



# Expansion Opportunities for Producers

We sent a survey to food producers, processors, distributors involved in local and sustainable food across Ontario, Canada.

We heard back from 187\* operations connected to **food hubs**.

Here's what we learned about **expansion for producers**.

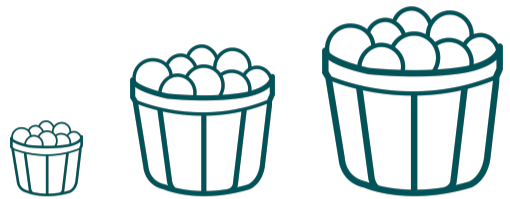
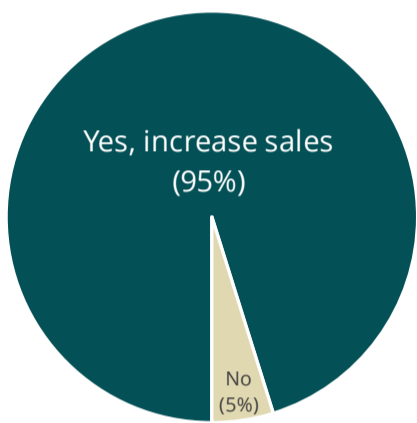
*Food hubs are actual or virtual spaces that collect and distribute food to processors, retailers, restaurant and/or consumers.*

*Food hubs can also provide space for other activities including food preparation, handling, processing, education and/or training.*

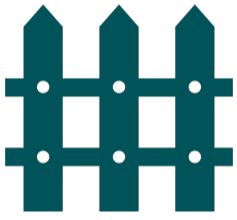
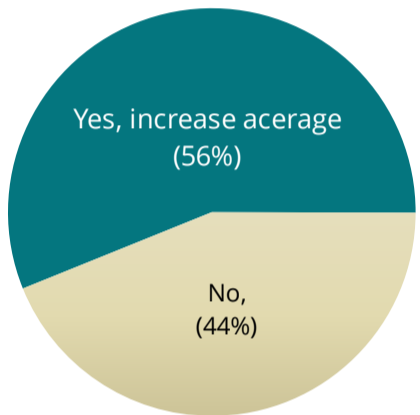
\*Our overall sample was 187; response rates for each question may be lower or slightly higher

## Most producers want to expand

Almost all producers wanted to **increase their overall sales**. (n=145)



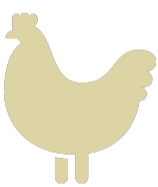
Just over half of producers surveyed wanted to **increase their acreage** under production. (n=130)



## There are barriers to expansion

**Access to capital, land, and processing infrastructure** were the biggest barriers to expansion for 40% to 48% of producers. Consumer education, increasing delivery and warehouse capacity were barriers for between 35% and 38% of producers.

## Removing barriers could lead to substantial production increases

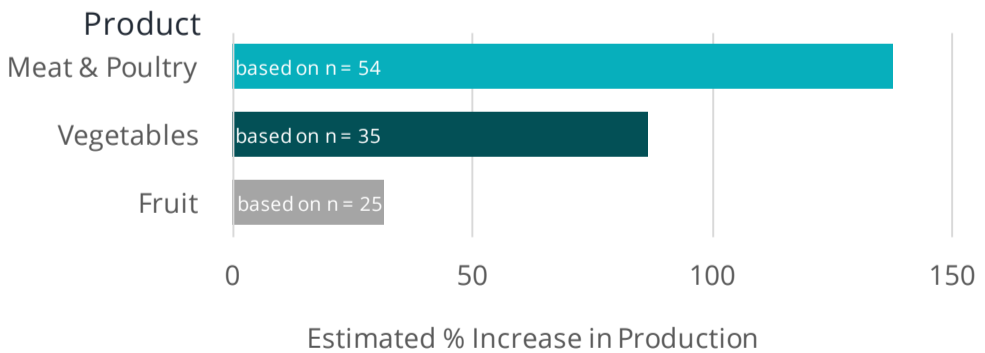


Respondents estimated that removing barriers to production would more than double production in **meat and poultry**.



Removing barriers was also estimated to almost double **vegetable** production.

Fruit production was estimated to increase by about a third.



Learn more about Ontario food hubs and sustainable food: [FLEdGEResearch.ca](http://FLEdGEResearch.ca) [@FLEdGEResearch](https://twitter.com/FLEdGEResearch)

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