

ANALYSIS OF UK DINING'S LOCAL PROCUREMENT EFFORTS



Martin-Gatton
College of Agriculture,
Food and Environment

**The Food
Connection**

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SUMMARY

This report contains the twelfth annual assessment of the local food procurement efforts of UK Dining (Aramark) and covers the 2025 fiscal year (July 1, 2024, to June 30, 2025) (FY25). FY25 marks the second year that UK Dining's contractual commitment for Kentucky Farm and Food Business Impact purchasing (KYFFBI) be at least twenty percent (20%) of total food and beverage purchases. Prior to FY24, KYFFBI Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) required a specified purchase amount (dollars) for Kentucky Farm Impact and Kentucky Food Business Impact categories (see previous UK Dining Sourcing Reports for additional information). For FY25, the total KYFFBI KPI was \$3,239,758 which represents 20% of UK Dining's total food and beverage spend of \$16,198,790. The actual FY25 KYFFBI Total was \$7,033,290 which represents 43% of UK Dining's total food and beverage spend. The largest expenditure within UK Dining's (Aramark) local procurement initiative was the sub-contracting of stations within residential dining halls to local, independently owned restaurants (\$4,936,962). With respect to Kentucky Farm Impact purchasing, UK Dining spent \$1,536,258 on Kentucky Farm Impact purchases—a 6.5% decrease over the FY24 Kentucky Farm Impact spend. It should be noted that while the contract stipulates a 20% KYFFBI spend, it does not specify what portion of the 20% must be Kentucky Farm Impact.

Of the \$1,536,258 that was sourced from Kentucky farm operators, \$1,068,762 (70%) were "All" (100%) or "Majority" (at least 50%) farm impact items. In addition, in FY25, the majority (84%) of the Kentucky Farm Impact food items were purchased from Kentucky farms and Kentucky food businesses. This is

significant as just four years ago (FY22) 83% of farm impact food items purchased came from Kentucky-based publicly traded farms and/or food businesses (e.g., Pilgrim's Pride chicken, Prairie Farms dairy, and Klosterman's bread). UK Dining continues to prioritize purchasing food from independently owned farms and food businesses as opposed to relying heavily on sourcing farm impact products from Kentucky-based processors and/or Kentucky-based publicly traded farms and/or food businesses (Appendix 1).

INTRODUCTION

The Kentucky Food and Farm Business Impact (KFFBI) procurement initiatives at UK have drawn national recognition and awards, and more importantly have resulted in over \$31 million of direct investment in Kentucky farms and food businesses. This publication is the twelfth annual report assessing local food procurement efforts at UK by Aramark, the private dining service provider that operates UK Dining.

In keeping with the institution's land grant mission, the goal of UK's local food purchasing, and broader farm-to-campus initiatives, is to leverage our local food systems expertise to support the growth of the local farm and food economies of our Commonwealth. The Food Connection (TFC), a local food systems center borne out of the contractual relationship between UK and Aramark and housed within the Martin-Gatton College of Agriculture, Food and Environment (MG-CAFE), supports this effort by facilitating value chain coordination, providing on-farm produce food safety technical assistance, and by conducting an annual assessment of UK Dining's local food purchasing and initiatives.

The primary goal of our UK Dining Report are to provide a transparent account of how local purchasing requirements in our dining services contract are fulfilled. In addition, we aim to identify opportunities, challenges, best practices, and innovations discovered through collaborative efforts over the course of the year. While our TFC team collaborates with the staff of UK Dining (Aramark) to support their local procurement initiatives, our report aims to provide an objective assessment of those efforts.

This analysis provides an item-level assessment of how UK Dining (Aramark) meets its annual KYFFBI purchasing requirements as defined by the dining contract. As stated in previous reports (available on The Food Connection website), our goal is the development of a replicable metric and methodology that reasonably represents the relative impact of food purchases on the Kentucky farm and food business economy.

UK DINING’S LOCAL FOOD COMMITMENTS

The Kentucky Food and Farm Business Impact (e.g., 'local food') procurement program

originated in the dining contract signed between the UK and the Aramark Corporation, a food service and facilities company, in FY15. In response to significant feedback from on- and off-campus stakeholders regarding UK's role in Kentucky's agro-food system, the dining contract stipulated explicit Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) tied to local food purchases.

The KPIs were revised in July 2016 to provide more targeted guidance to the program and prioritize farm-impact purchasing (see FY17 Dining Report for a more in-depth discussion of these revisions).

Local food purchases are governed by a two-part KPI that dictates minimum KYFFBI purchases categorized by degree of farm impact and Kentucky-owned food business impact. The KYFFBI is the total of all individual items purchased and classified within these metrics, with farm impact purchases as a subset of that total. The FY25 KYFFBI benchmark commitment is included in Table 1, and the contractual definitions of farm impact and business impact, harmonized with the National Farm to Institution Metrics, are provided in Table 2.

Table 1. FY25 Kentucky Farm and Food Business Impact Benchmarks.		
	FY25 Commitment	% Total Food and Beverage Spend
Total Kentucky Farm and Food Business Impact	\$3,239,758	20%
Minimum Portion Kentucky Farm Impact	\$809,940	5%

Table 2. Kentucky Farm and Food Business Impact Definitions, Harmonized with the National Farm to Institution Metrics.

Kentucky Farm and Kentucky Food Business Impact (KYFFBI) Definitions

Kentucky Farm Impact

All Farm Impact	(>99%) ingredients sourced from farm(s) within local region
Majority Farm Impact	(50% -99%) of ingredients sourced from farm(s) within local region
Some Farm Impact	(1-49%) of ingredients sourced from farm(s) within local region
No Farm Impact	NONE of the item's ingredients are sourced from farm(s) within local region OR unknown

Kentucky Food Business Impact

Local Farm	Independently or cooperatively owned and operated local farm
Local Food Business	Independently or cooperatively owned and operated local food business
Local Dependent Farm	Farm within local region that is not independently owned by farmer or a cooperative
Publicly Traded Food Business	Franchise, affiliate, or publicly traded food business within local region
Non-local	Farm or food business outside the local region OR unknown

METHODOLOGY

In 2019, TFC was invited to serve as the lead on a cooperative agreement funded by United States Department of Agriculture Agricultural Marketing Service to develop a set of nationally harmonized metrics for “farm impact” purchasing. Working with a steering committee of nine non-governmental organizations and universities, the project developed a suite of metrics that ultimately mirrored UK’s KPIs with some additional categories and classifications that provide additional clarity on the provenance of a product. This nationally harmonized metrics suite is designed to align with and accommodate a number of existing local and sustainable procurement programs such as the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education’s (AASHE)

Sustainability Tracking, Assessment and Rating System (STARS) and Center for Good Food Purchasing’s standards as well as UK’s current KPIs¹.

In FY21, TFC reconfigured our tracking database to operate with the harmonized metrics. The data presented in this report are categorized to align with UK Dining (Aramark) contract purchasing requirements as well as the full suite of nationally harmonized metrics. Additionally, we have updated language on the business impact category formerly labeled “Processor” to the current classification of “Publicly Traded/Affiliate”. Businesses in this category are either publicly traded, subsidiary operations of companies headquartered outside of the state, or otherwise not majority owned and operated by Kentuckians.

Products in this category must be produced and manufactured in the state in a manner that constitutes “significant value adding” operations (e.g., repackaging, bottling, or other minimal activities are not sufficient). More information on those metrics and the national farm to institution metrics collaborative can be found on the project’s website and in the FY20 Dining Report.

In FY23, the tracking and reporting of KYFFBI purchases shifted to Aramark’s third-party service provider for sustainability data, MaetaData (Chicago, IL). The Food Connection supported this effort and helped to vet all data sent to MaetaData in collaboration with UK Dining to ensure the same data classification system was in place.

A detailed description of the methods used in the collection, classification and analysis of the UK Dining (Aramark) data can be found in Appendix 2. This report assesses all KYFFBI food and beverage purchases reported to UK by UK Dining (Aramark) as defined and required by KPIs in the dining service contract.

Accounting for “Pass-Through” Spending by Sub-contracted Restaurants

UK Dining (Aramark) occasionally sub-contracts with local food businesses (restaurants) to provide food in campus-based dining, UK Athletics facilities, and catering. Funds spent on sub-contracted services with local vendors contribute to the Kentucky Food Business Impact KPI. However, additional steps are needed to accurately account for any farm-impact products purchased by these local food businesses. To accurately

account for the procurement and inclusion of farm-impact products by sub-contracted local restaurants, the following methodology was implemented:

- UK Dining (Aramark) collects itemized invoices from sub-contracted restaurants who have purchased farm-impact products for explicit and exclusive use in UK Dining operations.
- These data are then included with monthly procurement data submitted to The Food Connection.
- All items are assigned a score in an identical process for items purchased directly by Aramark, and the total value of these pass-through items is subtracted from the total value of the amount spent on the sub-contract with those restaurants.

In this way, we track the impact of the purchased food items without double counting their value in our calculations.

Fiscal Year 2025 Kentucky Farm and Food Business Impact Expenditures

During FY25, reported KYFFBI expenditures significantly exceeded the required KPIs. Results of our assessment and classification of expenditures reported for fulfillment of KYFFBI by UK Dining (Aramark) are presented in Figure 1. Purchase totals are shown in Table 3, and a detailed breakdown of farm and food business impact is shown in Table 4.

Table 5 presents a year-to-year comparison of KYFFBI purchases from FY22 – FY25. A complete list of vendors for each classification is presented in Appendix 3.

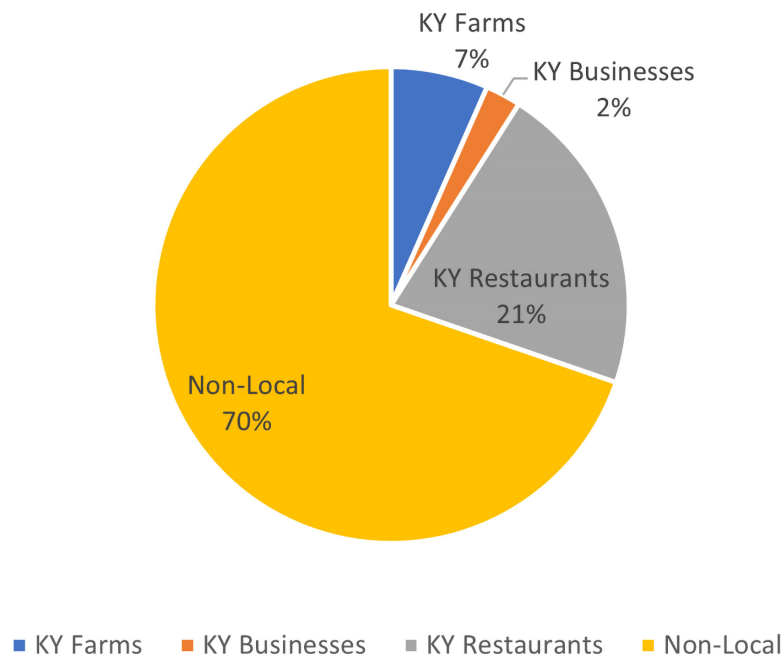


Figure 1. Kentucky Farm and Business Impact Purchases as Portion of Total Food Purchases for FY25.

Table 3. Key Performance Indicators and Purchasing Totals for FY25.

	FY 2025 KPI	FY 2025 Actual Spend
Kentucky Farm Impact Purchases	\$809,940	\$1,536,258
Food Business Impact Purchases	\$2,429,318	\$5,497,032
KYFFBI Total	\$3,239,258	\$7,033,290

Table 4. Categorization of Kentucky Farm and Food Business Impact Purchases for FY25.

Farm Impact Category	Business Impact Category	Total UK Dining Purchases			
		FY22	FY23	FY24	FY25
All/Majority	KY Farm/KY Business	\$442,022	\$886,152	\$1,068,856	\$797,453
All/Majority	Publicly Traded/Affiliate	\$414,243	\$267,299	\$206,523	\$218,044
Some	KY Farm/KY Business	\$44,550	\$61,003	\$329,499	\$453,086
Some	Publicly Traded/Affiliate	\$7,969	\$20,399	\$17,373	\$14,409
Total Farm Impact		\$908,784	\$1,234,853	\$1,639,437	\$1,536,258
None	KY Business	\$28,269	\$55,398	\$97,536	\$53,222
None	Publicly Traded/Affiliate	\$142,012	\$105,049	\$436,213	\$506,848
None	Restaurant	\$6,534,033	\$6,885,837	\$4,801,856	\$4,936,962
Total Business Only Impact		\$6,704,315	\$7,046,284	\$5,337,723	\$5,497,033
TOTAL KYFFBI		\$4,209,365	\$7,613,100	\$6,977,160	\$7,033,290

The largest expenditure within UK Dining's (Aramark) local procurement initiative was the sub-contracting of stations within residential dining halls to local, independently owned restaurants (\$4,936,962 Table 4). This is a 3% increase from FY24 (\$4,801,856), and a 28% decrease from FY23 (\$6,885,837). The subcontracted restaurants operate stations independently of UK Dining (Aramark) systems, and are responsible for all staffing, ingredient procurement, and station operations. **Residential Dining Subcontractors** include: Nathan's Taqueria, Woke Junk Food Vegan, and Zen Sushi. **Retail Subcontractors** include: Nathan's Taqueria, Zen Sushi, Han Woo Ri, and Health Hub. **Local Restaurant Row Partners**

include: Bert's Speakcheezy, Bourbon N Toulouse, Daughters Southern, Eiffel Pizza, Nourished Folks, Pasta Garage, Taste of India, Wiley Restaurant Group. **Catering subcontractors** include: Athenian Grill, Nourished Folks, Katie's Happy Hotdogs, Nathan's Taqueria, Taste of India, Woke Junk Food Vegan, and Zen Sushi. Other Athletics (Premium Services Catering, Kroger Field, and KY Proud Park) Subcontractors include Athenian Grill, Katie's Happy Hot Dogs, Nathan's Taqueria, Mr. G's Kettle Corn, and Taylor Belle Ice Cream. The impetus and parameters of the Local Restaurant Program are detailed in the FY19 Annual Dining Report.

Table 5. Comparison of FY22, FY23, FY24, and FY25 Kentucky Farm and Food Business Impact Purchases.

		FY 22		FY 23		FY 24		FY 25	
Farm Impact	Business Impact	Total Purchases	# of Vendors	Total Purchases	# of Vendors	Total Purchases	# of Vendors	Total Purchases	# of Vendors
Products with Farm Impact									
All/Majority	KY Farm/KY Business	\$533,515	23	\$442,022	26	\$1,068,856	26	\$832,167	30
All/Majority	Publicly Traded/Affiliate	\$261,973	4	\$414,243	3	\$206,523	5	\$236,596	3
Some	KY Farm/KY Business	\$14,999	2	\$44,550	3	\$329,499	2	\$453,086	6
Some	Publicly Traded/Affiliate	\$776.85	1	\$7,969	2	\$17,373	2	\$14,409	3
Total Farm Impact		\$908,785	30	\$1,234,852	34	\$1,639,437	35	\$1,536,258	42
Products with No Farm Impact (Business Impact)									
None	KY Business	\$28,269	14	\$55,398	15	\$97,536	21	\$53,222	10
None	Publicly Traded/Affiliate	\$142,012	6	\$105,049	5	\$436,213	8	\$506,848	13
None	Restaurant	\$6,534,033	18	\$6,885,837	28	\$4,801,856	21	\$4,936,962	14
Total Business Only Impact		\$6,704,315	38	\$7,046,284	48	\$5,337,723	50	\$5,497,032	37
TOTAL KYFFBI		\$7,613,100		\$8,281,136		\$6,977,160			

Animal protein and dairy products included in the farm impact category in FY25 include Alvio's, Beef Solutions, Black Hawk Prime, Borden's Dairy, Chelsey's Eggs, Cleav's Family Market, Country View Creamery, Egg Shack, Harvest Moon Farm, Kenny's Cheese, Lake City Fish Market, Marksbury Farm, Our Homeplace Meats, Pilgrim's Pride, Porter Road, Prairie Farms Dairy, and Taylor Belle ice cream. Among these protein items, UK Dining continued their purchasing of sixteen whole hogs from Cleav's Family Market and approximately 1,200 pounds of chicken from Eggleston Farm Fresh per academic year month. Also, during FY25, UK Dining introduced a Kentucky Proud yogurt parfait bar in one of its residential dining halls that featured Kentucky-farm sourced yogurt, blueberries, strawberries, chia seeds, and granola.

Produce was sourced from farms and food business including 80 Acres, Barr Farms, Bosch Berries, Cornett Enterprises, Ever True Farms, Gallrein Farm, H& H Farms, Habegger Farms, Homegrown Direct, JKL Beans, Kentucky Blueberry Growers Association, Kentucky Fresh Harvest, Mt. Pleasant Acres Farm, Obenchain Farms, Rootbound Farm, and Silver Mist Farms. Table 6 outlines the

Kentucky Farm Impact purchases by product type. See Appendix 3 for the complete list of vendors and products.

DISCUSSION

In FY25, a modest decrease (6%) in Kentucky farm impact sourcing paired with a slight increase (3%) in Kentucky business impact purchasing, resulted in UK Dining more than doubling their KFBBI target. While UK Dining increased the number of Kentucky farms they were purchasing from (35 to 42), they decreased their overall total spend with those vendors (\$1,639,437 to \$1,536,258). In contrast, UK Dining decreased the number of Kentucky food businesses they were purchasing from (50 to 37) but increased the overall total spend (\$5,337,723 to \$5,497,033). UK Dining continued its partnerships with local restaurant subcontractors to meet its Kentucky food business KPI and to meet residential campus dining needs.

In FY22 UK Dining expanded their partnerships with subcontractors (i.e., locally owned restaurants) in the residential dining halls to help overcome labor challenges and meet their Kentucky Food Business Impact.

Table 6. FY25 Purchase by Product Type and Farm Source.*

	Farm Impact			
Product Type	All	Majority	Some	Total (% of Farm Impact)
Produce	\$50,287	\$-	\$ -	\$50,287 (3%)
Dairy	\$121,767	\$264,568	\$1,329	\$387,664 (25%)
Eggs	\$283	\$-	\$ -	\$283 (.02%)
Meat and Poultry	\$98,553	\$193,857	\$287,598	\$580,008 (38%)
Fish and Seafood	\$65	\$-	\$ -	\$65 (.004%)
Bread and Grains	\$378	\$ 147	\$6,310	\$6,835 (.4%)
Prepared Meals OR Entrees	\$ -	\$215,913	\$209,256	\$425,169 (28%)
Snacks and Condiments	\$52,832	\$33,115	\$	\$85,847 (6%)
Total	\$1,536,258			

**Excludes Sub-Contracted Restaurants*

The Food Connection (TFC) has long advocated for UK Dining to hold these subcontractors responsible for some Kentucky Farm Impact sourcing to help meet the overall Kentucky farm impact KPIs. For the first time, in FY23 UK Dining required each subcontractor to spend 5% of their food purchases on Kentucky farm impact ingredients; however, in FY24 this mandate was removed. Subcontractors may have more flexibility in where they source their food from and may operate outside of Aramark procurement channels. Therefore, requiring subcontractors to purchase directly from Kentucky farmers and food businesses is both a creative and pragmatic solution to UK Dining meeting their contractual KFFBI obligations. For example, subcontractors may be more nimble in their ability to procure ingredients from smaller scale producers outside of wholesale procurement channels, providing the ability to directly impact Kentucky farms not currently engaged in marketing to Aramark or wholesale suppliers. While UK Dining did not require their subcontractors to purchase Kentucky farm impact items, some did, and UK Dining still exceeded their farm impact KPI by \$726,318.

Notably, UK Dining more than doubled their purchase of Kentucky farm sourced produce. While there are still some barriers to Kentucky farm impact produce procurement (e.g., seasonality, the need for a third-party Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) audit, and matching student preferences with what is grown in Kentucky), UK Dining should continue to explore a more strategic approach to Kentucky Farm Impact produce purchasing in FY26. The Food Connection, through its Cultivate Kentucky Partnership and its Kentucky Value Chain Collaborative are actively working with Kentucky produce growers to obtain third-party GAP audits so that they can sell into UK Dining's preferred local produce distributor and scale their

production to meet institutional demand. While the federal funding landscape for local food systems development is uncertain, recently announced investments in local food infrastructure (e.g., [Resilient Food Systems Infrastructure Program](#)) are likely to stimulate production and provide additional processing, aggregation, and distribution opportunities to growers, which in turn, will help facilitate the sale of more Kentucky-grown produce into institutional value chains.

UK Dining decreased their purchasing of 100% Kentucky farm sourced proteins by just over \$90,000—partially due to the decision to blend Kentucky ground beef with commodity ground beef to achieve a better price point for burger patties and partially due to changes in student preferences. While UK Dining slightly decreased their purchasing of 100% Kentucky farm sourced proteins in FY25, they remained committed to purchasing sixteen whole hogs per academic month from a farmer operating in LaRue and Hart Counties. The hogs are being processed and used for multiple on campus outlets including the residential dining halls and Kroger Field. This forward contracting is beneficial for the farm, as it provides a predictable market outlet at a price point that works for the farm, processor, distributor, and UK Dining. In addition to increasing Kentucky Farm Impact pork purchasing; UK Dining also continued shifting about a third of their monthly chicken purchasing from a large Kentucky-based aggregator to a single-family Kentucky owned and operated farm. 100% Kentucky farm impact dairy increased by nearly \$70,000, largely due to shredded mozzarella from Country View Creamery for the Local Slice Pizza Station. The "Majority" Kentucky farm impact dairy purchases also increase substantially due to the primary ice cream provider shifting to a Kentucky farm sourced dairy mix. These intentional shifts in protein procurement significantly contributed to the more than doubling of the All/Majority Kentucky farm sourced ingredients.

KENTUCKY FARM IMPACT INNOVATIONS

We anticipate the potential impacts of these federal investments in enhancing the produce supply chain regionally will become apparent in our FY26 and future reports. UK Dining, in partnership with The Food Connection, has identified several Kentucky farm products that they can purchase in large volumes and/or find creative uses to help them meet their Kentucky Farm Impact KPI. Specifically, UK Dining, TFC, and Custom Food Solutions (CFS) (a Louisville-based Kentucky food processor) have worked together to add more Kentucky farm products (tomatoes, milk, pork, beef, flour) to foods produced by CFS. These include soups, sauces, and pre-cooked entrees that are distributed by Sysco, a broadline food distribution company that services the region. Other items that have worked well from a volume, price, and availability perspective are whole hogs, ground beef, tortilla chips, and shredded mozzarella cheese. The decision to ask their primary residential ice cream vendor to switch to using Kentucky milk in FY24 is an example of how large institutional buyers can positively impact the local food supply chain. In addition, these Kentucky Farm Impact purchases demonstrate the power of partnerships that creatively construct unique solutions to food systems challenges that benefit UK Dining's (Aramark's) production requirement. The Food Connection, through its Value Chain Collaborative, and UK Dining

are actively working with other Kentucky Aramark higher education accounts to leverage and replicate these local value chains to increase the amount of Kentucky farm impact purchasing throughout the Commonwealth.

CONCLUSION

The UK Dining local procurement strategy for campus dining continues to develop and adapt to the local farm and food landscape and student food preferences. The local restaurant sub-contractor program continues to help stabilize labor challenges and has had a significant impact on locally owned independent restaurants. While this has spurred tremendous growth in the local food business KPI, there is still an opportunity to strategically leverage the purchasing power of the subcontractors to support Kentucky farmers and bolster the Kentucky Farm Impact KPI.

The Food Connection continues to leverage our growing programmatic emphasis on value chain coordination across the Commonwealth to assist UK Dining and its subcontractors with identifying Kentucky farm products that meet their needs and positively impacts our local food economy. The University of Kentucky continues to leverage its dining partnership to provide significant positive financial investment in our local food system and serves as a model for other institutions.

Appendix 1. Complete Classification of UK Dining Purchases by Kentucky Farm and Vendor Source.

Table A1. Kentucky Farm and Kentucky Food Business Impact (KYFFBI) Definitions	
Kentucky Farm and Kentucky Food Business Impact (KYFFBI) Definitions	
Kentucky Farm Impact	
All Farm Impact	(>99%) ingredients sourced from farm(s) within local region
Majority Farm Impact	(50% -99%) of ingredients sourced from farm(s) within local region
Some Farm Impact	(1-49%) of ingredients sourced from farm(s) within local region
No Farm Impact	NONE of the item's ingredients are sourced from farm(s) within local region OR unknown
Kentucky Food Business Impact	
Local Farm	Independently or cooperatively owned and operated local farm
Local Food Business	Independently or cooperatively owned and operated local food business
Local Dependent Farm	Farm within local region that is not independently owned by farmer or a cooperative
Publicly Traded Food Business	Franchise, affiliate, or publicly traded food business within local region
Non-local	Farm or food business outside the local region OR unknown

Table A2. Food Product Examples		
Food Product Examples	Farm Impact	Business Impact
A case of tomatoes sourced from a Kentucky farm	Majority	Local Farm
Fluid milk from plant owned by a regional dairy cooperative and the plant sources primarily from Kentucky dairies	Majority	Local Food Business
A broccoli soup with Kentucky grown broccoli and other ingredients sourced from out of state, made by a Kentucky-owned food manufacturer	Some	Local Food Business
Beer cheese made by a Kentucky-owned business but from cheese sourced from out of state	None	Local Food Business
Sandwich bread made from non-Kentucky flour at a bakery located in Kentucky and owned by a national corporation	None	Publicly Traded/ Affiliate

Appendix 2: Methods

Consistent with previous reports, local purchasing data are analyzed at the item level. As such, the categorization of business and farm impact is applied to each individual item purchased from any given vendor. This method is key to providing a nuanced assessment that captures the nature of the purchase and contributions to food and farming business, as some food businesses engage in a mixture of both in-state processing and redistribution of products manufactured out of state. For such cases, we included expenditures on in-state processed items in the appropriate business impact category (Local Food Business, Publicly Traded/Affiliate Food Business), and expenditures on redistributed products are disqualified and thus do not count toward the total Kentucky Farm and Food Business Impact (KYFFBI) Key Performance Indicators (KPIs). This method departs from the Kentucky Proud classification, a marketing and branding program widely recognized across the Commonwealth and administered by the Kentucky Department of Agriculture, which occurs at the vendor level. For a more detailed explanation of the item level classification system, please see Appendix 1.

KYFFBI purchasing data are submitted to The Food Connection monthly by UK Dining, who aggregates the purchasing records from the two primary distributors as well as purchases made directly from Kentucky vendors. These data include the names of vendors, items purchased from each vendor, and the total dollar value spent by UK Dining (Aramark) on each item. New (i.e., unclassified) items are identified and classified on a rolling basis by The Food Connection. Final year-end analyses

(e.g., total purchases by category, vendor classifications, and product classifications) are reviewed and verified by the authors and leaders from university administration and UK Dining. A full list of vendors (e.g., farms, manufacturers, subcontracted caterers) and their product classifications are provided in Appendix 3.

As an addition to the KYFFBI classifications, and for a deeper understanding of exactly what kinds of Kentucky foods are sourced, we further classify data based on broad food-type categories detailed in Table 3.

We do not attempt to evaluate, nor should our results be assumed to represent, food characteristics such as environmental impact, fair labor practices, the sustainability of production methods, or consumer health. Because of the complex nature of supply chains involved in large institutional dining, our analysis cannot be used to accurately assess the ultimate financial impact of these purchases on the businesses and farms involved. This methodology does not enable quantitative determination of economic impact on farm or food businesses, nor does it directly measure health or sustainability outcomes. However, by focusing on item level classification of impact on Kentucky farms and Kentucky business ownership, we seek to facilitate a higher level of transparency than local food definitions or metrics based solely on business location (e.g., geographic proximity or "food miles").

Identifying vendors and cataloging the products are essential first steps to address these and other values-based questions about our food.

Appendix 2: Methods (continued)

Table A3. Product Type Categories		
Category	Included	Not Included
Produce	fresh, cut, or frozen fruits and vegetables (including peas)	canned, cooked and/or seasoned fruit & vegetable products ("entree")
Dairy & Milk	fluid milk, cheese, yogurt, ice cream	milk alternatives ("beverages")
Eggs	shelled eggs, liquid egg products, powdered eggs	egg alternatives ("entree")
Meat & Poultry	beef, lamb, pork, game, chicken, turkey, other fowl	vegetarian/vegan meat alternatives ("entree"), egg products ("eggs")
Fish & Seafood	fish/seafood products including frozen or canned products	
Nuts, Seeds & Legumes	sunflower seeds, beans (canned or dry), lentils	Nut butters ("snack"), peas ("produce")
Bread & Grains	flour, rice, all baked goods (including pastries)	Flour not made by wheat ("nsf"), cereals ("entree")
Beverages	soft drinks, sports drinks, juices, smoothies, milk alternatives, tea, coffee	syrup used in coffee and tea drinks ("snack"), milk ("dairy")
Prepared Meals & Entrees	sandwiches, frozen meals, most vegan/vegetarian substitutes	cut fruits and vegetables ("produce"), baked goods ("bread"), most snacks ("snack")
Snacks & Condiments	cookies, crackers, sauces, oils, vinegar, popcorn, candy, chocolate, energy bars, syrup, nut butters	

Appendix 3. Vendors and Products.

Table A4. Vendors and Products		
Vendor	Business Impact	Farm Impact of Products
80 Acres	Kentucky Food Business	Some
Alvio's Cuban Meats	Kentucky Food Business	Majority
Athenian Grill	Kentucky Food Business	None
Barr Farms	Kentucky Farm	All
Beef Solutions	Kentucky Farm	All
Bert's Speakcheezy	Kentucky Food Business	None
Black Hawk Prime	Kentucky Farm	All
Blue Agave Grill by Nathan's Prime	Kentucky Food Business	None
Borden Dairy	Publicly Traded Food Business	All, None
Bosch Berries in Kentucky	Publicly Traded Food Business	All
Bourbon Barrel Foods	Kentucky Food Business	All, None, majority
Bourbon N Toulouse	Kentucky Food Business	None
Broadbent B&B Food Products	Kentucky Food Business	None
Chelsey's Pastured Eggs	Kentucky Farm	All
Clear Cut Phocus	Kentucky Food Business	None
Cleav's Family Market	Kentucky Farm	All
Clem's Refrigerated Foods	Kentucky Food Business	None, Some, Majority, All
Continental Mills	Publicly Traded Food Business	None, Some
Cornett Enterprises	Kentucky Farm	All
Country View Creamery	Kentucky Farm	All
Custom Food Solutions	Kentucky Food Business	Some, Majority
Daughters Southern	Kentucky Food Business	None
Donut Days Bakery	Kentucky Food Business	None
Egg Shack	Kentucky Farm	All
Eiffel Pizza	Kentucky Food Business	None
Ever Tru Farms	Publicly Traded Food Business	All
F.B. Purnell & Co.	Publicly Traded Food Business	None
Fish Market, Inc.	Kentucky Food Business	None
Gallrein Farms	Kentucky Farm	All
Gochiso	Kentucky Food Business	None
H & H Farms	Kentucky Farm	All, None
Habegger	Kentucky Farm	All
(continued)		

Appendix 3. Vendors and Products. (continued)

Vendor	Business Impact	Farm Impact of Products
Happy as a Lark	Kentucky Food Business	None
Harvest Moon Farm	Kentucky Farm	All
Health Hub	Kentucky Food Business	None
Home Grown Direct	Kentucky Farm	All
Horton Fruit Company	Kentucky Food Business	None
Mingua Beef Jerky	Kentucky Food Business	None
JKL Beans	Kentucky Farm	All
Katie's Happy Hotdogs	Kentucky Food Business	None
Kenny's Cheese	Kentucky Farm	All
Kentucky Fresh Harvest	Kentucky Farm	All
Kentucky Specialty Grains	Kentucky Farm	All
Kern's Kitchen	Kentucky Food Business	None
KHI Food Brands	Kentucky Food Business	Some
Klosterman Baking Company	Publicly Traded Food Business	None
Kentucky Blueberry Growers	Kentucky Farm	All
Lake City Fish Market	Kentucky Food Business	All, Some
Lex Han Woo Ri	Kentucky Food Business	None
Lexington Pasta	Kentucky Food Business	None
Lyons Magnus LLC	Publicly Traded Food Business	Majority, None
Marksbury Farm Foods	Kentucky Farm	All
Mija Tortilla Factory	Publicly Traded Food Business	None
Mount Pleasant Acres	Kentucky Farm	All
Mr. G's Kettle Corn	Kentucky Food Business	None
Nathan's Food	Kentucky Food Business	None
Nourished Folks	Kentucky Food Business	None
Obenchain Farms	Kentucky Farm	All
Our Homeplace Meats	Kentucky Farm	All
Pasta Garage	Kentucky Food Business	None
Pilgrim's Pride	Publicly Traded Food Business	All, some
Porter Road	Kentucky Food Business	All
Prairie Farms Dairy	Publicly Traded Food Business	Majority, None
Preferred Popcorn, LLC	Kentucky Food Business	All
Rootbound Farm	Kentucky Farm	All
SFG	Publicly Traded Food Business	None
<i>(continued)</i>		

Appendix 3. Vendors and Products. (continued)

Table A4. Vendors and Products <i>(continued)</i>		
Vendor	Business Impact	Farm Impact of Products
Shuckman's	Kentucky Food Business	None
Silver Mist Farms	Kentucky Farm	All
Smithfield	Publicly Traded Food Business	None
Sunflower Sundries	Kentucky Food Business	All
Sweetgrass Granola	Kentucky Food Business	Some
Taste of India	Kentucky Food Business	None
Taylor Belle	Kentucky Food Business	Majority, None
Tyson	Publicly Traded Food Business	None
Weisenberger Mills	Kentucky Food Business	All
Wiley Restaurant Group	Kentucky Food Business	None
Woke Junk Food Vegan	Kentucky Food Business	None
Zen Sushi & Sake Bar	Kentucky Food Business	None