




DIGGING THROUGH FARM TO SCHOOL RESOURCES

Oct. 7, 2010

Presented by: USDA Farm to School Team and National Farm to School Network

Today's Webinar Presenters

- **Loren LaCorte**
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 USDA, Food and Nutrition Services
- **Marion Kalb**
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 Community Food Security Coalition
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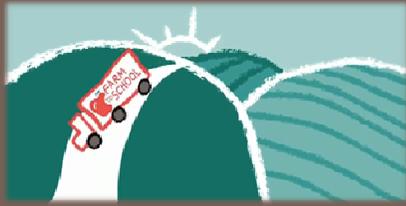
Today's Agenda

- National Farm to School Network Update
- USDA Farm to School Team Update
- Where to Dig for Resources
- Sample of Available Resources
- Q&As

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National Farm to School Network Update



National Farm to School Network

- 1996: 2 programs
- 2002: 400 programs
- 2006: 1000 programs
- 2010: over 2,000 programs

in all 50 states and

GROWING!

www.farmtoschool.org



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USDA Economic Research Service Partnership



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National Farm to School Month

- Seeking Congressional approval to declare **October** National Farm to School Month
- **House Resolution 1655:** Encourages schools...to use local produce in meals throughout the month of October; and
- Encourages schools, farmers, and farm groups, local businesses, nonprofit institutions, churches, cities, State governments.... to raise the awareness of Farm to School efforts in their communities.

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Child Nutrition Reauthorization

"Farm to school programs exemplify the best use of federal school lunch dollars." Rep. Rush Holt (NJ)



Key Policy Provisions include:

- Mandatory 40 - 50 million dollars for a competitive Farm to School grants program
- Additional 6 cents reimbursement for per school lunch served

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Upcoming Workshops

Community Food Security Coalition Annual Meeting
October 16th - 19th in
New Orleans, Louisiana

- Farm to School Workshop Track
- Food Safety Short Course
- National Farm to School Networking Session
- FoodCorps: an AmeriCorps Farm to School and school garden program

<http://communityfoodconference.org/14/>



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USDA Farm to School Team Update



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USDA Farm to School Team



- Established out of *Know Your Farmer, Know Your Food* initiative
- Supports local and regional food systems via linkages between schools and local food producers
- Comprised of FNS & AMS employees
- Regional & Other HQ Representation
- For more info. see March 10th webinar at:
<http://www.fns.usda.gov/cnd/F2S/sightssoundsstories.htm>

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USDA Farm to School Team Update:

- Farm to School Site Visits Complete
 - 15 school districts; representing 9 areas across the country
 - Varied demographics and Farm to School characteristics
- Met with:
 - School district administrators (including school food service)
 - Local farmers
 - Local and state authorities
 - Students
 - Teachers
 - Parents
 - Community partners
- Now What?

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Geographic Preference Rule Update:

Geographic Preference Option for the Procurement of Unprocessed Agricultural Products in Child Nutrition Programs

<http://www.fns.usda.gov/cnd/governance/proposed/2010-04-19.pdf>

- 2008 Farm Bill
 - Encourage CNP operators to purchase unprocessed locally grown and locally raised agricultural products
- Comments received to Proposed Rule
- Considering comments & drafting Final Rule

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USDA Farm to School Website Update:

<http://www.fns.usda.gov/cnd/F2S>

- Available Grants:
 - People's Garden School Pilot Program
- Resources:
 - Food and Nutrition Service
 - Chefs Move to Schools
 - National Agricultural Library
 - Farm to School and School Gardens
 - Farm to School Bulletin Board Resources
 - Chef Resources
- Future plans



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Where to Dig for Resources:

- USDA's Farm to School Website
- National Farm to School Network's Website
- State Depts of Agriculture, Education and Health
- County Cooperative Extension Offices
- Local Universities
- State Farm to School Coordinators (if applicable)
- Organizations, Schools and Growers Currently Implementing Farm to School Activities

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Known State Farm to School Coordinators

□ AL (Ed)	□ ID (Ed)	□ NJ (Ag)	□ VA (Ed)
□ AK (Ag)	□ IL (Ed)	□ NY (Ag)	□ VT (Ag)
□ CA (Ed)	□ IN (Ed)	□ OK (Ag)	□ WA (Ag)
□ CT (Ed)	□ KY (Ag & Ed)	□ OH (Ag & Ed)	□ WI (Ed)
□ DC (Ed)	□ MI (Ed)	□ OR (Ag & Ed)	□ WV (Ed)
□ DE (Ed)	□ MD (Ag & Ed)	□ PA (Ed)	
□ FL (Ag & Ed)	□ MS (Ed)	□ SC (Ed)	
□ GA (Ed)	□ NC (Ag & Ed)	□ SD (Ag)	
□ IA (Ag)	□ ND (Ag)	□ TN (Ed)	

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State Agencies Working Together

- State Agencies and/or Organizations working together:
 - Agriculture
 - Education
 - Health
 - State School Nutrition Association



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5 Areas We Dug...

- How to Get Started
- Distribution
- Food Safety
- Procurement
- Nutrition/Agriculture Education



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How to Get Started

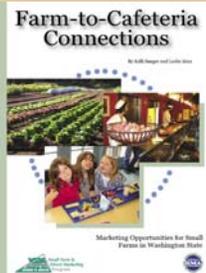


Suggestions to getting started...

- Conducting a self-assessment
- Researching existing Farm to School efforts
- Setting a goal or vision for Farm to School
- Bring everyone to the table
 - School Food Service and other School Administrators
 - Other School Personnel
 - State Agencies
 - Farmers
 - Community Partners

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WA Department of Agriculture



Farm-to-Cafeteria Connections

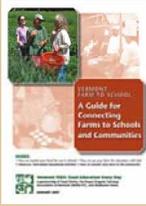
<http://www-stage.agr.wa.gov/marketing/farmtoschool/docs/102-FarmToCafeteriaConnections-Web.pdf>

- Provides examples of four types of farm to cafeteria models

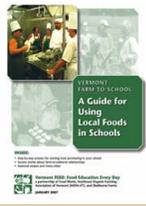
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Vermont Farm to School Guides

A Guide for Connecting Farms to Schools & Communities



A Guide for Using Local Foods in Schools

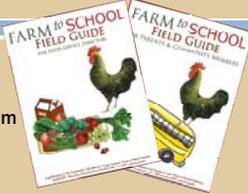


<http://www.vtfeed.org>

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Farm to School Field Guides

- Produced by:
Community Alliance with Family Farmers' Farm to School Initiative:



- For Food Service Staff:
<http://www.caff.org/programs/FSDguide.pdf>
- For Parents and Community Members:
http://www.caff.org/programs/FTS_parentguide_caff_web.pdf

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USDA Guides

Please note the procurement sections in these manuals are out dated. See USDA Farm to School Website for the latest procurement requirements at <http://www.fns.usda.gov/cnd/F2S>.



- Small Farms/School Meals Initiative
- Eat Smart-Farm Fresh: A Guide to Buying and Selling Locally-Grown Food in School Meals.
- Innovative Marketing Opportunities for Small Farmers: Local Schools as Customers
- How Local Farmers and School Food Service Buyers Are Building Alliances

<http://www.fns.usda.gov/cnd/F2S>

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National Farm to School Network

- Publications: Brochures, Fact Sheets, Case Studies, Research & Evaluation
- Videos & Social Media
 - <http://video.farmtoschool.org/>
 - <http://www.cafarmtoschool.org/>



Baking Fruit:
GOING LOCAL



NETWORK



Farm to School

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National Farm to School Network

- 8 Regional Lead Agencies of the NFSN



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Distribution



FARM 2 SCHOOL
RURAL-URBAN SCHOOLS FOOD PROJECT

GET REAL!

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Community Food Security Coalition

Delivering More: Scaling Up Farm to School Programs

http://foodsecurity.org/pub/Delivering_More-Scaling_up_Farm_to_School.pdf



DELIVERING MORE

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Nuevos Mercados Para Su Cosecha

New Ways to Sell What You Grow

- This resource for Spanish-speaking farmers provides information and purchasing guidelines to help farmers sell excess produce in a number of institutional settings.
- Printed copies can be ordered by calling 1-800-ASK-NCAT or 800-411-3222 (Spanish help line)
- An audio copy may be downloaded from: http://www.attra.org/media/nuevos_mercados.mp3
- Also available in English is *New Markets for Your Crops*, http://www.attra.org/attra-pub/PDF/new_markets.pdf



NUEVOS MERCADOS PARA SU COSECHA

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MI's Step-by-Step Guide for Farmers Wanting to Sell to Schools

- Includes sections on
 - getting started
 - building community connections
 - preparing marketing packets and bid documents
 - developing contracts
 - starting to sell products
 - links to useful tools and resources



Marketing Michigan Products

<http://www.mifarmtoschool.msu.edu/index.php?q=marketing-guide>

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Oklahoma Department of Agriculture Farm to School

- *Tips, Tools and Guidelines for Food Distribution and Food Safety*
- Farm to School Distribution Cost Template
- Produce Calculator
- Food Safety

<http://www.okfarmtoschool.com/>



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Food Safety



National GAPs Education Center

- **National GAPs Education Center through Cornell University**
 - GAPs Training and Workshops - Develop Your Own Farm Food Safety Plan
 - GAPs Online Produce Safety Course

<http://www.gaps.cornell.edu/>



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More Food Safety Resources:

- FDA's Guidance for Industry: Guide to Minimize Microbial Food Safety Hazards for Fresh Fruits and Vegetables
<http://www.fda.gov/Food/GuidanceComplianceRegulatoryInformation/GuidanceDocuments/ProduceandPlanProducts/ucm064574.htm>
- Joint Institute for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition (JIFSAN)
<http://www.jifsan.umd.edu/training/gaps.php>

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USDA's Food Safety Resources:

- Good Agriculture Practices (GAP) Good Handling Practices (GHP)
<http://www.ams.usda.gov/gapghp>
- Cooperative Extension
<http://www.csrees.usda.gov/Extension>
- Best Practices: Handling Fresh Produce in Schools
http://www.fns.usda.gov/fns/safety/pdf/best_practices.pdf



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Examples of State Food Safety Resources:

- IA State University Cooperative Extension
<http://www.extension.iastate.edu/foodsafety/>
- KY Dept. of Agriculture offers free GAP Ed Training
<http://www.kyagr.com/consumer/food/FarmtoSchool.htm>
- WA Dept. of Agriculture provides Mock GAP Audits
<http://www.foodsafetynews.com/2010/07/mock-good-agricultural-practices-audit/>
- OK Depts. of Education and Health worked together to provide guidance for school districts
<http://www.okfarmtoschool.com/pdf/memorandum-6-26-06.pdf>

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Procurement



USDA's Resources...

- Child Nutrition Programs Procurement Requirements & Policies
- Procurement Policy Q&As on Local Food Purchases
<http://www.fns.usda.gov/cnd/F2S/f2spolicy.htm>
- USDA's State Agency Guidance on Procurement Training
 - Via National Food Service Management Institute (NFSMI)
<http://www.nfsmi.org/>

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Your State and Local Authorities

- State Department of Education's Child Nutrition Programs Division
- Local Procurement Offices



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School Gardens

- FNS Memorandum 32-2009 - School Garden Q&As
http://www.fns.usda.gov/cnd/governance/Policy-Memos/2009/SP_32-2009_os.pdf
 - Provides frequently asked questions regarding the operation of a school garden
- Fresh, Healthy, and Safe Food: Best Practices for Using Produce from School Gardens
http://www.farmtoschool.org/files/publications_188.pdf

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Nutrition/Agriculture Education



Growing Minds







- Lesson Plan Information
- Children's Literature
- Recipes in Spanish and English
- Farm Field Trips



<http://growing-minds.org/nutr-ed.php>

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Cooking with Kids

<http://www.cookingwithkids.net/>

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Center for Ecoliteracy

<http://www.ecoliteracy.org/publications/downloads>

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USDA's Nutrition & Agriculture Education Resources

- Rural Development
 - Agriculture in the Classroom
<http://www.aqclassroom.org/kids/index.htm>
 - Youth Resources on Agriculture
http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal/usda/usdahome?navid=YOUTH_RESOURCES&parentnav=RURAL_DEVELOPMENT&navtype=RT
- Food & Nutrition Services
 - Team Nutrition <http://teammnutrition.usda.gov/>
- Farm Service Agency (FSA)
 - FSA Kids <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA/kidsapp>

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Agriculture in the Classroom

- Find your state's Agriculture in the Classroom:
<http://www.aqclassroom.org/state/websites.htm>

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Share with us the resources that helped you.

Questions and Answers

Thank you!

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<http://www.fns.usda.gov/cnd/F2S>
farmtoschool@fns.usda.gov

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info@farmtoschool.org