DIGGING THROUGH FARM TO SCHOOL RESOURCES

Presented by: USDA Farm to School Team and National Farm to School Network

Oct. 7, 2010
Today’s Webinar Presenters

- **Loren LaCorte**
  USDA Farm to School Team Lead
  USDA, Food and Nutrition Services

- **Marion Kalb**
  Program Co-Director, National Farm to School Network
  Community Food Security Coalition

- **Debra Eschmeyer**
  Program Outreach and Communications Director, National Farm to School Network
  Occidental College
Today’s Agenda

- National Farm to School Network Update
- USDA Farm to School Team Update
- Where to Dig for Resources
- Sample of Available Resources
- Q&As
National Farm to School Network Update
National Farm to School Network

- 1996: 2 programs
- 2002: 400 programs
- 2006: 1000 programs
- 2010: over 2,000 programs

in all 50 states and

GROWING!

www.farmtoschool.org
ERS Announces Partnership with the National Farm to School Network
August 31st, 2010 by Luke
by Katherine Ralston, Economist, Economic Research Service

This week my kids headed back to school, and I’ll be busier than last year, having been drafted to be PTA president. While getting to know the new parents at our school, I learned that several are interested in improving school meals and exploring the possibility of purchasing locally and starting a school vegetable garden. Our new principal is interested too. I myself have something of a brown thumb, but everyone was excited to hear that I work at the Department of Agriculture and had been studying Farm to School initiatives throughout the country. I have been in close touch with USDA’s Farm to School team that will visit 15 school districts across the country to learn about their Farm to School activities.

When our agency, the Economic Research Service (ERS), put together the Food Environment Atlas earlier this year, we included information on which counties had at least one Farm to School program, using data from the National Farm to School Network. The Network maintains the only national data base of Farm to School programs. After the Atlas was released, our website, we received phone calls from programs...
Seeking Congressional approval to declare October National Farm to School Month

House Resolution 1655: Encourages schools...to use local produce in meals throughout the month of October; and

Encourages schools, farmers, and farm groups, local businesses, nonprofit institutions, churches, cities, State governments.... to raise the awareness of Farm to School efforts in their communities.
Child Nutrition Reauthorization

"Farm to school programs exemplify the best use of federal school lunch dollars." Rep. Rush Holt (NJ)

Key Policy Provisions include:

- Mandatory 40 - 50 million dollars for a competitive Farm to School grants program
- Additional 6 cents reimbursement for per school lunch served
Community Food Security Coalition Annual Meeting
October 16th - 19th in
New Orleans, Louisiana

- Farm to School Workshop Track
- Food Safety Short Course
- National Farm to School Networking Session
- FoodCorps: an AmeriCorps Farm to School and school garden program

http://communityfoodconference.org/14/
USDA Farm to School Team Update
USDA Farm to School Team

- Established out of *Know Your Farmer, Know Your Food* initiative
- Supports local and regional food systems via linkages between schools and local food producers
- Comprised of FNS & AMS employees
- Regional & Other HQ Representation
- For more info. see March 10th webinar at:
  
  http://www.fns.usda.gov/cnd/F2S/sightssoundsstories.htm
USDA Farm to School Team Update:

- Farm to School Site Visits Complete
  - 15 school districts; representing 9 areas across the country
  - Varied demographics and Farm to School characteristics
- Met with:
  - School district administrators (including school food service)
  - Local farmers
  - Local and state authorities
  - Students
  - Teachers
  - Parents
  - Community partners
- Now What?

Digging Through the Farm to School Resources

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Geographic Preference Rule Update:

Geographic Preference Option for the Procurement of Unprocessed Agricultural Products in Child Nutrition Programs


- 2008 Farm Bill
  - Encourage CNP operators to purchase unprocessed locally grown and locally raised agricultural products

- Comments received to Proposed Rule

- Considering comments & drafting Final Rule
USDA Farm to School Website Update:
http://www.fns.usda.gov/cnd/F2S

- Available Grants:
  - People’s Garden School Pilot Program

- Resources:
  - Food and Nutrition Service
    - Chefs Move to Schools
  - National Agricultural Library
    - Farm to School and School Gardens
    - Farm to School Bulletin Board Resources
    - Chef Resources

- Future plans

Digging Through the Farm to School Resources
Where to Dig for Resources:

- USDA’s Farm to School Website
- National Farm to School Network’s Website
- State Depts of Agriculture, Education and Health
- County Cooperative Extension Offices
- Local Universities
- State Farm to School Coordinators (if applicable)
- Organizations, Schools and Growers Currently Implementing Farm to School Activities
Known State Farm to School Coordinators

- AL (Ed)
- CA (Ed)
- CT (Ed)*
- DC (Ed)*
- DE (Ed)*
- FL (Ag & Ed)
- GA (Ed)
- ID (Ed)
- IL (Ed)*
- IN (Ed)*
- KY (Ag & Ed)
- MI (Ed)*
- MD (Ed)*
- MS (Ed)
- NC (Ag & Ed)
- NJ (Ag)*
- NY (Ag)*
- OK (Ag)
- OH (Ed)*
- OR (Ag & Ed)
- PA (Ed)*
- SC (Ed)
- TN (Ed)
- VA (Ed)*
- WA (Ag)
- WI (Ed)*
- WV (Ed)*

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State Agencies Working Together

- State Agencies and/or Organizations working together:
  - Agriculture
  - Education
  - Health
  - State School Nutrition Association
5 Areas We Dug...

- How to Get Started
- Distribution
- Food Safety
- Procurement
- Nutrition/Agriculture Education
How to Get Started
Suggestions to getting started...

- Conducting a self-assessment
- Researching existing Farm to School efforts
- Setting a goal or vision for Farm to School
- Bring everyone to the table
  - School Food Service and other School Administrators
  - Other School Personnel
  - State Agencies
  - Farmers
  - Community Partners
Farm-to-Cafeteria Connections

http://www-stage.agr.wa.gov/marketing/farmtoschool/docs/102-FarmToCafeteriaConnections-Web.pdf

- Provides examples of four types of farm to cafeteria models
Farm to School Field Guides

Produced by:
Community Alliance
with Family Farmers’ Farm to School Initiative:

For Food Service Staff:

For Parents and Community Members:

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USDA Guides

Please note the procurement sections in these manuals are outdated. See USDA Farm to School Website for the latest procurement requirements at http://www.fns.usda.gov/cnd/F2S.

- Small Farms/School Meals Initiative
- Eat Smart-Farm Fresh: A Guide to Buying and Selling Locally-Grown Food in School Meals.
- Innovative Marketing Opportunities for Small Farmers: Local Schools as Customers
- How Local Farmers and School Food Service Buyers Are Building Alliances

http://www.fns.usda.gov/cnd/F2S

Digging Through the Farm to School Resources

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National Farm to School Network

- Publications: Brochures, Fact Sheets, Case Studies, Research & Evaluation
- Videos & Social Media
  - http://video.farmtoschool.org/
  - http://www.cafarmtoschool.org/
National Farm to School Network

- 8 Regional Lead Agencies of the NFSN
Distribution
Community Food Security Coalition

Delivering More: Scaling Up Farm to School Programs

http://foodsecurity.org/pub/Delivering_More-Scaling_up_Farm_to_School.pdf

Delivering More: Scaling Up Farm to School Programs

Focusing a report on the Farm to School Distribution Learning Community and case study profiles of:
- The Appalachian Sustainable Agriculture Project (Western North Carolina)
- City Harvest (New York City)
- Farm to Table (New Mexico)
- The Center for Food & Justice (Southern California)

By Kristina Markley, Marissa Rolfe, and Lauren Goodfellow
A Publication of the Community Food Security Coalition

March 2010

Digging Through the Farm to School Resources

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New Ways to Sell What You Grow

- This resource for Spanish-speaking farmers provides information and purchasing guidelines to help farmers sell excess produce in a number of institutional settings.

- Printed copies can be ordered by calling 1-800-ASK-NCAT or 800-411-3222 (Spanish help line)

- An audio copy may be downloaded from: http://www.attra.org/media/nuevos_mercados.mp3

- Also available in English is New Markets for Your Crops, http://www.attra.org/attra-pub/PDF/new_markets.pdf
MI’s Step-by-Step Guide for Farmers Wanting to Sell to Schools

- Includes sections on
  - getting started
  - building community connections
  - preparing marketing packets and bid documents
  - developing contracts
  - starting to sell products
  - links to useful tools and resources

Oklahoma Department of Agriculture Farm to School

- Tips, Tools and Guidelines for Food Distribution and Food Safety
- Farm to School Distribution Cost Template
- Produce Calculator
- Food Safety

http://www.okfarmtoschool.com/
Food Safety
National GAPs Education Center through Cornell University

- GAPs Training and Workshops - Develop Your Own Farm Food Safety Plan
- GAPs Online Produce Safety Course

http://www.gaps.cornell.edu/
More Food Safety Resources:

- FDA’s Guidance for Industry: Guide to Minimize Microbial Food Safety Hazards for Fresh Fruits and Vegetables
  [http://www.fda.gov/Food/GuidanceComplianceRegulatoryInformation/GuidanceDocuments/ProduceandPlanProducts/ucm064574.htm](http://www.fda.gov/Food/GuidanceComplianceRegulatoryInformation/GuidanceDocuments/ProduceandPlanProducts/ucm064574.htm)

- Joint Institute for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition (JIFSAN)
  [http://www.jifsan.umd.edu/training/gaps.php](http://www.jifsan.umd.edu/training/gaps.php)
USDA’s Food Safety Resources:

- Good Agriculture Practices (GAP) Good Handling Practices (GHP)
  http://www.ams.usda.gov/gapghp

- Cooperative Extension
  http://www.csrees.usda.gov/Extension

- Best Practices: Handling Fresh Produce in Schools
Examples of State Food Safety Resources:

- IA State University Cooperative Extension
  http://www.extension.iastate.edu/foodafety/

- KY Dept. of Agriculture offers free GAP Training
  http://www.kyagr.com/consumer/food/FarmtoSchool.htm

- WA Dept. of Agriculture provides Mock GAP Audits

- OK Depts. of Education and Health worked together to provide guidance for school districts
  http://www.okfarmtoschool.com/pdf/memorandum-6-26-06.pdf
Procurement
Child Nutrition Programs Procurement Requirements & Policies

Procurement Policy Q&As on Local Food Purchases
http://www.fns.usda.gov/cnd/F2S/f2spolicy.htm

USDA’s State Agency Guidance on Procurement Training

Via National Food Service Management Institute (NFSMI)
http://www.nfsmi.org/
Your State and Local Authorities

- State Department of Education’s Child Nutrition Programs Division
- Local Procurement Offices
School Gardens

- FNS Memorandum 32-2009 - School Garden Q&As
  - Provides frequently asked questions regarding the operation of a school garden

- Fresh, Healthy, and Safe Food: Best Practices for Using Produce from School Gardens
Nutrition/Agriculture Education
Growing Minds

- Lesson Plan Information
- Children’s Literature
- Recipes in Spanish and English
- Farm Field Trips

http://growing-minds.org/nutr-ed.php
Cooking with Kids uses hands-on methods to teach elementary school students about the joy of delicious healthy foods.

“Do you know what the passion of food is? It’s the way the food smells and tastes - it’s the food that I like.”
—5th grade student

http://www.cookingwithkids.net/
Center for Ecoliteracy

http://www.ecoliteracy.org/publications/downloads
USDA’s Nutrition & Agriculture Education Resources

- Rural Development
  - Agriculture in the Classroom
    http://www.agclassroom.org/kids/index.htm
  - Youth Resources on Agriculture

- Food & Nutrition Services
  - Team Nutrition http://teamnutrition.usda.gov/

- Farm Service Agency (FSA)
  - FSA Kids http://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA/kidsapp

Digging Through the Farm to School Resources
Find your state’s Agriculture in the Classroom:

http://www.agclassroom.org/state/websites.htm
Share with us the resources that helped you.
Thank you!

USDA Farm to School Website & Email
http://www.fns.usda.gov/cnd/F2S
farmtoschool@fns.usda.gov

National Farm to School Network Website & Email
http://www.farmtoschool.org/
info@farmtoschool.org