Purpose
Farm to Plate. Thirty Mile Meals. Feeding our friends and neighbors, funding the local economy and improving the environment can all be accomplished by participating in the local foods movement. Ohio State University Extension’s Local Foods Signature Program addresses the critical need for outreach education around the broad topic of local food systems. One of our themes, Food and Community, features education connecting local food to community gardens, farmers markets, food banks and schools.

Impact
Buying local foods has a ripple effect on the economy. The farmer/producer benefits as well as their employees, local businesses they frequent, charities they support and the local tax base.

Food raised on local farms not only reduces pollution from long-distance transportation, but also helps to protect our water sources, conserve nutrient-rich soil and provide habitat for local wildlife.

Over two million Ohioans are food insecure. Community gardens, farm markets, food banks and simply sharing your extra garden produce can feed these families and connect them to the community.