



Food Producers Forum

www.foodproducersforum.com

WHERE'S THE FOOD?

Public Forum will present our Survey results

**SATURDAY, MARCH 18, 2023 - Autism Society Greenhouse
St. John's, NL**

Food Producers Forum, our provincial non-profit society, launched an online survey last September to collect detailed information about community food production in our province. This project was supported by a wonderful group of volunteers that included staff from the Department of Fisheries, Forestry and Agriculture, researchers at Memorial University and community representatives. We believe this may be the *first time* that details of community food production in Newfoundland and Labrador have been collected.

We will share the results of the **Where's the Food? Survey** in a **Public Forum** from **1-3 PM, Saturday, March 18th** at the **Autism Society Greenhouse**. Anyone interested in local food, community health and food security is invited to attend. Please register by emailing **foodproducersforum@gmail.com**.

- * In 2022, 750 survey participants produced more than 6 million pounds of local food.
- * They include about 700 gardeners, 650 foragers, 170 who raise animals, 310 hunters & 500 fishers.
- * The survey heard from almost 100 people who grow or gather food to sell commercially.
- * Home food producers each grew or gathered an average of more than 500 pounds of food.
- * Those who hunted, raised animals or fished each produced an average of 375 pounds of food.

Our survey identified the following needs, challenges and opportunities:

- * Farmers and community gardeners need easier access to available land for agriculture.
- * Community cold storage and root cellars are needed for local food preservation.
- * There is a need for more local, approved abattoirs for meat preparation across our province.
- * There is a general interest in tool sharing and community farming, especially in rural areas.
- * There is widespread desire for workshops, mentorships and online training in food production.

These results show that community food production is helping rebuild food security in our province. Going forward, we will need better policies, programs and community organizations to support and expand local food production.

We welcome any chance to share our survey results publicly. Please contact us to arrange an interview.