

**Table 3. Perceived obstacles for school foodservice operations to purchasing local foods**

<b>Obstacles<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>M<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>± SD</b>
Lack of year-round food availability	3.9	1.3
Ability to obtain adequate food supply	3.5	1.3
Reliable food quantity	3.4	1.3
Local and state regulations	3.3	1.4
Dealing with more vendors	3.3	1.4
Product cost	3.1	1.3
Knowledge about local growers/producers	3.0	1.4
Safety issues	3.0	1.4
Order methods	3.0	1.4
Preparation labor time	2.9	1.4
On-time delivery	2.9	1.4
Clean and sturdy packaging	2.9	1.3
Consistent package size	2.9	1.3
Getting approval for new suppliers	2.7	1.4
Personal preference to work with current vendors	2.7	1.4
Payment procedures	2.5	1.4

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

<sup>2</sup>5 point scale, using 1=No obstacle to 5=High obstacle

N=237