The Importance of Preserving Farmland in the Treasure Valley

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Background
The global population is projected to rise from today's 7.5 billion to 10 billion by 2050; for every 3 people that needs to be fed today, one more will need to be fed in the not so distant future. With the rising population, farmland preservation is more important now than ever before. Our goal is to spread awareness on the importance of farmland and eating local food. Our plan was to conduct a study that captures Boise citizens knowledge and support of farmers markets and farmland in the Treasure Valley.

Objective
Conduct a study that captures Boise citizens knowledge and support of local markets and farmland in the Treasure Valley.
Determine the importance of preserving farmland in the Treasure Valley for food security purposes.
Better understand the relationship between urban sprawl and food security in the Treasure Valley.
Survey both farmers market purveyors and consumers and compare them to surveys for Boise State students and faculty.
Spread Awareness about food security in the Treasure Valley

Results

How Important Is Locally Sourced Food?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Importance</th>
<th>Students</th>
<th>Farmers Market</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Very Important</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>78</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indifferent</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not Important</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

How Often Do You Eat Locally Sourced Food?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Students</th>
<th>Farmers Market</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Only</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Often</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rarely</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Never</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

How important is farmland in Idaho? On a scale of One to Five

- Farmers Market Sample:
  - One: 7%
  - Two: 21%
  - Three: 72%
  - Four: 1%
  - Five: 1%

- Student Sample:
  - One: 42%
  - Two: 1%
  - Three: 12%
  - Four: 1%
  - Five: 44%

Conclusion
Overall, many people show support or often buy their foods from local sources. While some groups, like college students, may not be able to eat locally as often as they would like, the knowledge of the importance of farmland and local food in the Treasure Valley is still there. Farmland preservation is important for our local community and for farmlands nationwide. Farming provides jobs (17 million jobs nationwide), provides communities with locally grown food they can trust, and brings people together.

A Farmers Perspective
Janie Burns of Meadowlark Farms in Nampa, ID
Grass fed lamb and pasteurized poultry
Janie has been selling at farmers markets in Boise since 1989. She is Vendor of the Capital City Public Market which celebrated its 23rd anniversary this year. Grew up in a farming family, continues to do so as a passion. Believes that buying and selling local is of great importance.

Facts
Idaho’s Agriculture is worth 7.5 billion dollars
In 2015 there were 24,400 operating farms in Idaho Farming 12 million acres
7% of Idaho’s food is produced locally
Most are not aware of the importance of locally source food.
A majority of agricultural production in Idaho is committed to growing feed for livestock.

Acknowledgements
Special Thanks To:
Janie Burns of Meadowlark Farms
The Boise Farmer’s Market
The students of Boise State