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# The Power of Produce 2015

An in-depth look at the produce department  
through the shoppers' eyes

Presented by:

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Sherry Frey | The Nielsen Perishable Group





## The FMI Fresh Executive Committee

**John Ruane (Chair)**

Ahold USA

**Rick Steigerwald (Co-Chair)**

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**Tom DeVries (Past Chair)**

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Meijer, Inc.

**Geoff Waldau**

Food Lion

**Blaine Bringhurst\***

Price Chopper Supermarkets

**Steve Mayer\***

Schnuck Markets, Inc.

**Nicole Wegman\***

Wegmans Food Markets, Inc.



THE VOICE OF FOOD RETAIL

\* Silent members Feeding Families  Enriching Lives



## The FMI Fresh Foods Leadership Council

### **John Ruane (Co-Chair)**

Ahold USA

### **Rick Steigerwald (Co-Chair)**

Lund Food Holdings, Inc.

### **Chris Dubois**

IRi

### **Michael Eardley**

International Dairy-Deli-Bakery Association

### **Jim Ethridge**

National Cattleman's Beef Association

### **Sherry Frey**

Nielsen Perishables Group

### **Paul Mastronardi**

Mastronardi Produce

### **Glen Dolezal**

Cargill

### **Jeff Oberman**

United Fresh Produce Association

### **Janet Riley**

North American Meat Institute

### **Tristan Simpson**

Ready Pac Foods, Inc.

### **Tom Super**

National Chicken Council

### **Jarrod Sutton**

National Pork Board

### **Joe Watson**

Produce Marketing Association

### **Joe Weber**

Smithfield Foods Inc.

### **Art Yerecic**

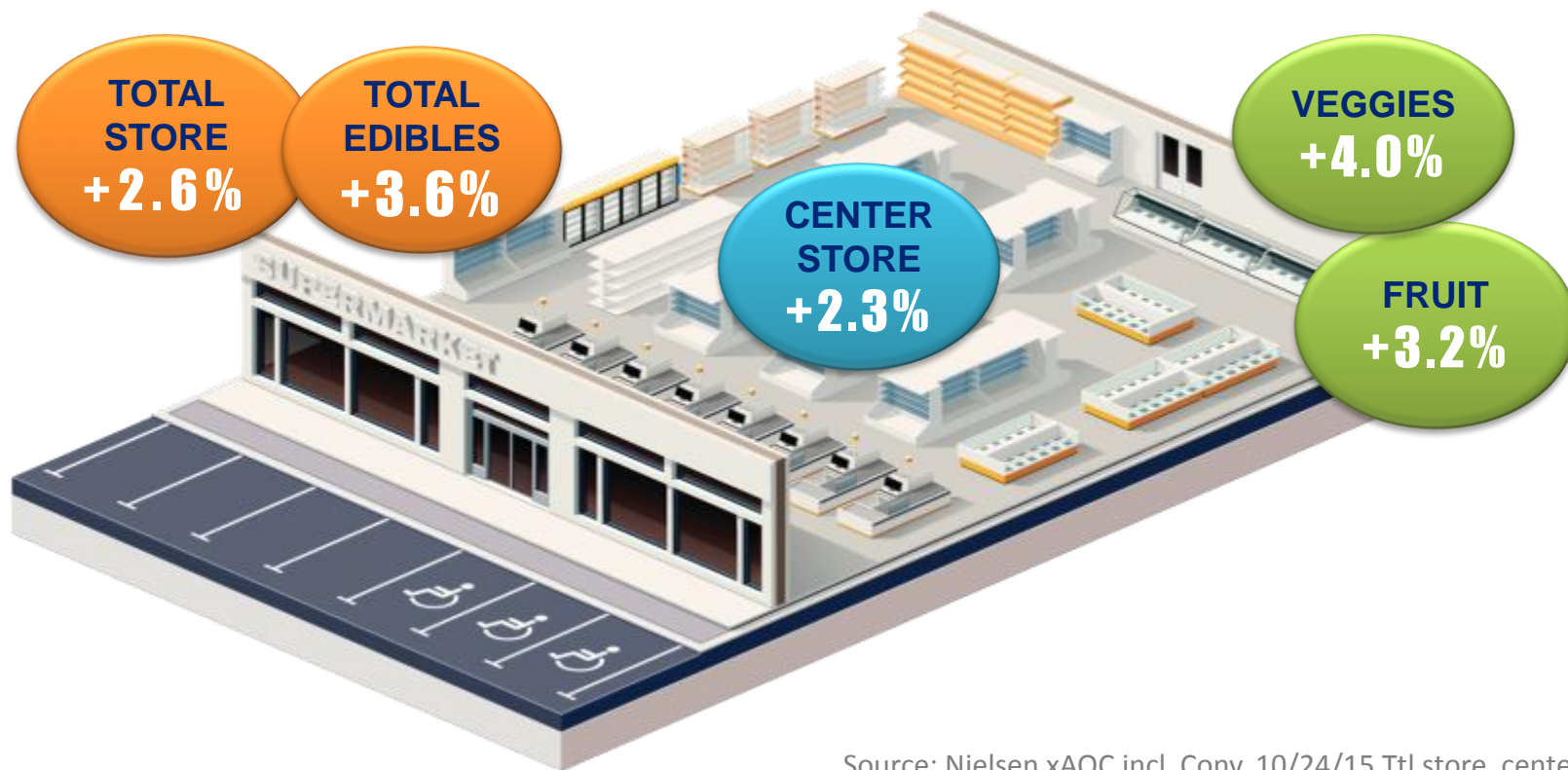
Yerecic Label



# The big business of produce

- **Differentiation**  
Focus on fresh is the most used & effective tactic
- **Profitable**  
Highest sales per labor hour | Lowest perishable shrink
- **Big**  
**100%** household penetration  
**45 trips** annually | **\$320** spend per year  
**\$63B** business
- **Growing**  
In conventional, organic and value added







# Today's agenda

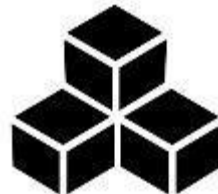
MEGA TRENDS



PRE-TRIP  
PLANNING



PURCHASING  
DECISION



CHANNEL  
CHOICE



CONSUMPTION  
& PREPARATION



MILLENNIAL  
OPPORTUNITY



PARENT  
OPPORTUNITY



IMPROVING THE  
PRODUCE DPT





Local

Organic

# **MEGA TRENDS — THEY INFLUENCE ALL OF US**



# Local is a game winner

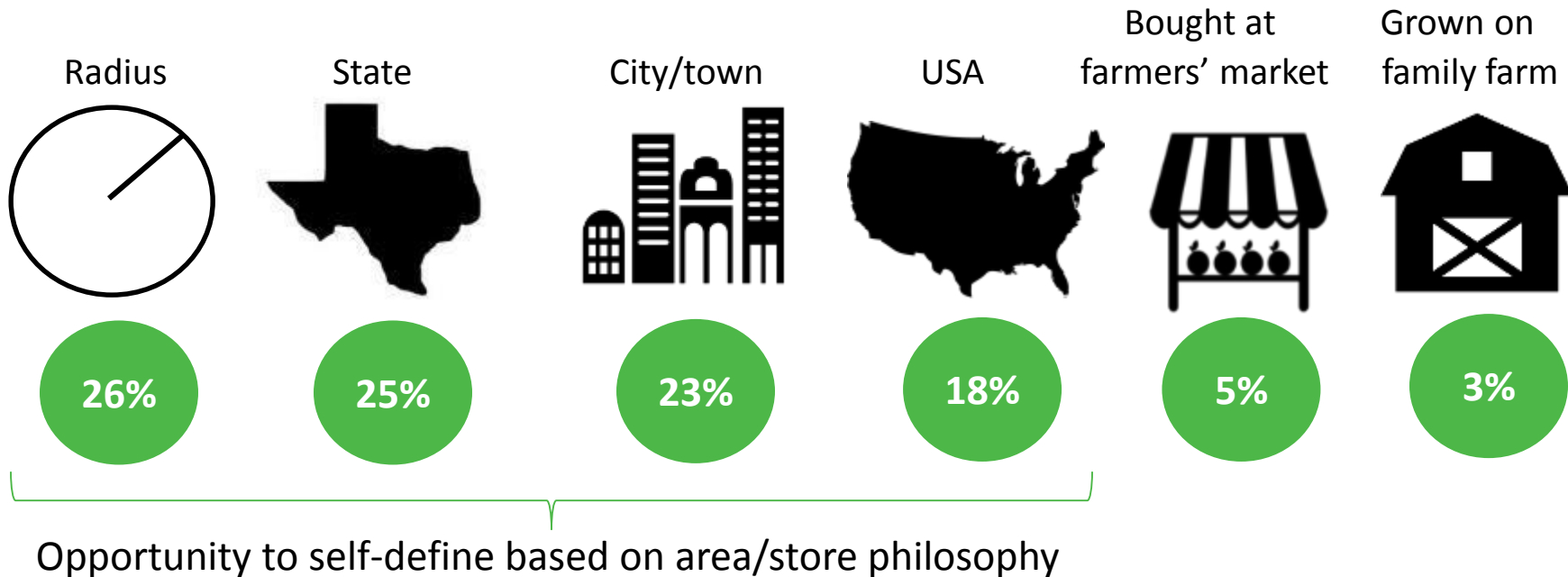
- **48%** buy food items *specifically* for being local
- **Top requested items:** fruit and vegetables
- **Key buying reasons:**
  - Freshness
  - Support of the local economy/farmers
- **58%** are very interested in more local produce items







# So... what is locally-sourced produce?





# THE POWER OF PRODUCE 2015

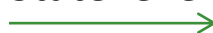
A



Hyper local



State level





# THE POWER OF PRODUCE 2015

A







# How about local versus organic?

Choice if equal quality;  
no price differential



8%



66%



26%

Farmers market  
shoppers

3%

81%

17%

Organic shoppers

3%

57%

40%



# How about local versus organic?

Choice if equal quality;  
with price differential



\$1.99

**31%**



\$2.39

**51%**



\$2.99

**18%**

Farmers market  
shoppers

18%

65%

17%

Organic shoppers

20%

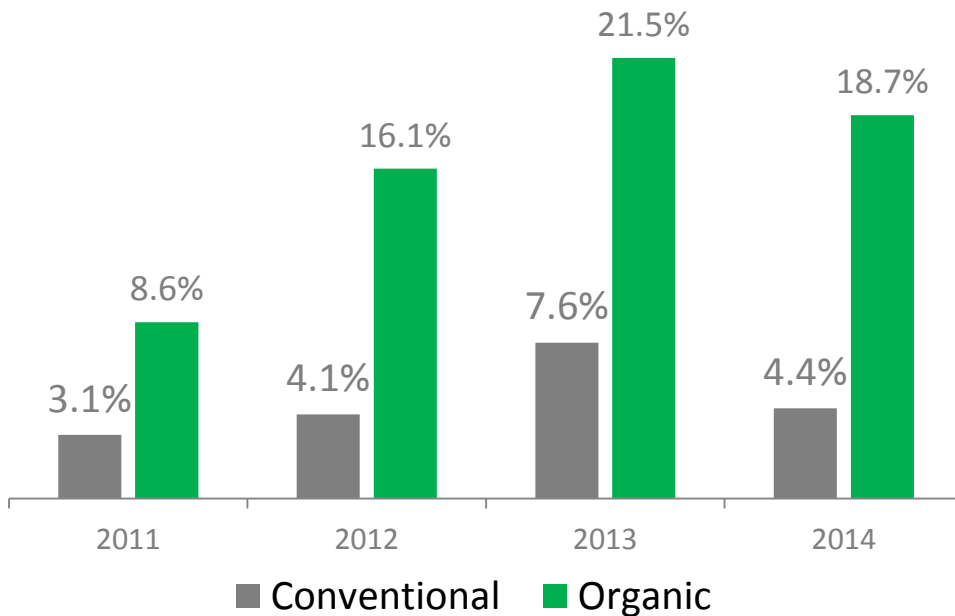
51%

29%

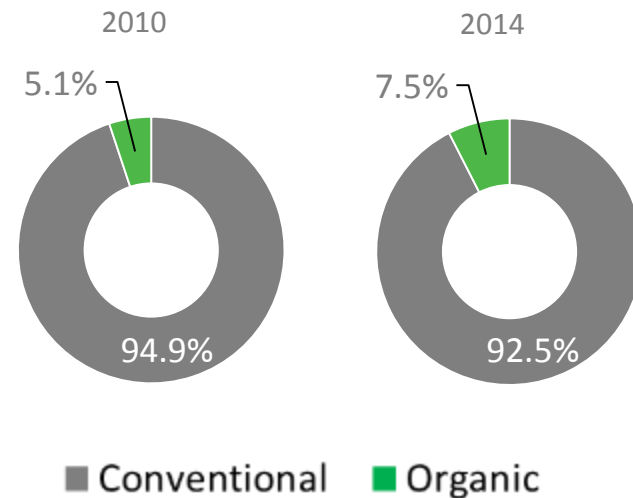


# Organic produce continues to expand

## Produce \$ Growth



## Produce Unique Items vs YAGO





# And outpace conventional \$ and vol growth

sales growth



Conventional

\$

lbs.

+2.7%

+3.8%

Organic

\$

lbs.

+19.0%

+23.6%

+2.9%

+0.2%

+15.3%

+15.0%



# Organic produce household penetration surpasses 50%

**52%**

Purchased in past  
3 months

Up from 1/3 in 2009

**36%**

Don't buy  
organic  
produce

67%  
Too expensive

36%  
No added benefits

15%  
No info on benefits

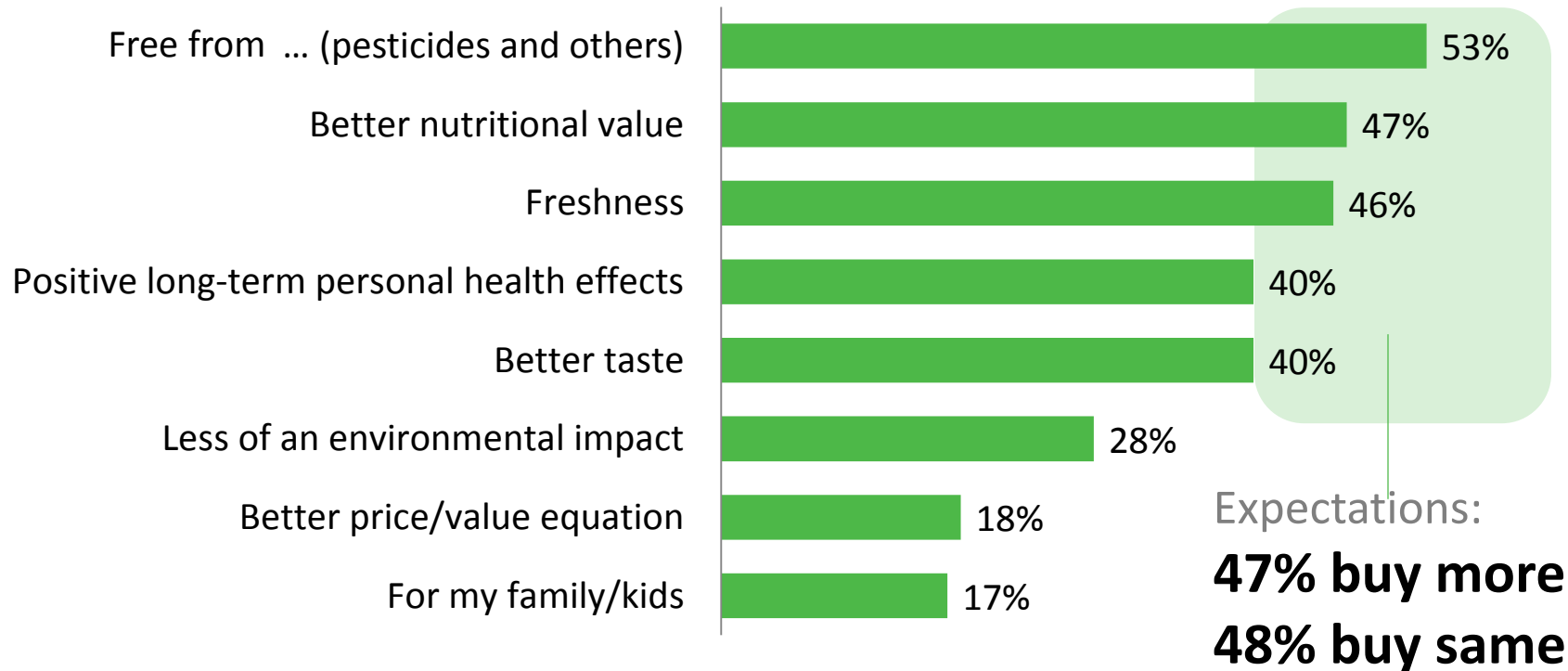
13%  
Not available

11%  
Lesser taste





# Reasons for purchasing organic produce





# Organic produce purchase is fragmented

Primary channel for organic produce

49%



19%



16%



10%



6%



1%





# Reaching a tipping point

- Continued organic growth very likely
  - Growing household penetration
  - Growing baskets among current buyers
  - Growth rates have compounded 17%+ for 5+ years
- Retailer decisions
  - Rationalizing conventional and organic items
  - Locking long-term supply





List preparation  
Promotional research  
Circular trends  
Impulse opportunity

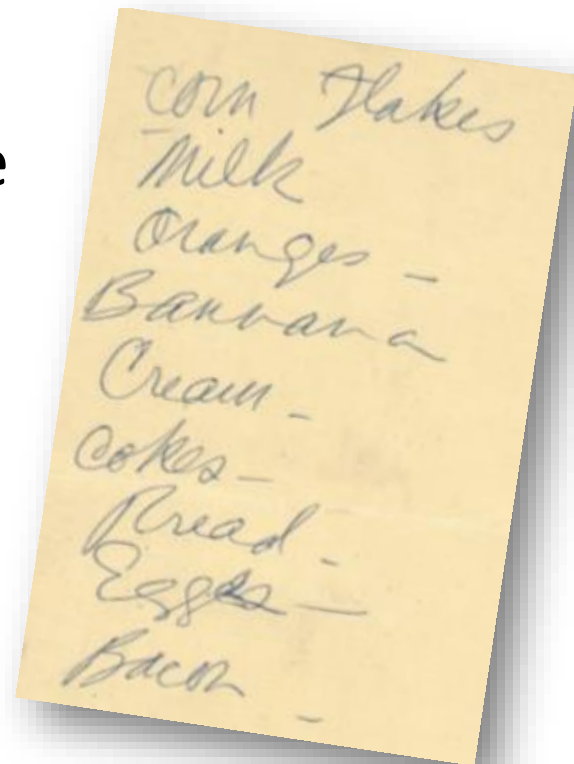
## **PRE-TRIP PLANNING— WELL-RESEARCHED LIST ITEMS**



# A well-researched list item

**>7 in 10** shoppers list produce

- Shoppers are 2x as likely to list specific items vs. generic need for fruit and/or vegetables
- 6 in 10 shoppers compare promotions across stores





# Paper circular has staying power

Use when researching produce promotions

Paper circular at home	73%
Paper circular at the store	42%
Electronic circular on website	28%
Email specials	17%
Website specials	13%
Store app	12%
Social media specials	7%

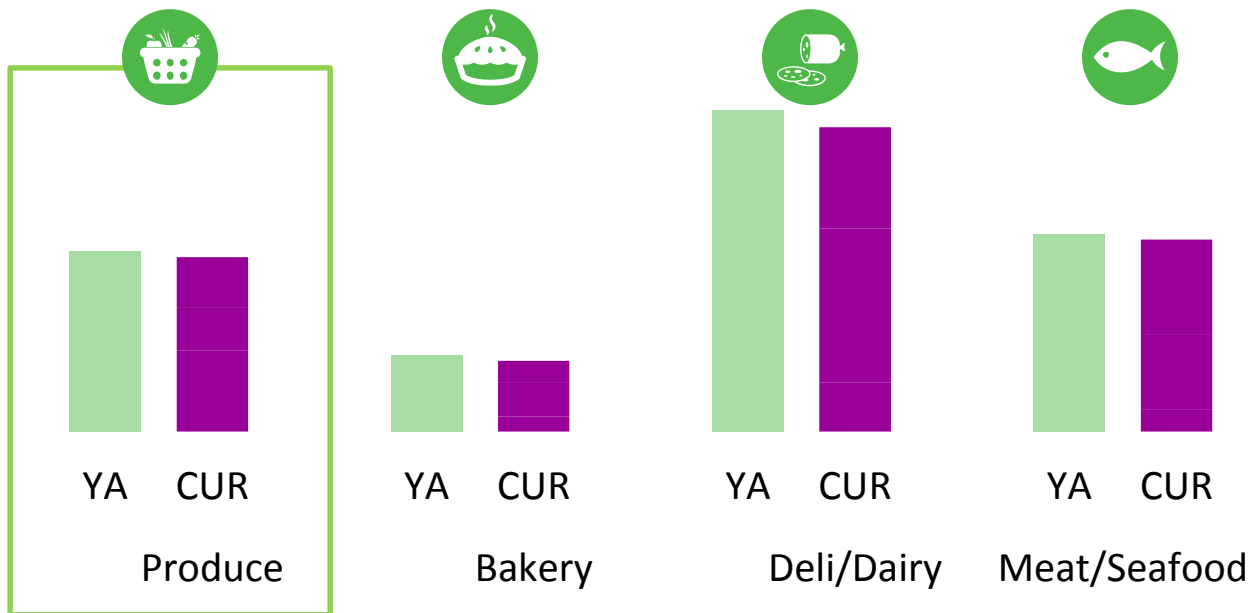




# However, ads declined across departments

Department Ads

Total  
Ads  
-2%  
vs. YAGO





# Circular strategies are shifting

80%

of shoppers  
use print  
circulars to  
plan their  
shopping  
trip

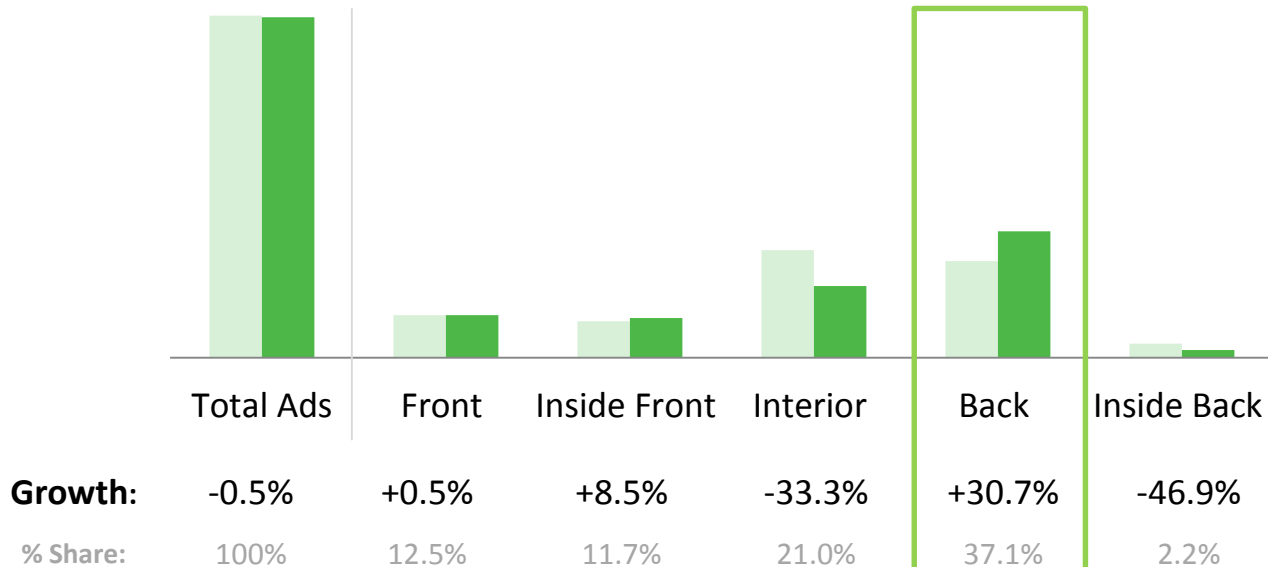


**FRESH FRUIT** is the #1  
product shoppers will  
most likely buy if featured  
on sale during a  
typical week



Produce Ads by Page Location

YAGO CURRENT







# In addition to planned list purchase, produce offers ample opportunity for impulse

Frequency of buying unplanned produce items

**23%**

Almost always

**34%**

Frequently

**34%**

Occasionally

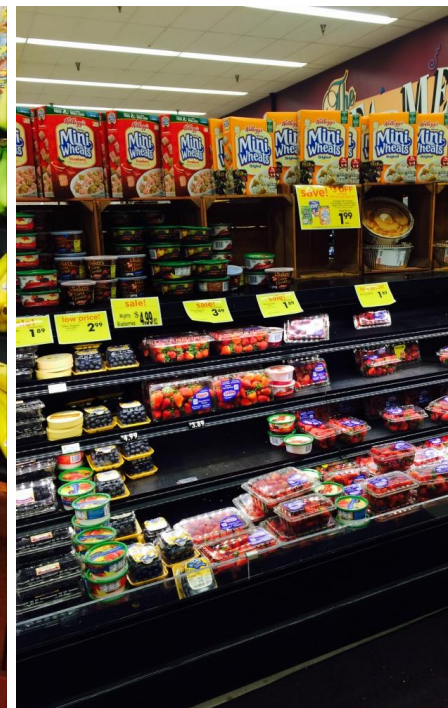
**6%**

Hardly ever/  
Never  
(stick to list)

57% impulse opportunity,  
especially among Millennials (64%)



# Cautiously cross-merchandising in produce....







# Bringing produce into the store

- Room for 'art' in impulse
- Cross-Merchandise



Hy-Vee



Publix



Price Chopper



Giant Eagle



Jewel

- lemons on front display
- banana & orange endcap
- avocados in snack aisle
- veggies in meat case
- lemons near seafood case



# Produce department's top connections



## IN DEPARTMENT PRODUCE CONNECTIONS

### Most Heavily Connected

Potatoes  
Onions  
Bananas  
Grapes



Strong sales connections to:  
**10+ departments**  
**120+ categories**

Connected to  
*more than half of*  
total store sales



## GRAPES ARE A TOTAL STORE HERO

Grapes are strongly  
connected to  
**117 Categories**





Purchasing decision tree

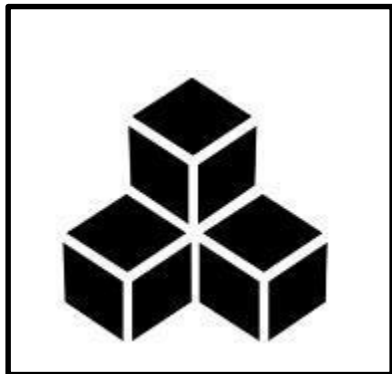
Understanding the importance of price

Department experience

Out-of-stocks

New item introductions

How-to service



## **PURCHASING DECISION— FRESHNESS > PRICE**



# Appearance and price go hand-in-hand

- Price helps shoppers decide on items and stores
  - Once in-store, the impact of price lessens
  - Especially among those who list specific items
  - Emphasis on quality, freshness, ripeness, variety and in-stock
- Yet, 6 in 10 every time/frequently compare prices between items
- **Best prices without execution may result in lost customers**







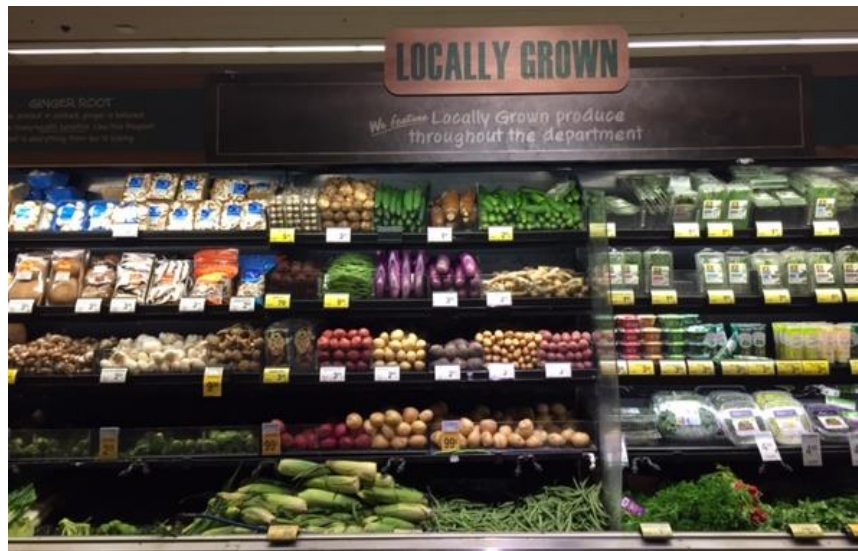
# THE POWER OF PRODUCE 2015

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# Execution is key in achieving operational excellence



Eye-catching  
Displays



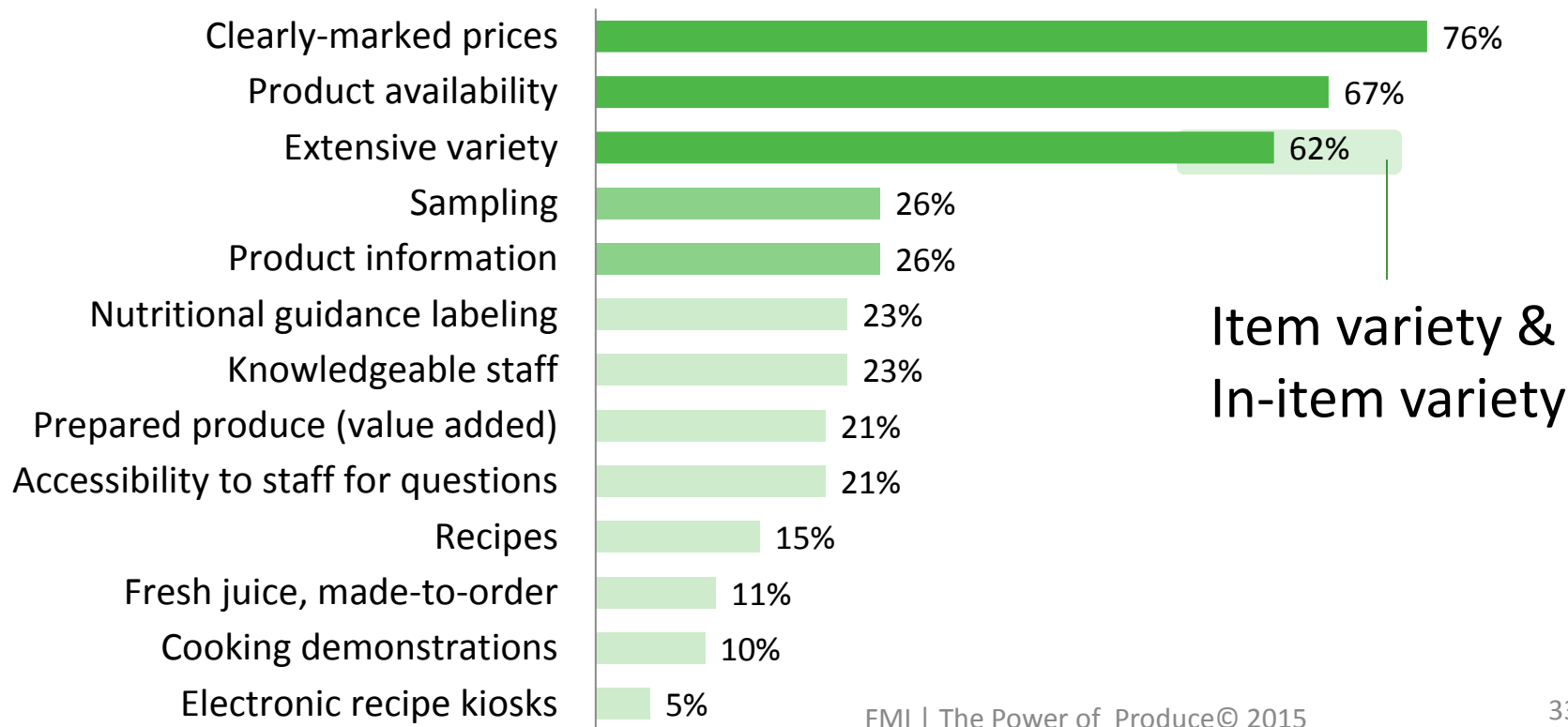
Solutions







# Providing a good experience





# The role of new items

Importance of frequently introducing new produce items

**24%** Very important

**44%** Somewhat important

**28%** Not too important

**5%** Not at all important

- Ages 29-39
- Organic shoppers
- Working full time
- Shoppers w/ kids





# Categories are shape shifting, leading to an explosion of new items

Produce Unique Items  
per store per week





# Example of new item incrementality

- Snacking  
+7.6%



- Regular  
-1.1%



- VA-Meal Prep  
+12%



2010 sales: \$776M

\$2.4B

\$5.7M

2014 sales: \$1.1B

\$2.3B

\$9.0M

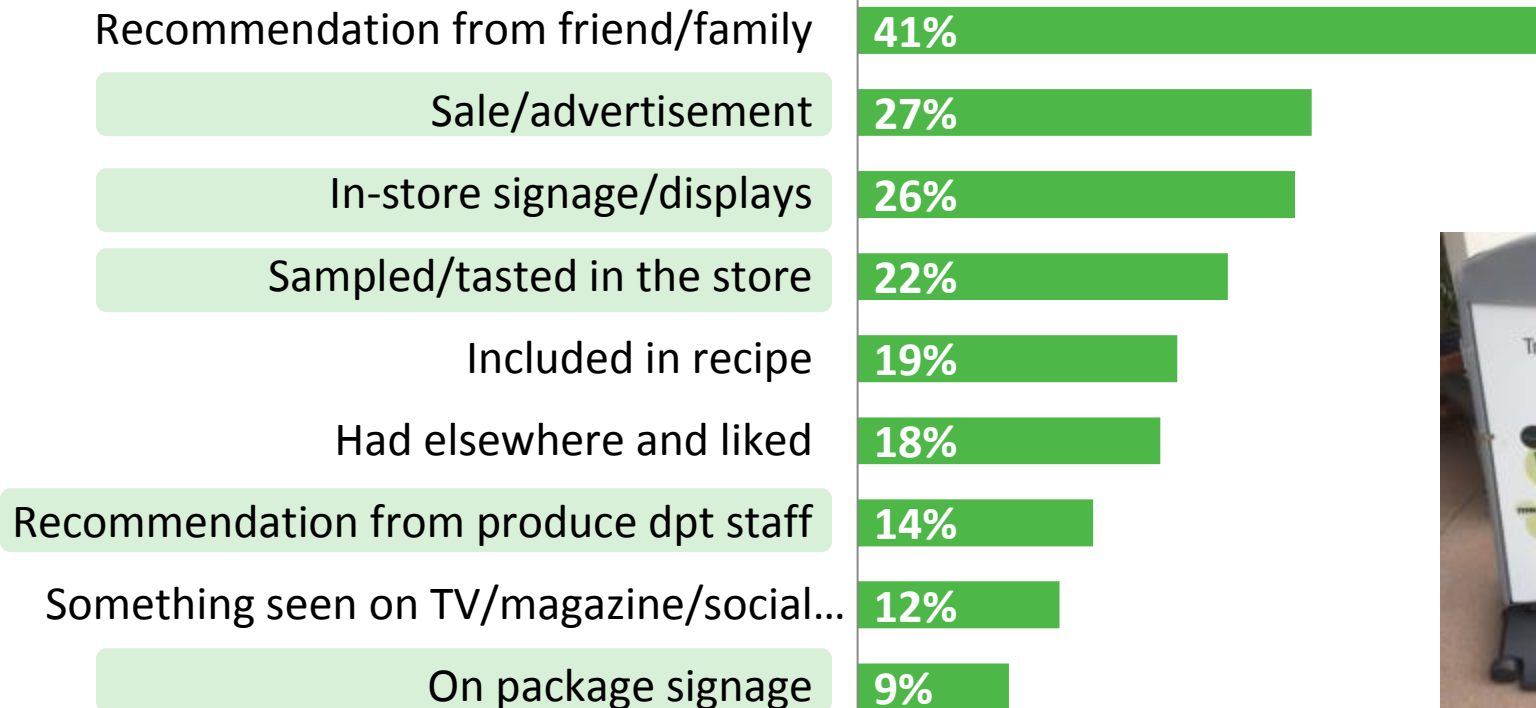
\$ growth: +264M

-107M  
**Net +\$160M**

\$3.2M



# Prompting new item trial





# Bring on the recipes, ideas and how tos!

Likelihood of using retailer provided recipes, ideas, and how to instructions

**41%** Would absolutely use

**49%** Maybe

**10%** Wouldn't use it

- Shoppers w/kids
- Organic shoppers
- Millennials and X-ers
- Working full time







# THE POWER OF PRODUCE 2015

A



Pictures by Yerecic @ ShopNSave





# THE POWER OF PRODUCE 2015

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Primary channel  
Channel switching  
Occasional purchase  
Alternative channels  
Farmers' markets



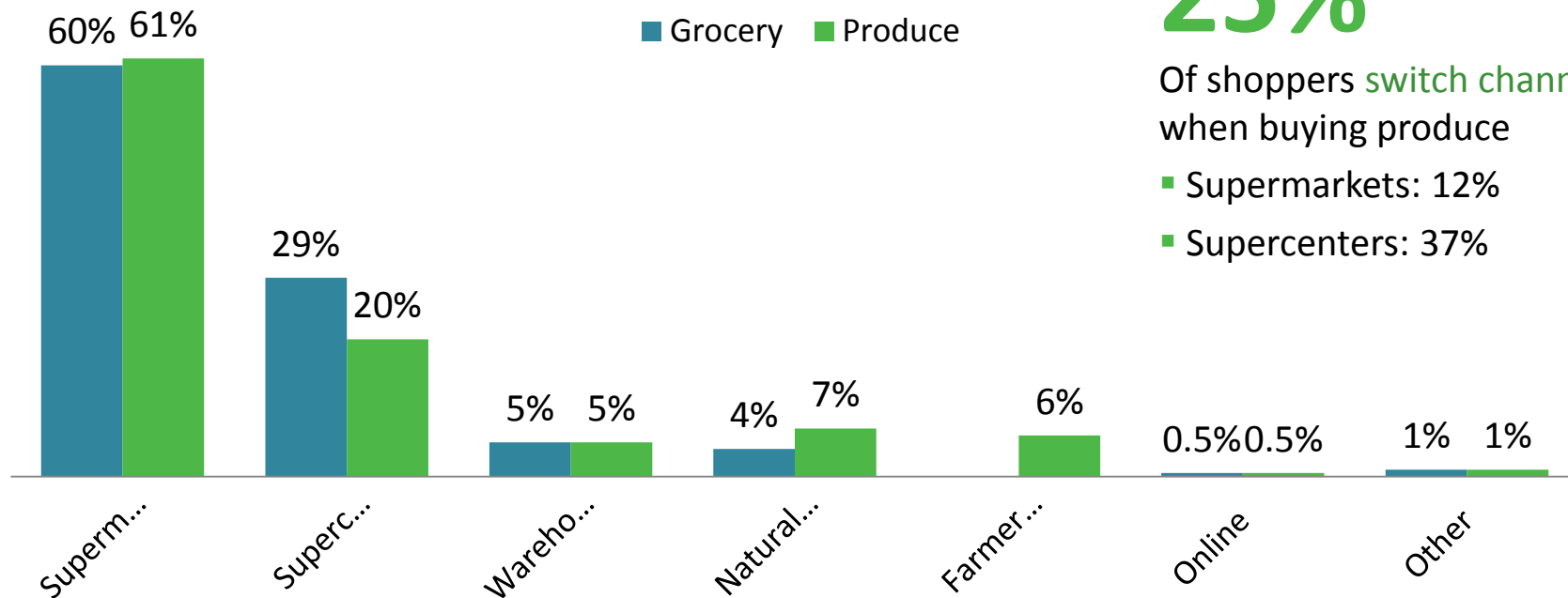
## THE CHANNEL CHOICE— TRADITIONAL POWERHOUSES & ALTERNATIVE CHOICES



# Produce is a supermarket stronghold

## Primary channel choice

■ Grocery ■ Produce



# 25%

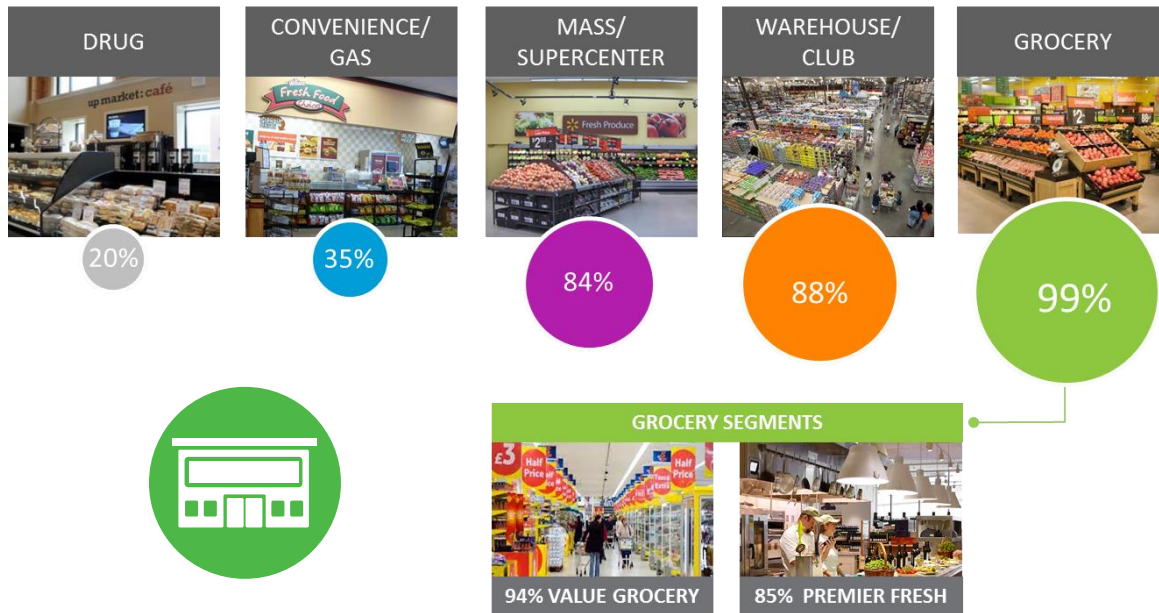
Of shoppers **switch channels** when buying produce

- Supermarkets: 12%
- Supercenters: 37%

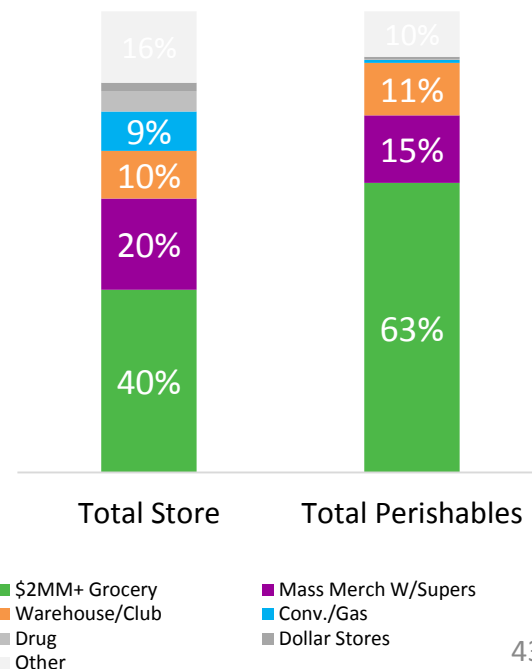


# Produce is a supermarket stronghold

Share of channel shoppers purchasing fresh within each channel

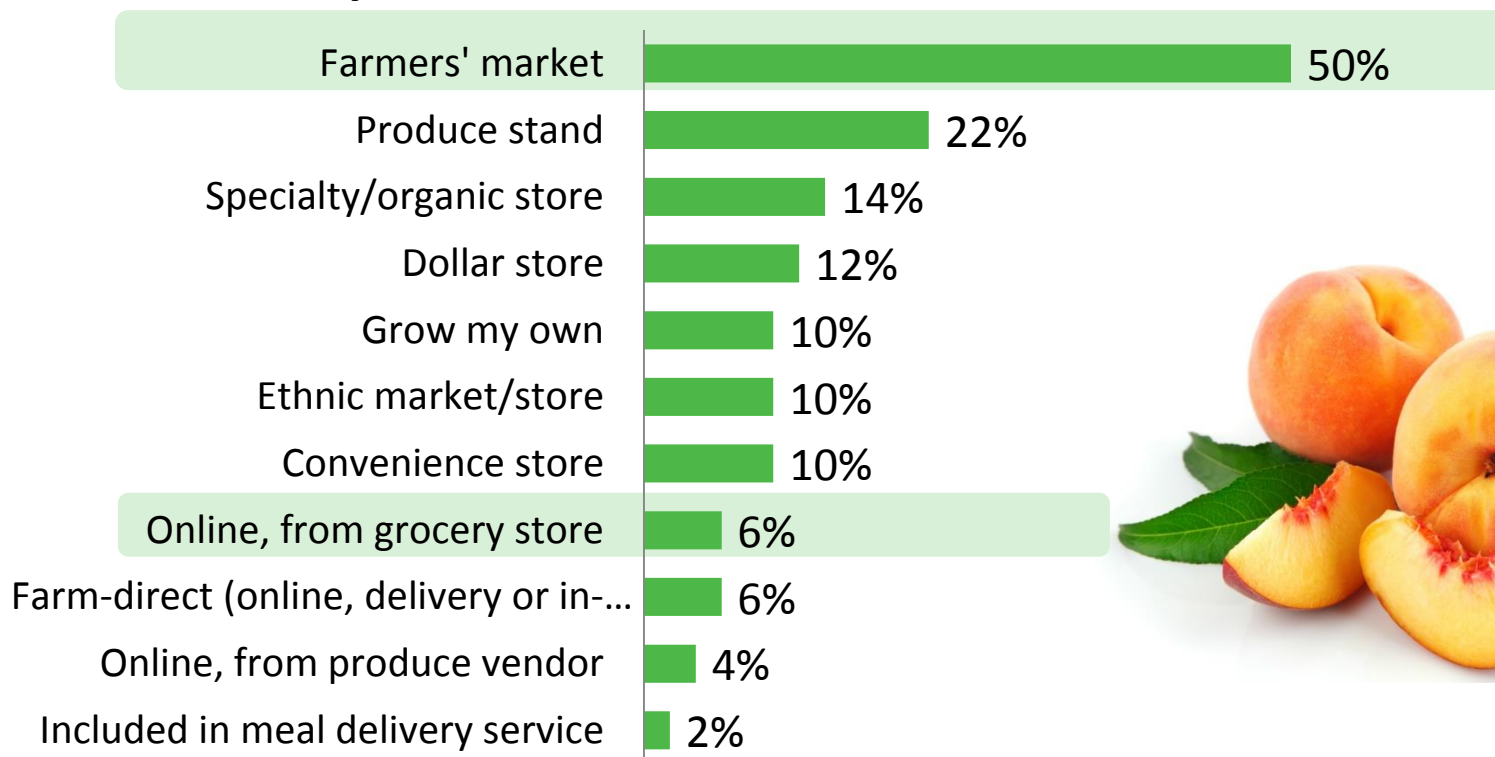


% Department Dollars by Channel to Total U.S.





# Farmers' markets greatest source of the occasional purchase





# Farmers' markets

- 0% Primary store
- 6% Primary produce destination
- 26% Secondary produce outlet
- 50% Occasional produce purchase
- 16% Primary outlet organic produce

**8,300 and growing!**

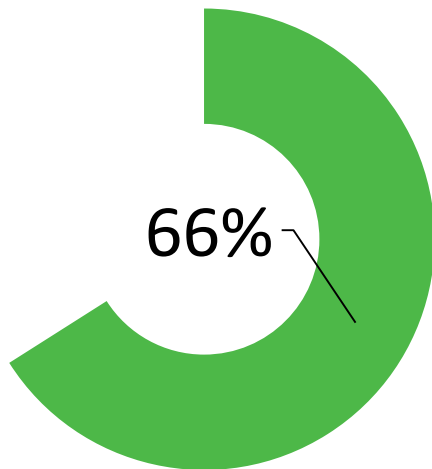






# Trip mission

**Trip mission for farmers'  
market visits = buying produce**





# Why the extra trip?

## Reasons for purchasing produce at farmers' markets











# Bringing a farmers' market feel

- Explain “fresh”
- Leverage local
- Bring the fun!
- Tell the item's story
- Share the facts





# Bringing the farmers' market to the store



Pictures by Yerecic @ ShopNSave and Lowes Food





# Bringing the farmers' market to the store





Consumption frequency

Meal occasion trends

Value-added produce

Prompting new item trial

## MEAL CONSUMPTION & PREPARATION

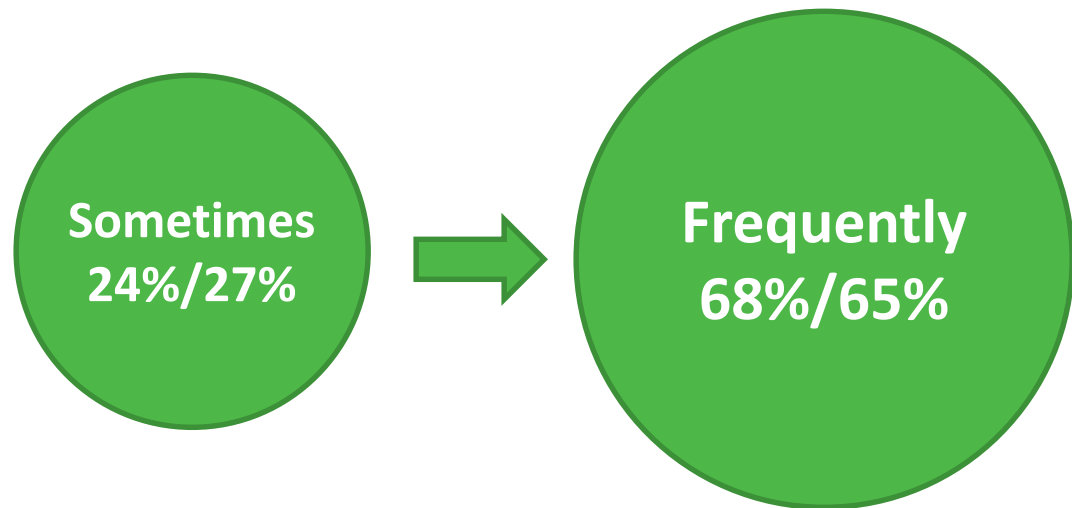


# 98% Household penetration, but ample opportunity to grow produce basket

Frequency of consuming fresh fruit/vegetables

Lower-than-average consumption

- Men
- Lower income
- Millennials





# The dinner occasion

**4.0** home-cooked dinners with fresh produce/week

**4.8** Higher income

**4.9** Specialty store shoppers

**4.4** Buy organic produce

**4.3** Households with kids 0-6

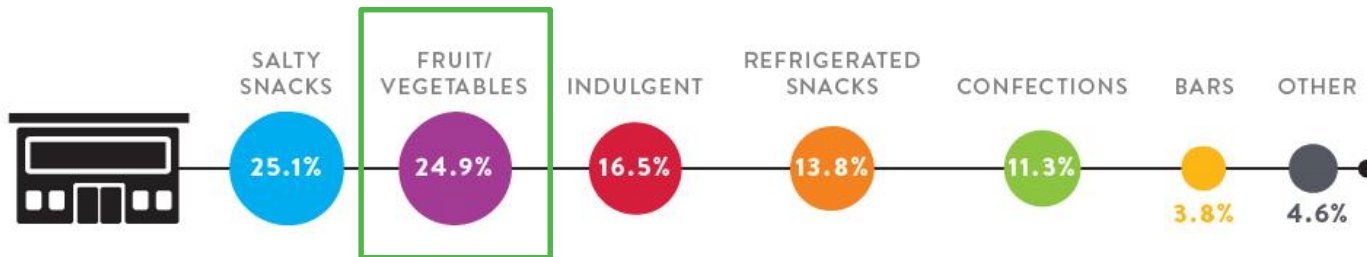
**4.2** Shoppers ages 29-39





# Produce snacking sees healthy growth

Share of snacking product dollars across the store



**Top 10 -  
Percentage of consumers  
who ate these snacks  
in the last 30 days  
(North America)**

- |                              |     |
|------------------------------|-----|
| 1. CHIPS/ CHRISPS            | 63% |
| 2. CHOCOLATE                 | 59% |
| 3. CHEESE                    | 58% |
| 4. COOKIES/<br>BISCUITS      | 56% |
| 5. FRESH FRUIT               | 55% |
| 6. BREAD/<br>SANDWICH        | 48% |
| 7. CRACKERS/<br>CRISP BREADS | 48% |
| 8. VEGETABLES                | 44% |
| 9. PEANUT<br>BUTTER          | 44% |



# Smoothies & juicing are hip

Current

**33%**



Organic shoppers  
Families with kids  
Millennials  
Women

More often vs. 2 yrs ago

**28%**



Current

**13%**

Organic shoppers  
Families with kids  
X-ers  
Women





# Value-added growing rapidly

Chopped | Cut | Halved | Hearts | Microwave-ready | Snack packs

**+10.3%** growth in \$ sales vs. **5.5%** for unprepared



## Buy?

**46%** Sometimes/regularly

**8%** Only when in a time crunch

**6%** Only for special occasions

**38%** Hardly ever/never

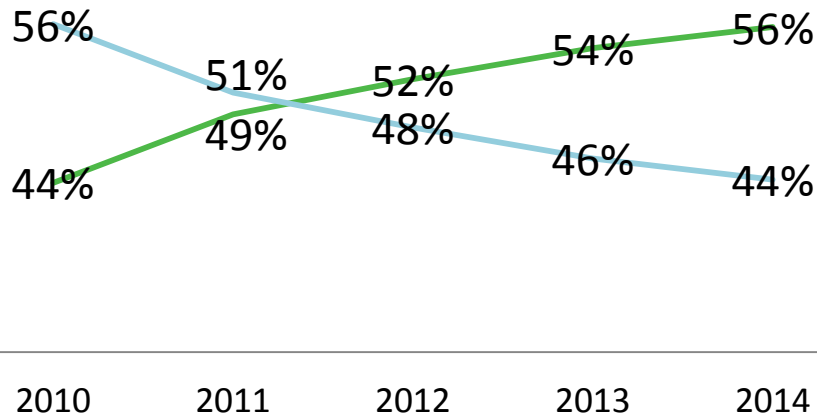
- 17% Cost
- 15% Prefer to do it myself
- 8% Other



# Packaging innovation

## French green bean sales

— Fixed Weight — Random Weight



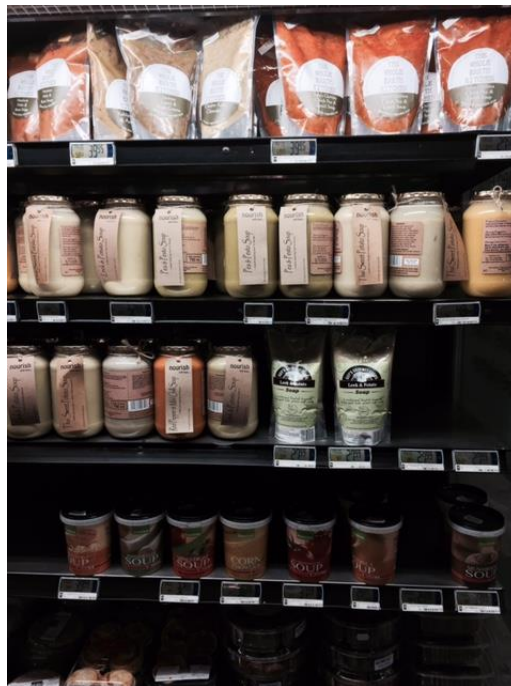
Nielsen FreshFacts® Historical Projected





# Growth in meal preparation solutions

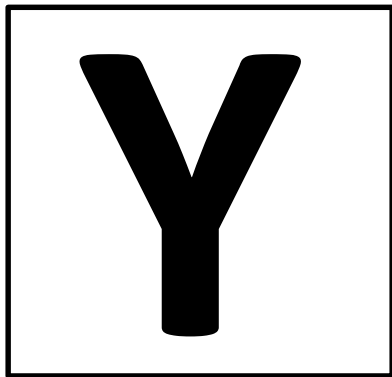
- Grab & go kits



- Refrigerated, ready-to heat sauces/toppings



- Soups

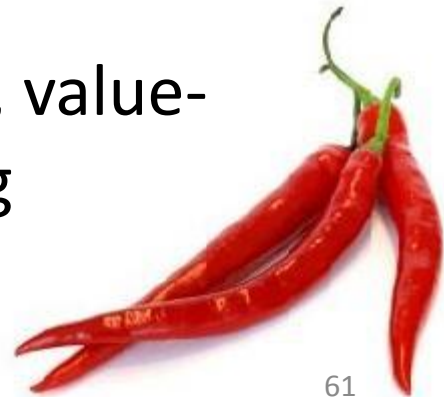


# THE MILLENNIAL OPPORTUNITY



# Millennials approach produce differently

- **Research:** more likely to use digital sources
- **In-store:** more susceptible to impulse & new items
- **Decision:** Less about appearance and variety, but more about price, habit and prep time
- **Purchases:** Driving new growth in organic, value-added, juice/juicing and produce snacking







# Millennials' take on a good experience



What drives a good produce department experience?



63%	Product availability	78%
62%	Extensive variety	70%
34%	Product information	20%
31%	Sampling	18%
28%	Accessibility to staff to ask questions	19%
25%	Recipes	9%
13%	Cooking demonstrations	5%
8%	Recipe kiosks	1%



Juicing/smoothie ideas

Cooking classes

Meal stations

How to videos

Product info

Value added

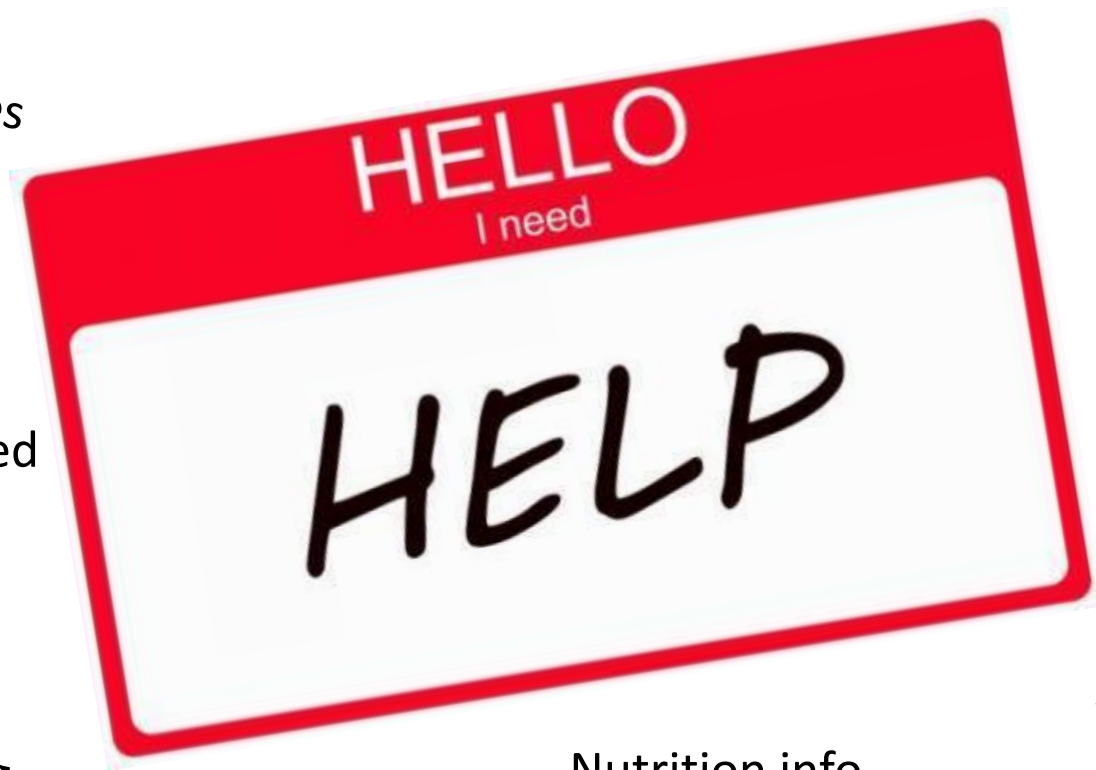
Cooking demonstrations

Recipes

Sampling

Meal ideas

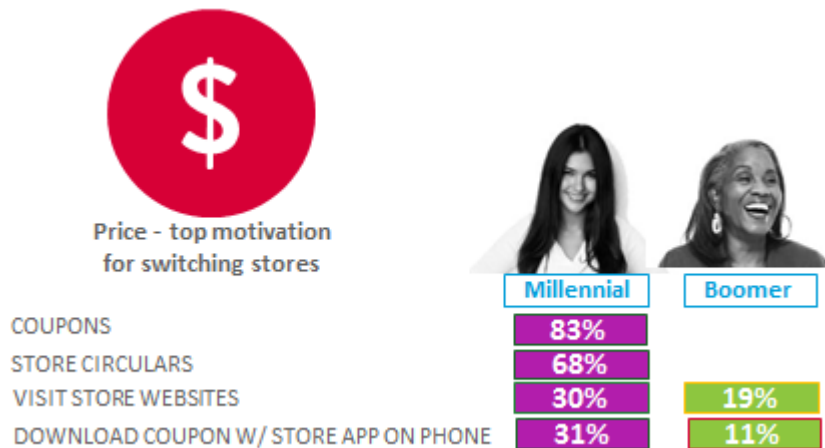
Nutrition info



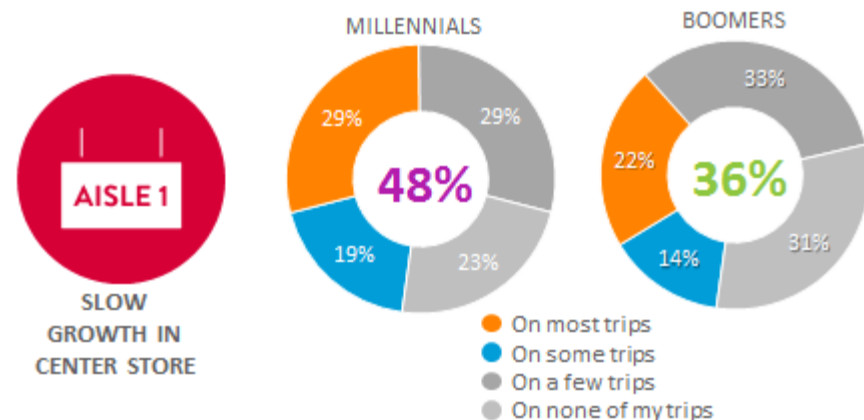


# Millennials are heavy perimeter store consumers and look for coupons

## ■ Price Sensitivity



## ■ Heavy Perimeter Store Consumers





## THE (NEW) PARENT OPPORTUNITY



# The healthy eating challenge

Many parents struggle with having their kids...

■ Eat a healthy diet in general	33%	38%
■ Eat sufficient fruit/vegetables	26%	41%
■ Learn to make healthy food choices	25%	39%

Big | Somewhat  
of a challenge





# Parents see produce as the healthy shortcut

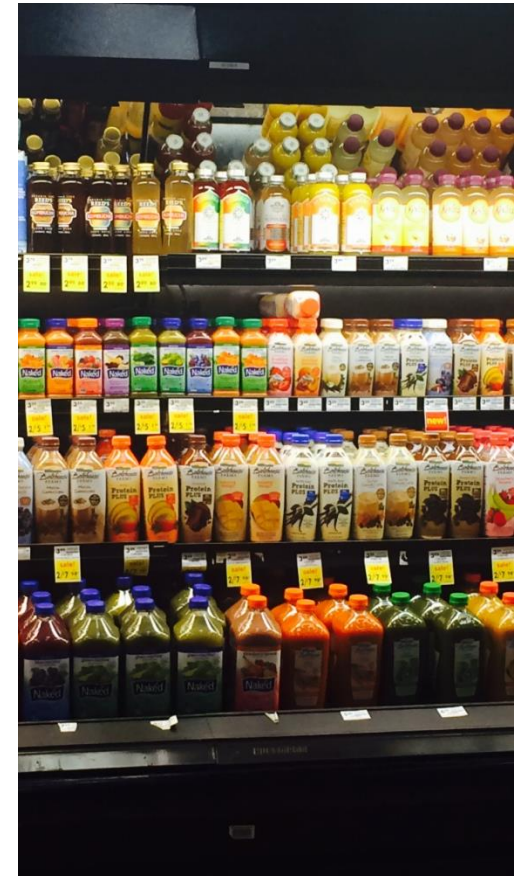
- Above-average interest in:
  - Fruit/vegetable recipes
  - New produce items
  - How tos
  - Produce snacking
  - Smoothies/Juicing
  - Convenience





# THE POWER OF PRODUCE 2015

A





# Retailers creating health snacking centers



- Smaller portions for kid lunches



**Power Your Lunchbox Pledge™**  
by Produce for Kids®

- Healthier school lunch movement



- Don't forget about HH's without kids!



Department score card

Shopper suggestions on improvements

## IMPROVING THE PRODUCE DEPARTMENT





# Our report card

## Strengths

- Quality
- Freshness
- Cleanliness
- Value for money

## Average

- Promotional pricing
- Variety (in general)
- In-stock performance
- Everyday pricing

## Weaknesses

- Helpful/knowledgeable associates
- Variety (specialty items)
- Helpful information

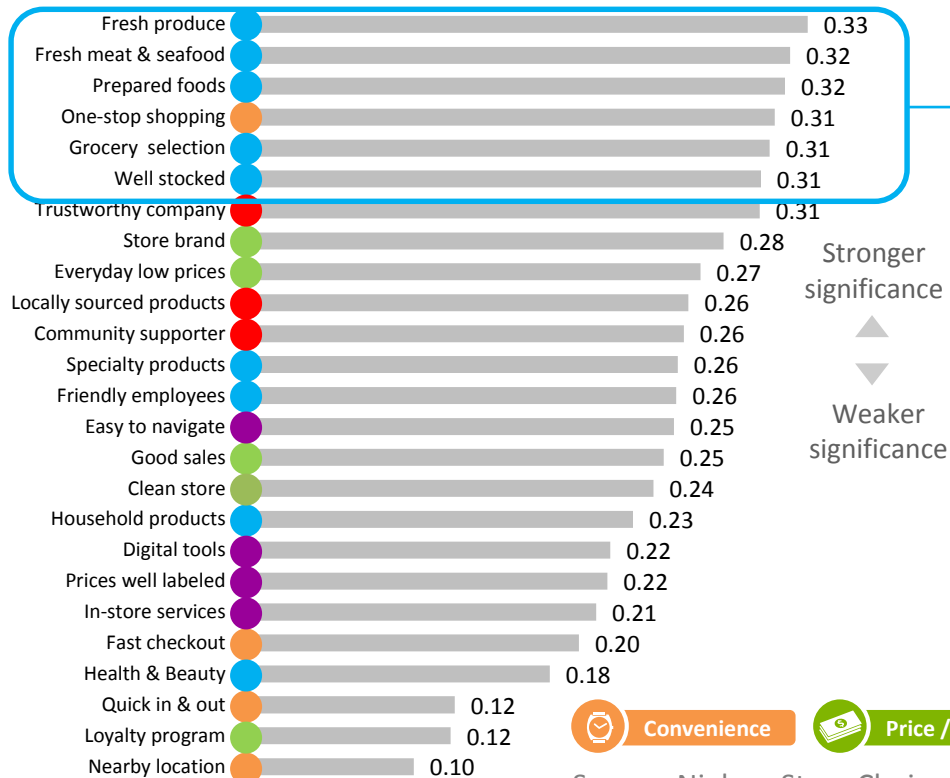






# Equity drives loyalty

Derived Importance: Total Respondents (correlation)



Most influential:



&



Assortment

Fresh Foods



To improve **shopper equity**,  
**retailers** need to consider the relevance of:

- ✓ Well-stocked fresh foods/center store
- ✓ Quality prepared food options
- ✓ Convenient one-stop shopping
- ✓ Trustworthy company



Convenience



Price / value



Assortment



Environment



Social value



Activate now



Leverage new ways to connect with shoppers pre-trip and new ways to drive impulse through merchandising; define fresh with produce



Recognize the new competitive set outside of the store and leverage produce to rethink total store connectivity



Evolve with mega food trends (snacking, meal occasions, health and wellness) to maintain relevancy



Isolate, understand and target consumers like never before; market to the individual not the masses



# Report/slides

- [www.fmi.org/store/](http://www.fmi.org/store/)
- Presentation available
- For questions or additional information
  - [aroerink@210analytics.com](mailto:aroerink@210analytics.com)
  - [sherry.frey@nielsen.com](mailto:sherry.frey@nielsen.com)
  - [rstein@fmi.org](mailto:rstein@fmi.org)

thank you!