

Questionnaire for Starks Residents

Telephone Interviews conducted by James Murphy, Oct/Nov 2013 for MA3

Intro: "Hi, I'm Jim Murphy from the old Glen McGee place on the Anson Rd. I'm doing some research for Maine Alternative Agriculture's local foods program. It's a neat follow-up to the work I did on the town's revised Comprehensive Plan recently, where Starks residents put a high priority on more agriculture, more local food and more incentives for farming. Years ago this area used to feed itself, plus provide tons of wool for Civil War uniforms, tons of grain for Boston' bread and our canned corn went around the world.

I have a short, 6-question survey to measure interest in us taking steps toward feeding ourselves again. This would also boost the local economy, build a stronger community, insulate us from shortages, food recalls, diseases from industrial farming, and price hikes.

Would you give me just a couple of minutes of your time and your opinion?

1. Would you personally like to see more farms here and more land staying in Ag?
2. Do you favor natural/organic or commercial/industrial farming?
3. How would you feel about supporting your farming neighbors by purchasing some locally-grown food? (Occasionally, monthly weekly?)
4. What might you be interested in purchasing: vegetables, eggs, milk, grass-fed beef or poultry, fruit, grain?
5. Could you consider slightly modifying your buying and eating routine to include more local food?
6. Could you imagine eventually getting up to 50% of your food from local sources?

Jim Murphy for MA3. Eighty Starks households reached by telephone responded. Overwhelmingly positive response although one person complained that #2 was "loaded."