About Illinois Stewardship Alliance:
Illinois Stewardship Alliance is a statewide non-profit organization that cultivates local food and farm systems that are economically viable, socially just, and environmentally sustainable. Through our work, we focus on three main areas: policy advocacy, conservation, and local food programs. To learn more about our work across the state visit www.ilstewards.org.

About Buy Fresh Buy Local (BFBL) Central Illinois:
The Buy Fresh Buy Local Central Illinois chapter, operated by Illinois Stewardship Alliance, is a local foods campaign to connect local farmers with community members, restaurants, retailers, and other local buyers. The chapter aims to not only increase sales of locally grown food across the region, but to develop in the public an appreciation for and understanding of the importance of local and sustainably grown food for the health and wellbeing of local communities, economies, and environments. The Central Illinois chapter is part of a national network of Buy Fresh Buy Local chapters organized by FoodRoutes Network, LLC. To date there are over 75 chapters in 20 states. Visit www.foodroutes.org to learn more about the national campaign or visit www.buyfreshbuylocalcentralillinois.org to learn more about the Central Illinois Chapter.

Membership Structure and Fees:
Membership in the Buy Fresh Buy Local Central Illinois Chapter is independent of Illinois Stewardship Alliance and vice versa. Anyone who supports local food and sustainable farming is encouraged to become a member of Illinois Stewardship Alliance. However, membership in the Buy Fresh Buy Local Central Illinois chapter is only open to farms and businesses where locally grown food is available for public purchase.

Membership in Buy Fresh Buy Local Central Illinois is based on a two year cycle and the current cycle will take place between January 2017 and December 2018. A membership and renewal drive also takes place every two years between January and March. At that time, new members are recruited and former members will be notified about renewing their membership. For the 2017-2018 cycle, the membership and renewal drive will take place between January and March, 2017.

www.buyfreshbuylocalcentralillinois.com
Members must join or renew during that time period in order to be featured in the bi-annual hard-copy directory which will be printed in May. Applicants who join after the membership drive will be added to the online directory but will not be a part of the hard-copy directory. Applicants who join in September of 2018 or later, will be rolled into the 2019-2020 membership cycle (and will not need to renew membership until January of 2021).

A two-year farm membership costs $45. A two-year business membership costs $75. The Buy Fresh Buy Local Central Illinois does not profit from membership fees. Fees are used directly for the cost of printing the hard-copy directory and maintaining the website. While the fees do not cover these costs, we work to secure grant funding and sponsorships to help insure that membership prices remain affordable.

Eligibility:
Farm or business must be located in one of the following counties: Knox, Stark, Fulton, Peoria, Marshall, Woodford, McLean, Livingston, Ford, Iroquois, Mason, Tazewell, Champaign, Vermillion, Cass, Menard, Logan, Dewitt, Piatt, Douglas, Edgar, Coles, Moultrie, Shelby, Macon, Christian, Sangamon, Montgomery, Macoupin, Morgan, Jersey, Greene, Scott and Calhoun.

Farms:
Eligible for membership are farmers that grow or raise foods or other agricultural products (e.g. ornamental plants, bedding plants or Christmas trees) in Central Illinois primarily for consumption in that same region. The main market for products promoted with BFBL Central Illinois materials must be in the designated chapter region. BFBL Central Illinois products must be traceable to a specific farm. BFBL Central Illinois marketing materials should be used only for locally grown products. BFBL Central Illinois members who also sell non-locally produced items are expected to take care that such products are properly labeled to distinguish them from local foods, i.e. Missouri Peaches.

Other Businesses:
Eligible for membership are businesses (Farmers Markets, Restaurants, Retailers, Institutions, Distributors, Wineries, and Breweries) that buy from BFBL member farmers for food preparation or resale. A commitment to purchasing and promoting local foods should be a stated marketing strategy/message or value/principle of the business. Businesses are also required to provide the names and contact information for at least 5 local farms whose products are purchased on a regular basis and to provide updates to Illinois Stewardship Alliance if sourcing practices or farm sources change. BFBL materials should be used only for foods that feature BFBL farm-produced ingredients. It is expected that BFBL materials not be used in a misleading manner.

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**Sustainability:**

*Buy Fresh Buy Local members must demonstrate a commitment to sustainability. Because this word has varying definitions, BFBL members must also demonstrate a commitment to transparency. Members agree to truthfully label and market their products and to openly answer all questions regarding production and purchasing practices. Members also agree to participate in at least one on-site meeting per year at the request of Illinois Stewardship Alliance staff to demonstrate sustainability practices.*

**Annual Survey**

*Membership requires participation in an annual survey with questions regarding local food sales and feedback on Buy Fresh Buy Local programs and operations. This survey will help inform our work, gauge economic impact, and secure grant funding for future work. Survey names will remain anonymous and data will be used collectively.*

If you have any questions or concerns about Buy Fresh Buy Local Central Illinois, please call Illinois Stewardship Alliance at (217) 528-1563 or email molly@ilstewards.org.