

Local Produce Box



What is it?

A Local Produce Box is a weekly delivery of fresh, healthy and affordable produce from a local farm or network of farms to a central community.

Members generally pay a week in advance for their “share” which usually includes 8-10 types of produce and feeds a family of 3-4.

Above photo- Birdhouse Buying Club, Tampa , FL.

Benefits

- Produce is high quality and more affordable than fresh produce available from grocers.
- Members can use food stamps to pay.
- Cooking demonstrations help educate on new food items and build community.
- Partners such as Greenmarket or Corbin Hill can provide staff and cover many operational costs.

Above photo- The Produce Box, Raleigh, NC.

Challenges

- The box contents are based on what the farmer grows; members may not be familiar with all produce items.
- Requirements include finding a space for a drop/pick-up site, staffing the site on pick up days and outreach.
- During colder months, selection can be limited.
- Payment in advance can be a challenge.

Above photo- 5 A Day CSA, College Park, MD.