

**Table 2. Perceived benefits for school foodservice operations from purchasing local foods**

<b>Benefits<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>M<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>±</b>	<b>SD</b>
Good public relations	4.3		1.0
Aid to local economy	4.2		1.0
Purchase small quantities*	4.0		1.2
Fresher food*	4.0		1.1
Know product sources	3.8		1.2
Lower transportation costs	3.7		1.3
Higher quality food	3.6		1.3
Safer food*	3.3		1.3
Less expensive food	3.3		1.3
Less use of pesticides	3.1		1.3
Special variety of produce	2.7		1.3
Greater variety of food	2.6		1.2

<sup>1</sup>Respondents were asked to indicate the degree to which each of the items listed were perceived to be a benefit to purchasing from local growers and producers

<sup>2</sup>5 point scale, using 1=No benefit to 5=Strong benefit

\* $p < 0.05$ ; ANOVA comparison of means based on community size, means from communities of <1000 significantly higher than others

N=237