For nearly 25 years, the Center for Integrated Agricultural Systems, or CIAS, has been a leader in sustainable agriculture at UW-Madison. We’ve been working on farm to school since 2002. Our current efforts include:

**Wisconsin Farm to School Toolkits**
The Wisconsin Farm to School Toolkits for school nutrition directors and producers include a wealth of information on planning farm to school programs, sourcing locally grown fruits and vegetables in season, purchasing, estimating quantities, setting prices, educating students and developing strong community partnerships. Available online at www.cias.wisc.edu/toolkits/.

**Great Lakes Region Farm to School Network**
CIAS hosts the Great Lakes Region Farm to School Network, which is part of the National Farm to School Program. The national network’s goals are to:
- Support state and national policy efforts for farm to school programs
- Update and revise existing informational resources on farm-to-school
- Network existing farm to school programs
- Provide training and technical assistance on farm to school
- Promote farm to school through education, media and marketing

**Implementing Farm to School Legislation**
CIAS plays a lead role in implementing Wisconsin farm to school legislation passed in 2009. This includes appointing an advisory council for farm to school, creating a statewide farm to school position at the Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP), supporting local farm to school efforts and promoting farm to school across the state.

**Statewide Farm to School Technical Assistance**
CIAS farm to school specialists provide state-level training and technical assistance for community-based farm to school projects and their advocates. Currently funded through both DATCP and Transform Wisconsin, CIAS services include a Wisconsin Farm to School e-newsletter, resource development, workshops and trainings, data collection and needs assessment.

**Scaling up Local Foods in Schools**
CIAS staff are working to provide Wisconsin-grown produce to schools, including large school districts that experience the greatest challenges with volume needs and labor issues. We are working with partners across the supply chain and the state to develop and distribute a minimally processed, ready-to-serve Harvest Medley root vegetable blend.

**Wisconsin Farm to School AmeriCorps Program**
CIAS works with DATCP and other state agencies to support the training and placement of AmeriCorps members at farm to school sites across the state.

For more information about these projects, contact Vanessa Herald, 608-263-6064, vherald@wisc.edu or Sara Tedeschi, 608-513-3980, smtedeschi@wisc.edu. To learn more about CIAS, visit www.cias.wisc.edu.