

Support local food producers - Buy Local Challenge start July 21

Posted by [Alan Van Wormer](#) On 07/06/2018

HUGHESVILLE, Md. - The annual statewide Buy Local Challenge (BLC) encourages everyone to enjoy something from a local farm, waterman, or producer every day during Buy Local Week, July 21 – 29, 2018.

Individuals, businesses and organizations can take the Challenge, which is voluntary pledge to eat Maryland farm products (produce, dairy, seafood, meats and fruit) for one week. Locally produced beverages; wines, beers and spirits count too!

"Taking the Challenge is a win, win!" Said Shelby Watson-Hampton, Director of The Southern Maryland Agricultural Development Commission (SMADC), creator of the Buy Local Challenge. "When you take the pledge to buy local not only do you get to enjoy great tasting food, you're also supporting local farmers as well as local businesses that offer farm products".

The general public can 'win' too! Everyone is invited to share their BLC experiences for a chance to win prizes by registering their BLC pledge, or by posting photos of their 'buy local' shopping spree to Facebook or Instagram using the hashtag #buylocalchallenge. "It's easy and fun to do." Said Watson-Hampton, "We hope everyone will participate, as we have so many options to buy local now; at farmers' markets, restaurants, stores, dairies, wineries, breweries and even distilleries."

For information on how to participate in the Buy Local Challenge Week and find creative ways to include local foods in daily meals, plus extensive statewide links to farmers' market directories and BLC competition details, visit the BLC website www.buylocalchallenge.com. Visit the BLC Facebook page for the latest Buy Local Week happenings around the state and view or download BLC week recipes from the Maryland Department of Agriculture Buy Local Cook Books at mda.maryland.gov.

The Buy Local Challenge was initiated in 2007 by the Southern Maryland Agricultural Development Commission (SMADC) and is jointly promoted with Maryland Department of Agriculture.

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