

Wisconsin Farm to School

Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection

November 25, 2016 | New Opportunities and Resources Galore!

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

- [General Updates](#)
- [Wisconsin Farm to Early Care & Education](#)
- [Tools & Resources](#)
- [Webinars, Conferences & Events](#)
- [Funding Opportunities](#)
- [Farm to School in the News](#)



General Updates



WSGN

Wisconsin School Garden Network

Apply to Be a Wisconsin School Garden Network Regional Coordinator

Community GroundWorks is looking for five partnering organizations to support **regional coordinators** for the

Wisconsin School Garden Network (WSGN). WSGN will increase the capacity for garden-based education programs at schools, early care and education centers, afterschool sites, and other community sites across Wisconsin. **Regional coordinators** will be responsible for supporting the development of the Wisconsin School Garden Network at about 5% of their work time by conducting trainings, providing technical assistance, and supporting the communication goals of the Network. **Partnering organizations** will receive \$3,500 annually to provide support for their staff person to serve as regional coordinator. Organizations will partner with Community GroundWorks through a one-year renewable contract reviewed annually through December 31, 2020. More information about this request for partnership is available [here](#). Organizations interested in growing the Wisconsin School Garden Network by supporting a regional coordinator can [apply online here](#). **The application period will close at midnight on December 1, 2016.** Questions can be addressed to Nathan Larson at nathan@communitygroundworks.org or [608-240-0409](tel:608-240-0409).

Great Apple Crunch – Your Feedback Counts

We are still in awe of the 1.2 million Crunches in the Third Annual Great Lakes Great Apple Crunch on October 13th. Wisconsin came through strong, registering 207,875 Crunches. We love hearing all of your fun Crunch stories, and checking out your awesome pictures on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#). There's one more way you can make this Crunch, and future Crunches a success...by completing [this very short survey](#) to share the impact of your Crunch and let us know how to improve for next year. Need a good reason? Two survey respondents will be featured in 2017 Crunch promotional materials! Survey link here: <http://go.wisc.edu/30lfus>



New Wisconsin Farm to School Video

Check out [this new video](#) highlighting the bountiful relationship between Amazing Grace Family Farm and Janesville School District. This is one of six videos funded through a NFSN Innovation Grant to highlight farmers' stories throughout the Great Lakes Region. Stay tuned for five more great videos. See the video here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JZqvNwB0SUU>

Wisconsin Farm to Early Care & Education

What is Farm to Early Care and Education (ECE[Office1])?

In this new feature of the WI F2S newsletter, we will highlight opportunities in farm to early care and education (ECE) in Wisconsin! For this first feature, we'll explore What is farm to ECE?

Farm to ECE is 'farm to school' for our littlest learners and eaters at all kinds of early care sites: public preschool, family day care, Head Start, private daycare, or other setting. The four pillars of farm to ECE are nutrition education; gardens; buying, preparing, and serving local foods in meals and snacks; and family engagement.

Much like F2S, farm to ECE aims to teach good nutritional habits through experiential learning. Farm to ECE activities can be integrated into almost any classroom activity, enhance the learning environment, and cultivate excitement for healthy eating and physical activity that set the stage for healthy development. Hands-on gardening activities give little ones the chance to dig in the dirt and understand the connections between the food we eat and our environment.

Similar to K-12, many kids eat a majority of their meals and snacks at in an early care setting, and local food procurement is a great opportunity to positively impact child health at a crucial time of development, while also supporting local farmers. Family engagement becomes an essential element of farm to ECE to support parents and caretakers to grow together with children.

Check back every newsletter to learn more about Wisconsin Farm to ECE!

Tools & Resources

New Evaluation Tool: Farm to School Activity Tracker

The Farm to School Activity Tracker (F2SAT) allows diverse farm to school (F2S) programs to use a consistent tool for recording and tracking-related activities. Divided into 4 domains—school meals, classroom education, engagement activities, and gardening activities—the F2SAT is an accurate and reliable tool for cross-comparison of F2S program activities. **Find the full article [at this link](#).** Title: Farm to School Activity Tracker as an Accurate and Reliable Measure of Farm to School Programming. The Farm to School Activity Tracker and a User Guide are both available in the [Wisconsin Farm to School: Toolkit for Toolkit for School Nutrition Program](#) in the "Evaluate your work" section.

November Wisconsin School Garden Network Newsletter

Check out the November newsletter from the Wisconsin School Garden Network - resources and stories about building a community of support around your school garden! [Read it online here](#), or view the email content below. Other recent WSGN newsletters include [Math in the Garden](#) and [Farm to School](#). Thanks for sharing!

[Moooooving Forward Together: Strategies for Montana Beef to School](#)

This report features an overview of the Montana Beef to School program, including lessons learned on making beef to school and farm to school more feasible in Montana. It's also punny! There's lots of great ideas in here that can help get more Wisconsin-grown proteins on the menu. Fine the report [here](#).



[The Economics of Local Food Systems Toolkit to Guide Community Discussions, Assessments, and Choices](#) 2016 guide by USDA-AMS intended to provide a data-driven roadmap for communities eager to join the rapidly expanding local food sector. This toolkit is made up of seven modules, which outline a path for community leaders to conduct impact assessment and data analysis to inform policymakers and economic development officials about the potential benefits of local food initiatives. [Find the full resource here](#).

New report: Gardening as a child may lead college students to eat more veggies

As researchers nationwide try to get college students to eat healthier foods, they're finding that gardening may lead to a lasting habit of eating more fruits and vegetables. "This finding is particularly relevant, given the recent popularity of school gardens and farm-to-school projects," said Anne Mathews, a UF/IFAS assistant professor of food science and human nutrition and lead author of the study. Read a summary of the research [here](#).

Webinars, Conferences & Events

Meeting for Wisconsin's Agricultural Producers

Please share this invitation to farmers and agricultural producers that you work with!

Are you interested in selling your products to institutional purchasers in Wisconsin like schools, hospitals and universities? You're invited to the Wisconsin Farm to Institution Project's Grower/Producer Meeting on Friday, December 2nd to learn more about accessing these institutional markets and connecting with local supply chain partners like processors and distributors. This meeting is designed specifically for current or future growers and of apples, broccoli, carrots, potatoes, and



yogurt who are interested in reaching new markets like Wisconsin schools, hospitals, universities, and other institutions with support through this grant funded project. This meeting is free for WI growers, but registration is required. Please [complete this short registration form to RSVP](#). [Click here](#) to learn more about the Wisconsin Farm to Institution Procurement Project. Or [review our webinar recording](#) for more information.

Who: Wisconsin's farmers and ag producers
What: WI Farm to Institution Meeting for Producers

When: Friday, Dec. 2nd. 1:00-3:00pm CT

Where: [CESA 2 Offices at UW Whitewater Innovation Center](#) / CESA Purchasing
1221 Innovation Drive
Whitewater, WI 53190

Funding Opportunities



USDA Farm to School Grant

USDA announced the release of the FY 2017 Farm to School Grant Program Request for Applications. Up to \$5 million in grant funds is available to help schools create or strengthen farm to school programs this school year. Awards ranging from \$20,000 to \$100,000 will be distributed in four different grant categories: Planning, Implementation, Support Service, and Training. Applications are due by December 8, 2016. [Learn more here.](#)

School Food Support Initiative

Chef Ann Foundation is accepting applications for an 18-month technical assistance program to help districts transition to scratch cook operations. They will accept seven school districts. Applications will be accepted through November 30, 2016. Link to details [here.](#)

Safer Brand School Garden Grant

Grants of \$500 are available to a school to start a garden in 2017 to help build healthy habits. Applications are due December 1. Funding details [here.](#)

Schoolyard Garden Grants

This grant provides up to \$1,000 for plants, gardening equipment, curriculum, staff development and anything else that fosters connections between K-12 students and nature. Schools may design their own garden, enhance an existing garden, or better use an existing garden. Applications are due on Tuesday, December 16, 2016. [Learn more and apply here.](#)

Farm to School in the News

[Green Bay Area Public School District Holds Bulk Processing Day](#)

WBAY.com

GREEN BAY, Wis. (WBAY) – The Green Bay Area Public School District is trying to keep meals local and fresh. Food service employees from across Brown County took part in a bulk processing food day Friday at the district's food service building. That included nearly 2,050 pounds of carrots and 815 pounds of onions.



[Farm to School Brings Apples to Schools](#)

USA Today Network-Wisconsin

MANITOWOC - In an effort to bring more awareness of locally sourced foods to Manitowoc students, Amber Daus and Helena Stallings have worked through Manitowoc County Farm to School to bring the national Great Apple Crunch event to schools in Manitowoc County.

[Apple Crunch Hosted at Augusta Elementary School \(Video\)](#)

WEAU 13 News

If you were at Augusta Elementary School Thursday you would have heard a lot of crunching. That's because today was The Great Lakes Great Apple Crunch; it's a program started by the USDA to encourage school districts across the state to buy local. Kids had a poster contest, ate locally grown apples and wore red for the event...

Schools Aren't The Only Ones Serving Great Food!

Check out this new video featuring the farm to hospital efforts at Watertown Regional Medical Center in Wisconsin. [Video here.](#)

[Farm to school program is good for students, schools, and farmers alike](#)

"The nearly year-round nature of the school year means a longer, more dependable market for smaller suppliers, not

just at harvest time,” says Abby Harper, Farm to School Specialist at the MSU Center for Regional Food Systems. “Schools build stronger relationships with farmers and the farmers then see themselves as part of the community. This adds a new level of marketing and name recognition, depending on the relationship that’s been built.” [Second Wave Media](#)
