

Wisconsin Farm to School Advisory Council

Annual Report & Key Recommendations

February 2019

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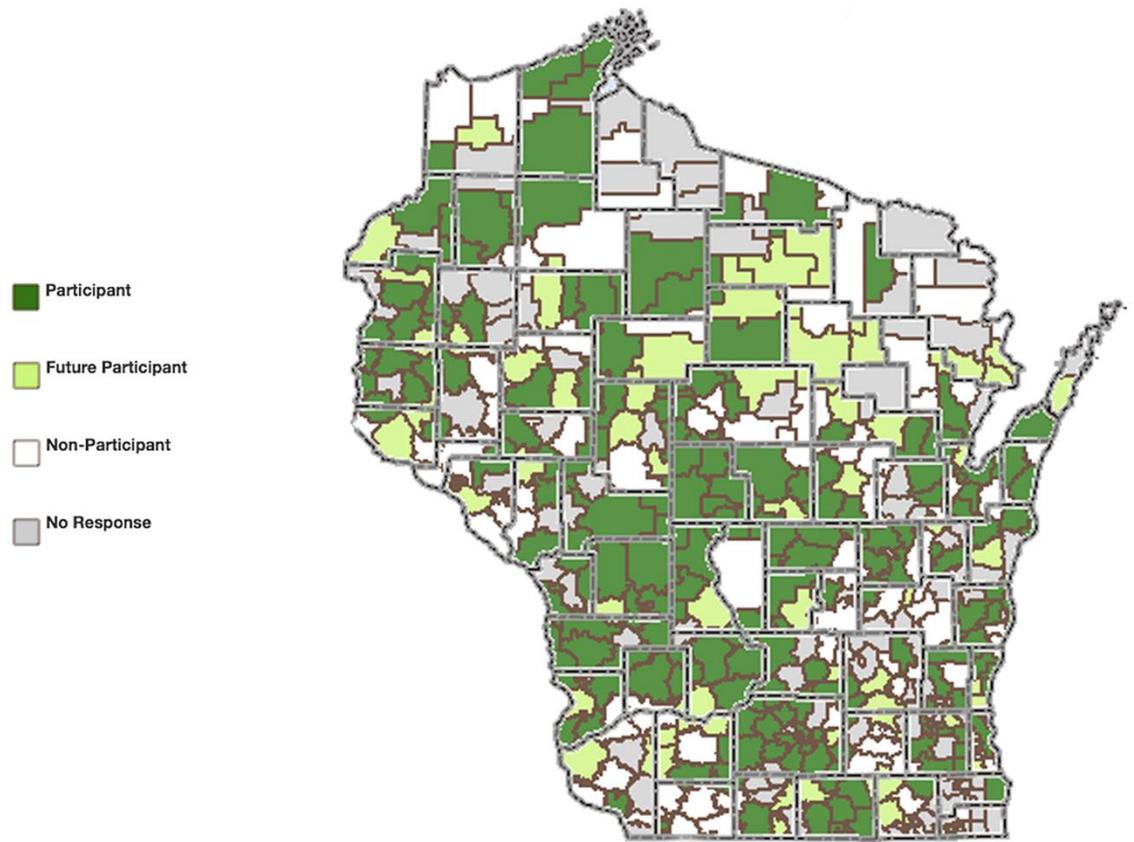
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District Participation in Farm to School

This map is available on the DATCP website to show the different levels of Farm to School participation by school districts. Web users can zoom in to see whether participants have school gardens, do local purchasing, farm field trips, and more. The map is based on the data from the 2015 USDA Farm to School Census. Updated information is expected in 2019.

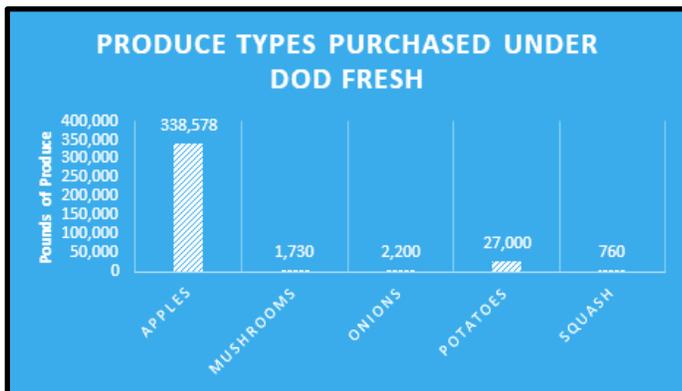


Statewide Farm to School & Early Care Activities

Program	Department of Defense Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program (DoD Fresh)
Lead Agency	Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction (DPI)
Participation	Open to school districts nationwide
Funding	Federal
Timeline	Ongoing
Wisconsin Product purchased 2017-2018	\$97,380.00 370,278 lb

The Department of Defense (DoD) Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program, commonly known as DoD Fresh, is a federal program for increasing schools' fruit and vegetable purchases from the USDA and the DoD. The program allows school districts to use USDA Foods entitlement dollars to buy fresh produce. All Wisconsin schools participating in the National School Lunch Program are able to access entitlement dollars to purchase produce through DoD Fresh, along with the more traditional USDA Foods program (lower priced commodities such as cheese, flour, and produce). The DoD Fresh program allows districts to purchase a wider variety of produce than through the USDA Foods entitlement program (see below).

The procurement team at DPI holds several trainings a year on DoD Fresh for school districts. Part of these trainings show districts how they can identify and select local products from the DoD Fresh catalog. This year for the first time, the procurement team began pulling data to show how many of the DoD produce purchases were local during the 2017-2018 school year.



Source: Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction 2018

Program	The USDA Pilot Project for the Procurement of Unprocessed Fruits and Vegetables
Lead Agency	Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction
Participation	Milwaukee Public Schools, LaCrosse Public Schools, and the Wisconsin School Nutrition Purchasing Cooperative.
Funding	Federal
Timeline	Pilot project through spring of 2018
Produce purchased*	374,854 lb \$420,000.00

**not all Wisconsin Product; data is from 2015-2016, 2017-2018 data is still being compiled
Source: USDA*

Wisconsin was chosen by the USDA as one of 8 states for this pilot in 2015, to provide more flexibility and options for purchasing unprocessed fruits and vegetables. The goal is for districts to purchase these items with entitlement funding, while using pre-existing commercial distribution channels and relationships with growers, produce wholesalers, and distributors.

The Pilot allows school districts to designate a preference for local, and farmers should receive closer to a fair market price for their products than other USDA foods programs. Approved vendors can include farmers with Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) certification, regional produce vendors, or larger broad-line distributors. In Wisconsin, there are 40 producers on the AMS-approved vendor list for this program.

The procurement team at the DPI noted that during the 2017-2018 school year, participating school districts were ordering produce in the amounts of their full entitlements. However, suppliers were experiencing difficulties with AMS inspections required to remain an approved vendor. One broad-line distributor that served at least 60 school districts for the program was removed from the list of eligible vendors in the summer of 2018.

The numbers above show us the purchasing potential of this program in the future. The DPI is working toward a system that will tabulate Wisconsin-specific purchases for future years if the pilot is transitioned into a full program nationally.

Program	The USDA Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program (FFVP)
Lead Agency	Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction (DPI)
Participation	48 districts out of 446 total in the state
Funding	Federal, administered through DPI
Timeline	Ongoing
Wisconsin Produce Purchased	5.8% of all purchases \$179,584*

**This number is assumed to be smaller than what is actually being purchased locally, since some institutional purchases may be local without the purchasing districts being aware*

Source: Department of Public Instruction 2018

This snack program provides elementary school children in participating elementary schools with a variety of free fresh fruits and vegetables for snack programs to increase the variety and amount of fruits and vegetables children experience and consume. Combined with nutrition education and a reinforcement of healthful eating habits, the program emphasizes the long-term goals of positively influencing children's lifelong eating habits.

Funding is provided through the DPI on an annual basis. Funding is determined by enrollment and annual USDA funding. Any public or nonprofit elementary school is eligible as long as they have a free and reduced meal rate of 50 percent or higher or Community Eligibility Provision equivalent. 48 school food authorities in Wisconsin participated in the FFVP in school year 2017-2018.

The DPI provides resources, technical assistance, and processes reimbursement claims for the program. The Department also collects data on whether the fruit or vegetable claimed was grown in Wisconsin. For the 2018-2019 school year (fiscal year 2019), the goal for the Wisconsin FFVP Coordinators is to further explain what the "WI Grown" question is on claims and educate FFVP participants on how to include Wisconsin grown purchases in their program.

Project	Implementing a Statewide Wisconsin Farm to Institution Procurement Strategy
Lead Agency	Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection (DATCP)
Participation	3 producers 1 distributor 2 processors 60 school districts
Funding	USDA Federal State Market Improvement Project Grant (FSMIP)
Timeline	2015-2017
Data	3 Farmers engaged 1 new processing partnership

Source: DATCP 2017

Supply chain development continues for five Wisconsin-grown products to enter schools and other cafeterias across the state: yogurt, applesauce, potatoes, carrot coins, and frozen broccoli florets. During the grant's two-year project period, many barriers to moving these products were encountered and documented. These barriers included:

- Chain of ownership and cold storage
- Meeting school's price point
- Processors' tight production schedules
- GAP certification
- Distributor requirements
- Identifying adequate WI growers for the wholesale market

Broccoli and carrots were the only products that actually made it into school cafeterias during this time period.

During the 2017-2018 fiscal year, efforts to move broccoli and yogurt into institutional markets continued. Interviews with FSMIP project partners and potential purchasers for vegetable and dairy products were conducted and documented in order to continue piloting into 2018-2019.

Project partners included: University of Wisconsin Grainger School of Supply Chain Management, CESA 6 Purchasing Nutrition Coop (now the Wisconsin School Nutrition Purchasing Group), REAP Food Group, University of Wisconsin Madison Center for Integrated Agricultural Systems, and Kymm Mutch, Independent Consultant.

Program	Wisconsin AmeriCorps Farm to School Program
Lead Agency	Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction (DPI)
Participation	Ashland, Amherst, Arbor Vitae, Bayfield, Crawford County, Fort Atkinson, Juneau, La Crosse, Madison, Oregon, Sheboygan, Spooner, Stevens Point, Washburn, Waupaca
Funding	Federal service corps funds leveraged for this state program
Timeline	2014-Ongoing
Data	Students served (at least one lesson): 6,741 Students with improved willingness to try a new fruit or vegetable: 38% Local foods as part of school menus: 40 Local foods as part of taste tests: 241 Farmers engaged: 89 Garden beds: 257 (plus 8 hoop houses and 2 high tunnels) Community events: 137

Source: DPI AmeriCorps program 2018

In 2017, this program was transferred from DATCP to DPI. The AmeriCorps Farm to School Program provides educational sites with service members to:

- 1) promote increased fruit and vegetable consumption; and
- 2) improve school food environments.

Volunteers at the sites are divided between nutrition educators and community outreach coordinators. Both positions provide support for all aspects of farm to school, while supporting the above goals. Goals include: creating school gardens; connecting food service and neighboring farmers; and integrating local food into snack programs. After taste tests, students have shown an increase in nutritional knowledge.

AmeriCorps volunteers also help host sites connect to resources and build community support so that the Farm to School program is sustainable beyond the member's service year.

Project	Traditional Foods in Schools
Lead Agency	Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction
Participation	Available to all School Districts and Tribal Nations in Wisconsin
Funding	USDA Farm to School Grant
Timeline	2016-Current
Data	3 Trainings 2 Onsite Tastings 6 Online training videos

Source: DPI 2018

The traditional foods in schools project has provided multi-model training resources to support the three Bureau of Indian Education (BIE) schools within Wisconsin to increase the use of traditional foods within school nutrition programs. The definition of traditional foods are those of cultural importance to tribal nations. A toolkit and its accompanying video series was nearly complete at fiscal year's end, with activities at the following schools:

- Lac Courte Oreilles Ojibwe School
- Menominee Tribal School
- Oneida Nation School System



Project	Growing Wisconsin Farm to Early Care and Education
Lead Agency	Community Groundworks, Kids Forward, The Parenting Place
Participation	Open to all early care and education sites statewide
Funding	W.K. Kellogg Foundation
Timeline	2016-2020
Data	Participating ECE sites incorporating local foods into meals and snacks: 79% Total ECE Staff trained: 316 Participating ECE sites incorporating local foods into meals: 79% Garden micro-grants distributed: 94

Source: Community Groundworks 2018

This project brings together partners to develop policy, resources, and programs to support farm to early care and education (ECE) in Wisconsin. Program activities include providing trainings to ECE providers on local purchasing, on site gardening, nutrition education, and family engagement. The Parenting Place, a resource and referral organization for ECE in LaCrosse, had 10 pilot child care sites this year where they assisted sites in the purchasing and use of local foods, starting and maintaining gardens, and working farm to ECE into the curriculum and family engagement.

In addition, ECE sites were surveyed in 2018 to assess their interest and opinions about farm to ECE programming. The survey confirmed that children ages 0-5 have very different needs than those in the K-12 setting, and the infrastructure of administration and food preparation facilities in each setting differ as well. This is especially apparent in the purchase, food preparation practices, and facilities in the ECE setting. Unlike K-12 schools, which purchase food through broadline distributors and farm deliveries, ECE providers report purchasing food weekly from grocery stores (76 percent) and large retail warehouse stores (45 percent). Furthermore, ECE sites purchase smaller volumes of food, may have limited, or no, storage capacity for bulk storage, and/or prepare food in a manner more similar to a home kitchen than a commercial kitchen (Community Groundworks 2018).

Multiple resources for ECE sites were developed in 2017, including “the ABC’s of local food” posters, along with others that can be accessed here:

<http://www.communitygroundworks.org/content/farm-early-care-and-education>.

Project	Growing Strong Roots of Wisconsin Farm to School
Lead Agency	Community Groundworks, University of Wisconsin-Madison Center for Integrated Agricultural Systems
Participation	Supports farm to school and ECE sites statewide
Funding	USDA Farm to School Grant
Timeline	July 2017-December 2018
Data	New Media Pieces: 38 Network, Steering Committee, work group, and Council Meetings: 41 New Farm to School and ECE partnerships: 10

Source: Community Groundworks 2018

Support for the DATCP Farm to School Council, facilitating the Leadership Group, sustaining the Steering Committee, publishing the Wisconsin Farm to School and ECE Newsletter and continuing the Great Lakes Great Apple Crunch. This eighteen month project runs through December 2018.

Project	2017 Great Lakes Great Apple Crunch
Lead Agency	University of Wisconsin-Madison Center for Integrated Agricultural Systems (CIAS)
Participation	Districts across the Midwest
Funding	USDA Farm to School Grant, Wisconsin Farm to ECE Kellogg Funds
Timeline	Every October since 2014

October 2017 marked the Fourth Annual Great Lakes Great Apple Crunch, with over 1.5 million people Crunching in the Great Lakes Region. At noon on Thursday, October 12th, 262,404 Wisconsin students, teachers, children and staff at over 1,031 locations including school and early care centers Crunched into Wisconsin-grown apples from over 65 orchards to celebrate National Farm to School Month and raise awareness of farm to school and healthy food efforts across the state. Evaluation data suggests that participation in the Crunch has positive long-term effects, including the purchase of apples and other locally grown products by institutions into the future. (Source: CIAS, 2018)

<i>Project</i>	Know Your Buyer, Know Your Supplier Networking Trainings
<i>Lead Agency</i>	DATCP
<i>Participation</i>	Over 225 school foodservice staff, ECE providers, farmers, and food distributors in Viroqua, Janesville, Green Bay, Eagle River, and Wausau
<i>Funding</i>	USDA Farm to School Grant
<i>Timeline</i>	2015-2017

This series of statewide trainings in August 2017 connected Wisconsin schools and early care centers with local growers, processors, distributors, and other vendors. Hosted in partnership with local organizations, each full-day training included an introduction to F2S and farm to ECE, specific procurement content, and a meet-and-greet to connect buyers and sellers.

Overall, attendees rated their workshop experiences highly, with workshop sessions rated on average between “Effective” and “Very Effective.” The networking opportunities provided at each training were noted as particularly valuable to furthering participants’ farm to school effort. Attendees also appreciated learning more about the needs and wants of their farm to school counterparts: foodservice gained new insights into the timelines and seasonal concerns of farmers, while farmers learned more about foodservice operations, kitchen capacities, and food procurement requirements.

Work of the DATCP Farm to School Council

MISSION/GUIDING STATUTE: “Wisconsin Act 293: DATCP Farm to School Council (Council) role is to advise the development of a statewide WI Farm to School Program and network, educate state agencies and policy makers on the needs and opportunities for farm to school growth in the state, and support WI Farm to School Steering Committee and Leadership Group in prioritizing WI F2S programming.”

COUNCIL FUNCTIONS:

- 1) Advisory: Advise on policy needs and actions, provide feedback on proposed opportunities and obstacles, and report to the legislature and to the Secretary of DATCP on the needs and opportunities for WI F2S.
- 2) Communications: Establish interagency cooperation, communication, and unified messaging in WI F2S across the state.
- 3) Outreach and Support: Educate and inform key stakeholders and/or legislature on WI F2S programs and impacts.

Members of the Council have expertise in diverse components of farm to school, including: agriculture, nutrition, obesity-prevention, institutional meal programs, school policy, and health care administration.

COUNCIL OPERATIONS:

The Council is strategically comprised of a combination of state agencies, state and local leaders, and on-the-ground professionals engaged daily in agriculture and Wisconsin-based institutional food service. The Council meets twice per year in person, and twice by conference call, to provide a leadership perspective on current WI F2S efforts and strategic future direction. This is done in order to maintain an efficient program to maximize impact on Wisconsin’s agricultural producers, supply chain partners, school food service staff and Wisconsin students. Individually, each member provides valuable input and guidance; however, in combination, the Council provides perspective and recommendations that far exceed that of each individual. A list of current Council members is included in the appendix.

The DATCP Farm to School Council met in-person and by phone multiple times during FY17-18. Meeting agendas and minutes are available at DATCP.

August 1, 2017: Interim Conference Call

October 27, 2017: In-Person Council Kick-Off Meeting. Madison Metropolitan School District Production Kitchen, Madison.

January 25, 2018: Interim Conference Call

April 12, 2018: In-Person Council Meeting. DATCP Office, Madison

Based on annual priority issues, subgroups are created to address the immediate needs of these priorities. Sub group members participate in additional meetings and then report out and make recommendations to the greater board for consideration/discussion/modification/approval at regularly scheduled meetings.

2018/2019 Subgroups:

Equity subgroup

After the greater council had several discussions regarding how the Wisconsin Farm to School program can show its dedication to socio-economic and racial equity, a subgroup was created to address the issue. Resources from the National Farm to School Network, DATCP's Human Resources department, Kids Forward, and the Department of Administration were brought together to move the conversation into action for the 2018-2019 fiscal year.

Appendices

Wisconsin Farm to School Network: Structure, Roles & Responsibilities

October 2018

DATCP Farm to School Council

Who: State agency, non-profit, education, agriculture, and other statewide leaders

Membership: Appointed

Role: Advise DATCP and elected officials about the needs of farm to school and farm to institution efforts in the state of Wisconsin. Engage in strategic planning and mission guidance to move WI F2S Network forward sustainably into the future.

Responsibilities: See *Rules of Operation*

Narrative: The WI Farm to School Advisory Council was established by [Act 293](#). Its members serve as ambassadors for farm to school efforts across the state; support the Wisconsin Farm to School Network Steering Committee and Leadership Team to prioritize statewide farm to school goals and programming; and advise DATCP and elected officials on future state-level policy, strategy, and needs.

Steering Committee

Who: Representatives from 3-5 state agencies, institutions, and organizations with statewide reach and capacity for farm to school and other farm to institution efforts. Emphasis on partnerships with regulatory impact relating to all components of F2S (procurement, gardens, experiential education), agriculture, food systems, nutrition, and education.

Membership: Standing

Role: Steward the Wisconsin Farm to School Network through action-oriented, collaborative leadership, facilitation, and organization to maintain the forward efforts of the Wisconsin Farm to School Network, partnerships, and members. : supporting the DATCP Council, facilitation of Leadership Team, and development of Newsletter.

Responsibilities:

- Plan and participate in monthly, standing two-hour meeting of the Steering Committee
- Support DATCP in convening DATCP F2S Council, including:
 - Serve as liaison between Leadership Team and Council
 - Support the planning and facilitation of DATCP F2S Council meetings
 - Oversee writing and submission of WI F2S Annual Report by October of each year
- Facilitate Leadership Team, including:
 - Plan and lead monthly Leadership Team calls and biannual in-person meetings
 - Support Working Groups, as needed
 - Update Leadership Team membership list

- Serve on Wisconsin team of Core and Supporting Partners to the National Farm to School Network
 - Complete monthly reporting
 - Respond to emails generated through farmtoschool.org
 - Attend NFSN Annual Meeting or Farm to Cafeteria Conference, as able
- Manage content and delivery of the WI F2S and Farm to ECE Network Newsletter (2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month, Plus special editions)
- Connect and maintain continuity among statewide farm to school efforts (AmeriCorps Farm to School Program, USDA Pilot Project for the Procurement of Unprocessed Fruits and Vegetables, USDA F2S Census, etc) and parallel farm to institution efforts (farm to early care and education, farm to hospital, farm to college, etc).
- Provide TA and outreach as requested
- Lead planning team for WI F2S/Farm to ECE Summits, as possible.
- Guide strategic planning and mission guidance to move WI F2S Network forward sustainably into the future.

Narrative: Farm to school is made possible through strong inter-agency and organization partnerships representing the diverse project areas of F2S. Through shared, collaborative leadership, the Steering Committee maintains consistency and forward momentum for the Network. The WI Farm to School Network Steering Committee is currently comprised of dedicated staff from the WI Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection (DATCP); the WI Department of Public Instruction (DPI), the University of Wisconsin-Madison Center for Integrated Agricultural Systems (CIAS); and the Wisconsin School Garden Network at Community Groundworks.

Leadership Team

Who: Partners from statewide organizations working in areas complimentary to farm to school. Regional and local farm to school partners engaged in, or providing support to, farm to school or other farm to institution efforts including: County Health Departments, UW Extension, non-profit organizations, and others supporting multi-and single district F2S work. School or school district staff, farmers, AmeriCorps members or any individual interested in engaging more deeply in farm to school at the state level.

Membership: Membership is open to all in Wisconsin engaged or interested in farm to school. Engagement and responsibilities vary by participant interest.

Roles: Engage in active peer-to-peer networking to inform others about on-the-ground, local, and statewide farm to school projects. Leadership Team members may disseminate information, share resources, provide policy updates, share funding opportunities, participate in evaluation planning, and report on local activities. A key role is to inform and ground the Steering Committee and Council in local resources, activities, assets, and needs to grow farm to school efforts around the state.

Responsibilities:

- Attend monthly calls and biannual in-person networking meetings
- Lead or participate in Working Groups (currently Chili Lunch and Census)

- Contribute Feature Stories and content to the Newsletter
- As interested: lead working groups, host meetings, engage in statewide projects, partner on grant proposals, serve as local pilot for new initiatives.
- Receive Leadership Team emails

Narrative: The Wisconsin Farm to School Leadership Team is comprised of community, county, and state leaders from across Wisconsin who are actively engaged in growing farm to school efforts. Through active peer-to-peer networking, farm to school practitioners and advocates share the strengths and needs of their local programming, and bring resources back to their own communities.

Network Membership

The 'Network' consists of the above three groups, and the 1,850+ subscribers to the Wisconsin Farm to School and Farm to ECE Newsletter.

Sources: *DATCP F2S Council Rules of Operation, WI F2S Strategic Planning Meeting November 2014, WI F2S Leadership Group/Team notes September 2017 and April 2018.*

DATCP Farm to School Council | October 2018

DATCP Contact: Charlotte Litjens // 608-224-5017 : Charlotte.litjens@wisconsin.gov

The Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection Farm to School Council is formed by 2009 Wisconsin Act 293 with the goal of advising DATCP on future state level policy and strategy for farm to school in Wisconsin.

11-15 Members on Rotating 3-Year Terms	
3 State Agency Partners DATCP, DPI, DHS	3 Experts in Child Health 2 School Food Service Personnel <i>Includes standing seat for WI-SNA President</i>
≥ 1 Farmers	3 Support Organizations <i>Organizations supporting agriculture, schools, education, and nutrition</i> At Large Members <i>Economic Development, Youth and Students, Members of Industry, Policy support partners</i>

*Non-voting seat and agenda line item for members of the "Farm to School Steering Committee" **Terms end in October of the designated year

Current members

Name	Organization	Category	Term ends**	Name	Organization	Category	Term ends**
Krista Knigge	WI Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection	Agency	Standing	Cathy Statz	WI Farmers Union	Support	2018
Charles (Chuck) Waizecha	WI Department of Health Services	Agency	Standing	Nancy Dorman	WI Association of School Boards	Support	2019
Jessica Sharkus	WI Department of Public Instruction	Agency	Standing	Amber Canto	UW Extension	Support	2020
Mike Gasper	President, WI School Nutrition Association	FSD	Standing	Cynthia Holt	Holt Community Consulting and Fort Farmers Market	At Large	2018
Jim Degan	Janesville SD	FSD	2019	John Dettman	University of Wisconsin Athletics	At Large	2019
Chris Blakeney	Amazing Grace Family Farm	Farmer	2020	Kymm Mutch	Mutch Better Foods LLC	At Large	2020
Amy Meinen	healthIDE	Child Health	2018	Nan Peterson	American Family Children's Hospital	Child Health	2020
Daiithi Wolfe	Kids Forward	Child Health	2019				

*Current Farm to School Steering Committee include: Dana Colla and Ansley Meleod (DPI), Vanessa Herald (UW-CIAS), and Charlotte Litjens (DATCP)

State of Wisconsin

Date of enactment: **May 12, 2010**

2009 Assembly Bill 746 Date of publication*: **May 26, 2010**

2009 WISCONSIN ACT 293

AN ACT *to create* 15.137 (3), 20.115 (3) (at), 20.115 (4) (as) and 93.49 of the statutes; **relating to:** promoting the use of locally grown food in school meals and snacks and granting rule-making authority.

The people of the state of Wisconsin, represented in senate and assembly, do enact as follows:

SECTION 1. 15.137 (3) of the statutes is created to read:

15.137 (3) FARM TO SCHOOL COUNCIL. (a) There is created in the department of agriculture, trade and consumer protection a farm to school council.

(b) The secretary of agriculture, trade and consumer protection shall appoint to the council an employee of the department and shall appoint farmers, experts in child health, school food service personnel, and other persons with interests in agriculture, nutrition, and education.

(c) The secretary of health services shall appoint to the council an employee of the department of health services.

(d) The superintendent of public instruction shall appoint to the council an employee of the department of public instruction.

SECTION 2. 20.005 (3) (schedule) of the statutes: at the appropriate place, insert the following amounts for the purposes indicated:

2009–10 2010–11

20.115 Agriculture, trade and consumer protection, department of

(3) AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT SERVICES (at) Farm to school program administration GPR A –0– –0–

(4) AGRICULTURAL ASSISTANCE (as) Farm to school grants GPR A –0– –0–

SECTION 2m. 20.115 (3) (at) of the statutes is created to read:

20.115 (3) (at) *Farm to school program administration.*

The amounts in the schedule for promotion of farm to school programs under s. 93.49.

SECTION 3. 20.115 (4) (as) of the statutes is created to read:

20.115 (4) (as) *Farm to school grants.* The amounts in the schedule for farm to school grants under s. 93.49 (3).

SECTION 5. 93.49 of the statutes is created to read:

93.49 Farm to school programs. (1) DEFINITION.

In this section, “farm to school program” means a program to connect schools with nearby farms to provide children with locally produced fresh fruits and vegetables, dairy products, and other nutritious, locally produced foods in school breakfasts, lunches, and snacks; help children develop healthy eating habits; provide nutritional and agricultural education; and improve farmers’ incomes and direct access to markets.

(2) DEPARTMENT RESPONSIBILITIES. (a) The department shall promote farm to school programs. The department shall encourage schools, as part of farm to school programs, to purchase food produced in this state and to provide nutritional and agricultural education, including farm visits, cooking demonstrations, and composting and gardening at schools.

(b) The department shall do all of the following in carrying out its responsibilities under par. (a):

1. Identify impediments to providing locally produced fresh fruits and vegetables, dairy products, and other nutritious, locally produced foods in school breakfasts, lunches, and snacks and seek to reduce those impediments.
2. Advise other state agencies and local agencies on actions to promote farm to school programs and coordinate the department’s activities under this subsection with related activities of other state agencies, including the department of public instruction and the department of health services, local agencies, and nonprofit organizations.
3. Promote communications between local farmers and schools and sales of food from local farmers to schools.

4. Conduct training and provide technical assistance for school food service personnel and managers, farmers, and food distributors and processors concerning farm to school programs and food safety and procurement.
5. Promote farm to school programs through a public education campaign.
6. Provide information on its Internet site concerning farm to school programs.
7. Consult with the farm to school council and other interested persons.

(3) GRANT PROGRAM. (a) From the appropriation under s. 20.115 (4) (as), the department shall provide grants to school districts, in coordination with the department of public instruction, and to nonprofit organizations, farmers, and any other entities for the creation and expansion of farm to school programs. The department shall give preference to proposals that are innovative or that provide models that other school districts can adopt.

(b) The department may provide funding under this subsection for projects that do any of the following:

1. Create, expand, diversify, or promote production, processing, marketing, and distribution of food produced in this state for sale to schools in this state.
2. Create, expand, or renovate facilities, including purchases of equipment for the facilities that would ensure the use of food produced in this state in schools in this state.
3. Provide, expand, or promote training for food service personnel, farmers, and distributors.
4. Provide, expand, or promote nutritional and agricultural education in the classroom.

(c) The department shall consult with the farm to school council and other interested persons to establish grant priorities for each fiscal year.

(4) RULES. The department shall promulgate rules for the administration of this section.

(5) REPORTS. At least annually, the farm to school council shall report to the legislature under s. 13.172 (2) and to the secretary on the needs and opportunities for farm to school programs.

SECTION 6. Nonstatutory provisions.

(1) **POSITION AUTHORIZATION.** The authorized FTE positions for the department of agriculture, trade and consumer protection are increased by 1.0 GPR position to be funded from the appropriation under section 20.115

(3) (at) of the statutes, as created by this act, for promotion of farm to school programs.