

Ohio Farm to School Newsletter

National, Regional and State Updates

July 2016



See page 3 to learn why Minerva Local School District is "One in a Melon"!
Photos courtesy of The Ohio State University

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Wow! 2016 is halfway through!

This month's newsletter reflects on the first half of 2016 – and aims to get everyone excited for the second half of the year. In addition to updates from our state team, read about why Minerva Local School District is "one in a melon", start getting ready for National Farm to School Month by preparing for the Great Apple Crunch and saving the date for a regional farm to school workshop, see news updates and resources, and get your calendar out for some great summertime events! *Don't miss page 8 for an update about 2017 USDA Farm to School grants!*

JUNE ADVISORY MEETING SOWS SEEDS FOR AN AUTUMN HARVEST OF FARM TO SCHOOL

By Laura Kington
Ohio Farm to School Program Assistant

Happy Summer!

Last month, we gathered with more than twenty farm to school advocates for our biannual advisory meeting, where we share updates as a group and where our team gets input for the rest of our year's projects. In general, we meet once at the beginning of the school year and once at the end. This time, we also heard a presentation by Ohio State University researchers in Agricultural, Environmental, and Developmental Economics (AEDE) who shared their findings using the USDA farm to school census.

Looking Back: Progress Towards 2016 Objectives

At 2015's year-end meeting, we collectively decided that 2016 should be focused on stakeholder engagement, developing a more effective website and resource base, and identifying and sharing success stories of farm to school work happening across the state.

So far, we've held six stakeholder calls with about thirty folks, and individual meetings with more than twenty of you. We've also begun working with stakeholders across the state to plan regional workshops which will take place this October. Want to get together and talk farm to school? Let us know.

Our website overhaul is in progress – feel free to send us any resources you find essential for farm to school work. We've worked with our stakeholder groups to identify pre-existing resources and to develop some new ones, which you'll find throughout the site.

And if you've been following our newsletter, you know that our success stories project has been going great! Amy Fovargue has been working hard, and we've all had a great time learning more about the work going on around Ohio. Have a local success you'd like to share? Let us know!

Looking Ahead: Stakeholder Calls, Regional Workshops, and the Great Apple Crunch

Another Round of Stakeholder Calls:

Based on our feedback so far, we'll be continuing calls for food service professionals and parents, and beginning a group for people engaged in farm to early care and education work (including preschools, Head Start, etc!). We'll be taking a break from calls with producers, hoping to talk with farmers 1:1 this growing season.

- Food Service Professionals: July 27 at 3pm
- Parents: August 3 at 3pm
- Early Care and Education: August 10, 3pm

To join a call, dial 712-432-1500, and enter the code 1030218.

Contact Laura at Kington.10@osu.edu for more information.

Regional Workshops in October:

We spent time with our advisory group broken out into regions of Ohio to dive into planning regional workshops, taking place this October. See page 5 for dates, locations, and contact people for each workshop.

Our advisory group again emphasized the importance of these workshops being highly participatory, with each workshop tailored to each regions needs.

National Farm to School Month is coming up: Celebrate with Great Apple Crunch:

Join farm to school supporters across the Great Lakes region by committing to *crunch* into a local apple with your school or beyond on October 13! More details on page 4.

Want to get involved? Join us for our Autumn meeting, September 28.

OHIO FARM TO SCHOOL CELEBRATES: Minerva Local School District

Written by Amy Fovargue

One in a Melon

We congratulate Ohio's winner of the "One in a Melon" award, Minerva Local School District in Stark County! They received the most votes from parents, teachers, community stakeholders, students, and others who recognized the incredible work they're doing through their farm to school programs.

Stacey Bettis, the 2,000-student district's food service director, tells us that their school is striving to educate the whole child.

A County-Wide Grant

In 2015 the Stark County ESC received a \$43,000 farm to school planning grant benefiting more than 36,000 students in eight districts located in rural, urban, and USDA designated food deserts in Stark County, Northeastern Ohio. Stark ESC is working with 12 participating school districts, including Minerva Local, to connect food, farms, schools, and communities in a collaborative effort that establishes a consistent and sustainable plan for local foods procurement, nutrition, wellness, healthy choices, food system education, and community food literacy as part of its farm to school vision.

When they applied for the grant Stark ESC had no county or district implementation plans, with no branded farm to school activities or outreach. This grant supported the Stark ESC vision and the included districts' desire to include the farm to school program into its cooperative model. Minerva was the lead school district on the planning grant.

Harvest of the Month Serves Up October Pumpkins

Another goal in the planning grant was to promote harvest of the month items. In October they featured pumpkins. Each building chose different items to prepare such as pumpkin cookies, and pudding. They provided taste testings and administered surveys. Over half the students were surprised by how much they liked the pumpkin.

The teachers would then incorporate the pumpkin theme into the classrooms through activities such as reading books about them or having an art contest. "We would like to expand the program and incorporate harvest of the month for more months of school," said Bettis.

Bettis admits there were challenges for implementing farm to school in their cafeteria, such as sourcing the food and training the food service staff to prepare it, as well as adding more labor into their process.

The food service directors in Stark County owe some of their success to Atlantic Food Distribution, a food distributor who has worked with local farmers to get their GAP process in place. They have even sourced local beef for schools in the county. The main items that Minerva schools buy locally are milk, apples, green peppers and cucumbers.

The farm to school activities have led to increased field trips to farms, and research assignments related to farming as well as planning a community garden.

Beyond the Classroom: One Community

According to Becky Miller, Stark County ESC curriculum director and the curriculum lead in the Farm to School grant, this coming school year the county middle schoolers will be reading *Seed Folks* by Paul Fleischman and the county high schoolers will be reading *Gaining Ground: A Story of Farmers' Markets, Local Food, And Saving The Family Farm* by Forrest Pritchard. Both books (*Seedfolks* and *Gaining Ground*) were chosen as Stark County's "One Book - One Community" novel. Each year a committee selects books to celebrate across the county, for the Stark County Libraries and Arts in Stark initiatives. The goal of this program is to unify the communities of Stark County by reading a common book and theme. "This year farm to school was the theme," explained Miller.

Heather Neikirk, educator for OSU Extension for Stark County who was instrumental in leading the farm to school efforts, said the next step for Stark County schools is to apply for an implementation grant from the USDA's Farm to School Program. An implementation grant would pay for specific projects or programs that came out of the work from the planning grant such as expanding the harvest of the month activities to nine months.

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

Join us at noon on Thursday, October 13, 2016

GREAT LAKES GREAT APPLE CRUNCH



October may seem far away, but we want to give everyone enough time to register and plan their great Crunch event. Please register to help us keep count of all the great Crunches taking place throughout the region. When you register you will receive a 2016 Crunch Guide to help plan and promote your event. The Apple Crunch is about biting into delicious local apples, but it's also about promote our great farm to school and farm to cafeteria stories throughout the region. Don't forget to share your Crunch plans through social media before **and** after the Crunch. More details can be found in the Crunch Guide.

- We are excited to launch a Great Lakes Great Apple Crunch website this year. It will be your home base for Crunch information, registration and Crunch updates: www.cias.wisc.edu/AppleCrunch.
- Registration information is listed at the top of the GLGAC Facebook Page (www.facebook.com/greatlakesgreatapplecrunch) This is how we will **all** share our Crunch stories this year. Take a look at all the great pictures from last year, and get some good ideas for this year.
- Please share this information widely with all of your networks. You never know who might be interested in Crunching!

Registration Now Open: Great Lakes Great Apple Crunch

Last year there were 600,000 Crunches in the region. Register now and help the region get to 1 MILLION CRUNCHES on October 13: www.cias.wisc.edu/AppleCrunch

Save the date for our regional workshops, coming in 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! Stay tuned here:

<https://farmtoschool.osu.edu/events/2016-workshops/>

- October 4: Central Ohio (Columbus)
 - October 11: Southeast Ohio
- October 13: Northeast Ohio (Massillon)
- October 14: Northwest Ohio (Perrysburg)
- October 20: Western Ohio (Yellow Springs)
 - TBD: Southwest Ohio (Cincinnati)

We're seeking your input for the content of these workshops!

Take a brief survey to make your opinions heard – <http://go.osu.edu/nwohf2s>

If you are interested in helping to plan your local workshop, contact Laura Kington at Kington.10@osu.edu

News & Resources

State, Regional, and National

New: Columbus Local Foods Guide

Franklin County Extension has released the 2016 Columbus Area Local Foods Guide! The new guide features 25 community farmers' markets, 11 farm markets and farm stands, 12 CSAs, and numerous other markets where people can purchase food directly from farmers and producers. The guide also contains information about Veggie SNAPs (the central Ohio farmers' market incentive program), seasonality charts, and more.

Download the guide:

http://franklin.osu.edu/sites/franklin/files/imce/Program_Pages/ANR/Columbus%20Area%20Food%20Guide%202016_web.pdf

USDA Farm to School Census: Raw Data Now Available

The Farm to School Census is a valuable tool for increasing the use of local foods in school meals, growing the number of school gardens and expanding the number of opportunities for food, agriculture, and nutrition related activities in school related settings. For example, the Census can be used to expand markets, direct training and technical assistance, and support policy development. USDA is pleased to release the raw data from the 2015 Farm to School Census. Later this summer, USDA will release a new data explorer tool so users can more easily explore the 2015 data and complete customized searches.

Download the data: <https://farmtoschoolcensus.fns.usda.gov/about>

Findings of the 2015 National Food Hub Survey

Michigan State University Center for Regional Food Systems has released the Findings of the 2015 National Food Hub Survey, produced in collaboration with the Wallace Center at Winrock International. This is the only study of its caliber to track nationwide data on food hubs over time. Overall, the 2015 National Food Hub Survey indicates that the food hub model can be financially successful across a variety of legal structures and geographic or customer markets.

Food hubs—businesses that actively manage the aggregation and distribution of source-identified food products—are receiving continued, growing attention from diverse stakeholders who see food hubs as vectors for economic growth and social and environmental change. Food hubs can be a great way for schools to purchase aggregated local foods.

Learn more: http://foodsystems.msu.edu/uploads/files/2015_National_Food_Hub_Survey_Findings.pdf

Analysis: USDA Kitchen Equipment Grants

PEW Charitable Trusts reports: School Nutrition Gets a Boost from USDA Kitchen Equipment Grants. By highlighting a few case studies of schools which have received the USDA Kitchen Equipment Grant, PEW shows how the federal investments are helping schools to fund healthier meals. The case studies provide great examples of successful farm to school work!

Read more: <http://www.pewtrusts.org/en/research-and-analysis/analysis/2016/06/07/school-nutrition-gets-a-boost-from-usda-kitchen-equipment-grants>

News & Resources

State, Regional, and National

Webinar: Garden to Cafeteria

Slow Food has held monthly webinars through their National School Garden Program for the past year – and most recently focused on “Garden to Cafeteria: Successes, Challenges, and Models from Across the U.S.”. Garden to cafeteria takes school gardens to the next level by incorporating produce grown on-site into meals available in the school cafeteria. Slow Food USA describes their successes working with the county health department and food service to develop a robust GTC program in Denver, and they also share plans to create a Garden to Cafeteria Toolkit using a Whole Kids Foundation Healthy Kids Innovation Grant.

View the webinar: <http://gardens.slowfoodusa.org/monthly-webinars>

Veggie U Funding Available Through Ohio Department of Health

The Ohio Department of Health has included Veggie U once again as a recommended program for its FY17 Maternal and Child Health grant (formerly Child and Family Health Services). The grant will now run from October 1, 2016 thru September 30, 2017. Local health departments apply for the grant and then use funds to supply local schools with Veggie U programming. Check with your local health department to find out if this funding is available for you locally.

To learn more about Veggie U: <http://www.veggieu.org/>

Project Produce: Fruit and Veggie Grants for Schools

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.

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

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! 5th Annual Real Food Real Local Conference

July 18 - 20 | Athens, Ohio

This event brings together people from across the region, providing an opportunity for people and organizations involved in various aspects of local food systems in their communities to learn, share and network. We are returning to last year's wonderful venue, Eclipse Company Store in The Plains, just a few miles from Athens Ohio.

Whether you are a farmer, processor, involved with farmers or retail markets, a food entrepreneur, advocate or consumer, this event will have something for everyone; fresh ideas, proven approaches, great connections, and plenty of interaction and fun.

For more information: <http://realfoodreallocalinstitute.org/5th-annual-real-food-real-local-conference/>

Ohio Ecological Food and Farm Association: 2016 Summer Farm Tour Series

Do you want to take a leisurely stroll through organic fields and pastures and visit with farm animals? Learn about sustainable beekeeping, biochar, profitable poultry production, raising high quality grass-fed beef, or improving your forages? Take a farm stand with an organic farmer threatened by pipeline development? You'll have opportunities to do all this and more during OEFFA's 21 summer farm tours and workshops, which are part of the 2016 Ohio Sustainable Farm Tour and Workshop Series.

Historic Farm Tour and Biochar Workshop

- Saturday, July 9, 10am-12:30pm
- Gorman Heritage Farm, Evendale, OH

Sustainable Beekeeping Farm Tour and Workshop

- Saturday, July 9, 10am-12pm (tour), 12:30-2:30pm (workshop)
- Stratford Ecological Center, Delaware, OH

Quality Forage for Dairy Operations Farm Tour

- Friday, July 15, 10am
- Heckman Family Dairy, Yorkshire, OH

More info and full schedule: <http://policy.oeffa.org/farmtours>

Save the Date! Ohio Local Foods Week

August 7 - 14

The Ohio State University Extension Local Food Signature Program invites you to celebrate Ohio Local Foods Week during August 7-14. August is a great time to celebrate because of the availability of direct-to-consumer marketing of all products including a wide variety of fresh produce. Check with your local Extension office to see how you can participate.

For resources: <http://localfoods.osu.edu/ohio-local-foods-week>

Events & Webinars

Register Now! Produce Distribution Tour for Food Service Directors

2 pm | August 11 | Columbus, Ohio

Come tour a produce warehouse and distribution center. Sample Ohio Proud products that are either created, procured or distributed by DNO.

Don't miss the following features:

- Ohio Apple Slicing Machine
- Jeni's Ice Cream Process
- Vertical Baggers
- Tomato Wash and Repack
- Sample Ohio's fresh food

Tour is limited to 20 participants, you must register with Amy Fovargue before August 1:

Fovargue.1@osu.edu

For more information: localfoods.osu.edu, fovargue.1@osu.edu

Save the Date! Harnessing Consumers & Communities to Help Meet U.S. Food Waste Reduction Goals

August 26 | Columbus, Ohio

A full day conference, webinar, and networking event. The morning will feature national and local experts sharing emerging insights into current trends and best practices concerning how to help consumers and communities reduce food waste and divert food waste from landfills in support of the United States' first-ever national food waste reduction goals, which calls for a 50% reduction in food waste by 2030 by forming a broad and inclusive public-private partnership.

The afternoon will feature ample opportunity for participants to discuss current or potential waste reduction or redirection programs in their own communities and organizations.

For more information: <http://fic.osu.edu/events/upcoming-events/consumers-and-communities-food-waste-conference.html>

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>

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!



Ohio Farm to School Newsletter

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