



1. Please rate the following questions as they apply to the Governor's Local Food and Agriculture Summit:

On a scale of 0-5; where 5 = Outstanding, 4 = Exceeded my Expectations, 3 = Met my Expectations, 2 = Needs Improvement, 1 = Unsatisfactory

- a. Hospitality: registration, conference center, and food: **Ave. 4.3**
- b. Keynote speakers: **Ave. 4.3**
- c. Track Sessions and Discussions: **Ave. 4.2**
- d. Facilitators: **Ave. 4.4**

2. Compared to my knowledge before the conference:

- **I have a better understanding of local food and agriculture issues in Montana.**

Yes **93%**
No **5%**
Unsure **2%**

- **I became aware of new resources and partners that are available to develop/expand/create new local food markets.**

Yes **95%**
No **2%**
Unsure **2%**

- **I now have a better understanding of policies that impact access to local foods for schools, institutions, and communities.**

Yes **76%**
No **10%**
Unsure **14%**

- **I have a better understanding of the issues related to processing, distribution and marketing of local foods in MT.**

Yes **79%**
No **7%**
Unsure **14%**

- **I improved my knowledge about all the different organizations and groups in MT working on these issues.**

Yes **91%**
No **5%**
Unsure **5%**

3. Should a summit like this be held more often?

Every 2 Years? **43%**
Every 3 Years? **40%**
Every 5 Years? **17%**

4. How did you hear about the Montana Governor’s Local Food and Agriculture Summit?

Word of mouth- **33%** Email- **33%** Grow MT **9%** Sponsor **9%**
Organizational newsletters **5%** Listserv **5%** Other **6%**

5. Do you wish to continue receiving information about the Action Plans developed at the Summit as they move forward to help develop strong local food systems in Montana?

Yes **95%**
No **2%**
Unsure **2%**

6. Are you interested in engaging with others in Montana to implement the Action Plans developed at the summit?

Yes **86%**
No **5%**
Unsure **9%**

**7. In what capacity did you attend the summit?
(Please mark all that apply to you)**

Farmer/Rancher **12%**
Local food Business **17%**
Nonprofit **29%**
State Government **10%**
Federal Government **2%**
School, University, Hospital Food Service **15%**
Academic Professional **15%**
Student **2%**

8. What topics related to local food and agriculture did we miss that you wish would have been covered at the summit?

Future Topics

- Food waste, public awareness about future food production scenario
- Need a bigger focus on local produce - it is very difficult to find good quality (especially organic) fruits and vegetables grown locally.
- Perhaps a more in depth analysis of the business factors relating to local food supply networks, and the fact that there are 3 different chains at play here; Local vegetable supply and food chains (perhaps the most solvable) Small seed supply chains for bread.
- Food deserts
- Affordability of local product needs to be more of a focus
- Food waste (offered by 3 participants)
- Role of community gardens and home gardens in local food
- Native voices were missing in the conversations.
- Perhaps some more discussion on growth planning and food systems. This was touched on in a few of the break out groups but could be a track on its own. I fully realize it is a problem only being experienced in some communities in Montana - but in those communities it is an important discussion and very urgent.
- More focus on production practices.
- We covered a lot of topics, just never enough time in a day.
- Success stories on the reservations throughout Montana. Looking at other Ag related projects that involve employment on reservations
- Seed saving
- None - the topic and track discussion I attended perfectly aligned with the work I do.
- I missed some of the keynote speakers but didn't see a lot about food for low income folks

9. Other Comments

- Lunch on Saturday was very disappointing - yes, it was a "grab and go" but there was way too much waste (especially plastic waste) and the food was not at all healthy. Soda was the only bottled beverage choice, the "baby carrots" are not on my grocery list and the sandwich tasted like something out of a vending machine. The rest of the meals were very good!
- The first speakers who kicked off the conference on Friday morning were not the greatest. They were both out of touch with the goal of the summit--which was to work on LOCAL food and ag issues--and made useless points, particularly by parroting the rhetoric about "feeding the world" that I suspect most participants at the summit know is not the issue in global food security. They lauded the very top-down approaches that we at the Summit were working as food citizens to attempting to work against. I found them to be incredibly frustrating. Besides that I thought the tracks and Kirschemann Schumann and the other keynote speakers were great.
- Pasta etc - a major part of MT agriculture. Beef and livestock industry - 70-80% est leaving state for finishing and coming back as processed meat. Why beef for instance is more expensive when produced and distributed locally than shipped back as processed meat from feed lots in Texas, Kansas and Nebraska? MT population size v geographical size make logistics expensive? + high state business taxes ? + high unfair dismissal claims ? Why and how food supply and distribution chains such as Walmart are so efficient? I found Michael Shuman's talk very interesting too when discussing trying to help ourselves without a grant dependency culture.
- My answer to 'how often should this summit be held' would really be dependent on some of the other related conferences and annual meetings that occur at this time of year. There is some overlap albeit maybe not enough to completely merge a conference or two.
- This should happen more frequently! It felt like we didn't have enough time to cover everything in such a short amount of time to do it every 10 years. Thanks for all your hard work in organizing this summit!
- The track sessions were packed full with lots to accomplish, which was done pretty effectively. I think more time as a collective whole, to discuss and hone in on what the priorities are should be a "deliverable" in the future before leaving the conference and to leave with spelled out action plans with assigned individuals working on them and a timeline for what will happen when. Many groups touched on what "should" happen, but at least in my group, we didn't actually make a plan for the future. Maybe that means the individual tracks and work groups function like they did, but then after bringing it to the whole group, the priorities are decided on and individuals who will work on them signed up, then they are given more time to make their plan before leaving. I know the notes are still forthcoming and will probably have some good direction outlined, but I feel like we had great discussions and developed great ideas, but many of them haven't been discussed or acted upon since. I would hate to lose the great momentum built at the conference. Harnessing the momentum before we all get back to our crazy lives might be a good strategy in the future. Thanks for all the great work organizing the event! Looking forward to participating in the progress.
- Thanks NCAT! Your hard work paid off for all of us. Feeling very grateful for you.
- More inclusion of livestock.
- The guest speaker for our track was not very good and her presentation was difficult to follow, which it made it challenging for our facilitator to get the discussion rolling. I thought our facilitator made a nice recovery.

- In the Resilience in Agriculture track I feel like we didn't have the right people in the room. Specifically there was a lack of farmers! The majority of folks in the track really had no connection to actual production so I'm worried that the action plan has very little grounding in reality. I think the best way to get buy-in from these groups is to bring the topic to producer meetings such as Farm Bureau, Grain Growers, Stockmen, etc. The reality is that 80% of MT crops are exported so most large-scale producers give very little thought to local foods. Yet these are the people that manage the majority of private land in the state. So if these people are not at the decision table I'm not sure you have much impact with regards to building resiliency in ag. I'd say you need to make sure more stakeholders attend this track or scrap the track in favor of a different topic.
- For a local food summit there was not enough local food. Also dislike staying in tracks the whole time because it made it difficult to meet other people and get the most out of the event. I don't like the working conference mode
- Great conference
- Incredibly interesting and valuable summit. However, please consider the amount of time attendees are asked to spend at the summit. The Friday programming was more than 12 hours, which can be detrimental to group productivity.
- Great job and would have liked greater representation across all sectors - more producers; members of the Native American communities.
- Very inspiring summit. I left with a full basket. Now I just need a game plan!!!
- Chef Anne was inspirational. Great speaker! I would have liked to have left with a better feeling that we gave the governor a mandate.
- My facilitators, Brianna and Neva were awesome and both did a really excellent job.