For 20 years, the Center for Integrated Agricultural Systems, or CIAS, has been a leader in sustainable agriculture research and outreach at UW-Madison. We’ve been working on farm to school since 2002. Our current efforts include:

**Local Apples for Wisconsin Schools**

CIAS received $20,000 from the Buy Local, Buy Wisconsin program to link Wisconsin K-12 students with locally grown apples. This will be accomplished by building partnerships with Wisconsin farms, food service companies, distributors and, of course, schools!

**Great Lakes Region Farm to School Network**

CIAS hosts the Great Lakes Region Farm to School Network, which is one of eight regional networks 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 hiring a statewide farm to school coordinator at the Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP), appointing an advisory council for farm to school and securing funding for a statewide grant program to support schools’ farm to school efforts.

**Communities Putting Prevention to Work**

Funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the “Communities Putting Prevention to Work” program includes farm to school as one approach for improving nutrition. Across the state, this project will develop training, tools and resources to increase access to fruits and vegetables in schools and evaluate the health and economic impacts of farm to school. In La Crosse and Wood Counties, this project will use farm to school as one of several community-based strategies for improving nutrition and access to fresh, healthy, local food. CIAS staff are supporting both state- and county-level farm to school projects.

**Wisconsin Farm to School AmeriCorps Program**

CIAS farm to school staff partner with DATCP and other state agencies to support the training and placement of 20 AmeriCorps members at ten farm to school sites across the state.

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