

# Mobile Food Vending Permitting and Policies in Douglas County, KS



Douglas County Food Policy Council  
Douglas County Sustainability Office  
The University of Kansas - Health, Sport and Exercise Sciences

May 2024



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## Executive Summary

In 2023 and early 2024, the Douglas County Food Policy Council's (DCFPC) Economic Development working group embarked on a year-long effort to examine the food truck industry in Douglas County, Kansas, including a review of current regulations and permitting requirements of communities within the county. Through those months we found that regulations, permitting, fees, and other requirements for food trucks to operate in Lawrence and Douglas County can be restrictive, unclear, and sometimes costly. This reduces opportunities for some food service entrepreneurs, especially those systematically disadvantaged, to enter the industry. We sought to determine equitable and fair regulations, provide sufficient resources to food truck entrepreneurs, and offer efficient systems and processes for mobile food vendors to operate in Lawrence and Douglas County. Our aspiration is to see an increase in the number of permitted food trucks operating in our County over the next five years.

We spoke with members of city and county staff across Douglas County, met with community members at the following events: Baldwin City Third Friday Market, Cottins Farmers Market, Lawrence Farmers Market, Eudora Farmers Market, and Kaw Valley Farm Tour. Through a partnership with The University of Kansas' Health, Sport and Exercise Science's department, we issued, received, and analyzed 51 local producer surveys, 112 local community surveys, 22 local restaurant industry surveys. We also held three Food Truck Focus groups with a total of 10 local food truck owners/operators attending, who provided us valuable insight from their lived experience. Through these efforts, we found opportunities to improve permitting, inspections, and operation of food trucks in the City of Lawrence.

The following report details our efforts and our policy recommendations for the City of Lawrence staff and Commissioners. We want to thank all who helped the DCFPC in this effort.



Tyler J. Lindquist  
Chair, Economic Development Working Group  
Douglas County Food Policy Council

## Background and Strategy

In 2020, during the community input phase of the Lawrence Economic Development Strategy, conducted by Ernst and Young, a few food truck owners shared their experiences. The challenges shared led community organizers, while determining the strategies to enhance local food systems and related businesses, to consider reexamining the permitting processes, fees, and requirements for food trucks. While this specific action step did not make it in Ernst and Young's final report presented to the City of Lawrence in December of 2020, in 2023 the Economic Development working group of the Douglas County Food Policy Council (DCFPC) took initiative to revisit those past conversations with food truck owners and operators and create a framework to review the permitting process, fees, and requirements for mobile food vendors to operate in communities throughout Douglas County.

We first determined our challenge, purpose, and goal.

**CHALLENGE:** Regulations, permitting, fees, and other requirements for food trucks to operate in Lawrence and Douglas County can be restrictive, unclear, and sometimes costly. This reduces opportunities for some food service entrepreneurs, especially those systematically disadvantaged, to enter the industry.

**PURPOSE:** Review permitting processes, fees, and requirements for mobile food vendors in Lawrence and Douglas County.

**GOAL:** Create equitable and fair regulations, provide sufficient resources, and offer efficient systems and processes for mobile food vendors to operate in Lawrence and Douglas County.

Utilizing the SMART (specific, measurable, achievable, relevant, and time-bound) objectives framework we determined our desired outcomes to include:

- Reviewing permitting and regulations in communities within Douglas County; revising ones that may hinder the success of mobile food vendors.
- Creating a resource guide, similar to the City of Lawrence Urban Ag Guide, to mobile food vendors and those interested in having a food truck on their premises.
- Increasing the diversity of mobile food vendors, through increasing the accessibility to the industry.
- Increasing the number of mobile food vendor permits issued throughout Douglas County over the next five years.

It is important to be able to determine if policy and operational changes have any effect over time, trackable through metrics gathered primarily through existing sources to both generate a baseline and monitor over the next several years. A number of metrics were considered:

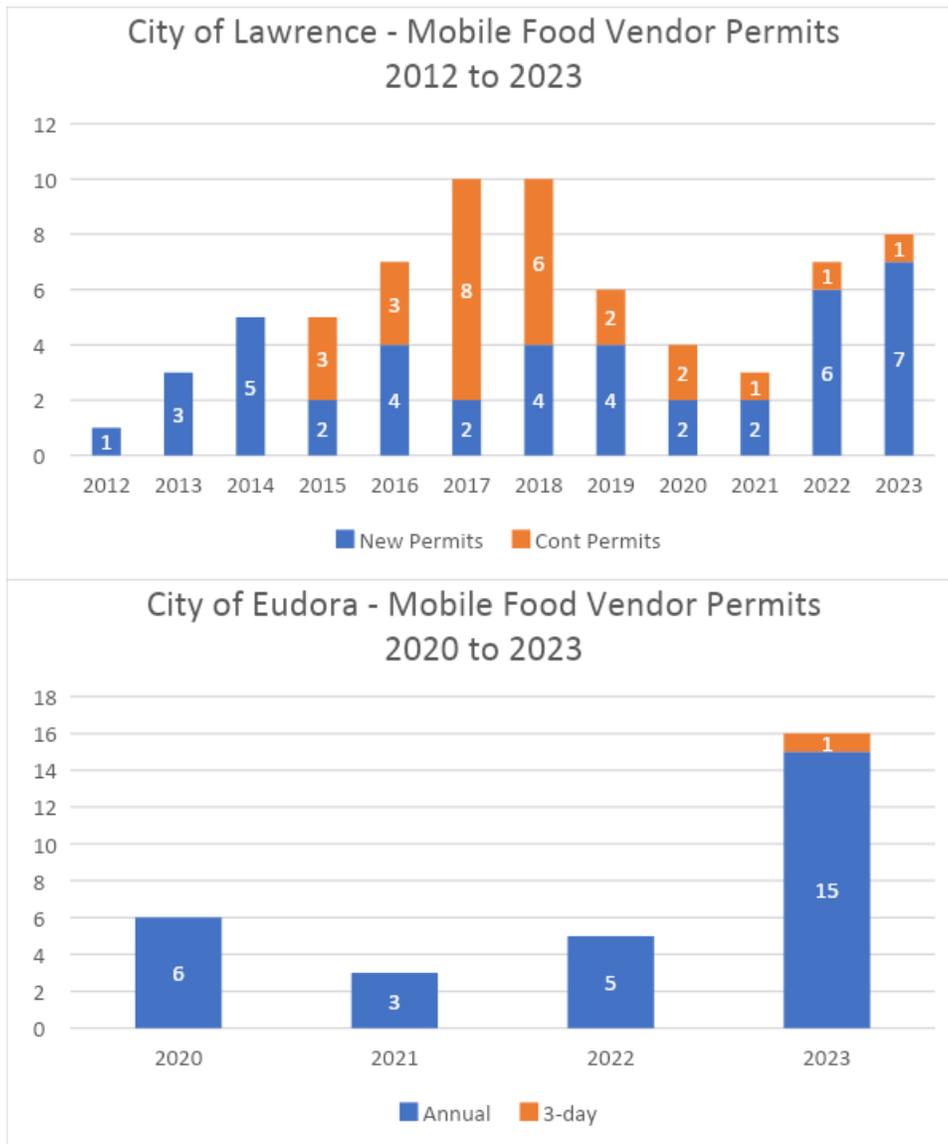
- Mobile food vendor licenses issued
- Number of licensed restaurants
- Number of events where mobile food vendors participate
- Demographics of mobile food vendors

It was found that some of these metrics are difficult to track or currently not tracked at all, so for our

study we will simply be looking at the number of mobile food vendor licenses issued in Douglas County. Additional metrics and tracking may be considered in the future.

### Food Trucks in Douglas County

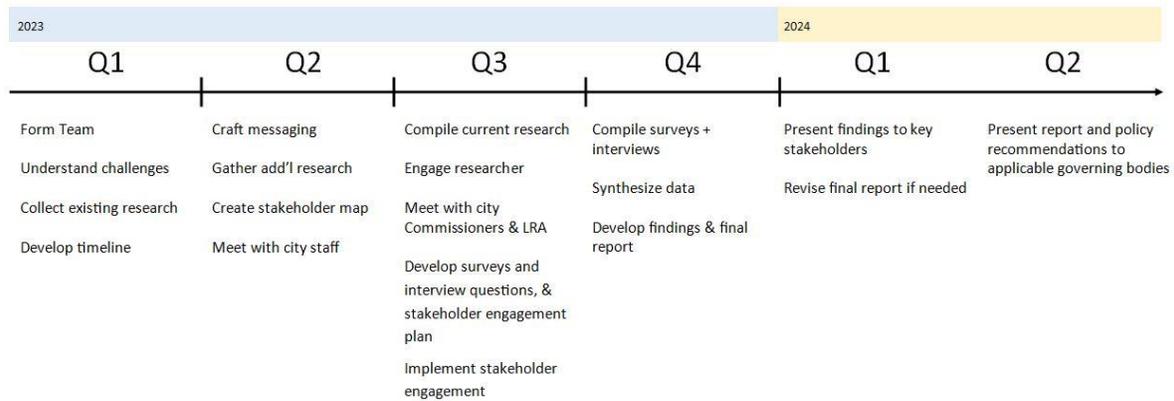
Based upon information provided by the Lawrence City Clerk’s office, the number of mobile food vendor permits is beginning to increase again after a noticeable decline in 2019-2021. The number of new permits issued per year grew following 2021, even though the total number of permitted vendors has not reached levels seen in 2017 (10) and 2018 (10). Note, these figures do not include unpermitted vendors operating in Lawrence.



Based on information from the City Clerk in Eudora, permitting in 2023 was over double that of 2020 and twice that of Lawrence in 2023.

## Timeline

The DCFPC Economic Development working group created the following timeline in which efforts and milestones would take place:



This timeline would be flexible and allow for adequate time to review past research, gather new information, determine and engage with stakeholders, analyze information and data, create a final report with policy recommendations, share results with key stakeholders, then present the report and findings to applicable governing bodies.

## Research

To better understand the food truck industry, members of the working group researched the industry from a national, state, and local level through various sources including but not limited to websites, news articles, studies, reports, city codes, ordinances, and commission meeting agendas and minutes.

The history of food trucks dates to the late 19th century, when outdoor food cart vending became a budding business opportunity, especially for a growing immigrant population. In the mid-20th century, food trucks were often seen on construction sites, as they were a fast and inexpensive lunch option for blue collar workers. In the 21st century, food trucks regained popularity during the Great Recession, as a means for those found suddenly unemployed to potentially get back on their feet. The growth in popularity of trucks is also in part to a consumer base looking for quick and easily accessible food options, featuring a wide variety of fare to suit various cultural and culinary tastes and even dietary restrictions. Media also plays an important role in expanding the industry's popularity. Food trucks have also been featured in a number of popular television shows such as Food Network's *The Great Food Truck Race* and *Big Food Truck Tip*. With the rise of social media, truck owners and operators have found a large audience to share their food and locations, and influencers can share their favorite finds. Podcasts are another medium in which information can be shared to a wide audience, from owners to foodies. With consumers demanding a wider variety of food options, costs, and quality that are quick

and easy to access, and food service entrepreneurs looking for a business with low start up and overhead costs, it is no wonder the food truck industry has seen a decade-long surge in popularity, which continues to grow.

According to a 2023 IBIS World report on *Food Trucks in the US*, the industry has expanded over the years and is one of the best-performing segments in the broader food service sector. Revenue from food trucks has nearly doubled, the number of trucks in operation has nearly tripled in the last 10 years, and the industry's growth is predicted to continue. It is noted, however, that despite strong industry-wide performance, some food truck vendors have been held back by several challenges including municipal regulations. While cities like Portland, OR, and Austin, TX, have been at the forefront of the food truck revolution, other cities still have created a system that restricts food trucks, through high (permitting and application) fees, limiting parking options, specifying the hours during which food trucks can operate, and the distance they must be from the nearest brick-and-mortar restaurant. The report suggests "industry associations will need to work closely with city governments and other restaurateurs to resolve these issues if food trucks are to play a larger role in the food service sector."

For some communities, these regulatory restrictions stem from sentiment among those in the restaurant industry that food trucks are considered in direct competition to brick-and-mortar restaurants. In 2022, the non-profit Institute for Justice released a study titled *Food Truck Truth*, which compiled 12 years of census data on food trucks and restaurants. The study found this sentiment is unfounded, noting that while food trucks can be competitive with the fast-food industry, they are not direct competitors with brick-and-mortar restaurants. On the contrary, the study found that they can complement the restaurant industry. Food trucks can increase foot traffic to areas where restaurants currently exist promoting a greater variety of offerings and price points; can help create hubs of food-related activity to promote the establishment of brick-and-mortar restaurants in underutilized areas or areas of early revitalization; as well as provide an environment of innovation. As restaurant-affiliated food trucks represent 30 percent to 40 percent of all food trucks in operation, they provide brick-and-mortar restaurants opportunities to test new markets and products; expand their presence outside of their stand-alone properties; help restaurants continue to serve customers during economic downturns such as recessions and the recent pandemic. Most importantly, they offer an entry point to operate a food-service business without the challenges of obtaining the amount of capital and other resources needed to open a brick-and-mortar restaurant, allowing the opportunity to scale up, if desired. This is important to food service entrepreneurs, especially for those historically marginalized in the US. According to a report from the Bush Institute-SMU Economic Growth Initiative report titled *Immigrants and Opportunities in American Cities*, "Food trucks also play to the strengths of many foreign-born entrepreneurs, since immigrants often have a comparative advantage in culinary traditions from their origin country but lack the startup capital to open a full indoor restaurant," but food trucks can be a stepping stone to launching a restaurant, especially for immigrants, who own 30 percent of America's food truck business. The report notes that, "Liberalizing food truck rules is a win-win for cities good for immigrant and native-born entrepreneurs," and "reforming unnecessary regulations can provide a surprisingly large stimulus to local entrepreneurship, with benefits for immigrants and native-born people alike."

Through its National Street Vending Initiative which challenges anti-competitive laws that harm mobile vendors, the Institute for Justice has worked closely with over a dozen communities across the United States, to help reduce the policy-related barriers that food truck owners face. As its study notes, "to the extent that cities do need to regulate food trucks—whether on public or private land—they should do so

only to protect public health and safety, and the rules should be no more restrictive than those applied to brick-and-mortar restaurants.” Cities and communities in Kansas are not immune to these restrictions. The Kansas Justice Institute acknowledges that “cities around Kansas make it excruciatingly challenging for food trucks and other mobile vendors, from competition restrictions that are deemed “unreasonable and arbitrary” and permitting fees that are “unreasonable and excessive.”

Food Truck Fees		
City	Annual Fees	Other Restrictions
Atchison	<a href="#">\$80</a>	
Eudora	<a href="#">\$100</a>	
Garden City	<a href="#">\$600</a>	
Goodland	<a href="#">\$400</a>	
Junction City	<a href="#">\$225</a>	
Kansas City, KS	<a href="#">\$100</a>	<a href="#">Must sign agreement with urban planning department; secure special use permit.</a>
Lawrence	<a href="#">\$300</a>	
Louisburg	<a href="#">\$200</a>	<a href="#">Different requirements for non-Miami County residents.</a>
Leavenworth	<a href="#">\$60</a>	
Merriam	<a href="#">\$90</a>	
Paola	<a href="#">\$250</a>	
Shawnee	<a href="#">\$100</a>	
Topeka	<a href="#">\$300</a>	
Wichita	<a href="#">\$400</a>	
For informational purposes only; does not constitute legal advice.		

source: Kansas Justice Institute

Food Truck Restrictions			
City	Distance Restriction from Restaurant	Distance Restriction from Community Event	Other Restrictions
Atchison	<a href="#">150 feet</a>	<a href="#">500 feet</a>	
Eudora	<a href="#">150 feet</a>	<a href="#">500 feet</a>	
Gardner	n/a	<a href="#">One block</a>	
Goodland	n/a	<a href="#">500 feet</a>	
Junction City	n/a	<a href="#">1,000 feet</a>	
Kansas City, KS	<a href="#">500 feet</a>	n/a	<a href="#">"Traditional" food vendors can only operate in industrial areas; "new generation food trucks" allowed by zoning approval.</a>
Lawrence	<a href="#">Can't operate from public right of way.</a>	n/a	<a href="#">Ordinance designed to prevent competition with "brick and mortar restaurants."</a>
Leavenworth	<a href="#">100 feet</a>	n/a	
Merriam	<a href="#">150 feet</a>	n/a	
Olathe	<a href="#">150 feet</a>	n/a	
Paola	<a href="#">150 feet</a>	<a href="#">500 feet</a>	
Roeland Park	<a href="#">100 feet</a>	n/a	
Salina	<a href="#">50 feet</a>	<a href="#">100 feet</a>	
Shawnee	<a href="#">50 feet</a>	n/a	
Wichita	<a href="#">150 feet</a>	<a href="#">500 feet</a>	
For informational purposes only; does not constitute legal advice.			

source: Kansas Justice Institute

We began putting together a matrix looking at local-level regulatory requirements for food trucks operating in our region. We worked to locate information on areas such as permit applications, fees, as well as restrictions on where, when, and how many trucks can operate. We also looked at fire inspection requirements and associated fees. Our research confirmed the concerns expressed by some mobile food vendors that indeed this information was difficult to locate, even after reviewing websites, online

documents and contacting local municipalities.

## Strategic Plan Alignment

We sought out how mobile food vending, an entrepreneurial effort, aligns with existing strategic plans throughout the County and found the following:

### **Douglas County Food System Plan**

GOAL #1: Agricultural Producers, Food Entrepreneurs, and Food Sector Workers Thrive in Our Regional Economy; Objective #1: Develop Local Food and Agricultural Businesses; Policy 4: Review existing resources to support food-based entrepreneurs and develop tools to address gaps; Policy 6: Target small business support to benefit immigrants, low-income residents, and persons of color.

### **Plan 2040 (Douglas County, KS)**

Economic Development: Create a diverse range of employment opportunities by capitalizing on our highly educated workforce, attracting new employers, encouraging and supporting entrepreneurs, retaining and growing existing business, and maximizing our potential through innovative technology sectors.

### **Anti-Poverty Plan – Douglas County Community Health Plan**

Priority Focus Areas: reduce barriers to employment for BIPOC residents; BIPOC entrepreneurship.

### **City of Lawrence Strategic Plan**

Prosperity and Economic Security

Community Engagement:

- Establish Lawrence as the most business-friendly community in the region (PES-1);
- Provide resources and support for small and medium sized businesses to grow and expand (PES-1 and PES-5);
- Increase and focus resources to generate entrepreneurial and tech-related company growth (PES-2).

Efficient and Effective Processes:

Enhance and streamline permitting processes and development codes.

Equity and Inclusion:

Ensure greater economic opportunities amongst historically marginalized populations, communities, and businesses (PES-5).

### **Lawrence Economic Development Strategy Recommendations (Ernst & Young)**

Goal 2.7: Enhance local food systems and related businesses

### **Downtown Lawrence Plan**

Reinforce Downtown as an economically thriving district...will require minimizing vacancies, increasing business involvement, supporting the development of new housing, improving opportunities for starting a business, and strengthening the vital Downtown business climate.

## **Eudora, Kansas Comprehensive Plan (2020)**

1.5 Vision - Creative economic, education, and housing initiatives support the value of opportunity.

Instill Entrepreneurialism - Foster entrepreneurship and support a variety of uses, services and retail outlets that either provide convenience or add to the small-town charm of Eudora.

Baldwin City is in the process of creating their Strategic Plan which as of July 2023 does include economic development as a focus area. Lecompton does not currently have a Strategic Plan.

Having this project complement or advance goals and objectives throughout several community plans is a key factor in identifying the need to create opportunities for food system entrepreneurs, especially ones who may not have equal access to resources needed to start a food-system business such as mobile food vending.

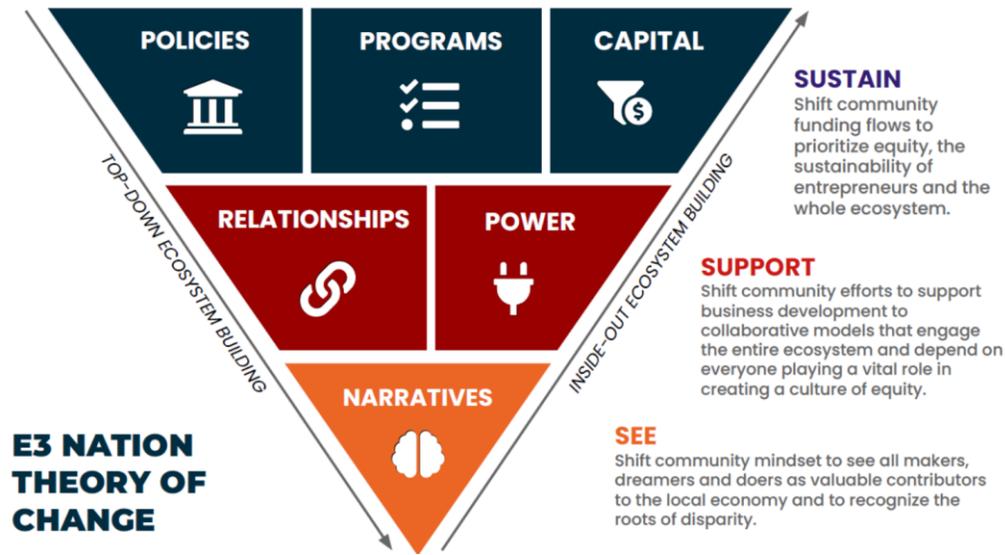
## **Equity**

Looking at mobile food vending through an equity lens, historically underrepresented groups who may lack access to capital and other resources, including women and minorities, may find entering food service ownership challenging at the brick-and mortar-level. The cost to start a food truck varies greatly depending on a number of factors, but according to Forbes the average investment is around \$50,000 as opposed to an average investment of \$275,000 to open a restaurant. Low start-up and overhead costs make food trucks an enticing option to enter to own a food service business, especially for those who may lack the capital and resources to start a brick-and-mortar business. Providing opportunities to own and operate a food truck provides greater accessibility to the food service market.

In the 2019 US Chamber of Commerce Foundation's report *Food Truck Nation*, "Food truck owners are a diverse crowd of rich and poor and represent all races and genders," and "Food trucks continue to be vehicles for entrepreneurial opportunity and economic growth." Dr. Ariel Smith, Professor at Wake Forest's Center for Entrepreneurship and founder and host of *The Food Truck Scholar* podcast, whose research examines the experiences and representation of African Americans within the food truck industry, notes that many people of color choose to open a food truck over a restaurant, an effect of being marginalized from wealth over generations. To help facilitate entrepreneurial equity, we need to enact policies that create accessibility for marginalized persons to own their own business, opposed to restricting that accessibility or only being accessible to those with greater access to capital and other resources. In Douglas County, we hope to accomplish this and have looked to areas of the strategic plans for guidance.

In 2023, Douglas County participated in the Forward Cities E3 Nation Tour event, hosted by Douglas County Government with support from Douglas County Community Foundation, Lawrence Chamber of Commerce, and Network Kansas. A series of workshops, facilitated by Forward Cities, a national nonprofit equipping communities and regions to grow and sustain more equitable entrepreneurial ecosystems, aimed to equip the Lawrence and Douglas County community to take the next steps on the path towards designing, leading, and sustaining equitable entrepreneurial communities. Overall, the goal of this work is to help ensure every entrepreneur has equitable opportunity and access to develop, launch, and grow a business that creates wealth for themselves, their family and/or their community—

Equity for Every Entrepreneur (E3). In one of the workshops, facilitators suggested utilizing an inside-out method of ecosystem building that shifts the power dynamics of traditional top-down ecosystem building. Instead of policy affecting the narratives, this method relies on narratives shaping policy. When considering equity and the possibility of policy recommendations being part of our effort, we wanted to utilize this framework, noting it was important that we understood challenges faced by food truck owners, through their lived experience, to help shape potential policy changes.



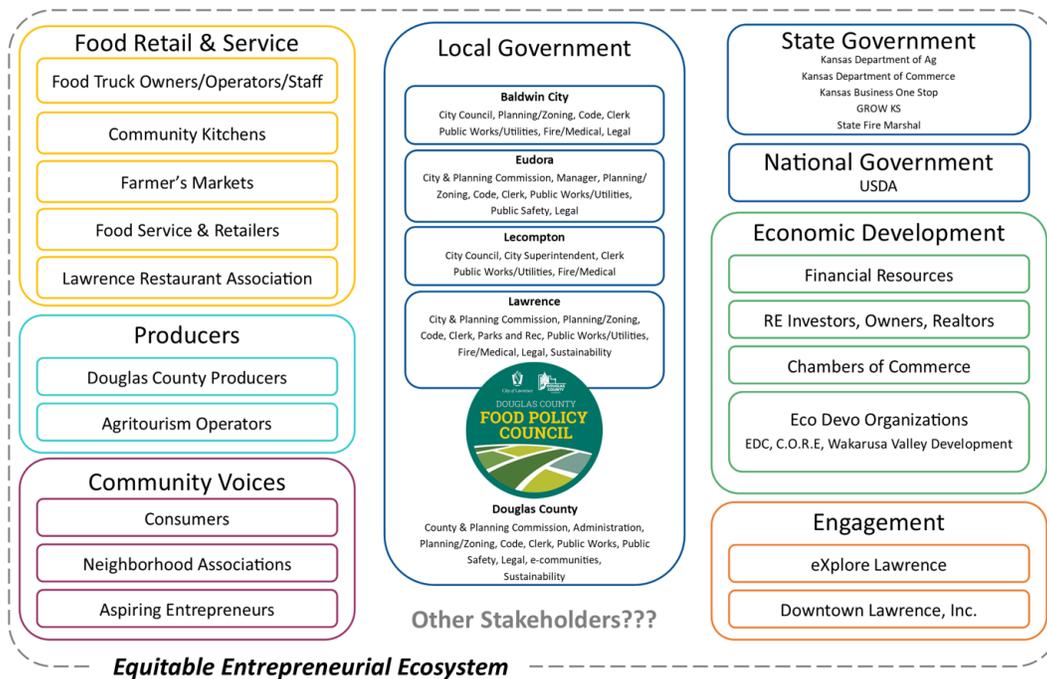
source: Forward Cities

In February, a group from Douglas County E-Communities presented a *Equitable Entrepreneurial Ecosystem (E3) Update* to the Lawrence City Commission. As part of their key findings, they “see a future where BIPOC are leveling up, creating agency, shifting from a place of service to being a boss, idea of entrepreneurship as a way out of poverty,” and see an opportunity to “celebrate our entrepreneurs of color, who they are and what they bring to the community regardless of the stage of the business.”

Enacting mobile vending policies created in part by the lived experience of those affected by those policies may help improve the environment for food truck owners to operate, as opposed to restrictive policies, help in the creation of a more equitable entrepreneurial ecosystem. We hope that any policy changes made to ease restrictions on food trucks operating in Douglas County will also support those strategic plan initiatives mentioned earlier in this report, whose goals are to support entrepreneurs, especially those historically marginalized.

## Engagement

Early in the planning process, we developed a stakeholder map of potentially interested and affected parties in this effort.



While an extensive list, we were able to engage with a number of individuals over the next several months, including staff from the City of Lawrence, Baldwin City, City of Eudora, City of Lecompton, and Douglas County who provided us insight and information on topics such as licensing and permitting, fire safety and inspections, special events permitting and regulations, and zoning.

**Lawrence**

- Britt Crum Cano, Director of Economic Development
- Jeff Crick, Director of Planning and Development Services
- City Staff - Sherri Riedemann, Aliza Bidinger, Lucas Mortensen, Stephen Mason
- Bart Littlejohn and Lisa Larsen, City Commissioners
- Chris King, Fire Prevention Div, Lawrence, KS
- Stephen Mason and Abby Bush Wilder, Lawrence Parks and Recreation

**Baldwin City**

- Amara Packard, City Clerk
- Matt McClure, Director, Recreation Commission

**Eudora**

- Mindy Andrasevits, Fire Chief

**Lecompton**

- Lynley Sanford, City Clerk

## **Douglas County**

Ben Harris, Code Enforcement Officer

Additional stakeholder engagement included meetings with food service, non-profit, and festival organizers who have been or currently are affected by mobile food vendor policies.

Lawrence Restaurant Association, Emily Peterson, Chair  
Lawrence Restaurant Association, Member Meeting  
Just Food, Aundrea Walker, Executive Director  
Madina Salaty, community events/festivals coordinator  
Stephen Mason and Abby Bush Wilder, Lawrence Parks and Recreation  
Matt McClure, Director, Baldwin City Recreation Commission

As previously mentioned, there has been some sentiment among the restaurant industry that food trucks are considered in direct competition to food truck owners. We sought to be forthcoming and transparent with the Lawrence Restaurant Association early in the process to gauge concerns felt among the local restaurant industry. While concerns brought to our attention were mainly due to communication issues surrounding special events, namely downtown, the association Chair and its members did not disclose any major concerns currently with food trucks operating in Lawrence. In fact, after meeting with the association, one of their members reached out asking to assist in our effort and helped during our community engagement in September and October of 2023.

It was also important for us to speak with some individuals and local governments who handle special events in Douglas County communities. Most concerns addressed were around the permitting and inspection guidelines set forth by cities. For instance, Just Food's Executive Director, Aundrea Walker, noted that after the City of Lawrence adopted the 2018 International Fire Code (IFC) in 2019, restrictions on amount of spacing between food trucks as well as requirements for fire inspections lead to a significant decrease in the number of trucks able to operate at their most recent annual Food Truck Festival fundraising event, leading to a significant decrease in event revenue that is vital for the organization.

After speaking with the City of Lawrence Fire Prevention Chief, Christopher King, the IFC's increased fire safety requirements are to protect not only the truck operators but also the public near the trucks. He agreed that there is an opportunity to increase the education and communication of fire prevention requirements in Lawrence to food truck owners and operators as well as for those hosting events where food trucks are present. It's also important to note that the City of Lawrence does participate in the Heart of America Fire Chief's Association, where if a truck in a participating city has passed inspection, it will carry over to any other participating city without the need for an additional inspection by another participating city. A sticker is provided to trucks noting the HOA inspection was completed. According to Christopher King, the following cities participate in this program: Lawrence Douglas County Fire Medical Department, Johnson County Fire District 1, Kansas City KS Fire Department, Lenexa Fire Department, South Metro Fire Department, North Kansas City Fire Department, Shawnee Fire Department, Overland Park KS Fire Department, Grandview Fire Department, Independence MO Fire Department, Raytown Fire Department, Lee Summit Fire Department, Belton Fire Department, Leavenworth Fire Department, Leawood Fire Department, Olathe Fire Department. In Douglas County, the City of Eudora, which is not part of the HOA Fire Chief's Association, does require a fire inspection and will review the HOA

inspection but does not immediately accept it. Neither Baldwin City, Lecompton, nor the county require fire inspections for food trucks at this time.

Agritourism sites offer mobile food vendors opportunities to set up their operation for special events and provide food options for visitors and event attendees. We spoke with three Douglas County and one Johnson County agritourism operators about their experiences and opinions of food trucks operating on their property. None had any major concerns about policy-related challenges they face hosting trucks. Most saw it as an opportunity to draw visitors to their site and offer food. Agritourism owners included:

Maulik Trivedi, owner, Trivedi Winery  
Karen Pendleton, owner, Pendleton's Market  
Pep Selvin, owner, Blue Jacket Crossing Winery  
Christy Fuller-Flyntz, owner, White Tail Run Winery

The public was also engaged in many ways through three surveys created by Dr. Susan Harvey, Associate Professor with the University of Kansas' School of Education and Human Science's Health, Sport, and Exercise Sciences Department. Surveys were tailored to three groups we wished to gather feedback from: local producers, the local restaurant community, and the local general community. Surveys were distributed at several events throughout Douglas County, primarily at farmer's markets and agriculture-related events.

Baldwin City Third Friday Market, 9.15.23  
Cottins Farmers Market, 9.28.23  
Lawrence Farmers Market, 9.30.23 and 10.3.23  
Eudora Farmers Market, 10.5.23  
Kaw Valley Farm Tour, 10.7.23

Surveys were also distributed through several organizations and public locations throughout the county including but not limited to:

Douglas County social media  
Douglas County newsletter  
Lawrence Restaurant Association Facebook Group  
Lawrence Farmers Market vendors (e-mail list)  
Personal social media

We also reached out to the following businesses and organizations to distribute surveys, if willing:

The Merc Coop  
The Chamber, Lawrence  
KU Small Business Development Center  
Eudora, Baldwin City, Lecompton restaurants  
Lawrence, Baldwin, and Eudora Public Libraries

Surveys were compiled by Dr. Harvey and analyzed via Qualtrics, an online survey platform, and a full summary of survey results are attached to this report. In all, we received back 51 producer surveys (72.9

percent response rate), 112 local community surveys (99 included in final analysis), 22 restaurant managers and owners.

Among all three survey groups, a large majority of respondents answered yes to the following questions:  
*I have previously eaten food from a food truck in Lawrence-Douglas County.*

*I would purchase and eat food from a food truck in Lawrence-Douglas County.*

*Do you believe that food truck owners operating in Lawrence-Douglas County should include local ingredients in their menus?*

*Do you believe that food trucks operating in Lawrence-Douglas County should develop partnerships with local producers?*

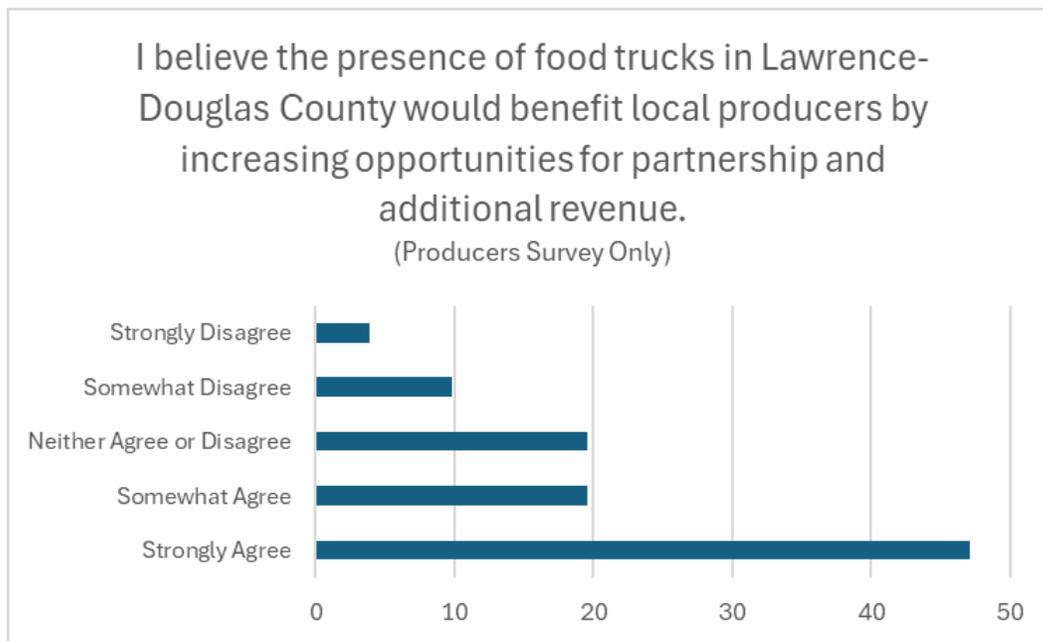
Of local producers, we asked:

*As a local producer in Lawrence-Douglas County, would you be interested in selling your product(s) (produce, protein, good) to food trucks operating in our community?*

74.5 percent of respondents answered yes.

Also asked:

*I believe the presence of food trucks in Lawrence-Douglas County would benefit local producers by increasing opportunities for partnership and additional revenue.*



A large majority somewhat or strongly agreed.

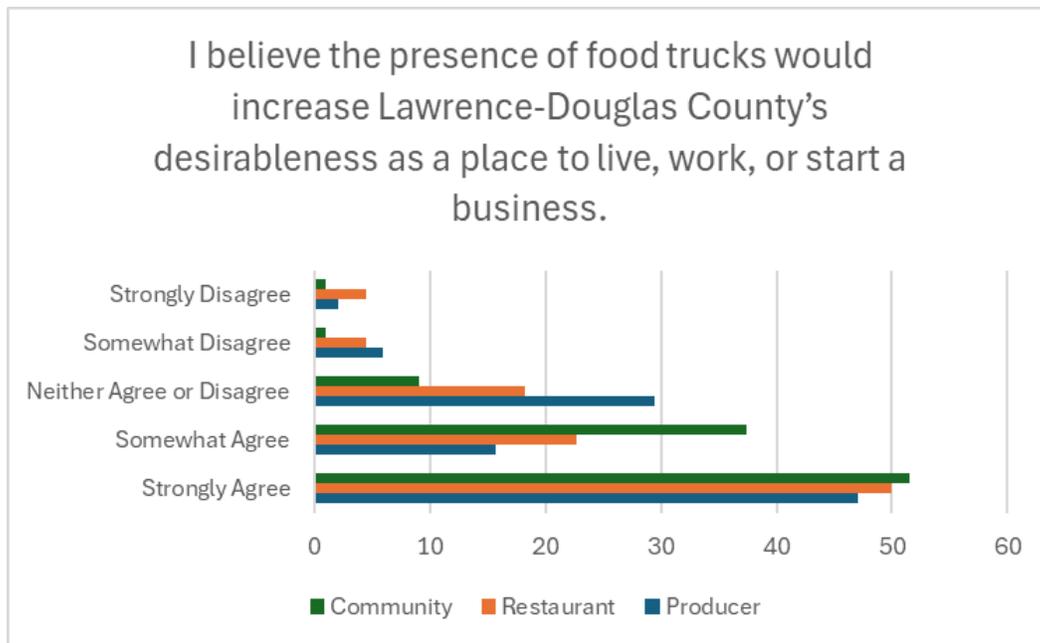
The findings among all three survey groups found that a large majority of respondents either *strongly agree* or *somewhat agree* to the following statements:

*I believe the presence of food trucks would increase Lawrence-Douglas County’s desirableness as a place to live, work, or start a business.*

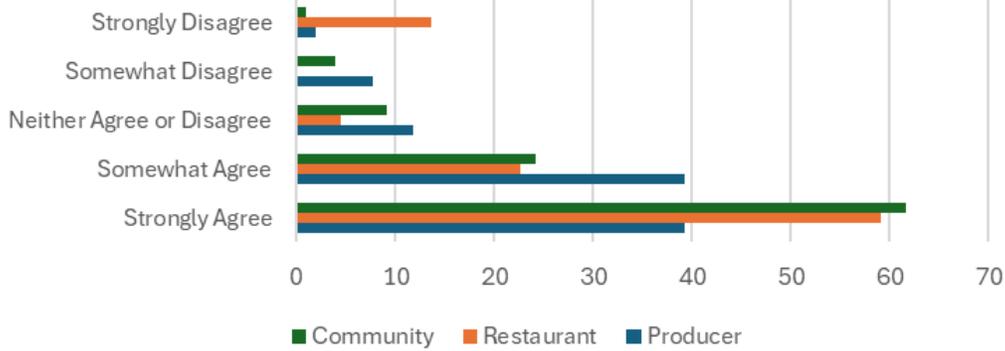
*I believe the presence of food trucks would promote equity and inclusion in Lawrence-Douglas County among small business owners and entrepreneurs within the food industry.*

*I believe the presence of food trucks would provide diversity in the type of food offerings that could be made available to Lawrence-Douglas County community members.*

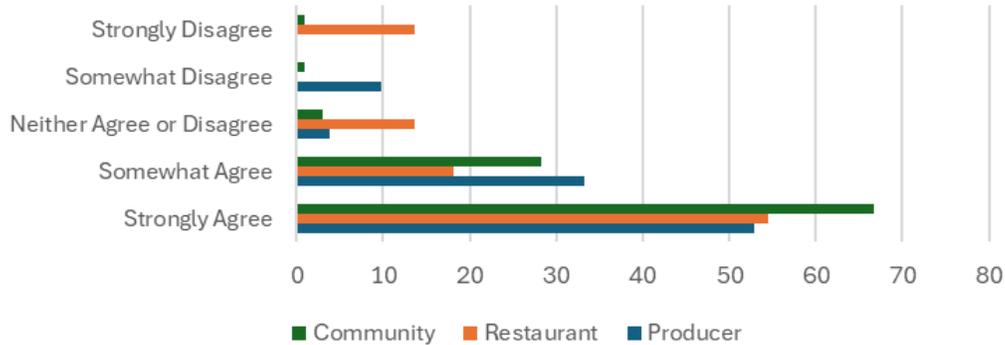
*I believe that the presence of food trucks in Lawrence-Douglas County would align with the City of Lawrence’s Strategic Plan Goal to promote prosperity and economic security among individuals and businesses.*

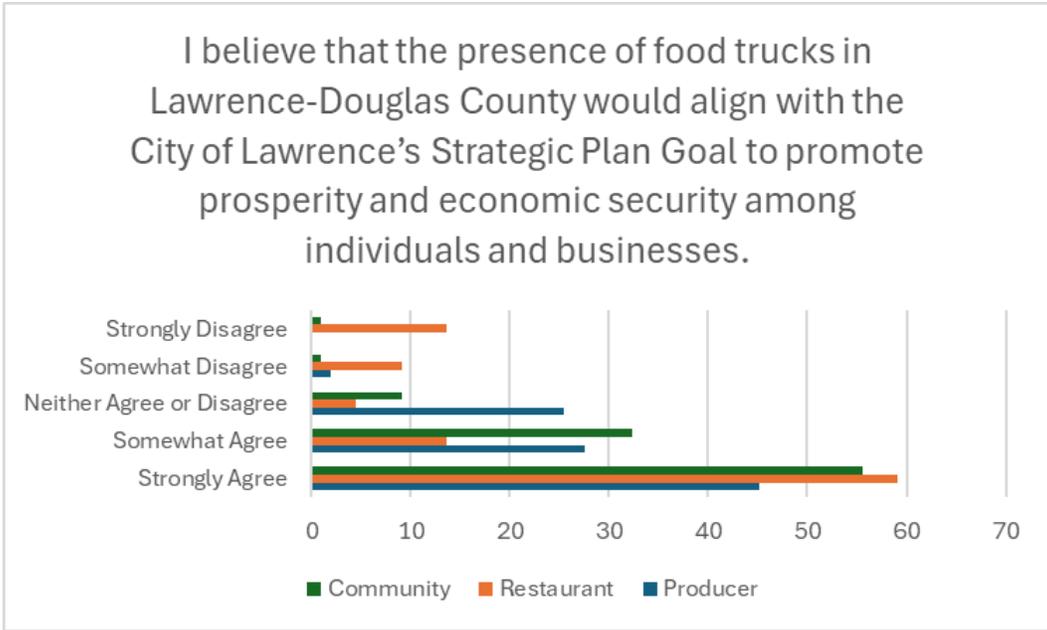


I believe the presence of food trucks would promote equity and inclusion in Lawrence-Douglas County among small business owners and entrepreneurs within the food industry.



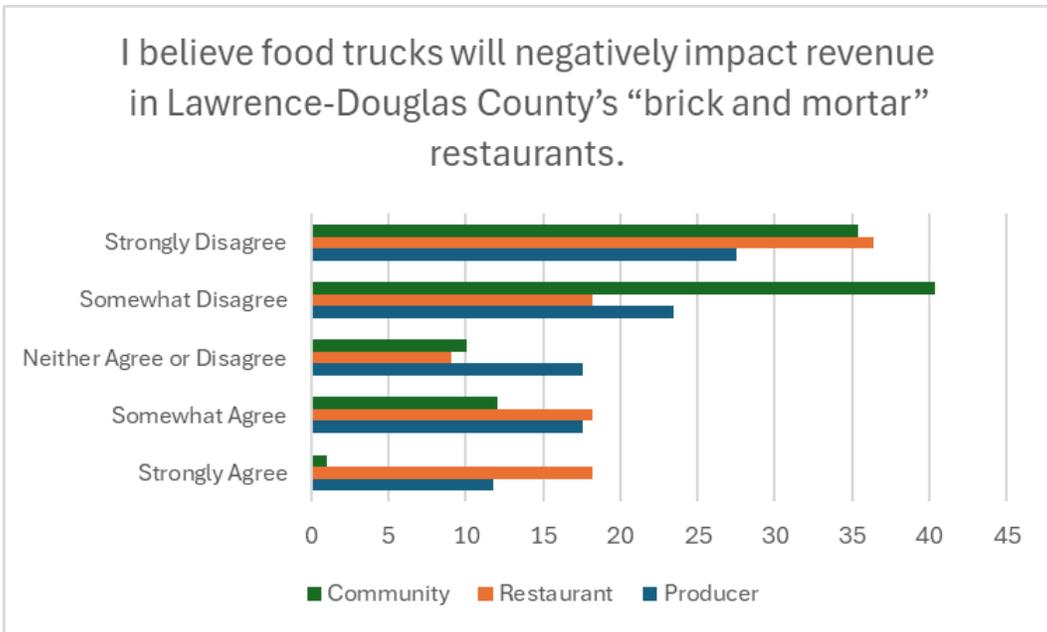
I believe the presence of food trucks would provide diversity in the type of food offerings that could be made available to Lawrence-Douglas County community members.





Similarly across all groups, a vast majority of respondents either *strongly disagree* or *somewhat disagree* to the following statement:

*I believe food trucks will negatively impact revenue in Lawrence-Douglas County’s “brick-and-mortar” restaurants.*



In the Restaurant and Community surveys, we asked respondents to indicate their level of concern in several areas including: *health/sanitation, traffic, competition/fairness with established restaurants, noise, ensuring operators have property owner’s permission, hours of operation, and number of trucks operating per site*. Of least concern were *traffic, competition, noise, hours of operation, and number of*

*trucks per site. There was more concern regarding health, sanitation, and property owner's permission to operate. We also asked respondents in these two groups to indicate where trucks should be allowed to operate in Lawrence-Douglas County: on private property, on public streets, commercial areas, industrial/office complexes, public parks, near schools, and residential neighborhoods. A large majority answered yes to all locations, with only residential neighborhoods coming in between 55.6 percent and 59.1 percent.*

We allowed respondents to provide additional comments as well. From the surveys, here were some comments:

*The public enjoys food trucks. Food trucks stimulate food diversity which attracts more people who then boost the economy which benefits producers, farmers and ranchers. Food trucks should be encouraged to support local food producers as a win-win for the community. - local producer*

*I have lived all over the world and in the U.S. Food trucks are a welcome inclusion providing diversity of food choices and creates [a] fair economic playing field for all. I have owned brick and mortar restaurants overseas and here in the US. If as a brick-and-mortar food business I am concerned about food trucks taking my business, then I need to up and perfect my own business first. - local producer*

*Locally owned food trucks like local growers and producers help keep the local economy strong. This shows in wages to employees, income, property and sales taxes, and purchases of ingredients for their products. Food trucks are a good addition to farm tours, farmers markets, and other local events. - local producer*

*KU really, really needs food trucks. The campus has few food options. - local community member*

*Let them operate for longer periods of time. - local community member*

*I've always been confused about why Lawrence doesn't have more food trucks, and assumed it's because we have major restrictions on their operation. I love visiting cities with thriving food truck scenes, and I think it lends so much life and excitement to a city to have them operating. With commercial space renting for prices that are out of reach for most people, we need more options for flexibility! - local community member*

*Food Trucks are a great way for beginning entrepreneurs to get their feet into the restaurant community. Typically, they have lower overhead costs than a brick and mortar, which will allow operators to grow their brand and hopefully grow into a brick and mortar, which could be a huge positive impact to the local economy. - restaurant community member*

*Food trucks add to the variety of food offerings and style of service. I would like to try having a fellow business owner's food truck in a parking space adjacent to my downtown business in the evening hours. This would complement my business (bar) while supporting local businesses. I would like to rotate different food trucks on a schedule. - restaurant community member*

There were some comments that indicated a desire for healthier food options, including vegetarian options. Noise was also a concern, particularly from generators. One respondent suggested this:

*Garden City has plugs for food trucks which get rid of the noise from generators. It would be great to build that into our parks and the new Farmers Market permanent location. - local community member*

There was also a concern about protecting brick and mortar restaurants, especially after the toll the industry took from pandemic:

*Post-covid we have to be so careful about protecting the brick-and-mortar investments. We often have events downtown on the weekends and when they're here we really take a hit. Food trucks don't pay the thousands we pay in property taxes and beyond, so the county should have an interest in making sure our brick-and-mortar investments are viable. - restaurant community member*

From the results of our survey, it would appear most Douglas County residents are in favor of food trucks operating in our communities, seeing them as both an additional culinary option in addition to brick-and-mortar restaurants, as well as an economic opportunity for food service entrepreneurs in a welcoming and inclusive business environment.

Finally, we hosted three focus groups, both in-person and virtual, with former and current food truck owners and operators. Of 17 food truck businesses contacted, 12 agreed to participate in a focus group and ten were able to attend, representing a range of age, sex, race, and number of years of experience in the industry. The dates and participants were:

*Tuesday, October 3rd - The Pretzelly Truck, JB's Tacos, Torched Goodness, Streamline Coffee*

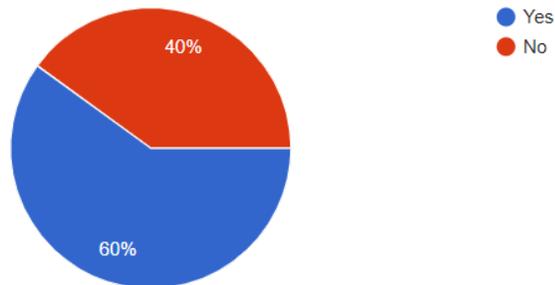
*Wednesday, October 4th - Wild Alive*

*Thursday, October 5th - Uplift Coffee, Fire Canyon Barbeque, Just Fork It, Bap Stop, Matties Wok and Roll*

Those who participated each received a \$50 VISA Gift Card for their time. Partial funding for these gift cards came from a mini-grant awarded to the Council by the Kansas Food Action Network as part of our desire to compensate individuals for sharing their lived-experience as part of our efforts. Before meeting, participants were asked to fill out a brief questionnaire to provide us with some insight into challenges and barriers faced as a mobile food vendor. One question referred specifically to permitting, inspection, and rules to operate a truck.

Have you personally experienced challenges or barriers when navigating the permitting, inspection, or rules relating to operating a food truck in Lawrence or Douglas County?

10 responses



Additionally, of the challenges and barriers experienced, the following was shared:

*“It was a very convoluted process even figuring out (A) what permits/inspections were required to operate my food truck, and (B) the necessary steps and chronological order of the process. Once that was figured out, the actual permitting/inspections were easy enough and fast, but it took a long time to get there.”*

*“I had a hard time figuring out which city and county permits I was required to have. I felt like the first 3 years I was open, I got 3 different answers on which permits were required. One year, I ended up spending over \$1,400 on permits that were not actually required.”*

For focus groups conversations, we utilized a semi-structured interview guide created by our KU researcher, Susan Harvey. We asked participants for how long and where truck owners have operated, whether it was their primary or secondary source of income, and we invited conversations around challenges and barriers they may have experienced, from starting up their business, through obtaining permits and licensing, and to current operational concerns.

Owners’ years in operation ranged from 14-plus years to just over two months. For some, it was their primary job and primary source of income, for others it was a secondary job and secondary income, and for one it was their secondary job, but they made more money than their primary job. Some owned just a truck, where some operated both a truck and restaurant, and one just a restaurant but formerly operated out of a truck. Areas of operation varied greatly, between only operating at private or sponsored events to others operating at both events, streetside, and in retail parking lots, depending on their business model. Some operate primarily in Lawrence, some in areas within Douglas County, and others reaching as far out as the KC Metro and Topeka. Range in operation depends highly on potential profitability and distance they were willing to or could travel. Some were sole operators of their truck, perhaps with one other, whereas others had several part-time staff.

When discussing the challenges of setting up, it was clear that every dollar matters. Many noted the difficulty navigating the process of starting their truck, whether it was procuring or building the vehicle or trailer, securing financial resources, or identifying the licenses and inspections needed. Several suggested it would be helpful if there were a start-up guide or checklist to help walk interested owners through. While most understood why fees are charged for licensing and permitting, over-licensing or over-permitting was found to be detrimental and primarily caused by the difficulty in navigating the process. Some were not aware that certain permits and inspections even existed, also a shortcoming of a system that can be challenging to navigate. There also was shared disappointment that fees are not pro-rated, so whatever time of year you paid your licensing fee, it was the same amount.

Application and Permitting Fees in Douglas County

	Lawrence	Baldwin City	Eudora	Lecompton	County
Application and Permitting Fees	\$300 annually	\$50 application; \$400 annually*	\$100 annually or \$50 for 3-day	none	none, agritourism type 1 or 2

*\*Solicitor's Permit only required if on public land - \$10/day; \$200-max per six months; if on private land, no permit needed.*

We commonly heard there was confusion of when and where you can operate, especially within the City of Lawrence, which is more restrictive than any other community in Douglas County. One truck owner noted that they prefer to operate in Baldwin because there are few to no regulations on where a food truck can park and serve, and no parking fees. Some owners said they needed to be mindful of where they operate as sometimes each city requires its own permit and those fees can add up quickly. Some prefer only operating a private or at special events to avoid multiple permitting fees. The City of Lawrence is the most restrictive community in the county, limiting trucks to not operate in the public right of way, nor on public parking lots (only private), in areas zoned as Fast Order Food, unless part of a city-permitted special event. Trucks can operate in residential areas, on private property, as long as the public right of way is not obstructed. In Lawrence, this has limited trucks to primarily operate at city-permitted events, private events, or in private parking lots, such as at retail locations. When asked if truck owners chose to operate in rural areas of Douglas County, including agritourism sites, some have chosen to but only when invited and find they are usually more profitable if tied to a special event, such as the Kaw Valley Farm Tour. We confirmed this through a series of phone interviews with four agritourism operators who confirmed they welcome food trucks, but it must make economic sense for both parties.

Semi-permanence or permanence of a truck on a particular site was also brought up, particularly in the City of Lawrence, which currently requires a site plan review in such instances (6-1711 G, [Ord. 8571, Ord. 9026] Code of the City of Lawrence, Kansas). One owner, who happens to also co-own an architecture firm, noted that they were into the site plan review process for more than 12 weeks, and had they not been able to rely on their own expertise and resources, it could have cost another owner over \$20,000 in professional services. With a backlog of reviews in process, it was uncertain if and when the review would be approved; however, the existing arrangement with the property owner fell through, so they did not have to complete the review process and located elsewhere. These potential costs of time, money, and resources are limiting if not prohibitive for truck owners and operators, seeking a lower cost alternative to owning a brick-and-mortar restaurant.

Many of our participants were concerned with the 3-hour limit per location per day written in the City of Lawrence's Code (6-1711 F, [Ord. 8571, Ord. 9026] Code of the City of Lawrence, Kansas). Many felt this is simply too short of time for a truck to adequately set up, serve, and pack up yet remain a profitable business. One noted they seek out only private events because of this strict operating limit. Some participants suggested a minimum of 5 to 6 hours is ideal for a service (one meal) if most prep can be done off-site, but also as high as 12 hours for multiple service or all-day service. Some wondered why there is a limit at all.

We also discussed the City of Lawrence's rule where no more than two (2) Mobile Food Units may be operated at the same time on any single property (6-1711 E, [Ord. 8571, Ord. 9026] Code of the City of Lawrence, Kansas). Most truck owners felt this was a non-issue as there is simply not enough competition currently in Lawrence to warrant a limit. Many did feel, however, that the City of Lawrence should locate a property where multiple trucks can operate i.e. a food truck park. Such sites often offer energy hookups, shared amenities such as dining space and restrooms. Currently, no known sites exist in Douglas County.

Fire inspections are another responsibility for food truck owners. As noted earlier in this report, the City of Lawrence is part of a cohort of cities in the NE region, the Heart of America's Fire Chief's Association (HOA), which currently consists of 16 departments in the region. If an inspection is performed by one of these departments, an approved truck can operate without an additional inspection in any of the participating cities. This can save time and money for food truck owners, especially if the inspection is free, which is in Lawrence. In fact, Division Chief of Fire Prevention, Christopher King, of Lawrence-Douglas County Fire Medical noted that many KC food trucks will come to Lawrence to take advantage of the free inspection. According to Eudora Fire Chief Mindy Andresevits, they will review the HOA inspection but do not automatically accept it. Baldwin City, Lecompton, and the County do not currently require fire inspections of food trucks. In 2019, the City of Lawrence adopted the 2018 International Fire Code, which are regulations to safeguard life and property from fires and explosion hazards. Food truck owners as well as special event coordinators have found the IFC to be more restrictive on how and where trucks can operate than in the past and has resulted in confusion and sometimes frustration. According to Christopher King, he is more than willing to have conversations with truck owners about equipment and systems they need in place, as well as with event operators to ensure the safety of food truck owners and operators, event staff, and community members.

While these challenges exist, we also found there is a great deal of camaraderie between food truck owners. Experienced owners are more than willing to assist and mentor new owners and even each other, seeing each other less as competition but in this together. One focus group participant even invited other trucks to park at his restaurant and serve on days when they are not in operation.

## **Policy Recommendations**

After engaging mobile food vendors operating in Douglas County as well as producers, farmers, restaurant owners, and the community, public sentiment towards food trucks is not a hostile one; however, there are opportunities for policy-level changes that will assist current and future food truck owners, especially in the City of Lawrence.

We are recommending the changes to Article 17 Of Chapter VI of The Code of The City of Lawrence, Kansas:

Section 6-1704 currently states *the application fee for a Mobile Food Vendor's License is \$300.00. The fee shall not be pro-rated or refunded for any reason, including denial of an application or revocation of a license.* We ask the Commission to consider making this a 12-month license, effective the date issued, as opposed to being based on the calendar year. This will prevent the need to pro-rate fees.

Section 6-1711 (f) currently states *Mobile Food Vendors are prohibited from offering for sale any food and/or beverage from a single property for more than three (3) hours out of every day, except as part of a City Approved Event.* We ask the Commission to consider increasing the number of hours to a range between 9 and 12 hours. This recommendation will allow mobile food vendors greater flexibility on what times of day, as well as provide an adequate amount of time for vendors to set up, serve, and pack up/out.

Section 6-1711 (g) currently states *The City may approve a Site Plan establishing a location for Mobile Food Vendors as a permanent or seasonal element of a site only when the following conditions are met:*

- (1) The owner must submit to the City, for its approval, a standard Site Plan showing, among other things, the location on the site of Mobile Food Vendors as either a permanent or seasonal element of the site;*
- (2) The proposed Site Plan must meet all requirements of Chapter 20 of the Code of the City of Lawrence, as amended, and the provisions of this Article; and*
- (3) The real property that is the subject of the Site Plan must be located in a zoning district where Fast Order Food, as that term is defined at Section 20-1724(6) of the Code of the City of Lawrence, as amended, is a permitted use.*

We ask the Commission to consider removing section (g), which was not in the original ordinance (8571) but added as an amendment (9026). This recommendation would eliminate the exhaustive and often costly process of developing and submitting a site plan for review, and it would also free up time from City Staff to review submitted site plans, as well as support the goal to enhance and streamline permitting processes and development codes. Upon conversation with staff from Planning and Development Services, other areas of the code would trigger a site-planning process if permanence (non-mobile) is intended.

We also ask that the City Clerk's office make an addition to the Mobile Food Vendor License Application to add a checkbox for "fire inspection per IFC 319", for the applicant to either indicate such an inspection has been performed or not, that this will both indicate to the applicant that one needs to be performed and can inform the Fire Prevention Division whether an inspection has been performed or not as well.

Finally, we ask that multiple departments within the city: Clerk, Planning and Development, Parks and Rec, and Fire Prevention continue to find ways to streamline the permitting and inspection process through their internal procedures. An example, Planning and Development Services along with Municipal Services and Operations consolidated Special Event permits into one that Parks & Recreation already administers. There used to be a permit if on private property (PDS), one for public property (MSO), and another if an event was in a park (Parks & Rec). To streamline, we combined them into the Parks & Rec process under Ch.6, Article 15 via Ordinance No. 10017. Such measures help navigate the

permitting process much easier and can help ensure mobile vendors are operating in accordance with local regulations.

We hope that these minor changes to Lawrence's existing policies will assist mobile food vendors, particularly for those operating in Lawrence, Kansas, and hope this and forthcoming Commissions will be open to future conversations around permitting and regulations for mobile food vendors. While we currently have no policy recommendations for the County and communities of Eudora, Baldwin, and Lecompton, we hope they will continue to find ways to support and expand opportunities for mobile food vendors.

### **Steps Beyond Policy**

The DCFPC's economic development working group intends to implement minor changes in existing government policy as the first step in additional measures to help assist mobile food vendors in Douglas County.

In February, the Council hosted a Food Business Start-up Panel & Resource Fair, providing food system entrepreneurs of Douglas County, including food truck owners and operators, with the resources they need to start a food business. We hope this will be an annual event for local food service businesses.

During our food truck focus group sessions, there was a desire to continue to build relationships between food truck owners and operators through communications and mentorship. There may be opportunities for vendors throughout Douglas County to create a social media group, similar to those by vendors in Lawrence, Manhattan, Topeka, and the KC metro. There were also thoughts of possibly integrating mobile food vendors into the Lawrence Restaurant Association, which is a well-organized group of restaurant owners, managers, and staff. Food truck owners and operators we spoke with clearly did not see each other as competition but as complementary to the food service options in our communities and often seek guidance from each other, especially as new vendors come into the industry, assisting them navigate challenges whether in licensing, permitting, or day-to-day operations. The Council would support any such self-directed efforts between vendors to improve communication and mentorship.

The Council anticipates working with County and City staff in creating an online and printed resource, similar to the Urban Agriculture guide for the City of Lawrence, to help assist mobile food vendors navigate the process of permitting and inspections, as well as direction to organizations who can assist in accessing capital or other financial resources. We hope to partner with organizations such as NetWork Kansas, as well as the small business development centers and local chamber of commerce offices to share this information.

Lastly, if policy changes are enacted, we plan to continue to check in annually with City Clerks to review the number of permitted food trucks operating in Douglas County for at least the next five years. We also intend to poll food truck owners and operators in the future to determine if any policy challenges and barriers still exist. In addition, we will annually review the number of active restaurants in Douglas County, which will be provided by the Kansas Department of Agriculture (KDA), for at least the next five years.

Through both policy changes, streamlining the permitting process, and continuing to provide resources for mobile food vendors, we hope to provide a more equitable environment for entrepreneurs. While we've shown how these efforts align with many of the existing strategic plans in Douglas County, including the Douglas County Food System Plan. We also feel our efforts in supporting food system entrepreneurs aligns with the goals of the newly established USDA Heartland Regional Food Business Center, one of 12 established across the nation in 2023, which to support development of a more resilient, diverse, and competitive food system and build a more robust and responsive support system for farm and food businesses in local and regional markets. Heartland invites collaboration with other organizations, such as the Douglas County Food Policy Council, that work with small businesses and in agriculture and community and economic development.

## **Conclusion**

Food Trucks are an accessible way for food-service entrepreneurs to enter or expand their footprint in the industry, especially for underrepresented business owners who may not have access to capital and other resources more often available to others. In the US, revenue from food trucks has nearly doubled, the number of trucks in operation has nearly tripled in the last 10 years, and the industry's growth is predicted to continue. Unfortunately, some communities in the US have embedded restrictions into their governing ordinances and practices that have hindered if not eliminated the ability for mobile food vending. In Douglas County, most communities have few restrictions on where and for how long trucks can operate; however, in Lawrence, owners and operators are commonly unaware of or concerned with some of the policies within its City Code.

Through research and community engagement throughout Douglas County, the Douglas County Food Policy Council's economic development working group in a partnership with University of Kansas Associate Professor, Dr. Susan Harvey, have determined that some minor changes in the Mobile Food Vendor section of the Code of the City of Lawrence will help food truck owners be able to operate more effectively. We hope that by making these policy changes we will encourage existing and new mobile food vendors to do business in our communities, which will not only further strengthen our entrepreneurial ecosystem but also create additional pathways for food-service vendors to thrive in Douglas County.

## Appendix A

### Information Sources

#### Douglas County, KS

Lawrence, KS Permitting:

Sheri Riedemann, City Clerk [sriedemann@lawrenceks.org](mailto:sriedemann@lawrenceks.org)

License Application: <https://assets.lawrenceks.org/city-clerk/applications/Mobile%20Food%20Vendor%20License%20Application.pdf>

Ordinance 8571: [https://assets.lawrenceks.org/agendas/cc/2011/09-13-11/cc\\_mobile\\_food\\_ord\\_8571.html](https://assets.lawrenceks.org/agendas/cc/2011/09-13-11/cc_mobile_food_ord_8571.html)

Ordinance 9026:

[https://assets.lawrenceks.org/agendas/cc/2014/08-19-14/pl\\_mobile\\_food\\_vendor\\_ord\\_9026.html](https://assets.lawrenceks.org/agendas/cc/2014/08-19-14/pl_mobile_food_vendor_ord_9026.html)

Code of the City of Lawrence: [https://lawrenceks.org/attorney/city\\_code/](https://lawrenceks.org/attorney/city_code/)

Eudora, KS Permitting:

Kelly Delay, City Clerk [kdelay@cityofeudoraks.gov](mailto:kdelay@cityofeudoraks.gov)

<https://cityofeudoraks.gov/87/Applications-Permits>

Code of the City of Eudora: <http://eudoraks.citycode.net/index.html#!articleMobileFoodVendors>

Baldwin City Permitting:

Amara Packard, City Clerk [apackard@baldwincity.gov](mailto:apackard@baldwincity.gov)

Code of the City of Baldwin: <http://baldwincity.citycode.net/index.html#!artiSoliCanvPedd>

Lecompton, KS Permitting:

Lynley Sandford, City Clerk (785) 887-6407

<http://www.lecompton.org/>

Douglas County, KS Permitting:

Ben Harris, Code Enforcement Officer [bharris@douglascountyks.org](mailto:bharris@douglascountyks.org)

Lawrence Fire/Safety:

Chris King, Division Chief of Fire Prevention [cking@lawrenceks.org](mailto:cking@lawrenceks.org)

International Fire Code: [https://codes.iccsafe.org/content/IFC2018/chapter-3-general-requirements#IFC2018\\_Pt02\\_Ch03\\_Sec319](https://codes.iccsafe.org/content/IFC2018/chapter-3-general-requirements#IFC2018_Pt02_Ch03_Sec319)

Eudora Fire/Safety:

Mindy Andrasevits, Fire Chief [mandrasevits@cityofeudoraks.gov](mailto:mandrasevits@cityofeudoraks.gov)

Douglas County Fire/Safety:

Mike Baxter, Fire Chief, Douglas County, KS [mbaxter@douglascountyks.org](mailto:mbaxter@douglascountyks.org)

## Articles, Studies and Other Sources

Bush Institute-SMU Economic Growth Initiative - *Immigrants and Opportunities in American Cities*

<https://www.bushcenter.org/publications/blueprint-for-opportunity-welcoming-immigrants>

Forbes - Starting a Restaurant without Rent or a Food Truck

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/cameronkeng/2018/10/28/starting-a-restaurant-without-rent-or-a-food-truck>

Forward Cities - E3 Nation

<https://forwardcities.org/e3-nation/>

Kansas Institute for Justice - *Food Trucks and Mobile Businesses*

<https://kansasjusticeinstitute.org/food-trucks-and-mobile-businesses/>

Institute for Justice - *Food Truck Truth*

<https://ij.org/report/food-truck-truth/>

<https://ij.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/12/Food-Truck-Truth-WEB-dec-2021.pdf>

Institute for Justice - *Why Food Truck Growth and Restaurant Growth Go Hand-In-Hand*

<https://ij.org/report/food-truck-truth/why-food-truck-growth-and-restaurant-growth-go-hand-in-hand/>

The Guardian - *The Native American-owned food trucks taking New Mexico by storm*

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2022/dec/27/native-american-owned-food-trucks-chefs-new-mexico>

U.S. Chamber of Commerce - *Food Truck Nation*

<https://www.foodtrucknation.us/>

USDA - The Heartland Regional Food Business Center

<https://heartlandfoodbusiness.org/>

## Appendix B

Dear City Commissioners,

The Lawrence Restaurant Association is extending its full support for the recommendations put forth by the Douglas County Food Policy Council regarding mobile food vending permitting and policies. Our association represents a diverse community of restaurateurs, culinary professionals, and food service providers dedicated to fostering a vibrant, sustainable, and inclusive food culture in Lawrence.

We have thoroughly reviewed the comprehensive report and research conducted by the Douglas County Food Policy Council on the subject of mobile food vending. It is evident that the Council has dedicated significant effort, expertise, and thoughtful consideration in formulating recommendations that seek to balance the interests of mobile food vendors, brick-and-mortar restaurants, local communities, and the wider public.

The Council's recommendations demonstrate a deep understanding of the complexities involved in mobile food vending and propose innovative, fair, and practical solutions to existing challenges. Their approach to streamlining the permitting process, creating greater clarity within city code, and encouraging fair competition speaks to their commitment to fostering an environment where mobile food vendors and traditional restaurants can coexist and thrive. We appreciate the Council's emphasis on inclusivity and support for small, local food entrepreneurs. By reducing barriers to entry and creating a more accessible pathway for mobile food vendors, these recommendations have the potential to enrich our local food scene, promote culinary diversity, and stimulate economic growth within our community.

The Lawrence Restaurant Association believes that the implementation of these recommendations will lead to a more dynamic, competitive, and innovative food market in Douglas County. Thank you for considering our support for this important initiative. We look forward to the positive changes these recommendations will bring to our local food landscape.

Sincerely,

Lawrence Restaurant Association  
eatdrinklawrence@gmail.com

February 13th, 2024

Kristina (Mease) Edwards  
Regional Director  
KU Small Business Development Center

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to express my support for the work undertaken by the Douglas County Food Policy Council's Economic Development working group in examining and advocating for improvements in the food truck industry within Douglas County, Kansas.

The work conducted by the Douglas County Food Policy Council's Economic Development working group to review the regulations, permitting requirements, and operational challenges faced by food truck entrepreneurs is important work. It is evident from their findings that the current regulatory landscape could be potentially restrictive, and financially burdensome for food truck operators, which could potentially hinder the entry of aspiring food operators.

Their dedication to determining equitable and fair regulations, and desire to provide necessary resources to food service and food truck entrepreneurs, and streamlining operational processes for mobile food vendors is important to increase the accessibility of this entrepreneurial path. By seeking to create an environment conducive to the growth of the food truck industry, you are not only fostering entrepreneurship but also enhancing the vibrancy of our community's culinary landscape.

The insights gleaned from the Food Truck Focus groups, where local food truck owners/operators shared their firsthand experiences and challenges, are invaluable in identifying areas for improvement in permitting, inspections, and overall operational efficiency.

As a member of the community, I support their aspiration. I believe that a thriving food truck industry not only enriches our culinary scene but also contributes to economic growth, job creation, and cultural diversity within our community.

Thank you for your commitment to this important cause.

Sincerely,

Kristina

Kristina (Mease) Edwards, MBA  
785-843-8844  
[kristinamease@ku.edu](mailto:kristinamease@ku.edu)  
718 New Hampshire Lawrence, KS 66046





Jenn Laird  
j.laird@networkkansas.com  
February 15, 2024

Dear Douglas County/Lawrence Commissioners and Community Stakeholders,

I am writing to support the Douglas County Food Policy Council's Mobile Food Vending Permitting and Policies proposal.

Having had the honor to walk alongside the Douglas County Food Policy Council, collaboratively with other stakeholders within the community over the last three years, it has been incredible to watch the excitement and growth of support services, local investment, and proactive government engagement with entrepreneurs in Douglas County.

As a statewide entrepreneurial support partner working closely with the Douglas County E-Community team, I have witnessed the Douglas County Food Policy Council's commitment to food-based businesses. NetWork Kansas believes Mobile Food Vending businesses play a vital role in the ecosystem by offering an affordable entry point for under-resourced entrepreneurs to build a solid foundation to start and grow their businesses.

NetWork Kansas is excited to support the Food Policy Council's work in helping create more equitable entrepreneurial opportunities for food business entrepreneurs in Douglas County. We believe that by utilizing the E3 Nation Theory of Change model, using the lived experience of food truck owners and operators to help enact policy changes at the local level, a culturally competent foundation of supportive policies can be developed.

Policy is a key component of the entrepreneurial ecosystem and directly complements the entrepreneurial educational programs and capital investment opportunities our organization provides. Together, I am confident that we can build a sustainable and equitable ecosystem that holistically supports the unique needs of Douglas County food truck entrepreneurs.

Best,

*Jenn Laird*

Jenn Laird



February 27, 2024

City of Lawrence  
6 East 6<sup>th</sup> Street  
Lawrence, KS 66044

Dear Mayor and City Commissioners:

The Chamber, Lawrence, KS supports the Douglas County Food Policy Council's recommendations on permitting and the policy related to mobile food vending in Douglas County.

In its report, the DCFPC articulated a passion for the growth and development of the local food system as well as equitable opportunities for entrepreneurs and businesses in the food service industry throughout our community. Its work in this space further shows the commitment to public engagement, increasing access to healthy local foods, and creating a sustainable environment that supports those working in food service.

The Chamber especially appreciates the work to include the voices of both brick-and-mortar restaurant managers/owners and mobile food service entrepreneurs. This conversation demonstrates that these business models can coexist and bring delicious foods and economic opportunities to Lawrence. Clarity of permitting, inspection expectations and processes, and other streamlining of local regulations addressed in this report will only enhance our community as a fair and equitable place to do business.

Thank you for your consideration of our position.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Bonnie Lowe".

Bonnie Lowe, IOM  
President & CEO

718 New Hampshire St., Lawrence, KS 66044 PH 785.865.4411 FX 785.865.4400  
[LawrenceChamber.com](http://LawrenceChamber.com) [EDCLawrence.com](http://EDCLawrence.com)

## Appendix C

### METHODS

This report presents data from several stakeholder groups regarding the operation of food trucks in Lawrence-Douglas County. During the summer of 2023, Tyler Lindquist (Douglas County Food Policy Council member), Connie Fitzpatrick (Douglas County Food System Specialist), and Dr. Susan Harvey (Associate Professor at the University of Kansas) collaborated on the development of several data collection instruments to gather baseline information on current attitudes and perceptions of food trucks in our community. Collectively, three separate surveys were developed and disseminated (see Appendix A):

- 1) Local Producers Survey – to assess perceptions of the operations of food trucks in Lawrence-Douglas County, including the opportunity for potential partnerships with local producers;
- 2) Local Community Survey – to assess community members’ residing in Lawrence-Douglas County thoughts and perceptions of food trucks operating within city and county limits; and
- 3) Local Restaurant Survey – to assess managers and owners of local restaurants perceptions of food trucks operating within our community, including thoughts on potential impact on revenue of food trucks on “brick and mortar” restaurants.

Additionally, three focus groups were conducted with food truck owners and operators to further explore and understand facilitators and barriers to operating food trucks within our community. As part of this process, a semi-structured interview guide was developed to facilitate these discussions, which were conducted in September and October of 2023.

#### Survey Distribution

All three surveys were distributed via Qualtrics, an online survey platform. Members of the Douglas County Food Policy Council provided QR codes to members of the Lawrence Restaurant Association (LRA) to distribute through their Facebook page and email distribution list. The manager of the Lawrence Farmers’ Market distributed the survey to vendors. For the community survey, members of the Douglas County Food Policy Council distributed the survey at tabling events that were held at Saturday Farmers’ Markets and other events in Douglas County.

#### Survey Results

We present our findings for each of the stakeholder survey groups separately below.

Local Producers Survey

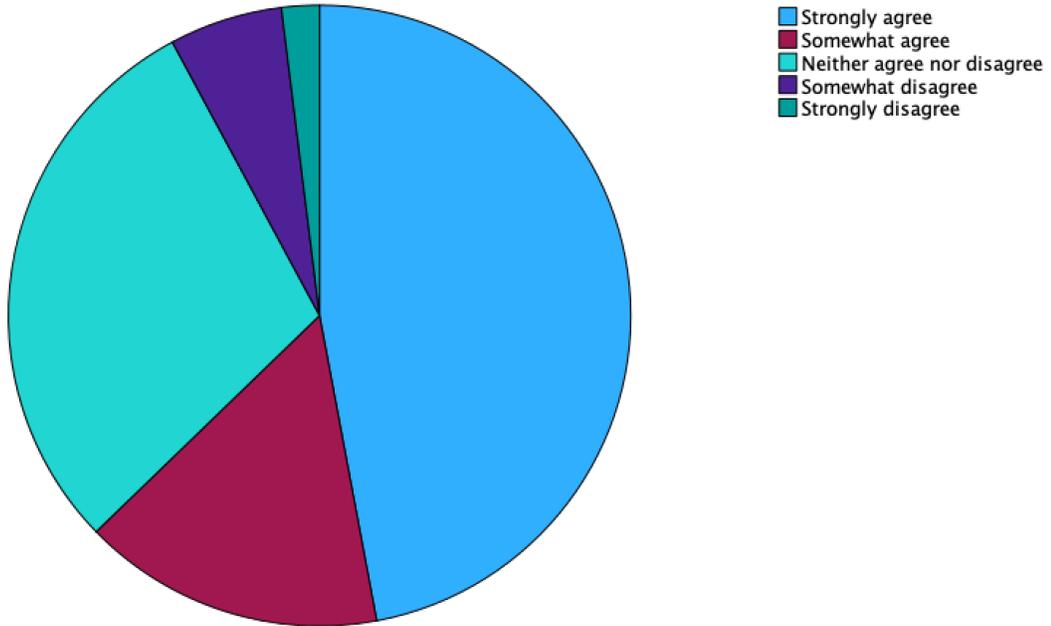
The survey for local producers consisted of seven questions (See Appendix A). The survey was sent to 70 local producers, with fifty-one responding to the survey (72.9% response rate). We have included the results for each of the survey responses in the table and charts below.

**Question 1: Please indicate your level of agreement with each of the following statements.**

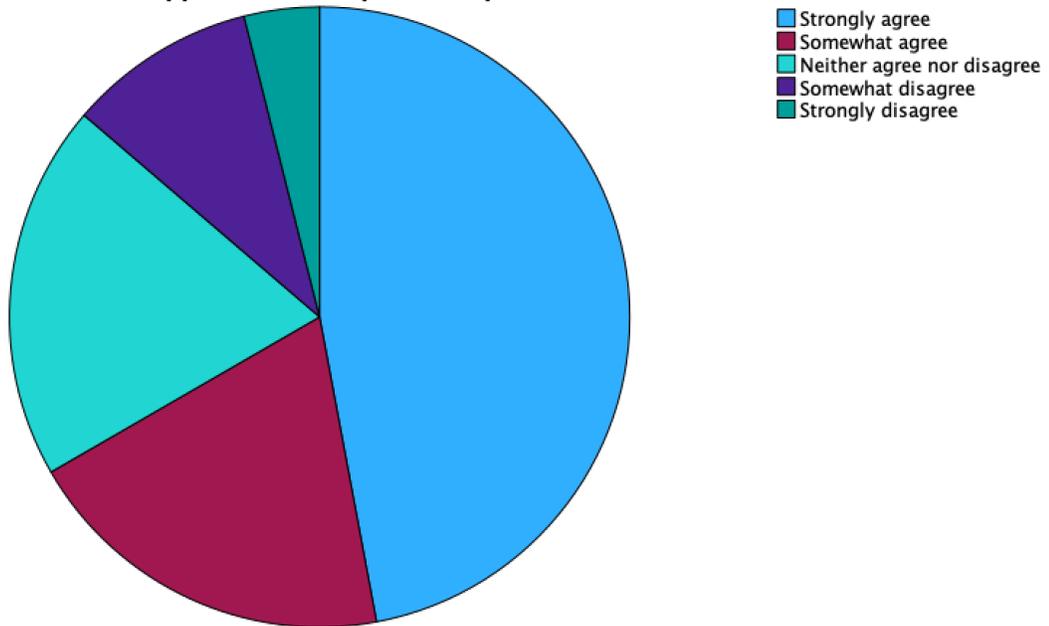
Statement	Strongly agree	Somewhat Agree	Neither agree or disagree	Somewhat Disagree	Strongly disagree
I believe the presence of food trucks would increase Lawrence-Douglas County’s desirableness as a place to live, work, or start a business.	47.1% (n = 24)	15.7% (n = 8)	29.4% (n = 15)	5.9% (n = 3)	2.0% (n = 1)
I believe the presence of food trucks in Lawrence-Douglas County would benefit <b>local producers</b> by increasing opportunities for partnership and additional revenue.	47.1% (n = 24)	19.6% (n = 10)	19.6% (n = 10)	9.8% (n = 5)	3.9% (n = 2)
I believe the presence of food trucks would promote equity and inclusion in Lawrence-Douglas County among small business owners and entrepreneurs within the food industry.	39.2% (n = 20)	39.2% (n = 20)	11.8% (n = 6)	7.8% (n = 4)	2.0% (n = 1)
I believe the presence of food trucks would provide diversity in the type of food offerings that could be made available to Lawrence-Douglas County community members.	52.9% (n = 27)	33.3% (n = 17)	3.9% (n = 2)	9.8% (n = 5)	
I believe that the presence of food trucks in Lawrence-Douglas County would align with the City of Lawrence’s Strategic Plan Goal <b>to promote prosperity and economic security among individuals and businesses.</b>	45.1% (n = 23)	27.5% (n = 14)	25.5% (n = 13)	2.0% (n = 1)	

I believe food trucks will negatively impact revenue in Lawrence-Douglas County's "brick and mortar" restaurants.	11.8% (n = 6)	17.6% (n = 9)	17.6% (n = 9)	23.5% (n = 12)	27.5% (n = 14)
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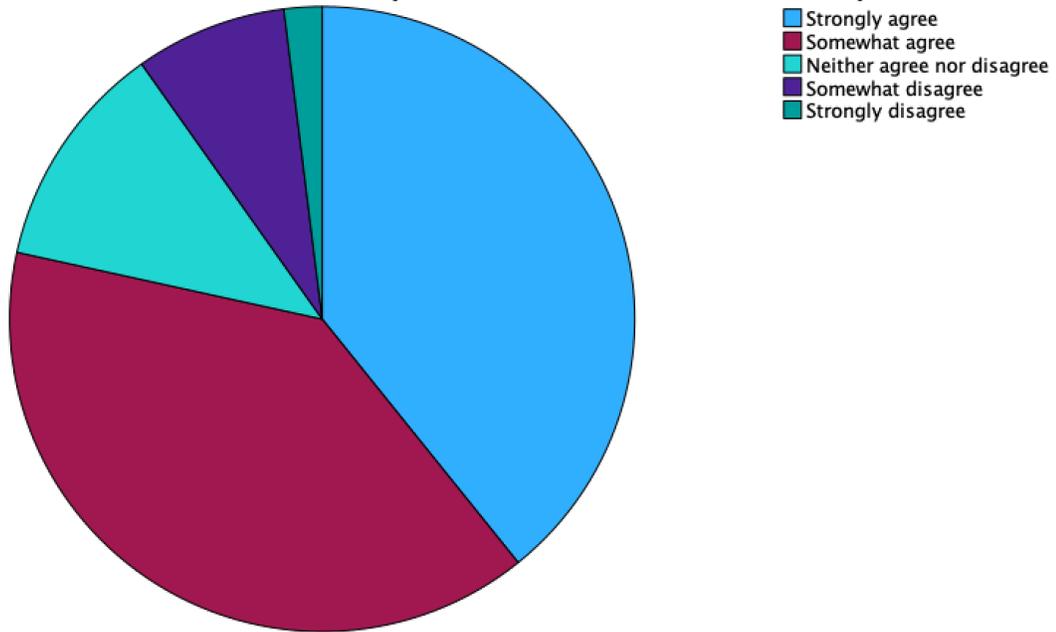
**Please indicate your level of agreement with each of the following statements. – I believe the presence of food trucks would increase Lawrence–Douglas County's desirableness as a place to live, work, or start a business.**



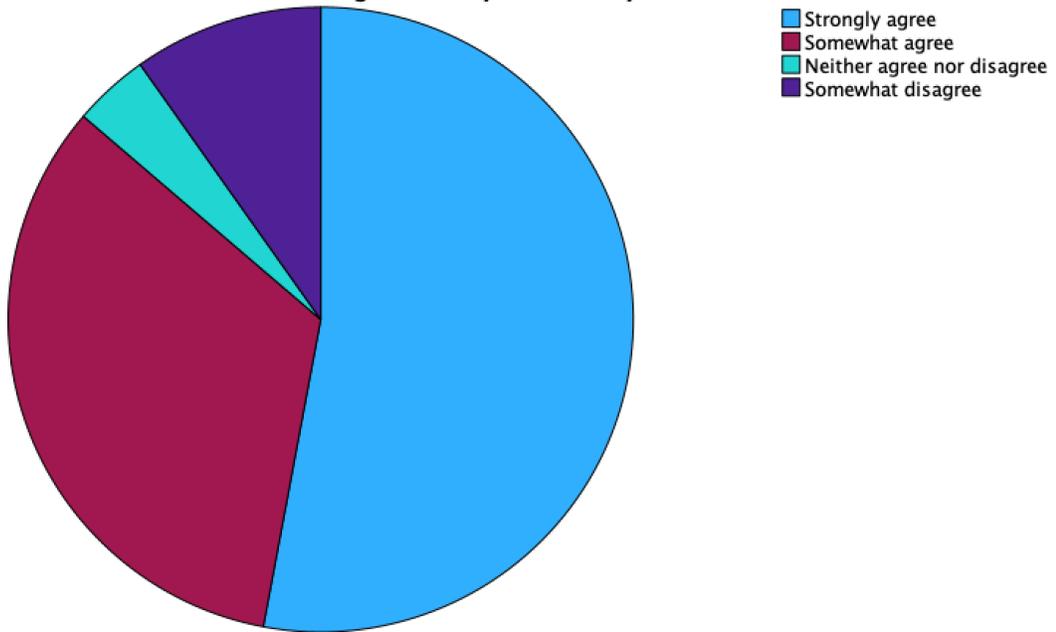
**Please indicate your level of agreement with each of the following statements. – I believe the presence of food trucks in Lawrence–Douglas County would benefit local producers by increasing opportunities for partnership and additional revenue.**



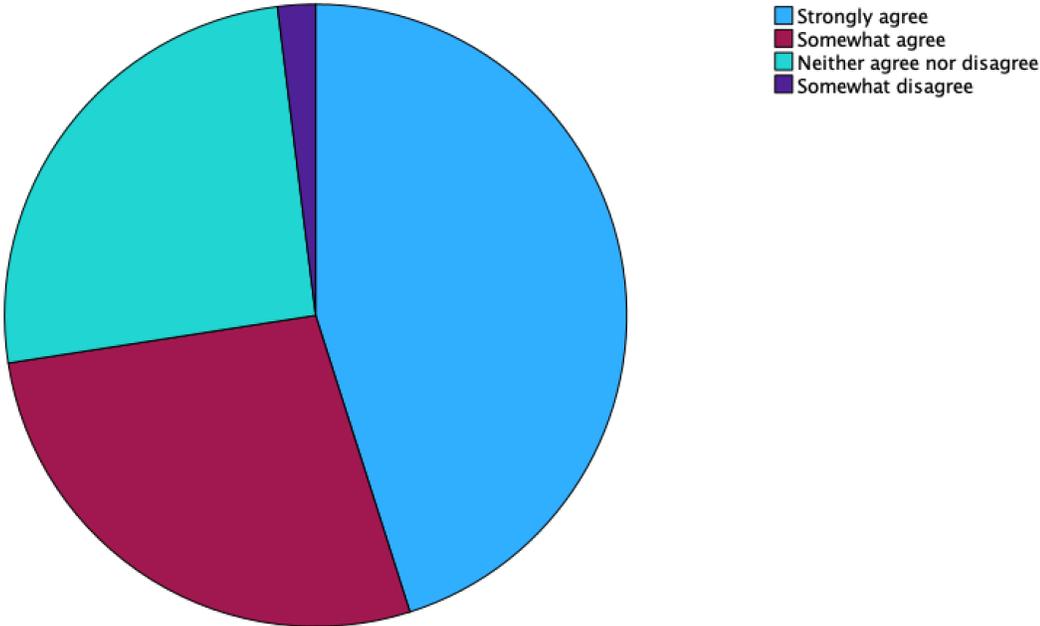
Please indicate your level of agreement with each of the following statements. – I believe the presence of food trucks would promote equity and inclusion in Lawrence–Douglas County among small business owners and entrepreneurs within the food truck industry.



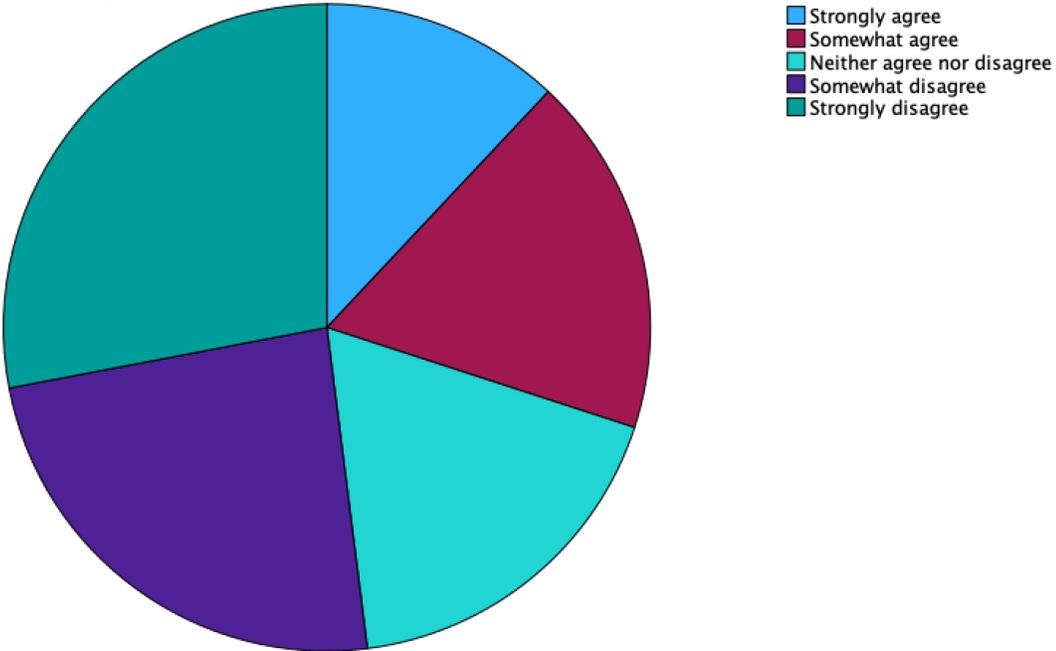
Please indicate your level of agreement with each of the following statements. – I believe the presence of food trucks would provide diversity in the type of food offerings that could be made available to Lawrence–Douglas County community members.



Please indicate your level of agreement with each of the following statements. – I believe that the presence of food trucks in Lawrence–Douglas County would align with the City of Lawrence's Strategic Plan Goal to promote prosperity and economic security among individuals and businesses.

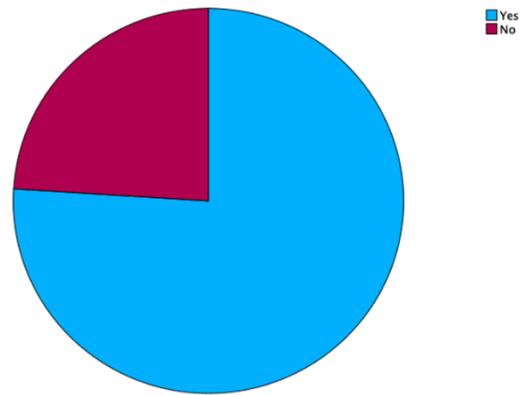


Please indicate your level of agreement with each of the following statements. – I believe food trucks will negatively impact revenue in Lawrence's "brick and mortar" restaurants.



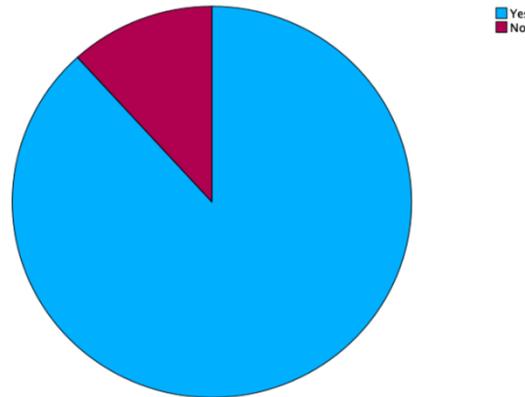
**Question 2: As a local producer in Lawrence-Douglas County, would you be interested in selling your product(s) (produce, protein, good) to food trucks operating in our community?**

- Yes = 74.5% (n = 38)
- No = 23.5% (n = 12)



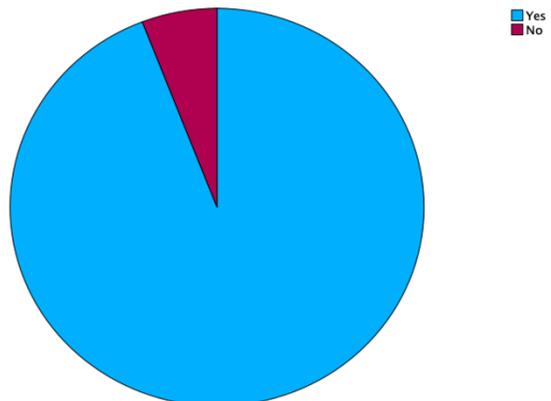
**Question 3: Do you believe that food truck owners operating in Lawrence-Douglas County should include local ingredients in their menus?**

- Yes = 88.2% (n = 45)
- No = 11.8% (n = 6)



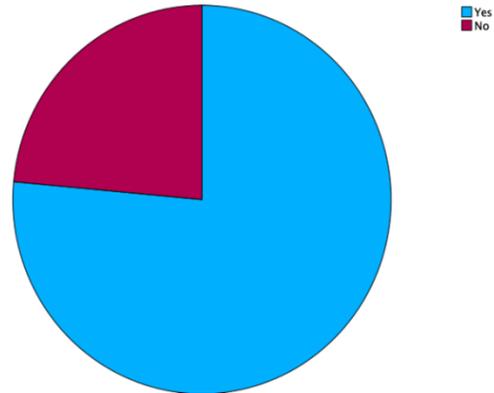
**Question 4: Do you believe that food trucks operating in Lawrence-Douglas County should develop partnerships with local producers?**

- Yes = 94.1% (n = 48)
- No = 5.9% (n = 3)



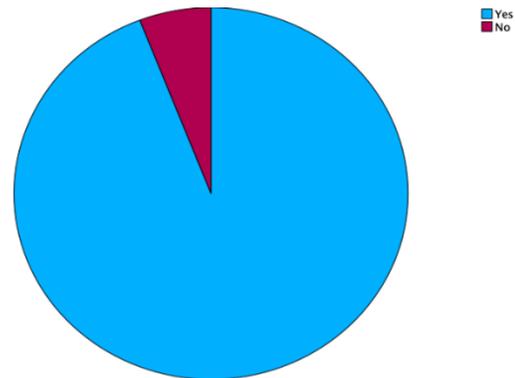
**Question 5: I have previously eaten food from a food truck in Lawrence-Douglas County.**

- Yes = 76.5% (n = 39)
- No = 23.5% (n = 12)



**Question 6: I would purchase and eat food from a food truck in Lawrence-Douglas County.**

- Yes = 94.1% (n = 48)
- No = 5.9% (n = 3)



**Question 7: Is there anything else you would like to share regarding your opinion of the presence of food trucks in Lawrence-Douglas County?**

- I don't live in Lawrence and I rarely work there now. All the food trucks I've visited in the last year have been in a smaller community in the county.
- Parking lot areas or side streets only. For Farmers' Market, the more the better. Maintain solid food-safety standards – but other than their location control, keep bureaucracy a meaningful minimum.
- Locally owned food trucks like local growers and producers help keep the local economy strong. This shows in wages to employees, income, property and sales taxes, and purchases of ingredients for their products. Food trucks are a good addition to farm tours, farmers markets, and other local events.
- I cook and sell prepared foods at the Lawrence Farmers Market. Food trucks are fine as long as they meet the same rules and regulations as the full time brick and mortar businesses.

There are vendors I have cooked with at events that do not adhere to safe cooking practices. Also are not sanitary. And very few access local products due to higher prices versus buying the cheapest products available. I also have sold meat for over 10 years that that we raise from birth to harvest and set next to other vendors that use what we raise and have never sold them anything. People don't work food trucks as a service. They do it to be profitable. They do that by buying the cheapest products available. We are the only vendors that sell what we produce. To buy and source locally available products would increase their cost of sales to where their point of sale would be so high it would be more difficult to be viable. With the state of the economy at this point it's real hard to be relevant.

- The public enjoys food trucks. Food trucks stimulate food diversity which attracts more people who then boost the economy which benefits producers, farmers and ranchers. Food trucks should be encouraged to support local food producers as a win-win for the community.
- There need to be vegetarian options, not just greasy meat.
- Food trucks with low overhead can help reduce the effects of inflation.
- I actually used to be the co-owner of the purple carrot a food truck that specialized in local food. We would partner with local producers and it was a great opportunity for us and then, however we also do remember having many difficult times managing red tape around selling through food truck and often not being able to sell at all. Whenever we did sell locally produced food people liked and respected that.
- I have lived all over the world and in the U.S. Food trucks are a welcome inclusion providing diversity of food choices and creates fair economic playing field for all. I have owned brick and mortar restaurants overseas and here in the US. If as a brick-and-mortar food business I am concerned about food trucks taking my business then I need to up and perfect my own business first.
- Food trucks are great for getting community involvement.
- I would like to see more food trucks with healthier food options.
- Food trucks should not be within miles of downtown.
- I think they'd be great, but knock of the nonsense re: diversity, and local producer partnerships. Neither have anything to do with the idea of food trucks as a viable place to eat and a benefit of providing more choices to patrons.

### Local Community Survey

The survey for local Douglas County community members consisted of nine questions (see Appendix B). The survey was distributed using a QR code that was provided at various tabling events in Douglas County. A total of 112 surveys were received, but only 99 are included in the final analysis. The results for each of the survey questions are included below.

**Question 1: Please indicate your level of concern with each of the following issues regarding the operation of food trucks in Lawrence-Douglas County.**

Statement	Not at all concerned	Slightly concerned	Somewhat concerned	Moderately concerned	Extremely concerned
Health/sanitation	29.3% (n = 29)	29.3% (n = 29)	15.2% (n = 15)	16.2% (n = 16)	10.1% (n = 10)
Traffic	59.6% (n = 59)	19.2% (n = 19)	16.2% (n = 16)	4.0% (n = 4)	1.0% (n = 1)
Competition/fairness with established restaurants	68.7% (n = 68)	17.2% (n = 17)	10.1% (n = 10)	4.0% (n = 4)	
Noise	68.7% (n = 68)	20.2% (n = 20)	8.1% (n = 8)		3.0% (n = 3)
Ensuring operators have a property owner's permission	27.4% (n = 27)	18.2% (n = 18)	19.2% (n = 19)	18.2% (n = 18)	16.2% (n = 16)
Hours of operation	65.7% (n = 65)	19.2% (n = 19)	8.1% (n = 8)	4.0% (n = 4)	2.0% (n = 2)
Number of food trucks operating per site	69.7% (n = 69)	15.2% (n = 15)	11.1% (n = 11)	3.0% (n = 3)	
Other, please explain:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Ability of food entrepreneurs to operate</li> <li>▪ Air quality from generators</li> <li>▪ Diversity and quality of offerings</li> <li>▪ I think food trucks are a great option for small business owners to survive without the overhead of a restaurant. I just want them to be permitted and inspected.</li> </ul>				

**Question 2: Please indicate where you believe food trucks should be allowed to operate in Lawrence-Douglas County.**

Location	Yes	No
On private property	86.9% (n = 86)	10.1% (n = 10)
On public streets	86.9% (n = 86)	11.1% (n = 11)
Commercial areas	100.0% (n = 99)	

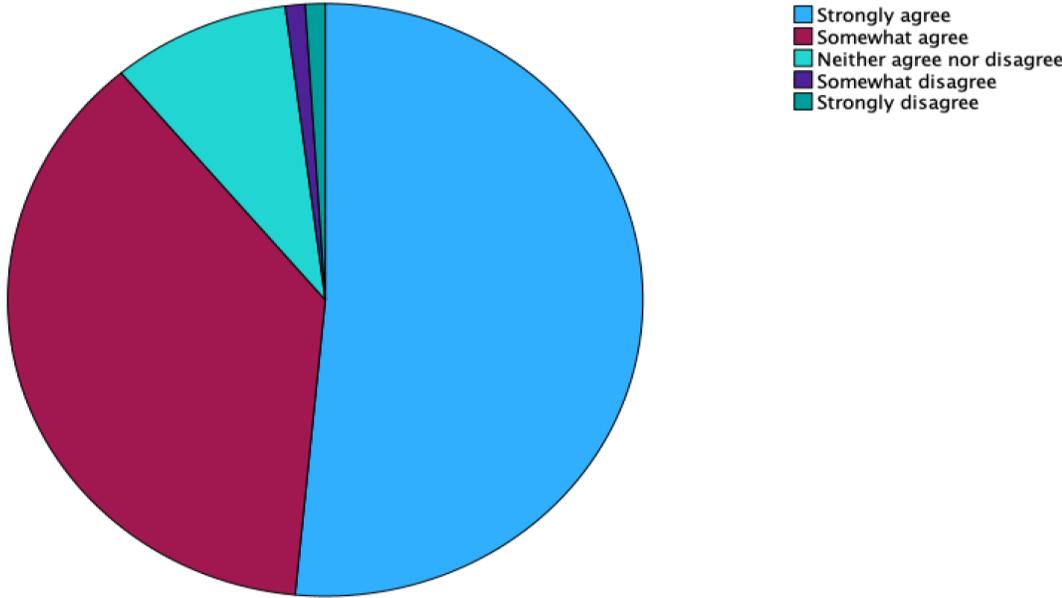
Industrial/office complexes	98.0% (n = 97)	2.0% (n = 2)
Public parks	91.9% (n = 91)	7.1% (n = 7)
Near schools	70.7% (n = 70)	26.3% (n = 26)
Residential neighborhoods	55.6% (n = 55)	39.4% (n = 39)
Other, please explain:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Anywhere the property owner is comfortable with and that health department regulations can be followed.</li> <li>▪ I want one by the levee</li> <li>▪ IF...events are occurring surrounding them being on location. BUT...curtailing randomness by invitation/permit</li> <li>▪ In parking lots</li> <li>▪ On Mass St</li> <li>▪ Outside the pool/parks around the pool</li> <li>▪ Parks</li> <li>▪ Private property with permission from owner and neighbor</li> <li>▪ Public gatherings</li> <li>▪ There are clearly capacity concerns anywhere but there doesn't seem to be anywhere that food trucks are completely banned</li> </ul>	

**Question 3: Please indicate your level of agreement with each of the following statements.**

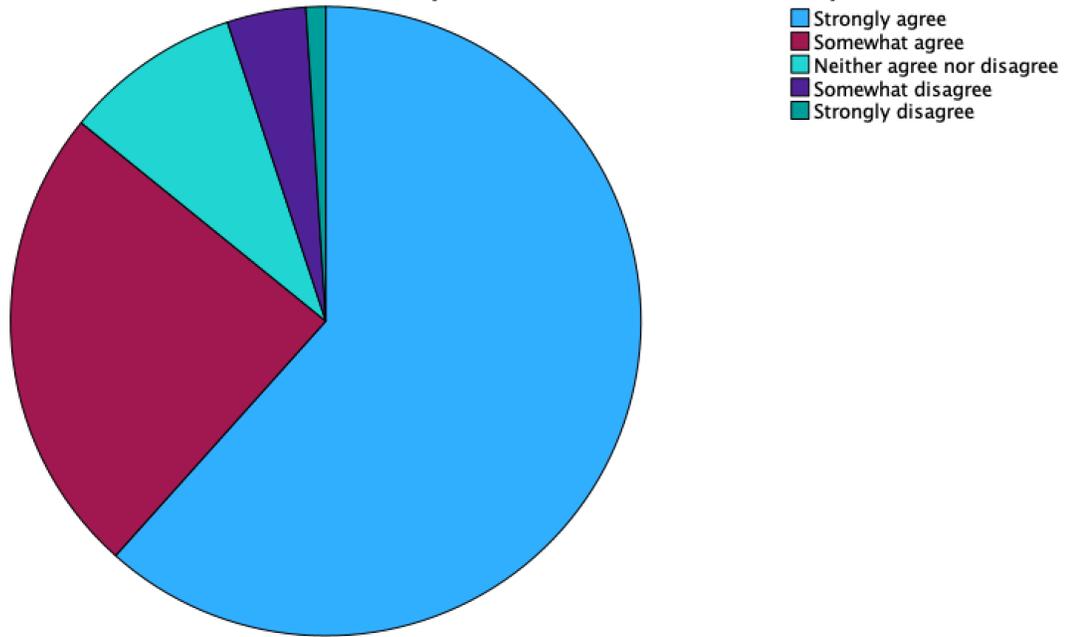
Statement	Strongly agree	Somewhat Agree	Neither agree or disagree	Somewhat Disagree	Strongly disagree
I believe the presence of food trucks would increase Lawrence-Douglas County's desirableness as a place to live, work, or start a business.	51.5% (n = 51)	37.4% (n = 37)	9.1% (n = 9)	1.0% (n = 1)	1.0% (n = 1)
I believe the presence of food trucks would promote equity and inclusion in Lawrence-Douglas County among small business owners and entrepreneurs within the food industry.	61.6% (n = 61)	24.2% (n = 24)	9.1% (n = 9)	4.0% (n = 4)	1.0% (n = 1)

I believe the presence of food trucks would provide diversity in the type of food offerings that could be made available to Lawrence-Douglas County community members	66.7% (n = 66)	28.3% (n = 28)	3.0% (n = 3)	1.0% (n = 1)	1.0% (n = 1)
I believe that the presence of food trucks in Lawrence-Douglas County would align with the City of Lawrence’s Strategic Plan Goal <i>to promote prosperity and economic security among individuals and businesses.</i>	55.6% (n = 55)	32.3% (n = 32)	9.1% (n = 9)	1.0% (n = 1)	1.0% (n = 1)
I believe food trucks will negatively impact revenue in Lawrence-Douglas County’s “brick and mortar” restaurants.	1.0% (n = 1)	12.1% (n = 12)	10.1% (n = 10)	40.4% (n = 40)	35.4% (n = 35)

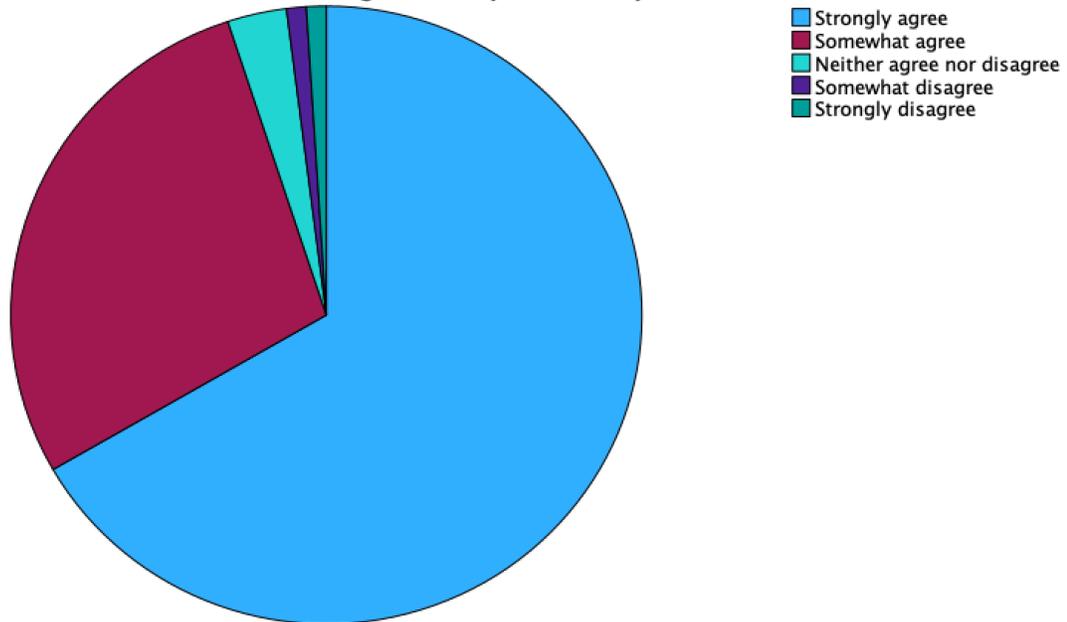
**Please indicate your level of agreement with each of the following statements. – I believe the presence of food trucks would increase Lawrence–Douglas–County’s desirableness as a place to live, work, or start a business.**



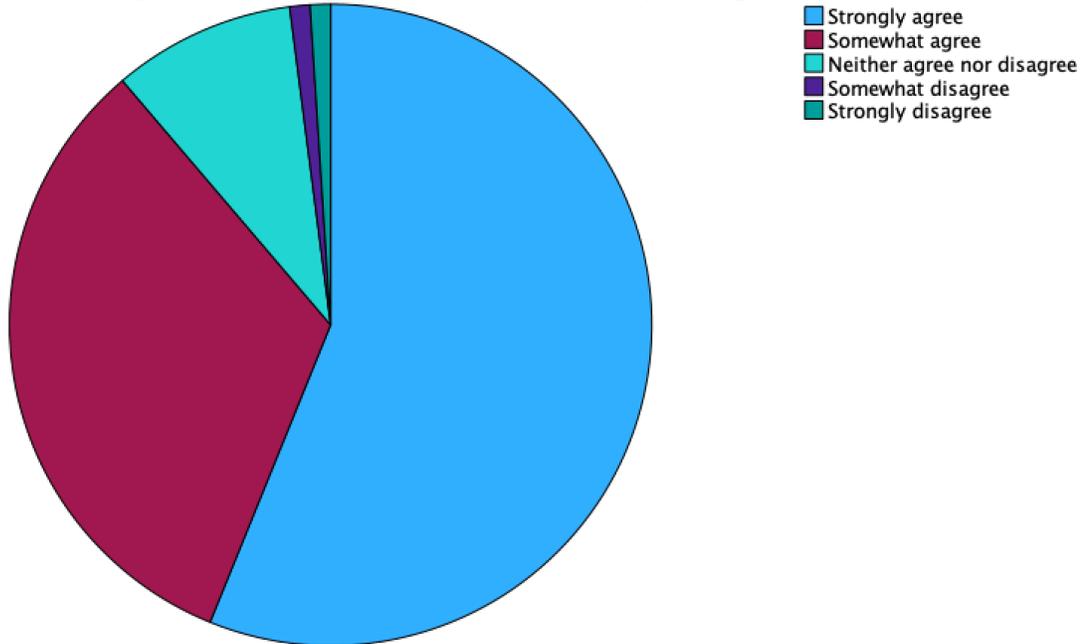
Please indicate your level of agreement with each of the following statements. – I believe the presence of food trucks would promote equity and inclusion in Lawrence–Douglas County among small business owners and entrepreneurs within the food industry.



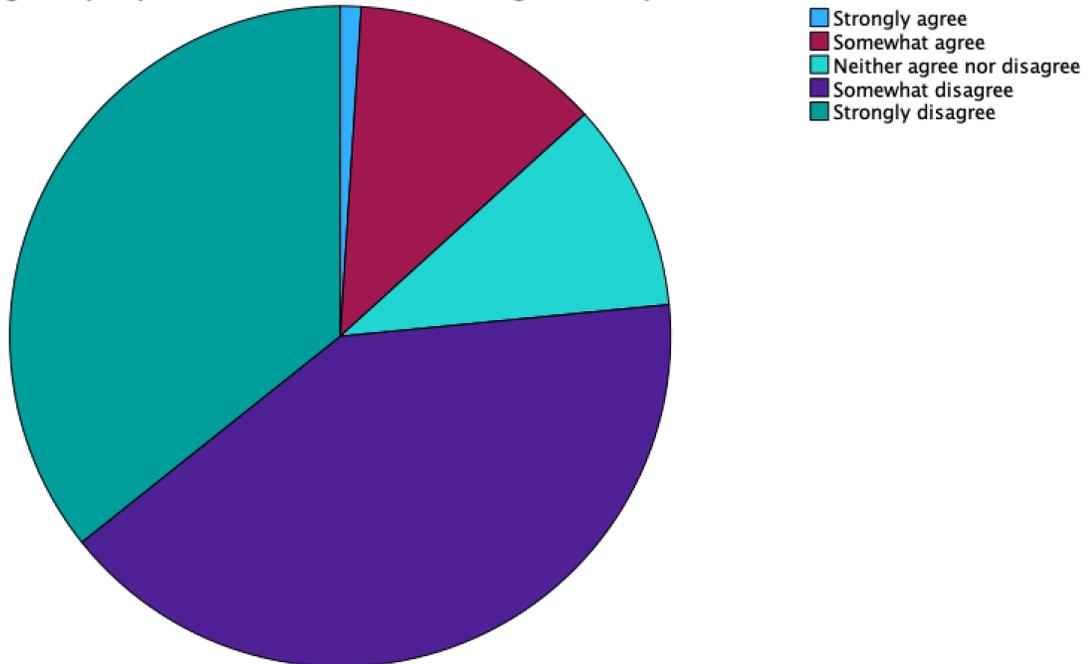
Please indicate your level of agreement with each of the following statements. – I believe the presence of food trucks would provide diversity in the type of food offerings that could be made available to Lawrence–Douglas County community members.



Please indicate your level of agreement with each of the following statements. – I believe that the presence of food trucks in Lawrence–Douglas County would align with the City of Lawrence's Strategic Plan Goal to promote prosperity and economic security among individuals and businesses.



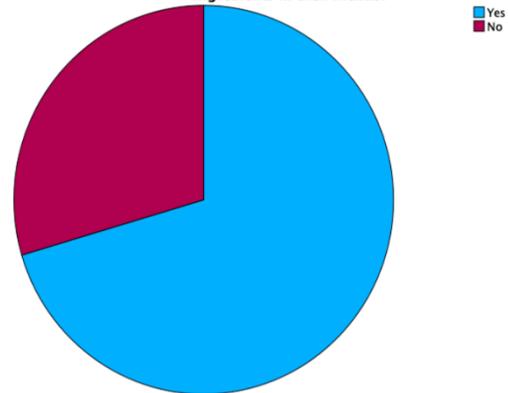
Please indicate your level of agreement with each of the following statements. – I believe food trucks will negatively impact revenue in Lawrence–Douglas County's "brick and mortar" restaurants.



**Question 4: Do you believe that food trucks operating in Lawrence-Douglas County should include local ingredients in their menus?**

- Yes = 69.7% (n = 69)
- No = 29.3% (n = 29)

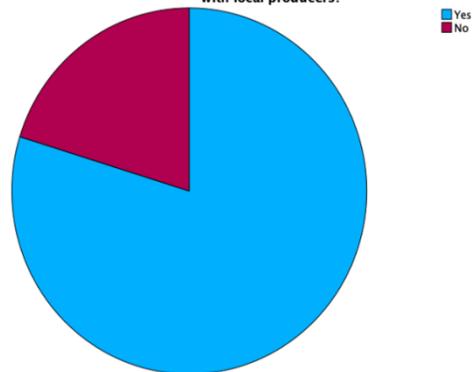
Do you believe that food trucks operating in Lawrence-Douglas County should include local ingredients in their menus?



**Question 5: Do you believe that food trucks operating in Lawrence-Douglas County should develop partnerships with local producers?**

- Yes = 79.8% (n = 79)
- No = 20.2% (n = 20)

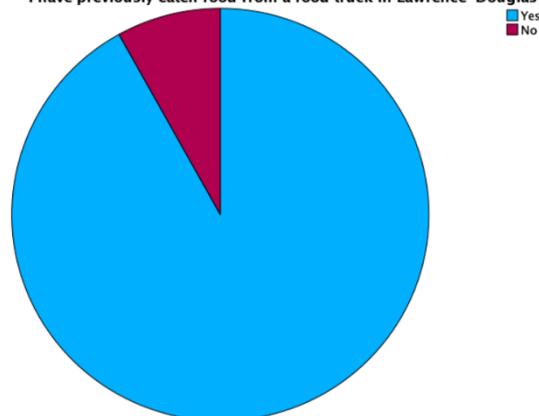
Do you believe that food trucks operating in Lawrence-Douglas County should develop partnerships with local producers?



**Question 6: I have previously eaten food from a food truck in Lawrence-Douglas County.**

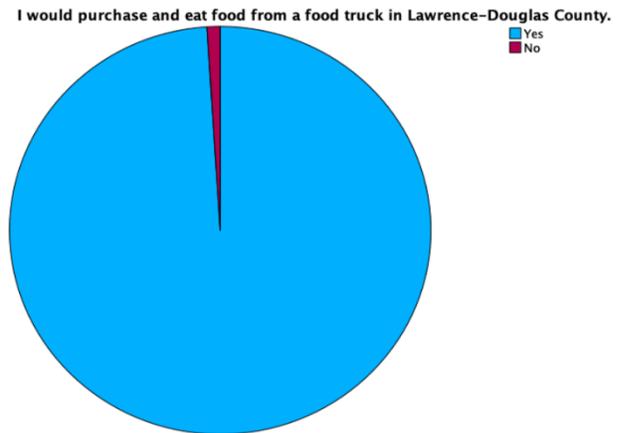
- Yes = 91.9% (n = 91)
- No = 8.1% (n = 8)

I have previously eaten food from a food truck in Lawrence-Douglas County.



**Question 7: I would purchase and eat food from a food truck in Lawrence-Douglas County.**

- Yes = 98.0% (n = 98)
- No = 1.0% (n = 1)



**Question 8: Is there anything else you would like to share regarding your opinion of the presence of food trucks in Lawrence-Douglas County?**

- Make sure they pick and haul away their trash.
- While I said yes that food trucks should use local ingredients and should develop local relationships, I don't think that should be a requirement.
- If you legislate their expenses (where they purchase their ingredients) you may force them out of business.
- Need more of them.
- I don't think trucks should be required to use local ingredients or develop relationships with local producers, but I would LIKE them to do both.
- I think making it easier is a good thing for small businesses.
- I am generally in favor of more food trucks in Lawrence but the idea of them operating on residential streets is reprehensible
- KU really, really needs food trucks. The campus has few food options.
- Let them operate for longer periods of time.
- Garden City has plugs for food trucks which gets rid of the noise from generators. It would be great to build that into our parks and the new Farmers Market permanent location.
- On the subject of whether trucks should use local ingredients: well, sure if it makes sense. But trucks should not be excluded just because they aren't using local ingredients.
- The only thing I don't like about them is the noise from the generators. Otherwise they seem like a good way for people to start a small business.
- Could be a great Late Night option
- Local ingredients/partnerships are desirable but should NOT be a requirement to operate
- It would be nice if there was a designated space for food trucks in the city
- Noise is the biggest concern. Some are quite loud and because of the noise are unpleasantly disruptive to everything going on around them.
- I think it's a great idea to have more food trucks available
- It isn't just food trucks that might negatively impact brick and mortar restaurants. Businesses are all, by nature, in competition. Let's not single out food trucks.
- If trucks are on public property they should have a "parking fee" for the day.
- More of it at festivals
- Food truck hub!

- I've always been confused about why Lawrence doesn't have more food trucks, and assumed it's because we have major restrictions on their operation. I love visiting cities with thriving food truck scenes and I think it lends so much life and excitement to a city to have them operating. With commercial space renting for prices that are out of reach for most people, we need more options for flexibility!

### Local Restaurant Manager/Owner Survey

Members of the Local Restaurant Association (LRA) were invited to participate in the survey. Twenty-two managers/owners responded to the survey. This survey consisted of a total of nine questions (see Appendix C), and the results for each question are summarized below.

### **Question 1: Please indicate your level of concern with each of the following issues regarding the operation of food trucks in Lawrence-Douglas County.**

<b>Statement</b>	<b>Not at all concerned</b>	<b>Slightly concerned</b>	<b>Somewhat concerned</b>	<b>Moderately concerned</b>	<b>Extremely concerned</b>
Health/sanitation	27.3% (n = 6)	27.3% (n = 6)	9.1% (n = 2)	9.1% (n = 2)	22.7% (n = 5)
Traffic	45.5% (n = 10)	4.5% (n = 1)	27.3% (n = 6)	9.1% (n = 2)	9.1% (n = 2)
Competition/fairness with established restaurants	45.5% (n = 10)	18.2% (n = 4)	13.6% (n = 3)		18.2% (n = 4)
Noise	54.5% (n = 12)	13.6% (n = 3)	18.2% (n = 4)	4.5% (n = 1)	4.5% (n = 1)
Ensuring operators have a property owner's permission	22.7% (n = 5)	36.4% (n = 8)	4.5% (n = 1)	13.6% (n = 3)	18.2% (n = 4)
Hours of operation	59.1% (n = 13)	13.6% (n = 3)	4.5% (n = 1)	4.5% (n = 1)	4.5% (n = 1)
Number of food trucks operating per site	59.1% (n = 13)	4.5% (n = 1)	13.6% (n = 3)		9.1% (n = 2)
Other, please explain:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ A three-hour limit on operation seems short</li> <li>▪ Are they paying taxes?</li> <li>▪ We need more</li> </ul>				

**Question 2: Please indicate where you believe food trucks should be allowed to operate in Lawrence-Douglas County.**

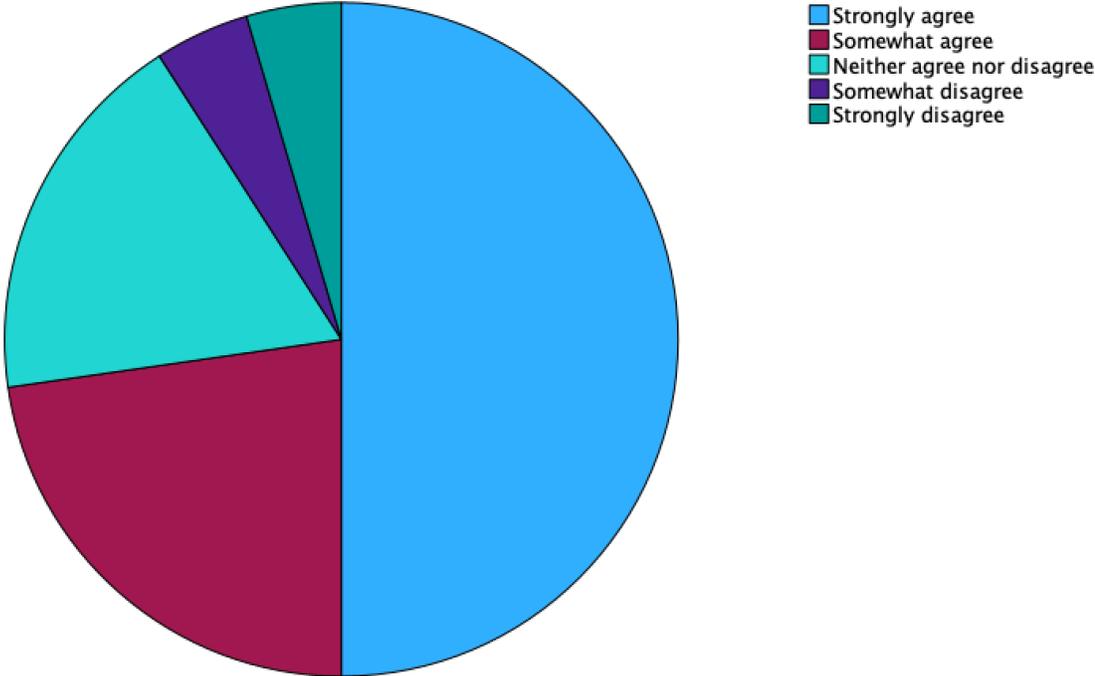
Location	Yes	No
On private property	95.5% (n = 21)	4.5% (n = 1)
On public streets	68.2% (n = 15)	22.7% (n = 5)
Commercial areas	81.8% (n = 18)	13.6% (n = 3)
Industrial/office complexes	100.0% (n = 22)	
Public parks	77.3% (n = 17)	18.2% (n = 4)
Near schools	68.2% (n = 15)	27.3% (n = 6)
Residential neighborhoods	59.1% (n = 13)	36.4% (n = 8)
Other, please explain:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Any area where they aren't obstructing activity for that area</li> <li>▪ Campus</li> <li>▪ City parking space with permission</li> <li>▪ Downtown</li> <li>▪ During major local events</li> </ul>	

**Question 3: Please indicate your level of agreement with each of the following statements.**

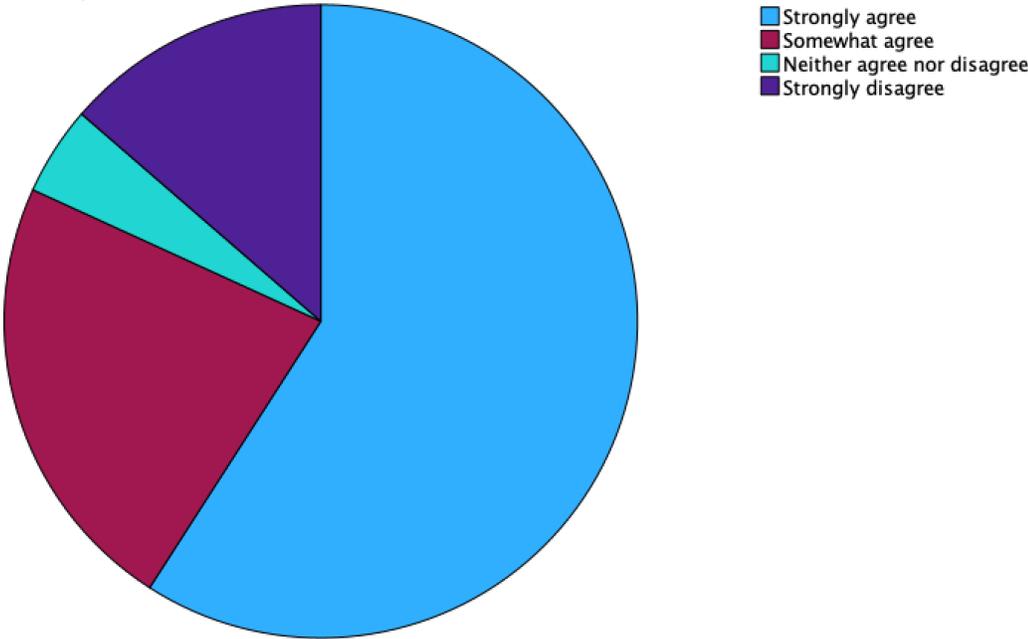
Statement	Strongly agree	Somewhat Agree	Neither agree or disagree	Somewhat Disagree	Strongly disagree
I believe the presence of food trucks would increase Lawrence-Douglas County's desirableness as a place to live, work, or start a business.	50.0% (n = 11)	22.7% (n = 5)	18.2% (n = 4)	4.5% (n = 1)	4.5% (n = 1)
I believe the presence of food trucks would promote equity and inclusion in Lawrence-Douglas County among small business	59.1% (n = 13)	22.7% (n = 5)	4.5% (n = 1)		13.6% (n = 3)

owners and entrepreneurs within the food industry.					
I believe the presence of food trucks would provide diversity in the type of food offerings that could be made available to Lawrence-Douglas County community members	54.5% (n = 12)	18.2% (n = 4)	13.6% (n = 3)		13.6% (n = 3)
I believe that the presence of food trucks in Lawrence-Douglas County would align with the City of Lawrence’s Strategic Plan Goal <i>to promote prosperity and economic security among individuals and businesses.</i>	59.1% (n = 13)	13.6% (n = 3)	4.5% (n = 1)	9.1% (n = 2)	13.6% (n = 3)
I believe food trucks will negatively impact revenue in Lawrence-Douglas County’s “brick and mortar” restaurants.	18.2% (n = 4)	18.2% (n = 4)	9.1% (n = 2)	18.2% (n = 4)	36.4% (n = 8)

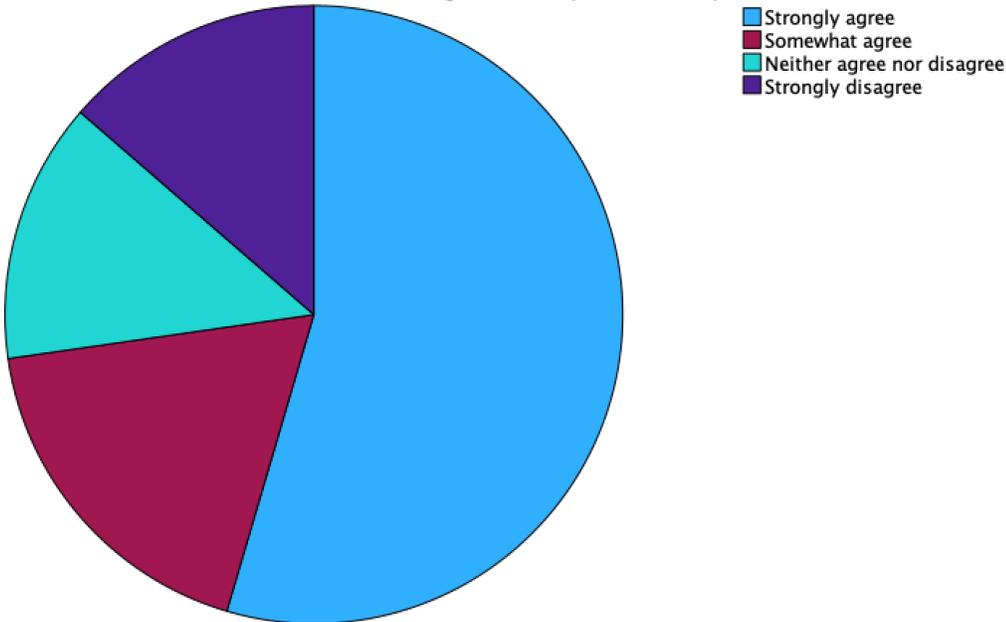
**Please indicate your level of agreement with each of the following statements. – I believe the presence of food trucks would increase Lawrence–Douglas County’s desirableness as a place to live, work, or start a business.**



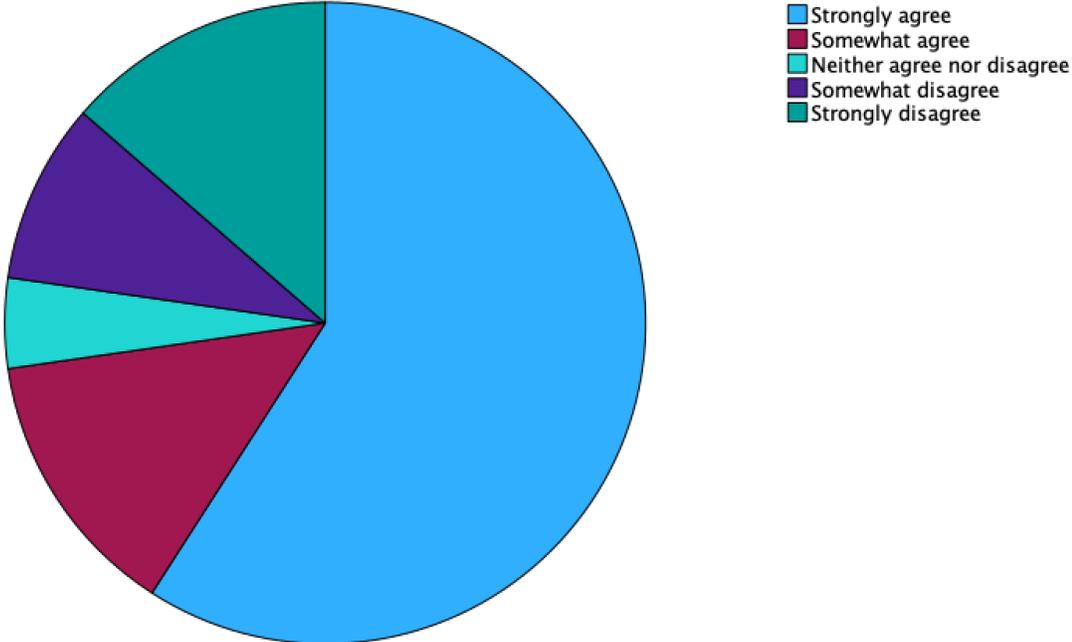
**Please indicate your level of agreement with each of the following statements. – I believe the presence of food trucks would promote equity and inclusion in Lawrence–Douglas County among small business owners and entrepreneurs within the food industry.**



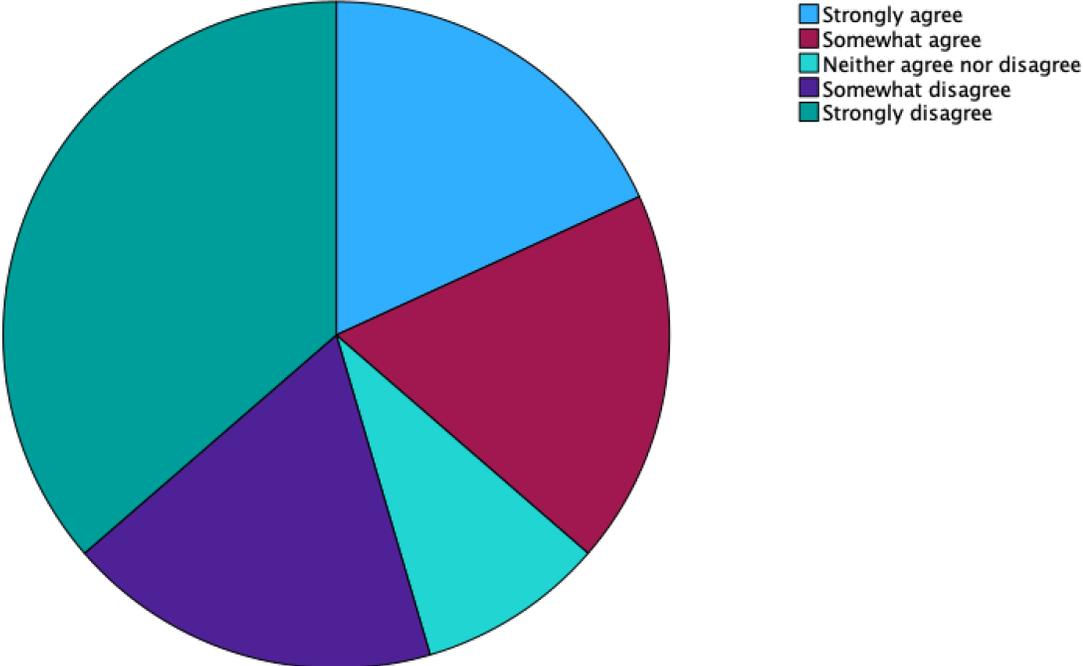
**Please indicate your level of agreement with each of the following statements. – I believe the presence of food trucks would provide diversity in the type of food offerings that could be made available to Lawrence–Douglas County community members.**



**Please indicate your level of agreement with each of the following statements. – I believe that the presence of food trucks in Lawrence–Douglas County would align with the City of Lawrence's Strategic Plan Goal to promote prosperity and economic security among individuals and businesses.**



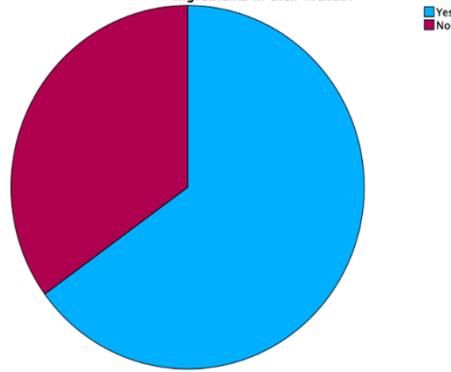
**Please indicate your level of agreement with each of the following statements. – I believe food trucks will negatively impact revenue in Lawrence–Douglas County's "brick and mortar" restaurants.**



**Question 4: Do you believe that food trucks operating in Lawrence-Douglas County should include local ingredients in their menus?**

- Yes = 59.1% (n = 13)
- No = 31.8% (n = 7)

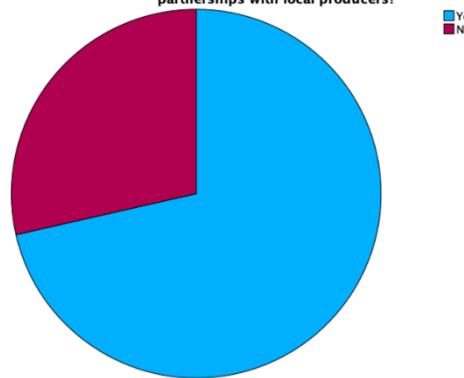
Do you believe that food trucks operating in Lawrence-Douglas County should include local ingredients in their menus?



**Question 5: Do you believe that food trucks operating in Lawrence-Douglas County should develop partnerships with local producers?**

- Yes = 68.2% (n = 15)
- No = 27.3% (n = 6)

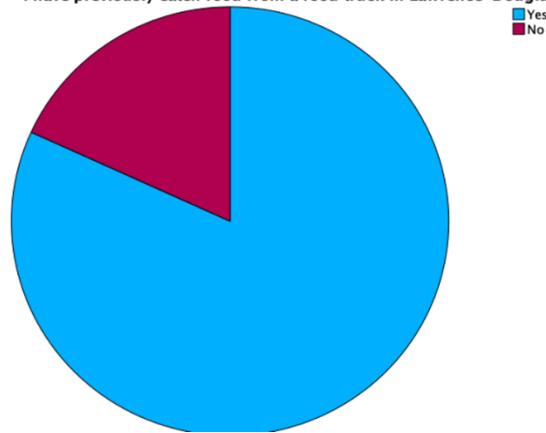
Do you believe that food trucks operating in Lawrence-Douglas County should develop partnerships with local producers?



**Question 6: I have previously eaten food from a food truck in Lawrence-Douglas County.**

- Yes = 81.8% (n = 18)
- No = 18.2% (n = 4)

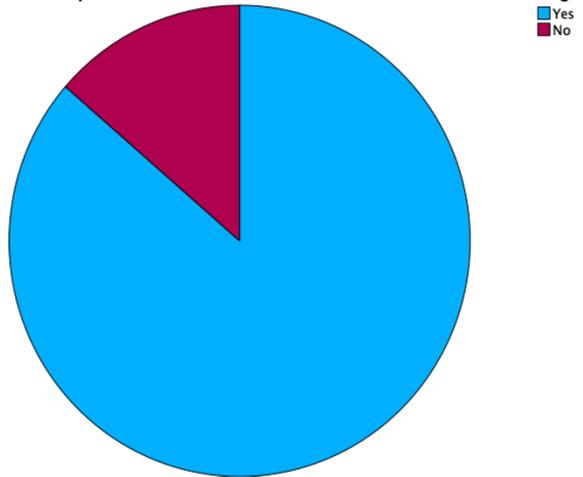
I have previously eaten food from a food truck in Lawrence-Douglas County.



**Question 7: I would purchase and eat food from a food truck in Lawrence-Douglas County.**

- Yes = 86.4% (n = 19)
- No = 13.6% (n = 3)

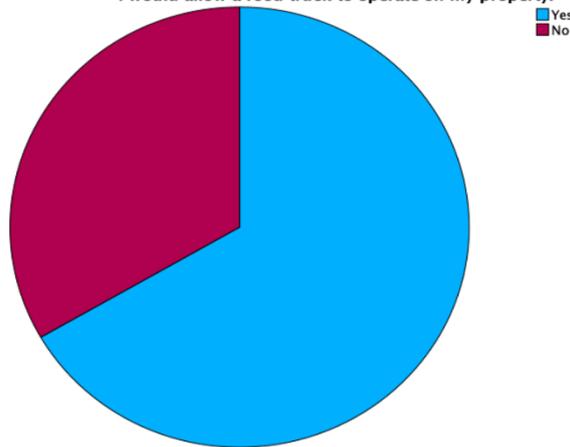
I would purchase and eat food from a food truck in Lawrence-Douglas County.



**Question 8: I would allow a food truck operate on my property.**

- Yes = 45.5% (n = 10)
- No = 22.7% (n = 5)

I would allow a food truck to operate on my property. to



**Question 9: Is there anything else you would like to share regarding your opinion of the presence of food trucks in Lawrence-Douglas County?**

- As a food business with a brick and mortar and mobile trailer, I have not operated my trailer in the public in Lawrence due to the expense and complicated process of licensing in Lawrence. I would love to offer my products there and explore if it would be a good market for another brick and mortar location as well. I think food trucks provide variety and new things to try while giving the public exposure to new businesses and allowing businesses to test the product in the Lawrence market.
- Food Trucks are a great way for beginning entrepreneurs to get their feet into the restaurant community. Typically they have lower overhead costs, than a brick and mortar, which will allow operates to grow their brand and hopefully grow into a brick and mortar, which could be a huge positive impact to the local economy.

- Post-covid we have to be so careful about protecting the brick and mortar investments. We often have events downtown on the weekends and when they're here we really take a hit. Food trucks don't pay the thousands we pay in property taxes and beyond, so the county should have an interest in making sure our brick and mortar investments are viable.
- I think they could be a great addition to experience based events in Douglas County, hopefully encouraging attendance from patrons outside of Lawrence.
- They increase diversity and accessibility
- How will you manage sanitation?
- Inspired restaurateurs should have an opportunity to provide their services without having to navigate the exorbitant rental requirements of Downtown Lawrence brick and mortar establishments. Also, since these businesses will be operating on a smaller scale, they will be more likely to purchase their products from local producers, rather than the conglomerates that most of the restaurants in Lawrence buy from (US Foods, Sysco etc). We support this potential in every way.
- Food trucks add to the variety of food offerings and style of service. I would like to try having a fellow business owner's food truck in a parking space adjacent to my downtown business in the evening hours. This would complement my business (bar) while supporting local businesses. I would like to rotate different food trucks on a schedule. Also this survey made me think about food trucks and residential neighborhoods and how that might work. Like an ice cream truck? Neighborhood event? I would favor both of those.
- They should be allowed to operate but need a "homebase" restaurant/depot for sanitation purposes and inspections

**Appendix D**

**Lawrence-Douglas County Food Truck Policy Survey**

*Community Survey*

**This survey is intended to explore local Lawrence-Douglas County community members’ perceptions of food trucks. Your participation in this survey is completely optional. This survey should take less than 5 minutes to complete.**

**1. Please indicate your level of concern with each of the following issues regarding the operation of food trucks in Lawrence-Douglas County.**

Statement	Not at all concerned	Slightly concerned	Somewhat concerned	Moderately concerned	Extremely concerned
Health/sanitation	1	2	3	4	5
Traffic	1	2	3	4	5
Competition/fairness with established restaurants	1	2	3	4	5
Noise	1	2	3	4	5
Ensuring operators have a property owner’s permission	1	2	3	4	5
Hours of operation	1	2	3	4	5
Number of food trucks operating per site	1	2	3	4	5
Other, please explain:					

**2. Please indicate where you believe food trucks should be allowed to operate in Lawrence-Douglas County.**

Location	Yes	No
On private property	1	2
On public streets	1	2

Commercial areas	1	2
Industrial/office complexes	1	2
Public parks	1	2
Near schools	1	2
Residential neighborhoods	1	2
Other, please explain:		

**3. Please indicate your level of agreement with each of the following statements.**

Statement	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree or disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree
I believe the presence of food trucks would increase Lawrence-Douglas County's desirableness as a place to live, work, or start a business.	1	2	3	4	5
I believe the presence of food trucks would promote equity and inclusion in Lawrence-Douglas County among small business owners and entrepreneurs within the food industry.	1	2	3	4	5
I believe the presence of food trucks would provide diversity in the type of food offerings that could be made available to Lawrence-Douglas County community members.	1	2	3	4	5
I believe that the presence of food trucks in Lawrence-Douglas County would align with the City of Lawrence's Strategic Plan Goal to <i>promote</i>	1	2	3	4	5

<i>prosperity and economic security among individuals and businesses.</i>					
I believe food trucks will negatively impact revenue in Lawrence-Douglas County’s “brick and mortar” restaurants.	1	2	3	4	5

**4. Do you believe that food trucks operating in Lawrence-Douglas County should include local ingredients in their menus?**

Yes       No

**5. Do you believe that food trucks operating in Lawrence-Douglas County should develop partnerships with local producers?**

Yes       No

**6. I have previously eaten food from a food truck in Lawrence-Douglas County.**

Yes       No

**7. I would purchase and eat food from a food truck in Lawrence-Douglas County.**

Yes       No

**8. Is there anything else you would like to share regarding your opinion of the presence of food trucks in Lawrence-Douglas County?**

**9. Please tell us the zip code where you live: \_\_\_\_\_**

**We thank you for your time spent taking this survey.**

**Your response has been recorded.**

## Lawrence-Douglas County Food Truck Policy Survey

### *Restaurant Owner/Manager Survey*

**This survey is intended to explore owners and managers of local restaurants’ current perceptions of food trucks in Lawrence-Douglas County. Your participation in this survey is completely optional. This survey should take less than 5 minutes to complete.**

**1. Please indicate your level of concern with each of the following issues regarding the operation of food trucks in Lawrence-Douglas County.**

Statement	Not at all concerned	Slightly concerned	Somewhat concerned	Moderately concerned	Extremely concerned
Health/sanitation	1	2	3	4	5
Traffic	1	2	3	4	5
Competition/fairness with established restaurants	1	2	3	4	5
Noise	1	2	3	4	5
Ensuring operators have a property owner’s permission	1	2	3	4	5
Hours of operation	1	2	3	4	5
Number of food trucks operating per site	1	2	3	4	5
Other, please explain:					

**2. Please indicate where you believe food trucks should be allowed to operate in Lawrence-Douglas County.**

Location	Yes	No
On private property	1	2
On public streets	1	2

Commercial areas	1	2
Industrial/office complexes	1	2
Public parks	1	2
Near schools	1	2
Residential neighborhoods	1	2
Other, please explain:		

**3. Please indicate your level of agreement with each of the following statements.**

Statement	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree or disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree
I believe the presence of food trucks would increase Lawrence-Douglas County’s desirableness as a place to live, work, or start a business.	1	2	3	4	5
I believe the presence of food trucks would promote equity and inclusion in Lawrence-Douglas County among small business owners and entrepreneurs within the food industry.	1	2	3	4	5
I believe the presence of food trucks would provide diversity in the type of food offerings that could be made available to Lawrence-Douglas County community members.	1	2	3	4	5
I believe that the presence of food trucks in Lawrence-Douglas County would align with the City of Lawrence’s Strategic Plan Goal <i>to promote prosperity and economic security</i>	1	2	3	4	5

<i>among individuals and businesses.</i>					
I believe food trucks will negatively impact revenue in Lawrence-Douglas County’s “brick and mortar” restaurants.	1	2	3	4	5

**4. Do you believe that food trucks operating in Lawrence-Douglas County should include local ingredients in their menus?**

Yes       No

**5. Do you believe that food trucks operating in Lawrence-Douglas County should develop partnerships with local producers?**

Yes       No

**6. I have previously eaten food from a food truck in Lawrence-Douglas County.**

Yes       No

**7. I would purchase and eat food from a food truck in Lawrence-Douglas County.**

Yes       No

**8. I would allow a food truck to operate on my property.**

Yes       No       Not applicable

**9. Is there anything else you would like to share regarding your opinion of the presence of food trucks in Lawrence-Douglas County**

**We thank you for your time spent taking this survey.**

**Your response has been recorded.**

## Lawrence-Douglas County Food Truck Policy Survey

### *Local Producers Survey*

**This survey is intended to explore Lawrence-Douglas County local producers’ perceptions of food trucks. Your participation in this survey is completely optional. This survey should take less than 5 minutes to complete.**

**1. Please indicate your level of agreement with each of the following statements.**

Statement	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree or disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree
I believe the presence of food trucks would increase Lawrence-Douglas County’s desirableness as a place to live, work, or start a business.	1	2	3	4	5
I believe the presence of food trucks in Lawrence-Douglas County would benefit <b>local producers</b> by increasing opportunities for partnership and additional revenue.	1	2	3	4	5
I believe the presence of food trucks would promote equity and inclusion in Lawrence-Douglas County among small business owners and entrepreneurs within the food industry.	1	2	3	4	5
I believe the presence of food trucks would provide diversity in the type of food offerings that could be made available to Lawrence-Douglas County community members.	1	2	3	4	5
I believe that the presence of food trucks in Lawrence-Douglas County would align with the City of Lawrence’s Strategic Plan Goal <i>to promote prosperity and economic security among individuals and businesses.</i>	1	2	3	4	5

I believe food trucks will negatively impact revenue in Lawrence-Douglas County's "brick and mortar" restaurants.	1	2	3	4	5
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**2. As a local producer in Lawrence-Douglas County, would you be interested in selling your product(s) (produce, protein, good) to food trucks operating in our community?**

Yes       No

**3. Do you believe that food truck owners operating in Lawrence-Douglas County should include local ingredients in their menus?**

Yes       No

**4. Do you believe that food trucks operating in Lawrence-Douglas County should develop partnerships with local producers?**

Yes       No

**5. I have previously eaten food from a food truck in Lawrence-Douglas County.**

Yes       No

**6. I would purchase and eat food from a food truck in Lawrence-Douglas County.**

Yes       No

**7. Is there anything else you would like to share regarding your opinion of the presence of food trucks in Lawrence-Douglas County?**

**We thank you for your time spent taking this survey.**

**Your response has been recorded.**