

# Ohio F2S Meeting Agenda

December 3, 2020

**Meeting objective:** Identify challenges, opportunities and F2S resources and strategies for the 2020-21 school year.

## National and Ohio Updates

**Carol Smathers, Ohio F2S State Lead, [Smathers.14@osu.edu](mailto:Smathers.14@osu.edu) and Haley Plahuta, Ohio F2S Program Assistant, [plahuta.12@osu.edu](mailto:plahuta.12@osu.edu)**

### National

- USDA Farm to School Grant open until Jan 8
- NFSN Movement Meeting
  - Call to Action for a Racially Just Food System

### Ohio

- Continuing Growing Teachers Throughout the Seasons
- Farm to ECE Implementation grant has been awarded to 11 states including Ohio. Primary drivers: State-level Coalition Expansion, Policy Recommendations, and an ECE Procurement Innovation. [Click here for news release.](#)
- Apple Crunch Recap- Ohio had highest registration numbers, ECE count and per capita data out of great lakes states. There were many innovative crunches, including the first statewide virtual crunch, [linked here.](#)

### Chris Weatherholtz, Columbus City Schools, [cweatherholtz3151@columbus.k12.oh.us](mailto:cweatherholtz3151@columbus.k12.oh.us):

- Up to 64 gardens in schools, with two added this week. Teachers continue to reach out with interest in gardens. Working with Extension to produce video modules through Growing Teachers Throughout the Seasons.
- Students have not gone to buildings. Miracle Gro Foundation is so committed and reallocated funds to create take home garden kits. Students are loving to measure their plants and grow sprouts. Just ordered more for 1,500 more garden take home kits.

### Lynne Genter, Federal Hocking Schools, [lgenter@fhlanders.com](mailto:lgenter@fhlanders.com):

- Working with Federal Hocking School System. Working on USDA F2S grant to bring more local/nutritious foods into cafeteria. Connecting with local food system and planning for food preservation in the summer, possibly buying a blast freezer to avoid shipping.
- Working with Community Food Initiatives on reviving school gardens.
- Reaching out to community to focus on food access, ensuring food is available via a bus program during breaks and summer. Planning for next year right now, starting slow and learning as we grow.
- 4<sup>th</sup> goal is to tell our F2S story through a toolkit for rural schools.

**Patrick Tegge, SNAP Ed PSE Specialist, [tegge.3@osu.edu](mailto:tegge.3@osu.edu):** Promoting F2S as a PSE effort among SNAP Ed Program Assistants in all 88 counties. Counties who are doing F2S are trying their best to keep it going.

**Eli Sparks, Local Matters, [nwarnock@local-matters.org](mailto:nwarnock@local-matters.org):** Main focus is on food access, education, and advocacy. Had to pivot to virtual education, resulting in a bit of a decline but maintaining most partnerships. Focusing on access side → partnering with local growers with Veggie Van. Been able to include more local food in meal kits for programming.

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**Dave Sokoll, Oberlin Food Hub, [dave.ofh@gmail.com](mailto:dave.ofh@gmail.com):**

- Lost 80% of business overnight in March. 30% will likely not return due to universities changing models and restaurants closing. Started a grocery delivery business for local families in Oberlin. 2020 has still had highest sales yet due to CSA sales at public schools. At the same time seeing really low numbers from districts, difficult to manage food when you don't know if kids are going to be in the building or not.
- F2S month was awesome for local menus, getting local products into schools. Hope to continue more diverse menus and develop partnerships.

**Stacey Bettis, Minerva Schools FSD, [bettiss@minerva.sparcc.org](mailto:bettiss@minerva.sparcc.org):**

- Went from in school to virtual and still trying to serve local items. Real difficulty is not knowing how many we are serving. We have increased about 20% breakfast and lunch participation but also missing about 20% of in person students and still feeding 15% of them. Still trying to do HOTM taste tests, buying from Dave.
- Two new districts participating in Apple Crunch.
- FFA collaboration with selling eggs
- Working with F2S coordinator in Stark County and applying for USDA F2S grant.

**Michelle Hoffmann and Laura Poland, Dietician in Your Kitchen, [michelle@dietitianinyourkitchen.com](mailto:michelle@dietitianinyourkitchen.com):**

Transitioned from Children's Hunger Alliance to private nutrition practice. Licensed Medicaid providers. Creating a virtual program for kids and families called Creating Healthy Environments, registration [link here](#): For 15% off until December 31, use the promo code: **healthykids2021**. This is a program for kids and their parents. Children will meet via zoom with me January 7-March 25. Parents will have the opportunity to meet with me beginning January 12<sup>th</sup>. They will be briefed about the lesson and messages from the children's class and have time for further facilitated discussions! All classes will be recorded for participants to access any time.

**Cheryl Graffagnino, Local Food Systems Strategies Coordinator, CPH, [cgraffagnino@columbus.gov](mailto:cgraffagnino@columbus.gov):**

- Provided \$2,500 for pumpkins to distribute to Linden McKinley STEM Academy at the end of October. Getting \$50,000 to install water, fencing, irrigation, electricity on land bank properties near the school. Working with public utilities to get water for St. Stevens. Also supporting USDA F2S Grant for CCS.
- CPH worked with Ohio Farmers Market Network on FarmsShare. Pilot looked at purchasing produce from Black and Brown producers and getting food to Black or Brown host organizations. Some orgs used free CSA model, low-cost farmers market model. Overall distributed \$12,000 worth of produce in 8 weeks and secured funding for a second round in 2021 from City of Columbus and Kroger Foundation.

**Lauren Sudimack, Americorps Vista, Community Roots, [communityrootsvista@gmail.com](mailto:communityrootsvista@gmail.com):** First hire for F2S project is Nancy Bevan ([see Facebook announcement here](#)). Currently building team and excitement in the community and hoping to meet in person soon.

**Cynthia Walters, Olentangy Local Schools and Slow Food Rep, [cynthia\\_walters@olsd.us](mailto:cynthia_walters@olsd.us):**

- Slow Food USA will have Plant-a-Seed kits available soon which is free to schools. School Gardens of Ohio will be showcasing school garden champions on the FB page. If you would like to nominate a school garden leader to be highlighted, please send to Cynthia.

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**Alyssa Dorsey, CPH, [aldorsey@columbus.gov](mailto:aldorsey@columbus.gov):**

- Released a Farm to ECE training in mid-august. Have had 150 participants. Free training for ECE teachers and administrators through OCCRA. Please share with any early care educators. Free training and anyone can sign up. Also planning for 2021 with COVID in mind at CPH.

**Elizabeth Douglass, ODE, [elizabeth.douglass@education.ohio.gov](mailto:elizabeth.douglass@education.ohio.gov):**

- Exciting to hear all this work and incredible it's able to continue and very rewarding to hear.
- **Send Elizabeth any photos, ODE would love to tell F2S stories about whole child, equitable access to programs and the more story telling Elizabeth can do, the more awareness of F2S benefits will be spread.**
- Massive list of waivers from USDA have come out – ODE implemented 70 including seamless summer and summer food service program, non-congregate feeding, everything extended through the school year. Any schools can participate and sign on now.
- ODA/ODE F2S grant- ODE taking on a lot of responsibility for grant. Working on MOU and waiting on updates. There will be some changes but original intention of the grant, supporting regional F2S networks will remain.

**Jenna Segal, USDA Community Food Systems, [jenna.segal@usda.gov](mailto:jenna.segal@usda.gov):**

- Main goal is to support partners. There has been continued support, commitment and excitement for F2S. Still engaging in local food, virtual farm tours. Hearing questions about how to pivot, whose done other videos, virtual lessons, etc. Seeing people light up about being able to still do farmers markets and local food success stories.

**Shannon Amos, Children's Hunger Alliance, [samos@childrenshungeralliance.org](mailto:samos@childrenshungeralliance.org):**

- We sponsor nutrition education in after school and childcare sites. Participated in Apple Crunch! Had to transition to some shelf stable options and looking forward to getting back in classrooms and incorporating local items into meals.

**Joy Kostansek, Local Food Connection, [jkostansek@whatchefswant.com](mailto:jkostansek@whatchefswant.com):**

- Local food hub based in Cincinnati that merged with Creation Gardens, offering a larger reach. Joy is based in Columbus. Restaurant decline has been a challenge. Creation gardens received Farm to Family grant.
- A lot of success with Good Food Purchasing Project at Cincinnati Public Schools. If schools have funding and want to plug in local food, Joy can help. Been doing veggie cups, carrot coins, radishes, acorn squashes, sweet potatoes and apples for thanksgiving. Have carrot coins and ready to eat apples. Have prep kitchen to process food.
- Doing crop planning with producers now. If you are looking for really big volumes of products, let Joy know.
- Looking to bring on Columbus producers who are wanting to scale up or diversify, share Joy's contact info with them.

**Heather Neikirk, A&R Educator, Stark County:**

- Main challenge for Christina, Stark County F2S coordinator is getting into school. Wanting to do seed distribution again

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**Megan Riley, PSE SNAP Ed, [riley.873@osu.edu](mailto:riley.873@osu.edu):**

- Working with Head Start programs in 5 counties in NW region. Had been doing nutrition education and gardening before COVID. Gardening has been a challenge during COVID so working on trying to procure more local foods. **Please reach out to Megan with ideas for vendors that may be interested in selling to Head Start sites.**

**Carrie Carson, ACE NET and Community Food Initiatives, [carrieacenet@gmail.com](mailto:carrieacenet@gmail.com):**

- Exciting to see online resources grow and be a permanent part of the education toolbox.
- Working on processing now, slower with less volunteers in the building. Used thermal processing to make tomato sauce for Fed Hoc, pureeing butternut squash and sweet potatoes for Athens city schools to make soup. Apple Crunch was a great way to get local food into lunches. Sourcing apples was challenging with frost this spring.
- Thinking about how to create an online space to create better system for communicating and planning with producers- working on this for F2S grant with Federal Hocking and Rural Action.
- Also doing some research on Farm to School with Jennifer Garner at OSU.

**Heidi Scarpitti, RD at ODH, [heidi.scarpitti@odh.ohio.gov](mailto:heidi.scarpitti@odh.ohio.gov):** Working in early childhood and school nutrition.

- New ODH Director, Stephanie McCloud and Chief Medical officer, Dr. Bruce Vanderhoff.
- Co-chair on Farm to ECE Implementation Grant. Developing a lot of trainings including F2S and F2ECE.

**Kelly Corfman, Creating Healthy Communities at ODH, [kelly.corfman@odh.ohio.gov](mailto:kelly.corfman@odh.ohio.gov):** Working with local coordinators who coordinate healthy eating strategies, seeing them step into COVID response. Encouraging to see communities stepping up to help.

**Alison Patrick, Cuyahoga County Board of Health, Feed our Future, [apatrik@ccbh.net](mailto:apatrik@ccbh.net):**

- Procurement bid with Ohio Schools Council. July-September spending was \$75,000 over double usual.
- Local menu takeover- designed 7 local grab and go meal options and provided a stipend to districts to pilot meals. Served over 3,400 so far and feedback has been very positive. Created teachable moments kits around the local meal concepts with an interview from the producer and a simple lesson. Considering F2S grant application to build out teachable moments.
- Opportunity to do a mini CoIIN for Feed our Future into F2ECE.

**Layla Lahoud, CCBH and Feed our Future, [llahoud@ccbh.net](mailto:llahoud@ccbh.net):** Seeing local procurement increasing and encouraging purchasing local on social media. New videos on [feedourfuture.org](http://feedourfuture.org)

**Susann Moller, Master Gardener, [ecoscap411@gmail.com](mailto:ecoscap411@gmail.com):** Now certified Green teacher.

- Harvested 30 thousand pounds and went to NEMA and other local food pantries.
- Current alert for school gardens about **lantern fly and jumping worm**- be careful with leaf litter and composting. **We expect to see a seed shortage this Spring.**

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**Presentations, see attached powerpoint slides:**

**Anne Schneider, Green Umbrella F2S Coordinator, [anne@greenumbrella.org](mailto:anne@greenumbrella.org):**

- Recently received grant funding. The first two are USDA regional food systems partnership grants to expand feed our future pilot. Will be building out grower storytelling and provide TA for local procurement. Going to create a team with the OH F2S network to assess different models to plan financial flexibility to enable schools to buy more local food as DOD Fresh is a huge barrier. This has been done in other states. **Please let Anne know if you'd like to be part of this team**
- Second grant is Ohio Specialty Crop Block Grant, focuses on Ohio districts.
- Working on developing common metrics and volunteered to be a pilot program with the Farm to Institution Metrics Collaborative. **Currently hiring metrics analyst to work on farm impact.**
- Received funding for healthiest cities and communities challenge through ETNA Foundation. Called Community Voices and Food Movement. Looking to represent more community voices.
- Will be applying for USDA F2S implementation grant. Created F2S action plan in previous planning grant.

**American Dairy Association Mideast, [june.wedd@drink-milk.com](mailto:june.wedd@drink-milk.com) and [karen.bakies@drink-milk.com](mailto:karen.bakies@drink-milk.com)**

- Primarily working on supporting schools and helping them serve dairy. Using insulated dairy bags to keep milk and other dairy products fresh. Since September, 750 cold bags have reached 25 districts, 162 buildings and 78,000 students.
- 6 new school menu options. Created after hearing about menu fatigue and needing easy meals. 12 schools doing taste tests and then will release new recipes around new year.
- Supporting virtual learning- curriculum for grades 5-8 released on National Farmers Day. Lessons addressing technology and sustainability. Also developed google docs for teachers to use virtually or in person.
- Ohio School Breakfast Challenge for all Ohio children to eat breakfast before school. Recognizing districts and individuals that have embraced a "can do" approach, recognizing resiliency in feeding students. Application will be posted [HERE](#) in January.

**Karima Samadi, [samadi.2@osu.edu](mailto:samadi.2@osu.edu) and Susann Moeller, [ecoscap411@gmail.com](mailto:ecoscap411@gmail.com), Franklin County Local Food Council:**

- Boston's Food Justice Agenda and Food Justice in Ohio
- FCLFC engages more people in the work of the local food system from farm to fork and strengthens relationships between food system and community partners. Local Food Action Plan currently working on strengthening farmers markets and supporting food related businesses. Hosted listening sessions in Fall 2020.
- Food justice is a response to food insecurity and food policy. Lack of access to good food is a cause and symptom of structural inequities. Intersects with race, class, gender, immigration status and encompasses farm labor, land disputes, policy, advocacy and environmental justice.
- Boston's Food Justice Agenda: 1. supporting local food chain workers by raising wages, paid leave 2. Supporting Boston's food economy to stabilize restaurants, growing black-owned 3. Expanding access to fresh, nutritious, affordable local food by supporting institutional buying power, urban ag 4. leveraging public procurement such as good food purchasing 5. strengthen food system coalitions and councils- who is at the table
- The following have passed- 1. Essential Workers Bill of Rights 2. Wage Theft Ordinance 3. Farm Workers