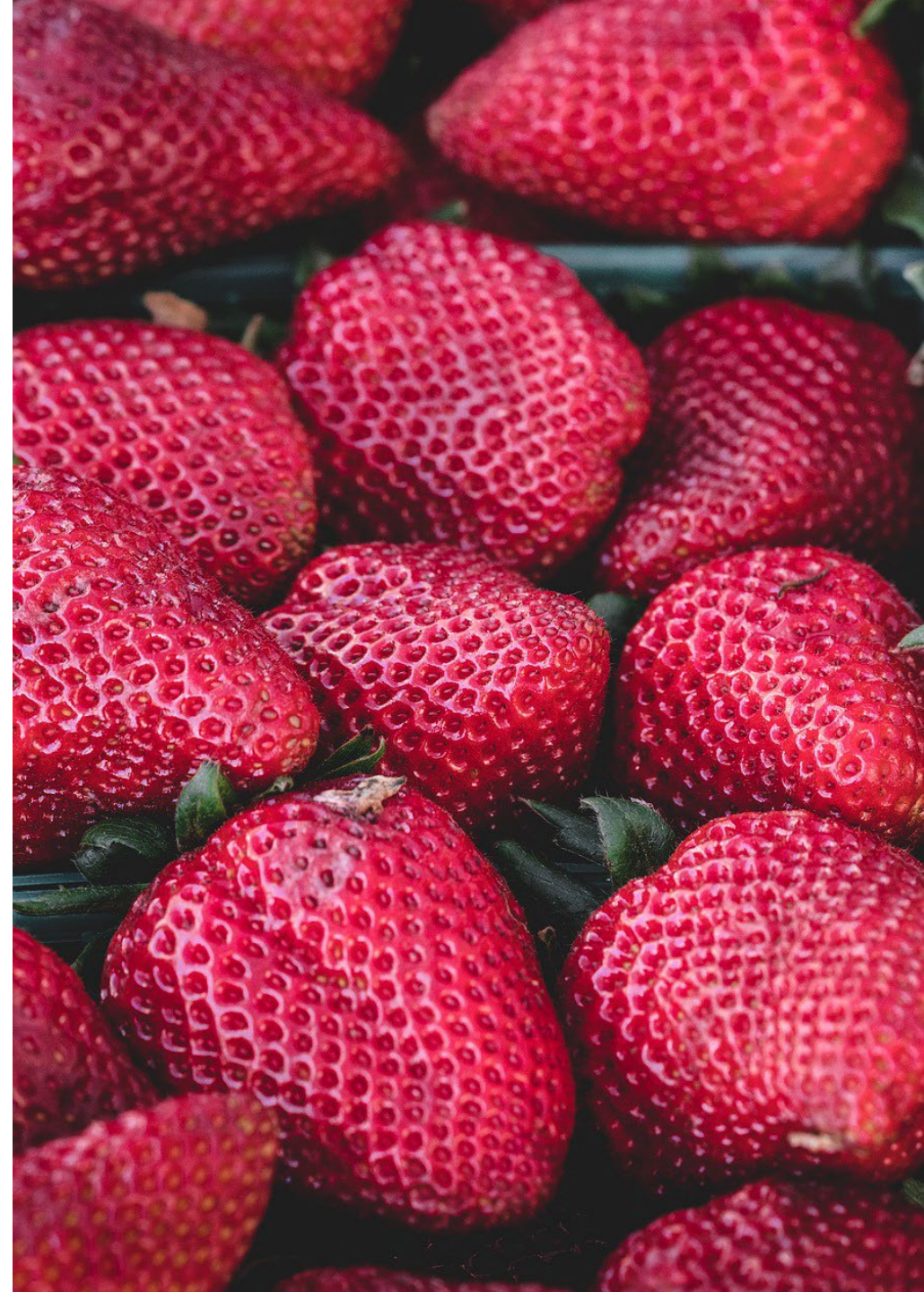
More than half of North Alabama's mid-size farms were operating at a loss in 2011, while 92% of our food dollars were spent on food from outside the region.

Keeping food dollars local means supporting our neighbors and local economy.

QUALITY

Produce grown for local markets is bred for taste, not durability, and will therefore be fresher and tastier than imported foods.

Buying local ensures nutritious and delicious produce picked & delivered at peak quality.





ACCESS

Farm to School helps every student have access to fresh, locally grown fruits and vegetables.

This access empowers children and their families to make informed food choices while strengthening our local economy.

What services do we provide?

- Food Safety Training and Guidance for Farmers
- Order Solicitation
- Delivery Logistics
- Invoicing and Accounts Receivable
- Marketing Materials
- Farm Tours / Farmer Visits
- Farm to School Events





Local Produce by Season

- **Year-Round:** Variety of Sweet Potatoes, Hydroponic Lettuces, Microgreens
- **Spring (April-June):** Strawberries, Greens (Collards/Kale/Spinach/Bok Choy), Cabbage, Greenhouse Tomatoes
- **Summer (June-October):** Variety of Tomatoes and Peppers, Squash, Zucchini, Cucumbers, Corn, Peas, Beans, Eggplant, Blueberries, Blackberries, Watermelon, Peaches
- **Late Summer/Fall (August-December):** Apples, Apple Cider, Butternut/Acorn/Spaghetti Squash, Pie Pumpkins, Asian Persimmons, Broccoli, Greens (Collards/Kale/Spinach/Bok Choy), Cabbage, Brussels Sprouts, Beets
- **Late Fall/Winter (November-January):** Satsumas

ALABAMA *grown*

Whited Farms

Oneonta, AL

"Farming is in my blood. I just love to watch things grow. And when they yield good, it's a pretty thing."

Wade Whited
3rd generation farmer

ALABAMA *grown*

Boozer Farms

Thorsby, AL

"When I think about farming, it's impossible to list one thing I love the most. It's the people I connect with, the food I grow, the soil I spend time working in. I believe this is what I was called to do."

Taylor Hatchett
1st generation farmer



ALABAMA *grown*

Haynes Farming

Cullman, AL

"I can't think of anything else I'd want to do. It makes me feel good to know that I'm growing something that's so good for people. People wanting local food from family farms has made a big difference. I didn't know if we'd see that in my lifetime. It's a real good change."

Clark Haynes
3rd generation farmer

  @FoodHubAL

Farm Food
Gulf Breeze, FL

  @FoodHubAL

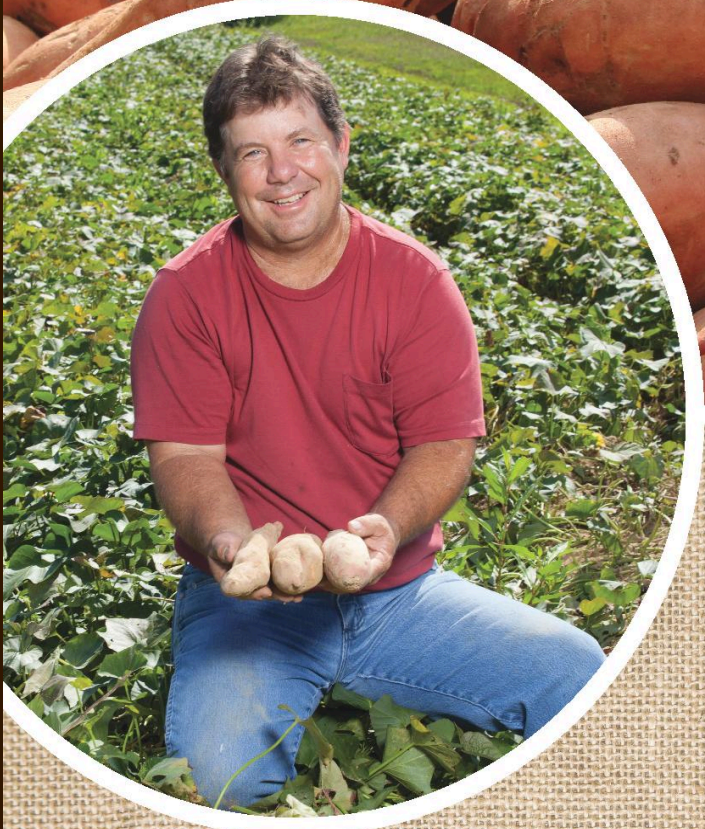
Farm Food
Gulf Breeze, FL

  @FoodHubAL

Farm Food
Gulf Breeze, FL



LOCAL PEACHES AND APPLES GROWN BY
Scott's Orchard
THE SCOTT FAMILY | HAZEL GREEN, AL



LOCAL SWEET POTATOES GROWN BY
Haynes Farming
CLARK HAYNES | CULLMAN, AL



**NATIONAL
FARM *to* SCHOOL
NETWORK**

ALABAMA



Because of the Farm Food Collaborative:

Fresh fruits and
vegetables from
10 different
Alabama farms
have been served
in more than 150
North Alabama
schools!



Local school districts served include:

Athens City
Cullman City
Cullman County
Huntsville City
Limestone County
Madison City
Madison County
Oneonta City

What is Farm to ECE?

CORE ELEMENTS OF **FARM to SCHOOL**



Farm to early care and education offers increased access to the same three core elements of local food sourcing, school gardens and food and agriculture education to enhance the quality of the educational experience in all types of ECE settings (e.g., preschools, child care centers, family child care homes, Head Start/Early Head Start, programs in K - 12 school districts). Farm to ECE offers benefits that parallel the goals and priorities of the early care and education community including emphasis on experiential learning opportunities, parent and community engagement and life-long health and wellness for children, families and caregivers.

- **Procurement:** Local foods are purchased, promoted and served in the cafeteria or as a snack or taste-test;
- **Education:** Students participate in education activities related to agriculture, food, health or nutrition; and
- **School gardens:** Students engage in hands-on learning through gardening.



DIGGING IN TO Alabama Farm to Early Care & Education



What is Alabama Farm to Early Care & Education?

Alabama Farm to Early Care and Education (ECE) increases access to local foods and enhances the quality of education in all ECE settings through:

- Buying, preparing, and serving local foods in meals & snacks
- Engaging families in health and wellness
- Facilitating hands-on learning and play in food, nutrition, & agriculture

Who can participate in Farm to ECE?

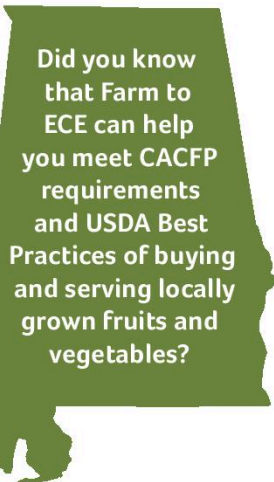
Any and all sites like group child care centers, family child care homes, Head Start, and child development centers.

Why participate in Farm to ECE?

Farm to ECE is a natural fit for children ages birth – 5 years and offers extensive benefits for our youngest learners and eaters. Hands on learning is a cornerstone of Farm to ECE and is perfect for the child exploring the world through his or her five senses.

Farm to ECE can also

- Increase children's access to local, nutritious food
- Support local farmers and healthy communities
- Develop the whole child
- Provide professional development opportunities for staff



INTERESTED IN PARTICIPATING? CONTACT:

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farmfoodmembership@fbofna.org

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farmfood@fbofna.org

SPECIAL THANKS TO: PUBLIX, THE DANIEL FOUNDATION, SPROUTS



#ALABAMAGROWN





We are participating in
Alabama Farm to ECE
with the
Farm Food Collaborative



What is Farm to ECE?

Farm to Early Care and Education (ECE) is an extension of Farm to School that offers increased access to fresh, locally grown foods, gardening opportunities, and agricultural education to enhance the quality of the educational experience for children ages 0-5.

  Follow us on Insta and Twitter @FoodHubAL



SPECIAL
THANKS TO



Farm to Early Care
and Education
empowers
childcare providers,
children, and their
families to make
informed food
choices while
strengthening our
local economy.



ALABAMA *grower*



**FOOD BANK OF
NORTH ALABAMA**

**CAREY
MARTIN - LANE**

Farm Food Collaborative Co-Manager

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Huntsville, AL 35804

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**NATIONAL
FARM TO SCHOOL
NETWORK**
ALABAMA

Farm Food
Collaborative

**FEEDING
AMERICA**



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