

## Covid19 Farmer Survey Results Summary (March 2020)

### The Big Pivot

Many farmers have diversified businesses that sell to restaurants, markets, CSAs, etc. Restaurant orders have almost completely dried up while CSAs and other direct sales have increased. At the same time the direct consumer method of face to face sales is no longer workable. Small operations are having to figure out how to not only safely grow to meet the demand but also distribute the food. Almost overnight an order form and pickup/delivery scheme needed to be produced. With the future so uncertain for us all- it is hard to know where to invest money to meet demand. Demand is not the problem, it is how to meet it with the resources available and stay healthy while doing it.

### Transport and Supplies - Anxiety

Farms are open, we already knew farms were essential businesses. There is unlikely to be a food supply shortage but there was concern both about transportation for final products and anxiety about the strength of the supply chain that services farms – many smaller suppliers in turn supply small farms and one illness could wipe out a business that supplies feed or other inputs for many local farms. As many a cooped up resident turn their hand to gardening, some inputs like seeds are in much higher demand.

### Keeping Farmers Healthy/ Farm Security

Farmers are taking extra precautions to prevent spreading the virus to consumers but because they are front line workers they are concerned about falling ill and being unable to take care of their farms – particularly their livestock. Consumers, seeking local sources of food, are just showing up at farms. Consumers should call first to keep farmers safe. [Maps from Future Harvest](#) and [MCA's CSA page](#) are good resources for finding and contacting farms.

### Caring for Our Neighbors in Need

[Manna Food Center](#) has a Farm to Food Bank program and a project of Manna called [Community Food Rescue](#) can arrange pick-up and delivery of excess food – including seconds of locally grown produce.

### A Hopeful Note

Respondents stressed that communication and collaboration (from a distance) would help farmers meet demand and keep as many people healthy as possible.

[Read Our Evolving List of Crisis Resources For Consumers and Farmers Here](#)