

WI Farm to School Newsletter

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Wisconsin Farm to School

Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection

August 18, 2015 | Happy Back-to-School Time!

In today's Wisconsin Farm to School newsletter, you will find:

- [General Updates](#)
- [New Tools and Resources](#)
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In July, the WI Farm to School Leadership Team enjoyed some networking and professional development at Troy Gardens in Madison, WI, including touring their awesome Kid's Garden!

General Updates

Great Lakes Great Apple Crunch – Sign Up Now

Did you Crunch last year? Do you want to Crunch this year? [Sign up here](#) to participate in the Second Annual Great Lakes Great Apple Crunch. This is a simple way to feature your farm to school work in a loud way. At NOON on Thursday, October 22 we'll all Crunch into a healthy, delicious local or regional apple to show our support for National Farm to School Month and Food Day 2015. [Sign up here](#) to receive your Crunch Guide chock full of ideas for planning, promoting, sharing and educating around your event - and you'll receive the 2015 Great Lakes Great Apple Crunch logo too! Be sure to "Like" the [Facebook page](#) to stay up to date on the latest news. Let everyone know you are participating in the Crunch by using the hashtags #GreatAppleCrunch #F2SMonth and #FoodDay2015 on your favorite social media.



When WI schools sign up they will be registered for a great garden give away from McKay's nursery; they will receive a WI-specific Crunch guide; and they will receive stickers for the kids and a F2S Month poster (while supplies last). We will start sending out the Crunch guide on August 21, and mailing packets on September 15, so sign up today!



Students at Pioneer Elementary School in Ashwaubenon celebrate the 2014 Great Lakes Great Apple Crunch.

Midwest Menu Food Day Event – Sign up Now

Looking for a new and different way to celebrate National Farm to School Month and Food Day? Check out the Midwest Menu event! This collaborative Food Day event on October 22 is a chance for your cafeteria to feature a tray that highlights your great farm to school work and regional foods. Serve a local chicken and apple, along with a veggie and whole grain of your choice. We'll all share photos of our trays to show what we can do with school food. Learn more at [Midwest Menu Sign Up](#), the archived [Midwest Menu webinar](#), the [Midwest Menu Facebook Page](#), and [Midwest Menu Food Day Website](#) (forthcoming).



Learn about the Farm to School Act of 2015

The Farm to School Act of 2015 builds on the success of the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010 by proposing an increase in funding from \$5 million to \$15 million for the [USDA Farm to School Grant Program](#). The bill would also ensure that the grant program fully includes preschools, summer food service sites, after school programs, and tribal schools

and producers while improving program participation from beginning, veteran and socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers. To learn more, download this [fact sheet](#).

Traditional foods in school meals

American Indian communities have a rich history of eating native, local foods and a strong interest in serving these traditional foods through federal Child Nutrition Programs (CNPs). In a new memo, [Child Nutrition Programs and Traditional Foods](#), USDA reinforces that many traditional foods can contribute towards reimbursable meals in CNPs. While USDA's [Food Buying Guide](#) is an important tool for school food authorities, it doesn't contain an exhaustive list of traditional foods; the new memo is an important supplement to help assist tribal communities. For additional guidance concerning this memo, please reach out to your regional [USDA Farm to School Regional Lead](#) or [USDA's Office of Tribal Relations](#).

New Tools and Resources

Check out the [Wisconsin School Garden Initiative's August newsletter!](#) This month's edition has resources, stories, and ideas to help connect school gardens with core academic subjects. Happy back to school time!



Webinars, Conferences and Events

Earn Continuing Education Units for USDA webinars

Did you know that USDA Foods webinars are eligible for Continuing Education Units (CEUs) for the new [Professional Standards for school nutrition professionals](#)? Visit the [Professional](#)

[Standards site](#) to download the Training Tracking Tool or view the lists of Learning Topics and Learning Objectives. Archived USDA Foods webinars are available in the [Food Distribution playlist](#) on the USDA Food and Nutrition Service [YouTube channel](#).

Farm to School Funding Opportunities

Buy Local Buy Wisconsin Grant Deadline is one month away!

Please share with your partners! Join the growing list of local food businesses reaching their goals through the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection's (DATCP) Buy Local Buy Wisconsin program. Proposals for Buy Local, Buy Wisconsin grant-funded projects are now being accepted from individuals, groups, businesses and organizations involved in Wisconsin agriculture, food processing, food distribution, food warehousing, retail food establishments or agricultural tourism sites. Proposals could include collaborations or partnerships. Eligible project expenses include operating expenses, real estate and equipment.

Pre-proposals must be received at DATCP by 4:00 pm on September 14th 2015.

The complete grant manual, cover sheet and budget outline is available online at http://datcp.wi.gov/Business/Buy_Local_Buy_Wisconsin/BLBW_Grants. For more information, contact DATCP's Buy Local, Buy Wisconsin Program Manager, Teresa Engel, at 608-224-5101 or teresa.engel@wi.gov.



"It's All About the Fruits and Veggies" Garden Grant

Join Jamba Juice and KidsGardening.org as they celebrate five years of garden grants. The Fall 2015 Jamba Juice "It's All About the Fruits and Veggies" Garden Grant is an award designed to support schools, community organizations, and nonprofits in charitable and educational garden projects that enhance the quality of life in their communities. The grant program is open to schools, community organizations, and non-profit programs in the United States gardening with at least 15 children between the ages of 3 and 18. Applications are due by October 2, 2015. [Learn more about the grant program and apply here.](#)

Multiple grants available to educators, The NEA Foundation

The National Education Association (NEA) Foundation supports new ideas and practices to strengthen teaching and learning. Their goal is to fund and share successful strategies to educate and prepare students for bright and rewarding futures. Over the last 10 years, the NEA Foundation has awarded more than \$7.1 million to fund nearly 4,500 grants to public school educators to enhance teaching and learning. There are multiple grant opportunities available to all eligible educational professionals. [Visit the NEA Foundation website to learn more.](#)



Terri Lynne Lokoff/Children's Tylenol National Child Care Teacher Awards

Recognizing the need to raise the status of child care teachers and the need for quality child care, the Terri Lynne Lokoff Child Care Foundation created the Terri Lynne Lokoff/Children's Tylenol National Child Care Teacher Awards. Award recipients receive \$1,000 - \$500 for the teacher's personal use and \$500 to implement a project. [Learn more about the award and application process here.](#)

Farm to School Media Mentions



Greenbay Press Gazette [“Schools, agencies partner to keep kids full, focused”](#)

Caption: Peggy Spanbauer, Oshkosh High School assistant cook, peels and chops onions to be added to the ratatouille that was prepared from more than a ton of vegetables for the Green Bay and Oshkosh school districts on Tuesday. (Photo: Hanaa' Tameez/Press-Gazette [Media/@HTameez](#))

A big THANK YOU and fond farewell to the 2014-2015 DATCP AmeriCorps Farm to School members!



FOR MORE INFORMATION, contact DATCP's Sarah Elliott at 608-224-5046 or sarah.elliott@wisconsin.gov.