

## U.P. Farm & Food Economy



# Buying Local Food Matters!

### The U.P. has ample resources:

Residents of the U.P. earn \$9.6 billion of income annually.  
Farmers work 517,000 acres of land.

### Yet the region faces immense dilemmas:

Nearly 98,000 residents (33%) earn less than a liveable wage.  
The U.P. pays \$250 million per year to treat medical conditions related to obesity and diabetes.

### Farmers do not earn enough money:

- 2,193 U.P. farmers sell \$91.7 million of food products per year (1989-2011 average), spending \$93.6 million to raise them, for an annual loss of \$1.8 million. This is an average net loss of \$820 per farm.
- U.P. farmers earned \$8 million less by selling commodities in 2011 than they earned in 1969 (in 2011 dollars).

### The U.P. food economy drains away \$740 million each year:

- Farmers spend at least \$42 million per year buying farm inputs sourced outside of the region.
- Consumers buy more than \$700 million of food each year that is sourced outside of the region.

### Farmers and consumers are connecting:

- 305 farms sell \$1.17 million of food products directly to consumers. This is a 41% **increase** of number of farms selling direct, and a 10% **increase** in direct sales since 2002.
- If each U.P. resident purchased \$5 of food each week directly from farmers in the region, this would generate **\$80 million of new farm revenue** for local farms. This would be a 87% increase in farm revenue! **New local food facilities are needed for this to happen!**



Data compiled October, 2013, by Ken Meter, Crossroads Resource Center (Minneapolis)

Sources: USDA, Centers for Disease Control, Bureau of Labor Statistics

*Covers the entire Upper Peninsula in Michigan*

See full summary at [www.crcworks.org/crcdocs/miupsum13.pdf](http://www.crcworks.org/crcdocs/miupsum13.pdf)