WISCONSIN FARM TO SCHOOL

Linking the Land with the Lunchroom
Farm to school encourages healthy lifestyles in children and helps support local economies. In Wisconsin, farm to school programs connect schools with locally and regionally grown and produced products.

In 2011, 72 WI schools and/or districts actively engaged with F2S!
Goals of Wisconsin Farm to School

- Promote children’s health by providing fresh, and minimally processed foods in schools to support the development of healthy eating habits.
Goals of Wisconsin Farm to School

- Strengthen children’s and communities’ knowledge about and attitudes toward agriculture, food, nutrition and the environment
Goals of Wisconsin Farm to School

- Strengthen local economies by expanding markets for Wisconsin’s agricultural producers and food entrepreneurs
An individual’s lifelong well-being depends on healthy eating habits.
Farm to School Values

- Children should have access to fresh, healthy and minimally processed food as part of a nutritionally balanced school meals program.
Farm to School Values

- Wisconsin farms that serve local markets make essential contributions to a diverse food system
Schools and nutrition professionals are important partners in supporting community well-being, local economies and environmental stewardship through their food and nutrition education programs and purchasing practices.
Community support for farm to school

**School community**
- Administrators
- Teachers
- Parents
- Students
- School board members
- School nurses

**Community partners**
- Non-profit organizations
- Local businesses
- Local government
- Colleges and universities

**Key practitioners**
- School nutrition program staff
- Local producers: individuals or groups cooperatively organized
- Distributors of local product

**Advocates & experts**
- Local public health officials and medical practitioners
- Local Extension educators
- Community economic development experts
Local, farm-fresh foods can be purchased:

- Directly from farmers
- From a farmers’ market
- From a growers’ collaborative or cooperative
- Through a distributor or broker who procures from local farmers
Types of Farms Working with Wisconsin Schools

- Orchards
- Dairy and meat producers
- Produce: Small, medium and large growers
Using Local Products in School Programs

- Whole items
- Salad or fruit/veggie bars
Using Local Products in School Programs

- Substitute item or ingredient already used
- Develop new recipes and menus to include local products
Using Local Products in School Programs

- Snack programs
- Freezing seasonal items for year round use

Madison

Viroqua
School Food Service Challenges and Opportunities

Delivery
Food safety
Price
Time
Finding Local Producers
Seasonality
Scale/reliable supply
Labor/food prep
Staff skills
Storage/refrigeration
Student preferences

Chilton
Producer Challenges and Opportunities

- Price point
- Food safety/liability insurance
- Delivery
- Scale
- Time
- Meeting packing specs
- Seasonality
- Storage/refrigeration
- Quantity
Although challenges exist, there are tools and resources available to address them. Tools and resources for schools and producers can be found at:

- UW Center for Integrated Agricultural Systems—
  [http://www.cias.wisc.edu/toolkits/](http://www.cias.wisc.edu/toolkits/)
Educational Activities

- Taste tests
- Cooking demos

Mt. Horeb

Port Edwards
Educational Activities

➢ Farm tours

Madison

Prairie Du Chien
Educational Activities

➢ Field Trips

Barron County

Monona Grove
Chef/farmer visits

Washburn

Spooner
Educational Activities

- School gardens
- Greenhouses

Madison
Educational Activities

- Cooking contests
- Composting/recycling

Viroqua

COOKING up CHANGE 2010
National Healthy Cooking Contest
Educational Activities

- Harvest of the month
- CSA, farmers’ markets
- Visual Displays

New Richmond
WI Farm to School Program Support

- UW Center for Integrated Agricultural Systems
  http://www.cias.wisc.edu/toolkits/
  http://www.cias.wisc.edu/category/farm-to-fork/farm-to-school/

- Health in Practice
  http://www.healthinpractice.org/obesity-prevention/farm-to-school

- Make Farm to School Happen
  http://makefarm2schoolhappen.org/

- Team Nutrition (DPI)
  http://fns.dpi.wi.gov/fns_f2s

- AmeriCorps (DATCP)
  http://datcp.wi.gov/Business/Buy_Local_Buy_Wisconsin/Farm_to_School_Program

- National Farm to School Network
  http://www.farmtoschool.org/

- USDA Farm to School Program
  http://www.fns.usda.gov/cnd/f2s/
THANKS!