

Ohio Farm to School Newsletter

SPECIAL CONFERENCE EDITION

February 2018

Ohio Farm to Cafeteria Pre-conference & Policy Forum

The forum is led by the Ohio Farm to School Leadership Team in partnership with Ohio State's Initiative for Food and AgriCultural Transformation (InFACT) program. It will be held April 25th from 3-8 p.m. at the Duke Energy Convention Center in Cincinnati. The Ohio focused event will actively engage the community in meaningful discussion about current and emerging issues, opportunities, challenges and barriers, and policy development related to serving local foods in schools.

Celebrate Ohio Days: My Plate, My State Dinner

Learn what qualifies as a school lunch program meal through a locally-sourced meal.

RESERVE YOUR PLACE TODAY: Contact: Amy Fovargue at fovargue.1@osu.edu



April 25-27, 2018 | Cincinnati, Ohio

National Farm to Cafeteria Conference in Cincinnati, OH Important Dates:

- **Jan. 29 - March 9** is Early bird registration
- **April 9** - Registration closes
- **April 25** - Ohio Pre-Conference and Policy Forum, NFSN Welcome and Poster Session
- **April 26** - National Farm to Cafeteria Conference: keynote speakers and Seminars from national experts
- **April 27** – Escorted Field Trips featuring Farm to Cafeteria activities in the Ohio, KY, and IN area and short courses.

Go to: www.farmentoschool.org for more info!

Don't Miss the Farm to Cafeteria Conference!

Ohio State University Extension will serve as the local host for the National Farm to Cafeteria conference in Cincinnati April 25-27. The conference is designed for school districts looking to start or expand a Farm to School program, consumers who want to learn more about local food opportunities, as well as farmers and producers looking for ways to sell fresh, local foods to schools and other institutional cafeterias.

The conference is expected to draw more than 1,000 farmers, producers, educators, school food service professionals, parents, business leaders and OSU Extension experts. It is part of an effort to get more fresh, locally grown and produced foods into more school cafeterias and increase farmers' economic opportunities, said Carol Smathers, an OSU Extension field specialist and director of Ohio Farm to School.

"The national conference highlights innovative Farm to School approaches," she said. "We expect participants will become aware of many ways their own work fits within Farm to School efforts. Attendees will leave motivated to forge new procurement channels, plant school gardens, and offer more Ohio-grown foods in their communities' cafeterias."

The conference will include speakers, workshops, poster presentations, field trips and several short courses. There are 10 field trips planned to sites such as: school gardens, a food hub, local farms, colleges growing and procuring local food and Ohio's largest school district procurement center where a commercial apple slicer will be viewed.

*To register for the National Farm to Cafeteria Conference go to:
www.farmentoschool.org/*

For more information about the Ohio focused preconference, contact Amy Fovargue fovargue.1@osu.edu.



Would you like to ride a bus to the conference from central Ohio?

We propose to provide a shuttle bus for conference participants from Columbus to the conference on April 25th - 26th.

The bus trip will eliminate the need to locate and pay for parking and will allow riders the chance to network, work, or rest along the route, rather than drive.

The estimated savings is \$118 in mileage and \$20/day for parking per trip. The bus option will be offered to OSU employees and students as well as the Farm to School community members. You can choose your own departure and return time.

Proposed Bus Schedule Wednesday, April 25

Ohio F2S Pre-conference
Welcome Reception, posters
Bus departs Columbus ~ noon
Arrive Columbus @ 10:30 pm

Thursday, April 26

Plenary and Workshop Sessions
Bus departs Columbus ~5:45 am
Arrive Columbus @ 8:30 pm

Friday, April 27

Field Trips (incl. return to Columbus @10:30 am) For Friday return, you must sign up for the Columbus field trip.

Contact Amy Fovargue at fovargue.1@osu.edu if you would like to be added to the list of riders.