

INFORMATION LETTER
for a Research Study entitled
“Market Chain Analysis of Organic Foods in Alabama”

You are invited to participate in a research study to investigate the market chain of organic foods in Alabama. The study is being conducted by Kumuditha HE Liyanage, Research Assistant, and Dr. Brittney Goodrich, Assistant Professor in the Auburn University Department of Agricultural Economics and Rural Sociology. You are invited to participate because you a producer of fruits, nuts, and/or vegetables in Alabama.

If you decide to participate in this research study, you will be asked to complete a survey. Your total time commitment will be approximately fifteen minutes.

There are no costs or risks associated with participating in this study. Your information will only be used to generate the total estimates needed for this research. This study will provide valuable information about organic produce sourcing, costs, logistics, infrastructure, purchase and sales, present consumption, and expenditures on organic foods local organic products. It is expected to promote organic foods and healthy eating in Alabama and help organic growers to develop realistic plans and capture a significant portion of the organic industry.

If you change your mind about participating, you can withdraw at any time during the study. Your participation is completely voluntary. If you choose to withdraw, your data can be withdrawn as long as it is identifiable. Your decision about whether or not to participate or to stop participating will not jeopardize your future relations with Auburn University, the Department of Agricultural Economics and Rural Sociology.

Any data obtained in connection with this study will remain confidential. We will protect your privacy and the data you provide. Information collected through your participation will be analyzed and results will be diffused at meetings, workshops, annual conferences, through the electronic media, bulletins, journal articles, and at professional meetings.

If you have questions about this study, please contact Dr. Brittney Goodrich bkg0007@auburn.edu.

If you have questions about your rights as a research participant, you may contact the Auburn University Office of Research Compliance or the Institutional Review Board by phone (334)-844-5966 or e-mail at IRBadmin@auburn.edu or IRBChair@auburn.edu.

HAVING READ THE INFORMATION PROVIDED, YOU MUST DECIDE IF YOU WANT TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS RESEARCH PROJECT. IF YOU DECIDE TO PARTICIPATE, THE DATA YOU PROVIDE WILL SERVE AS YOUR AGREEMENT TO DO SO. YOU MAY MAKE A COPY OF THIS INFORMATION LETTER IF YOU WISH.

Thank you very much for your time and cooperation!

**The Auburn University Institutional
Review Board has approved this
Document for use from
09/09/2018 to 04/09/2019
Protocol # 18-116 EP 1804**

Sincerely yours,

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Agricultural Economics and Rural Sociology
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Agricultural Economics and Rural Sociology
Auburn University

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