

Wisconsin Farm to School

Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection

July 22, 2016 | Our summer is in full swing!

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

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AmeriCorps members are on-the-ground advocates for Farm to School in their communities.

General Updates

DATCP Farm to School AmeriCorps Program Now Taking Applications



The Wisconsin Department of Agriculture Trade and Consumer Protection's (DATCP) AmeriCorps **Farm to School Program** is currently recruiting for **Community Outreach Specialists** and **Nutrition Educators** at all partnered host sites for the 2016-2017 service year! Counties hosting AmeriCorps members include Bayfield, Ashland, Washburn, Portage, Waupaca, Manitowoc, Winnebago, Dane, Jefferson, Milwaukee, Rock, Richland, and Crawford Counties. New this year: DATCP welcomes the Wisconsin Rapids School District –serving Wood County- and a collaborative site of Adams, Juneau, and Marquette County Health Departments.

To apply for a position at any of the AmeriCorps host sites or to request more information, click [here](#) or email the Program Manager, Dominique Bradley, at Dominique.Bradley@wisconsin.gov.

AmeriCorps members are on-the-ground advocates for farm to school in their communities. **Community Outreach Specialists** connect foodservice directors and local farmers, recruit/leverage volunteers, develop community networks, and build and maintain school gardens. **Nutrition Educators** provide in-class nutrition and garden education, conduct food tastings, and connect farmers and other local food advocates to Wisconsin youth through presentations and farm visits. In addition to serving in their communities and working to expand the reach of farm to school in Wisconsin, AmeriCorps members participate in focused training, professional development opportunities, and receive monetary educational benefits while participating in the program.

Funding for this program is provided by Serve Wisconsin through the Corporation for National and Community Service. AmeriCorps is a national service program that provides members opportunities to learn valuable work skills while serving communities in need.

Share Your Farm to School Success Statewide: Write an Op-ed!

Summer is a great time to amplify your farm to school success through an Op-Ed or featured story shared with local media! Take the opportunity to highlight your unique garden-based summer programming for kids; local food processing and freezing; farmer relationships; and summer meals programs that feature local foods. Even better, you can promote the farm to school and farm to early care work that you're planning for the year ahead, laying the groundwork for National Farm to School Month events and perhaps even introducing new partners to the Great Lakes Great Apple Crunch in October. July and August are a great time to feature these stories. Use [this success story template](#) and resource guide to write up your success and share it with your local media.



Farm to School Month Is Just Around the Corner!

October is National Farm to School Month, and our favorite month to celebrate and share farm to school in the region! Are you ready for the following fun promotional events and campaigns in October? It's never too early to start preparing. Sign up and get more information at the links below:

Download the 2016 #F2SMonth resources here, including fact sheets, logos, posters and stickers!
www.farmtoschool.org/our-work/farm-to-school-month
(Scroll to bottom half of page)

[Sign up to be a National Farm to School Month Outreach Partner](#)

Sign up and be a part of the [Great Lakes Great Apple Crunch](#) on **October 13th!**

Join the region in serving a local tray with the **Midwest Menu** on **October 6th** (Details coming soon!)

Want More Farm to Cafeteria Conference Energy?

Be sure to look for your smiling face and relive all the great Conference moments in the 8th [National Farm to Cafeteria Conference Photo Album](#). Even if you were unable to attend the conference, you can now [download and review Conference materials here](#).



New Tools and Resources

USDA Factsheets Now Available in Spanish

USDA recently had three of their most popular farm to school fact sheets translated into Spanish. Check them out:

- [Integrating Local Foods into Child Nutrition Programs](#)
- [10 Facts About Local Food in Schools](#)
- [Decision Tree: How Will You Bring Local Foods into the Cafeteria with Your Next School Food Purchase?](#)

Report: School District Wellness Policies

The Bridging the Gap/National Wellness Policy Study District Wellness Policy Monograph has been released, which covers the first eight years of the wellness policy requirement for school years 2006-07 through 2013-14. Using a nationally representative sample of school

districts, this report provides details about the characteristics of these districts as well as the individual components of wellness policies and related provisions. [View the report here.](#)

Ingredient Watch Guide for Better School Food Purchasing

Together, let's say "Yes!" to more whole foods that are regionally grown, sustainably produced and healthier for our kids. This guide from [School Food Focus](#) is a resource for school food leaders and manufacturers alike who are committed to improving the overall quality, nutritional value, and safety of food provided to students in every school. It highlights unwanted ingredients to eliminate, or those to watch out for, as new food products are developed and others are modified. Download the guide here:

<http://www.schoolfoodfocus.org/ingredientwatch/>

Webinars, Conferences and Events



2015 USDA Farm to School Census Overview

August 11, 2pm CT

This webinar will provide an overview of the recently released [2015 USDA Farm to School Census website](#). Matt Benson, Program Analyst within USDA's Office of Community Food Systems, and Erin McGuire, Policy Director for the National Farm to School Network, will share information summarizing Census results using the raw data and the soon to be released data explorer tool. Additionally, presenters will share ways in which Census data can be used at the local, state, and national levels in support of farm to school. [Register here.](#)

Wisconsin Farm to Institution Webinar

Two opportunities: August 22nd, 1pm CT or September 14th, 1pm CT

Join representatives of the Wisconsin Farm to Institution Project Team as they discuss their research into developing local supply chains for five targeted products: apple sauce, broccoli, carrot coins, potato wedges, and yogurt. This webinar will be geared toward food service professionals at schools, hospitals, and other cafeteria settings who are interested in accessing these locally produced products through their broadline or produce distributor. [Sign up to register for a webinar date here.](#)

Funding Opportunities

Early Head Start Expansion

The administration for Children and Families is awarding funding to expand partnerships between early head start and child care services. This is a **GREAT** opportunity to incorporate aspects of Farm to ECE into your grant proposal. Funding is available for:

[Early Head Start Expansion and EHS-Child Care Partnership](#)

[American Indian and Alaskan Native EHS Expansion and EHS-Child Care Partnership](#)

[Migrant and Seasonal EHS-Child Care and EHS Expansion Partnerships](#)

Bring “Fruit Tree 101” to Your School:



The [Fruit Tree Planting Foundation](#) orchard donations involve, on average, a 12-20 tree minimum (they do not currently offer single trees) to public or nonprofit schools. The trees, materials, orchard installation design work, and onsite environmental curriculum with students are all donated, free of charge for the benefit of the school and its students. Download the application [here](#) and ask an interested school official to complete and return it to us directly according to the instructions in the document.

Donald Herb Garden Grant, Herb Society of America

The Herb Society of America is inviting applications from teachers in grades 3 to 6 for its 2016-17 Donald Samull Classroom Herb Garden Grant. Through the program, the society will award up to ten \$200 grants to public and private school teachers in grades 3 to 6 to cultivate an indoor or outdoor herb garden. The funds may be used for materials such as soil, plant trays, containers, child- or youth-sized tools, etc. Selected classrooms selected will receive three windowsill herb garden kits complete with pots, soil, seeds, and educational materials for use in the classroom. [Learn more here.](#)

Home Depot Community Impact Grants

The Home Depot Foundation offers grants, up to \$5,000, which are available to 501(c)3 designated organizations and tax-exempt public service agencies in the U.S. that are using the power of volunteers to improve the physical health of their community. Grants are given in the form of The Home Depot gift cards for the purchase of tools, materials, or services. The primary goal is to provide grants and volunteer opportunities to support the renovation, refurbishment, retrofitting, accessibility modifications, and/or weatherization of existing homes, centers, schools and other similar facilities. Applications are considered on a rolling basis until December 31, 2016. [To learn more and apply, click here.](#)



Fruit and Veggie Grants for Schools

[Skoop](#) and the Chef Ann Foundation have teamed up to launch Project Produce: Fruit and Veggie Grants for Schools. These \$2,500 grants help schools increase kids' access to fresh fruits and veggies and nutrition education. Any district or independent school participating in the [National School Lunch Program](#) (NSLP) is eligible to apply. **There is no deadline.** Grants will be determined on an ongoing basis depending on available funding. See more at:

<http://www.chefannfoundation.org/programs/project-produce/>



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