

Ohio Farm to School Newsletter

National, Regional and State Updates

February 2016



Photo credit to Lighthouse Community School

Ohio Farm to School Success Stories: Lighthouse Community School and Chesterhill Produce Auction

We are continuing our series of Ohio’s farm to school success stories to inspire and encourage more activity in schools and institutions across the Buckeye state! This month, we visit with the Lighthouse Community School in Cincinnati, and then learn about school fieldtrips to Chesterhill Produce Auction.

First, see page 2 for an update about the USDA Farm to School Census. See pages 3 and 4 for sneak peaks of the stories (see our website for the full versions!) – then keep reading to learn about upcoming events, webinars, funding opportunities, and resources related to farm to school activities throughout the state. *Don’t miss page 8 for an update about 2017 USDA Farm to School grants!*

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FARM TO SCHOOL CENSUS RESULTS

By Carol Smathers
Ohio Farm to School State Lead

Farm to School Census

As I shared in a newsletter article last fall, some of the best information that we have about how school districts across Ohio and across the US are involved with Farm to School comes from the USDA Farm to School Census. The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) recently released data collected in 2015 about school districts' local purchasing and other activities related to local foods.

2015 Data

The USDA has reported that 42,587 schools from 5,254 districts were "bringing the farm to school, including buying local foods to serve in their cafeterias (during the 2013-2014 school year). These schools collectively reached over 23.6 million students by purchasing, serving, growing, and teaching about local foods.

Source: <https://farmtoschoolcensus.fns.usda.gov/find-your-school-district/ohio>

Ohio Farm to School participation

In 2015, 1258 school district entities in Ohio received the Farm to School Census. Of those districts, 717 completed the survey (57% response rate). Of the schools that responded, 27% said they are engaged in Farm to School activities, and an additional 18% said they planned to start in the future.

The Ohio districts that purchased local products reported they collectively spent \$16,476,600 on local foods. Importantly, On average, school district entities spent 17% of their food budgets on local foods. Additionally, at least 116 school gardens are growing in Ohio.

How do Ohio districts define "local"?

Here is how most Ohio respondents define "local foods", (according to the 2013 census):

- Within 50 miles (32%)
- Within 100 miles (12%)
- Within the state (19%)

Which local foods do Ohio districts purchase?

According to the most recent census (2013-2014 school year), the local foods categories that school districts in Ohio reported buying most include: fruit, vegetables, milk, and meat or poultry.

Shout Out to top F2S Districts in Ohio

As mentioned on the USDA Farm to School Census website, the following districts (and many others) in Ohio are beating the state average with regard to the percent of their food budget spent locally

- Waterloo Local School District
- Minerva Local School District
- Federal Hocking School District

Be watching this newsletter in future months for Ohio Farm to School Success Stories featuring these and other districts.

How your district can get started with Farm to School

The USDA also reported that 16% of school districts surveyed plan to start farm to school activities in the future. In Ohio, that figure is 44%! If your school district is among this group, we recommend the following organizations as excellent sources of information and resources to get you going:

- Cooperative Extension (Ohio State University state and county Extension offices/websites)
- National Farm to School Network
- USDA Farm to School

Gaining more information from the Farm to School Census

Results from all states can be found at: <https://farmtoschoolcensus.fns.usda.gov/>. You can search for your school district's data by entering the district's name. In the future, data about school districts in your county or region will be available using search functions.

Take some time to read about what the school districts in your area are doing to bring the farm to school!

Happy Spring!

Carol Smathers

OHIO FARM TO SCHOOL CELEBRATES: Lighthouse Community School

Written by Amy Fovargue and Carol Smathers

School Garden Transforms Community

“We used to be known in the community as the school with all of the bad kids, but now we are known as the school with the gardens. Our reputation has changed for the better,” said Daniel Trujillo, superintendent of the Lighthouse Community School of Cincinnati.

The Lighthouse, a 65-student behavioral school for children in foster care, offers an Urban Agriculture Program for students in seventh grade through high school. In 2010 they started with two 4X4 foot boxes to garden, planted in raised beds in the corner squares of the parking lot where no one was able to park anyway.

Thanks to the encouragement of Liz Solomon of the Ohio Department of Education (ODE), they applied for and received a \$2,000 Farm to School grant that was offered by the ODE. “The money kick-started the urban ag project, but then, we had so many additional contributions from the public with items like rain barrels, we had a hard time spending all of the money!” exclaimed Trujillo.



It Takes A Village

Development corporations in the neighborhood have donated land for the school to garden. Right now, the school has 55 gardens in the area. One garden is designed in the shape of a lighthouse to honor the school's name. They host community gatherings such as seed swaps, where garden knowledge is exchanged between generations. The students also do guerrilla gardening, reclaiming abandon properties, and help neighbors clean up their backyards. A local business allows the school to start their plants in their greenhouse.

The program relies on hundreds of volunteers to work through the summer, and they are able to pay some students to work in the garden and at the market day which is twice a week from May through August.

Last year, Lighthouse sold 1,500 pounds of produce. People can come pick their own fruits and vegetables. Often, grandparents and parents will bring their children to pick, and the students will show them the gardens, and then if anything is leftover at the end of the day it is sent to a local food pantry. If anyone wants to pick during the off hours, they are simply asked to weigh the produce and leave a note so the school can keep track of the yield. “One problem with that, is that there were too many green tomatoes picked and we did not have as many red tomatoes as we would have liked,” Trujillo explained.

An Impact in Life-long Learning

Trujillo says students are learning the following life skills: thinking skills, grit to stick with a project, showing up on time for work, delayed gratification by waiting for plants to produce, soft skills when working with adults.

One conversation between a student and a teacher went like this: Teacher: “What have you learned from cleaning out the chicken coop?” Student: “If you can clean this s@#! out, you can do anything!”

“There is something inspiring about working hard and living through the experience of raising chickens, planting seeds, cultivating the soil, and harvesting. There are no metrics to measure how or why this builds a youth's self-esteem. It just does,” Trujillo concluded.

[Click here to read the full story!](#)

OHIO FARM TO SCHOOL CELEBRATES: Chesterhill Produce Auction

Written by Amy Fovargue

Two school day events were held in 2015 at the Chesterhill Produce Auction, a rural food hub operated in Morgan County by the nonprofit Rural Action.

Last spring, 170 students from The Plains Elementary and Alexander Elementary learned about the local food system by actively participating in planting, composting, nutrition, cooking, insect sampling, a mock auction, philanthropy, and food access and distribution. Rural Action's Environmental Education Coordinator, Joe Brehm, developed curriculum that met the appropriate learning standards.

Jennifer Trainer, a teacher at The Plains Elementary School said, "Our second graders enjoyed themselves and learned a great deal about local food."

Trainer was pleased to have demonstrated at the auction the main science standard: observe and ask questions about the natural environment. They were able to compare soil types and plant beans in the garden. They participated in an auction to demonstrate how the auction works where community members and restaurants come to buy fresh produce. The students also viewed fantastic visuals to show how and why produce is better when it comes from local farms and farmers instead of being trucked from states away.

"Anytime we can expose our children to real-world experiences (outside the classroom) it is beneficial. Sure, some of our kids have gardens, yet has anyone taught them about the soil types and the benefits of growing their own food? Making their own salad dressing was very exciting for the kids, because most families just get their dressing from a bottle. They are also more likely to taste new foods if they have a hand in preparing them," Trainer said. The stations were fun, engaging, and motivating, so the students were on-task and well-behaved, she added.

Rural Action is a membership based organization working to build sustainable local economies in Appalachian Ohio. This activity was a continuation of their Farm to Institution to School Program. Through this program, Rural Action receives local produce purchased from the auction that is then processed by Hocking College Culinary students, and ultimately delivered to schools.

This event grew out of the desire to connect the students with the local food in their school's cafeteria. Sponsors of the effort included Hocking College, Live Healthy Appalachia, Community Food Initiatives, Ohio University's COM-Corps program, the Athens City School Nutrition Group, and Rural Action's Environmental Education Program.

Funding was provided by a USDA Farm to School Support services grant, Sisters of Saint Joseph Charitable Fund, the Osteopathic Heritage Foundation and many local restaurants. Each student received a t-shirt with all of the sponsor's names as a memento of their day. Rural Action plans on hosting more school days in 2016.

"I was a sponsor because I really appreciate all that Chesterhill Produce Auction does in helping my business and community obtain quality local foods. Also, I think it's important to teach kids while they are young the many health and economic benefits of sourcing food locally," said Andrea Molnar of Lui Lui restaurant.



[Click here to read the full story!](#)

Farm to School – for Summer!

Summer is a great time to experiment with farm to school!

Summer is a fantastic time of year to add variety to keep meals tasting great. In Ohio, USDA's Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) aligns well with the peak growing season, allowing schools and nonprofit organizations to serve products in their freshest state. There are numerous benefits to "bringing the farm" to summer feeding sites. Sponsors can increase participation by improving the quality of meals and keeping kids engaged through hands-on activities. Schools can develop continuous, year-round farm to school programming, and test out cooking techniques and recipes using local foods. Regional producers benefit from a reliable outlet for their products during the summer months. And kids and teens get fresh, healthy meals and participate in activities at meals sites, staying nourished and engaged while school is out!

USDA Resources

- [Farm to Summer Fact Sheet](#) - Use this fact sheet for summer meal program tips on incorporating local foods and agriculture-based activities.
- [Local Foods and Related Activities in Summer Meal Programs](#) SP-07-2016, SFSP-07-2016 - This policy memo provides guidance on the incorporation of local foods and nutrition and agriculture-based activities into Summer Meal Programs. Published November 12, 2015.
- [SFSP Toolkit](#) - Find local foods guidance for [state agencies](#), [sponsors](#), and [partner organizations](#), along with tips for starting a summer meals site at [farmers markets](#).
- [SFSP Handbook](#) (pdf) - Sponsors can find guidance on procurement and tips on targeting local foods.
- [SFSP Webinar Series](#) - Listen to presenters discuss incorporating local foods in summer meals, building awareness about summer programs, engaging in partnerships that help boost participation and increase access, and more.

Contact the Ohio Department of Education to get started!

For more information on how Farmer's Markets can partner with Ohio Summer Food Service Sponsors, please contact: Mary Forster, Education Program Specialist, SFSP at (614) 752-1460 or e-mail: mary.forster@education.ohio.gov

Get Involved with Ohio Farm to School This Year!

Join Our Stakeholder Input Calls

Join us to share your experience with farm to school, learn from your peers, and to help inform Ohio Farm to School's work this year – including the regional workshops!

We'll be holding various stakeholder input calls every other month this year – let us know if you want to be involved by emailing Laura at Kington.10@osu.edu.

Our next calls will be for:

- Parents on April 15th at 11:30am,
- OSU Extension educators on April 26th at 3pm,
- Food service personnel on May 2nd at 10am,
- Producers on May 24th at 3pm.

Not an Extension educator, food service personnel, producer, or parent? Email us to get involved!

Save the date for our regional workshops next October!

In farm to school month 2016 (October!), we will convene six regional workshops across Ohio. At each workshop, we will share regional success stories and provide trainings and resources, as well as facilitate relationship-building between parents, producers, food service staff, and other farm to school stakeholders!

- October 11: Southeast Ohio
- October 13: Northeast Ohio
- October 14: Northwest Ohio (*note date change*)
 - October 20: Western Ohio
 - October 27: Central Ohio

Or just get in touch...with questions, stories to share, or anything else!

News & Resources

State, Regional, and National

Toolkit: The Economics of Local Food Systems

The USDA Local Food System Toolkit provides detailed guidance in seven modules to measure and assess the expected economic impacts of local food investments. Using real-world projects, experiences, and applied research, it provides grounded, credible, and useable assessment methods. The Local Food System Toolkit can be used by policy makers, community leaders, private businesses or foundations to offer specific estimates that will help them decide whether to invest in initiatives that increase local food activity.

To download the toolkit:

<https://www.ams.usda.gov/sites/default/files/media/Toolkit%20Designed%20FINAL%203-22-16.pdf>

Project Produce: Fruit and Veggie Grants for Schools

The Chef Ann Foundation has \$250,000 available to support school lunchroom learning programs. Project Produce: Fruit and Veggie Grants for Schools is a grant program designed to help increase kids' access to fresh fruits and vegetables and create experiential nutrition education when and where students make their food choices: in the cafeteria. The \$2,500 one-year grants support food costs to incorporate school-wide fruit and vegetable tastings into the school's nutrition program. Any district or independent school participating in the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) is eligible to apply. Grants will be determined on an ongoing basis depending on available funding; there is no application deadline.

To learn more and apply: <http://www.chefannfoundation.org/programs-and-grants/project-produce>

Spring Garden Lessons

The Ecology Center's Grow Your Own! program supports school gardens and their leaders with mentorship, curriculum, materials, and resources to help create gardens that are beautiful, educational, and functional. This library collects the program's lessons for the spring, created for students from kindergarten through fifth grade.

Read the full article: <http://edibleschoolyard.org/library/grow-your-own-%E2%80%93-spring-garden-lessons>

On-going resources:

- Finding local farms, buyers, or restaurants that purchase/serve local foods, visit **Ohio MarketMaker:** www.ohiomarketmaker.com*
- Finding farms in and around Ohio that sell directly to the public through local farmers' markets, CSA's, and on-farm sales, visit **OEFFA's Good Earth Guide** [OEFFA's searchable on-line directory](#).*
- Farm to School Webinars: National Good Food Network Website:**
<http://www.ngfn.org/resources/ngfn-cluster-calls/farm-to-school>
NGFN offers four recorded webinars on the topic of Farm to School at this time: "Food Hubs and Farm to School", "Market-Based Models for Increasing Access to Healthy Food: Defining What Works", "School Food FOCUS", and "National Farm to School Network". You can also sign up from their website to receive notice of upcoming webinars.
- GroundWorks Community** URL: www.edweb.net/schoolgardens
- Ohio Proud** is a resource for identifying local farms and food producers: <http://www.ohioproud.org/>

Get Ready Now!

Prepare to Apply for the National Farm to School Grant

Exciting change is underway with the USDA Farm to School Grant Program! The Child Nutrition Act, the authorizing legislation for the grant program, is currently in the reauthorization process in Congress – the Act is expected to increase the funding available in the grant program!

In anticipation of change, there will be a delay in the release of the FY2017 request for applications from February to September – making now the perfect time to prepare to apply! **Applications will be opened in September, due in November, and awards announced in May, 2017.** You can help to ensure your project earns a share of the available funds by doing the following now:

1. Gather your team!

- Recruit a dedicated, diverse team of teachers, administrators, school food professionals, and parents from your school to develop a plan of action. If your school has a School Wellness Team, that's a great place to start.

2. Find a grant writer

- An experienced grant writer can save you time and help to ensure that your application communicates your vision clearly while meeting the application requirements.

3. Connect with supporting organizations

- Taking time to develop relationships with local organizations can be key to a successful long-term farm to school project. Find professional partners in your community who share in your vision.

The purpose of the USDA Farm to School Grant Program is to assist eligible entities in implementing farm to school programs that improve access to local foods in eligible schools. In past years, the USDA has awarded up to \$5 million in competitive grants for training, supporting operations, planning, purchasing equipment, developing school gardens, developing partnerships, and implementing farm to school programs.

The USDA shares grant program information through their Farm to School E-letter. Sign up here to stay up-to-date on the FY2017 RFA and National Farm to School Program.

Check out the archived FY2016 RFA and find more guidance here:

<http://www.fns.usda.gov/farmentoschool/farm-school-grant-program>

On-Going Funding Opportunities

Fruit Tree Planting Foundation - Orchard Donations

The Fruit Tree Planting Foundation (FTPF) is dedicated to planting fruitful trees and plants to alleviate world hunger, combat global warming, strengthen communities, and improve the surrounding air, soil, and water. FTPF programs donate orchards where the harvest will best serve communities for generations, at places such as community gardens, public schools, city/state parks, low-income neighborhoods, Native American reservations, international hunger relief sites, and animal sanctuaries. Recipients must be nonprofits, public schools, or government entities. In addition, the "Fruit Tree 101" program creates outdoor edible orchard classrooms at public schools of all levels, across the country, to provide generations of students with environmental education opportunities and a source of organic fruit for improved school lunch nutrition.

Deadline: Rolling

Home Depot's Retool Your School - Campus Improvement Grant

Home Depot's Retool Your School program provides grants through a two-tier structure for campus and facility improvements at historically black colleges and universities. The program awards Tier I and Tier II grants based on a combination of consumer voting and advisory board panel selections. The college with the highest score will receive a \$50,000 Tier I grant; thirteen other applicants will receive Tier II grants of \$10,000 each. An additional three Campus Pride grants of \$25,000 each will be awarded to the schools with the most votes and social media activity, as determined by Home Depot. Grant funds will go toward an improvement project at each school that is likely to have impact on the lives of students, faculty, and alumni for generations to come. **Deadline: Rolling**

Awesome Food \$1000 Project Grants

Each month, Awesome Food will give one applicant \$1,000 to help pull off an awesome idea involving food. The ideas must relate to food in some form, and the definition will be more inclusive than exclusive. Examples could include educating the public about DIY-farming, creating an ad-hoc eatery in a subway car, or recording videos of immigrants' recipes. Anyone is eligible to apply: for profit, nonprofit, individuals, companies, schools, adults and children. Applications are reviewed as they are received. One grant is awarded each month.

Deadline: Rolling

Let's Move Salad Bars to School Foundation believes that salad bars + schools = more fruits and vegetables for children. They could get a free salad bar (or multiples for multiple school sites) into your schools by end of November. A fairly easy application is now open, and must be initiated by the school district nutrition director. For great ideas for other equipment, recipes and procedures with real-world examples go to <http://www.saladbars2schools.org/>

Deadline: Rolling

Simply Organic 1%

The Simply Organic 1% fund supports and promotes the growth of organic and sustainable agriculture, including research, education and efficient/quality improvement projects.

Deadline: Rolling

On-Going Funding Opportunities

Scotties Facial Tissues annual Video and Essay Contest: TREES ROCK!

Did you know that Scotties Facial Tissues (which plant 3 Trees for Every 1 they use) puts on an annual Video and Essay Contest called TREES ROCK!? The contest is for 3rd through 8th graders in the 50 United States and Washington D.C. They are sure you are always looking for ways to engage your kids in the classroom or in a club. TREES ROCK! is an excellent way to get kids to be creative on their own or as a team when learning about trees and the environment.

There are lots of prizes to be won and 2 schools will receive \$10,000. To learn more, check out their videos on the Growing School Gardens Home Page. To download all of the important documents to get started, go to www.scottiestreesrock.com

Deadline: Rolling

Healthy Playground Makeover Sweepstakes

Anyone can now enter on behalf of a Pre-K or elementary school to win our annual Healthy Playground Makeover Sweepstakes. Entering once a day, everyday increases the chance to make a big difference at a local school. Enter today! Little kids have a chance to make big changes too! Pre-K Schools and Head Start programs are eligible to enter to win a Smart from the Start Award. Ten schools will be awarded a \$2,500 grant and one grand prize winning school will receive a \$20,000 grant. The grants go toward making healthy improvements at the school, and incorporating energy balance concepts into classrooms.

Learn more at <http://www.togethercounts.com/at-school/win-for-your-school/sweepstakes>

Deadline: Rolling

USDA Requests Applications for Rural Child Poverty Nutrition Center

This grant will support strategies to reduce child food insecurity in rural communities.

Deadline: Rolling

The Pollination Project is a nonprofit organization that provides \$1,000 seed grants to individual change makers. The Project has granted numerous awards to various small agriculture related operations who want to bring change into a community. The Project has received repeated media reports on how the organization is impacting small agricultural practices. New grants are awarded daily and there is no deadline for when to apply. We hope to have someone from the Project speak at a future meeting.

Deadline: Rolling

Micro-Grants/ Karma for Cara Foundation

These grants are awarded to children 18 and under to fund service projects in their communities, with ideas including rebuilding a playground or turning a vacant lot into a community garden.

Go to http://www.ysa.org/karma_for_cara_foundation

Deadline: Rolling

Events & Webinars

Save the Date! 2016 State Food Policy Summit

May 3 | Columbus, Ohio

Mark the afternoon of **May 3rd** on your calendars for the 2016 State Food Policy Summit.

This year will feature nationally recognized experts and address a range of state food policy topics such as **state legislative trends** from across the country, the **upcoming farm bill**, and federal initiatives around **nutrition and health**. Please join us to learn about the current what is happening across the nation and envision future policy priorities for strengthening Ohio's food system.

The State Food Policy Summit, held by the John Glenn College of Public Affairs, is the single annual event for food policy interests to join together across the state. The Summit is intended to inspire action by fostering awareness of food policy activities and possibilities at the state level.

- Tuesday, May 3rd
- 1:00-5:00pm
- Nationwide and Ohio Farm Bureau 4-H Center

Members of local food policy councils are also invited to attend the Pre-Summit session from 9:30am-12:30pm - this session will provide opportunities for training and coalition-building for local food policy councils.

Please share this invitation within your own networks!

Registration, along with a detailed agenda, will be available soon.

USDA Webinar Series: Planning for Farm to School Success in 2016

Preliminary results of the 2015 Farm to School Census tell us that more than 1,700 school districts don't yet have farm to school programs, but are interested in starting one. The USDA is here to help! Through this 11-part series, we'll guide you through the USDA Farm to School Planning Toolkit. Served up in bite-sized 30 minute webinars, we'll offer questions to consider and helpful resources to reference when starting or growing a farm to school program. Guest speakers will join the webinars to share their hands on farm to school experiences.

Upcoming webinars:

Curriculum Integration: April 7, 2:00 PM

Program Sustainability: April 28, 2:00 PM

Evaluating Your Program: May 12, 2:00 PM

More info and to register: <http://www.fns.usda.gov/farmentoschool/videos-and-webinars>

Events & Webinars

Save the Date! 2016 School Garden Conference: Getting Back to Our Roots

October 7 | Columbus, Ohio

The fourth annual school garden conference, "Getting Back to Our Roots" will be hosted by OSU Extension, Franklin County on Friday, October 7th, 2016. The location is the Nationwide and Ohio Farm Bureau 4-H Center at 2201 Fred Taylor Drive, The Ohio State University, Columbus, OH 43210. Educators, after-school personnel and others are invited to attend. Whether you are a new or experienced educational gardener, do not miss the 2016 school garden conference!

Cost: \$55 includes lunch and materials

For more information: franklin.osu.edu or Hogan.239@osu.edu

To register: <https://www.regonline.com/Register/Checkin.aspx?EventID=1805357>

Buckeye Summit on Food Security

April 14 | Columbus, OH

The summit is an interactive town hall, with break-out sessions and group discussions where you will contribute your energy, your insights, your passion and your ideas for tackling the complex issue of food security. This inaugural event

For more information or to register: <https://buckeyesummit.osu.edu>

Action for Healthy Kids: Webinar Series

Action for Healthy Kids is hosting a webinar series this winter! Below are the upcoming sessions related to farm to school.

- **April 13, 4:00pm:** Volunteer for Healthy Schools
- **April 14, 3:00pm:** The Role of Parents in Student Wellness: Healthy Fundraising & Celebrations

For more information and to register for webinars: <http://www.actionforhealthykids.org/events/webinars>

Save the Date! National Farm to Cafeteria Conference June 2016

Save the date for the 2016 National Farm to Cafeteria Conference, to be held June 2-4, 2016 in Madison, Wisconsin. The National Farm to Cafeteria Conference is a biennial event that convenes a diverse group of stakeholders from across the farm to cafeteria movement who are working to source local food for institutional cafeterias and foster a culture of food and agricultural literacy across America. The conference is hosted by the National Farm to School Network, in partnership with local host organizations.

For more information or to register: <http://farmtocafeteriaconference.org/>

USDA Resources

Dig in to USDA Team Nutrition resources!

Team Nutrition offers a variety of materials that can enhance your farm to school program, including curriculum, event ideas, posters, and stickers. All Team Nutrition materials are available for download on the website and print copies can be provided for free to any school operating the National School Lunch Program. Go to <http://www.fns.usda.gov/tn/team-nutrition>

Here are a few of our favorites:

- **Dig In! Standards-Based Nutrition Education from the Ground Up:** Explore a world of possibilities in the garden and on your plate using ten inquiry-based lessons to engage 5th and 6th graders in growing, harvesting, tasting, and learning about fruits and vegetables.
- **The Great Garden Detective Adventure:** Discover what fruits and vegetables are sweetest, crunchiest, and juiciest through a series of investigations and fun experiences connecting the school garden to the classroom, cafeteria, and home with this eleven-lesson curriculum for 3rd and 4th graders.
- **Popular Events Idea Booklet:** Discover fun ways to promote nutrition and physical activity at your elementary or middle school with ideas for 20 themed events, from scavenger hunts to try-day Fridays!
- **Make Today a Try-Day! Stickers:** Use these fun stickers as part of your taste-testing event and order posters to match!

Tools for Schools is an online toolkit where you can find all of USDA's best resources on school meal topics (e.g., fruits and vegetables, whole grain-rich foods, and reducing sodium) and implementing Smart Snacks. In the toolkit, you will find policy documents, nutrition education materials, Smarter Lunchroom strategies, kid-friendly recipes, and success stories from other schools. Visit <http://www.fns.usda.gov/healthierschoolday/tools-schools>

USDA Local Food Directories

Local and regional food systems, including farmers markets, are one of USDA's four key pillars to revitalize rural economies and improve access to fresh, healthy food for millions of Americans. Four USDA Local Food Directories are now available online to give potential customers, business partners and community planners easy, one-stop access to the most current information about sources of local foods. The four directories are: National Community-Supported Agriculture (CSA) Enterprise Directory, National Food Hub Directory, National On-Farm Market Directory, and National Farmers Market Directory. For more information on the launch: <http://blogs.usda.gov/2014/09/30/the-easy-way-to-find-local-food-usda-launches-new-local-food-directories/>

The USDA Farm to School Planning Toolkit

Just getting started with farm to school? The USDA has a comprehensive, easy to understand guide for how to begin a farm to school project. The Farm to School Planning Toolkit guides you through questions to consider and helpful resources to reference when starting or growing a farm to school program. It is designed for use by schools, school districts, and community partners. The toolkit is filled with tips and examples, insights from others, and lists of resources for further research. Each school district is unique, so browse the topics to find the resources most relevant to you and your implementation team! Visit http://www.fns.usda.gov/sites/default/files/f2s/F2S_Planning_Kit.pdf

Thank you to all of our partners and supporters!



United States
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NATIONAL
FARM to SCHOOL
NETWORK

Ohio Farm to School
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