



## INFORMED CONSENT

**Study Title: Central Texas Local Food Price Study**

**Principal Investigator: Kara Kroeger**

**Co-Investigator/Faculty Advisor: Nicole Wagner**

This consent form will give you the information you will need to understand why this research study is being done and why you are being invited to participate. It will also describe what you will need to do to participate as well as any known risks, inconveniences or discomforts that you may have while participating. We encourage you to ask questions at any time. If you decide to participate, you will be asked to sign this form and it will be a record of your agreement to participate. You will be given a copy of this form to keep.

### **PURPOSE AND BACKGROUND**

The purpose of this study is to examine the prices farmers are willing to receive for their local food products and the prices wholesale buyers are willing to pay for these local food products. This study will investigate the core issues of supply, demand, and price resulting in a clearer understanding of market forces that work for or against strategies to increase healthy food access using locally grown food. You are being asked to participate because you are an owner or manager of a farm, ranch, school, university, hospital, or business that sells or buys local foods in Central Texas; and you were recommended by the Texas Center for Local Foods as a valuable prospect for participation.

### **PROCEDURES**

The project will use in person or over the phone survey interviews for the collecting data and validating preliminary results. If you agree to be in the study, you will be asked to give information about your organization to facilitate economic analysis of local food prices in the Austin MSA region, including Bastrop, Caldwell, Hays, Travis, and Williamson counties.

You will be asked to participate in one 1-hour long face-to-face or over-the-phone survey interview for the purpose of providing data needed to conduct the Central Texas Local Food Price Study. Participants will be asked to provide specific information about the prices at which they buy and sell particular local foods in the Central Texas wholesale market; and to provide brief answers to a few questions regarding the organization's revenue, and the importance placed on the use of local/sustainable foods in their organization. Additionally, some pre-survey preparation time (approximately 30 minutes) may be required so that it is easier for you to answer the questions asked in the survey interview.

### **RISKS/DISCOMFORTS**

Aside from your time, the only cost to you is the cost to drive to the survey interview meeting if it is conducted at a site other than your organization. In the unlikely event that some of the survey or interview questions make you uncomfortable or upset, you are always free to decline to answer or to stop your participation at any time.

### **BENEFITS/ALTERNATIVES**

There will be no direct benefit to you for participating in this study. However, the information that you provide will benefit funders, organizations, and government agencies that are working to increase healthy food access

to lower income families in central Texas. This study will provide data to enable these organizations to focus resources, strategies, and tactics on products and sales outlets that work best in the marketplace, thereby leveraging resources to create the most effective and prompt change. The study will compile data about optimal wholesale market prices by studying specific food product types including vegetables, meats, and dairy.

**EXTENT OF CONFIDENTIALITY**

Reasonable efforts will be made to keep the personal information in your research record private and confidential. Any identifiable information obtained in connection with this study will remain confidential and will be disclosed only with your permission or as required by law. The members of the research team and the Texas State University Office of Research Compliance (ORC) may access the data. The ORC monitors research studies to protect the rights and welfare of research participants. Your name will not be used in any written reports or publications which result from this research. Data will be kept for three years (per federal regulations) after the study is completed and then destroyed.

**PAYMENT/COMPENSATION**

If you are a wholesale buyer, you will not be compensated. If you are a farmer, you will receive a payment of \$50 for your participation. Failure to complete the interview will result in no payment.

**PARTICIPATION IS VOLUNTARY**

You do not have to be in this study if you do not want to. You may also refuse to answer any questions you do not want to answer. If you volunteer to be in this study, you may withdraw from it at any time without consequences of any kind or loss of benefits to which you are otherwise entitled.

**QUESTIONS**

If you have any questions or concerns about your participation in this study, you may contact the Principal Investigator, Kara Kroeger, to tell her about any concerns by phone at (512)-567-5206, or by e-mail at kak187@txstate.edu.

This project 2017801 was approved by the Texas State IRB on August 4<sup>th</sup>, 2017. Pertinent questions or concerns about the research, research participants' rights, and/or research-related injuries to participants should be directed to the IRB Chair, Dr. Jon Lasser 512-245-3413 – (lasser@txstate.edu) or to Monica Gonzales, IRB Regulatory Manager 512-245-2314 - (meg201@txstate.edu).

**DOCUMENTATION OF CONSENT**

I have read this form and decided that I will participate in the project described above. Its general purposes, the particulars of involvement and possible risks have been explained to my satisfaction. I understand I can withdraw at any time.

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<b>Printed Name</b> of Study Participant	<b>Signature</b> of Study Participant	Date
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Signature of Person Obtaining Consent		Date