



DIGGING THROUGH FARM TO SCHOOL RESOURCES

Oct. 7, 2010

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

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: 1 000 programs
- 2010: over 2,000 programs

in all 50 states and

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GRANTS, LOANS
& SUPPORT

IDEAS &
STORIES

IDEAS AND STORIES

« [An Introduction to Mobile Slaughter Units](#) | [Main](#) | [Farmers Markets as Small Business Incubators](#) »

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 have 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 on our website, we received phone calls from programs

SEARCH

CATEGORIES

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[Promote Healthy Eating](#)

[Protect Natural Resources](#)

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[Strengthen Rural Communities](#)

[Support Local Farmers](#)

[The National Conversation](#)

[What We Know](#)

National Farm to School Month

- 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

Upcoming Workshops

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?

Geographic Preference Rule Update:

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

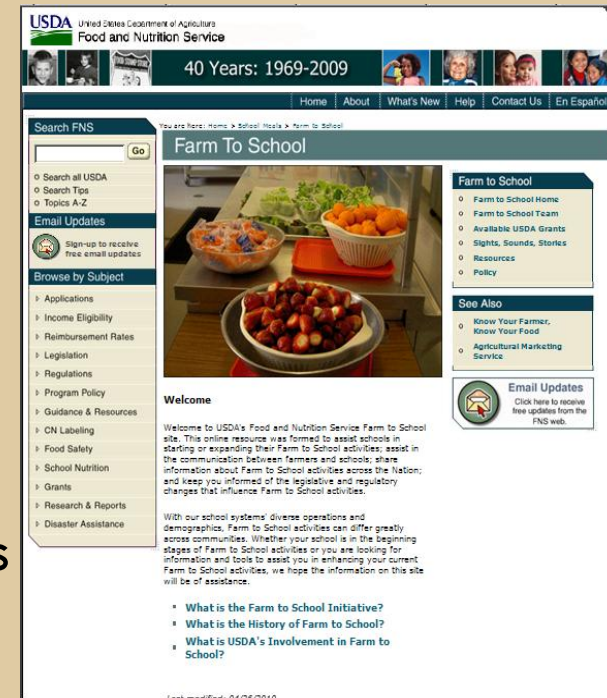
<http://www.fns.usda.gov/cnd/governance/proposed/2010-04-19.pdf>

- 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



Where to Dig for Resources:

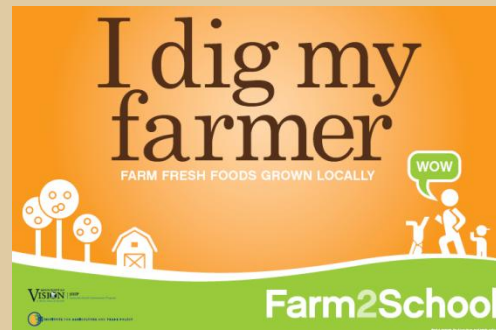
- USDA's Farm to School Website
- National Farm to School Network's Website
- State Depts of Agriculture, Education and Health
- County Cooperative Extension Offices
- Local Universities
- State Farm to School Coordinators (if applicable)
- Organizations, Schools and Growers Currently Implementing Farm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

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...

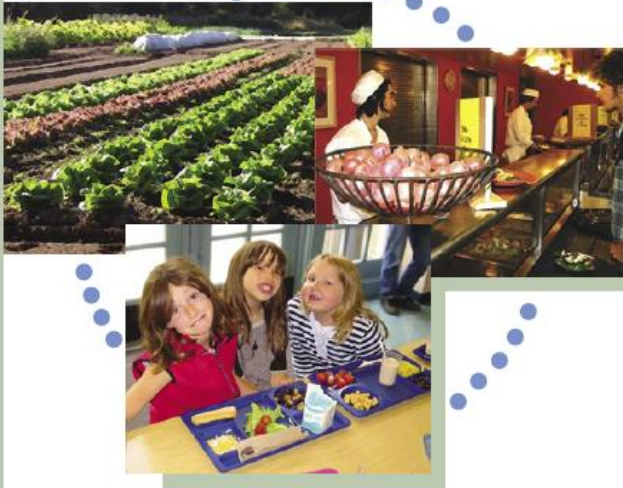
- Conducting a self-assessment
- Researching existing Farm to School efforts
- Setting a goal or vision for Farm to School
- Bring everyone to the table
 - School Food Service and other School Administrators
 - Other School Personnel
 - State Agencies
 - Farmers
 - Community Partners

WA Department of Agriculture

Farm-to-Cafeteria Connections

Farm-to-Cafeteria Connections

By Kelli Sanger and Leslie Zenz



Marketing Opportunities for Small
Farms in Washington State

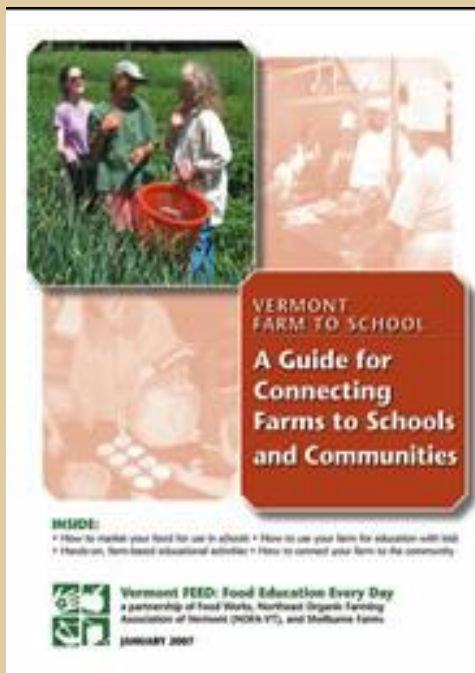


<http://www-stage.agr.wa.gov/marketing/farmtoschool/docs/102-FarmToCafeteriaConnections-Web.pdf>

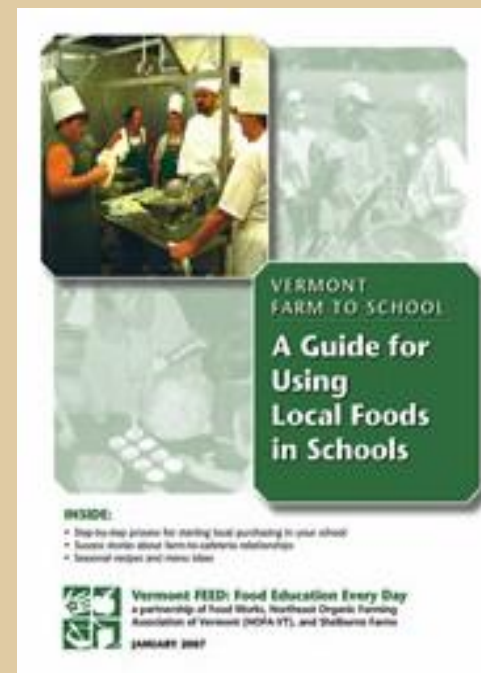
- Provides examples of four types of farm to cafeteria models

Vermont Farm to School Guides

A Guide for Connecting Farms to Schools & Communities



A Guide for Using Local Foods in Schools

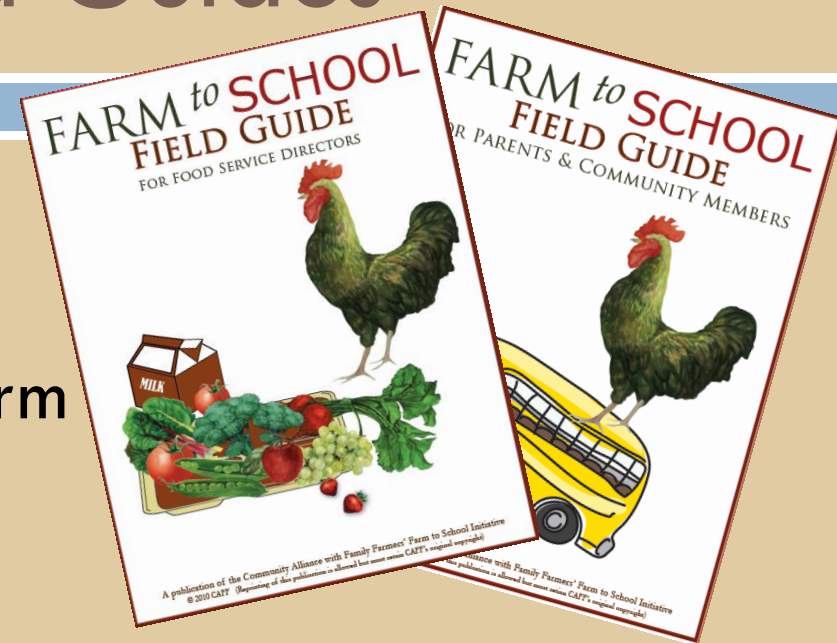


<http://www.vtfeed.org>

Farm to School Field Guides

□ Produced by:

Community Alliance
with Family Farmers' Farm
to School Initiative:



■ For Food Service Staff:

<http://www.caff.org/programs/FSDguide.pdf>

■ For Parents and Community Members:

http://www.caff.org/programs/FTS_parentguide_caff_web.pdf

USDA Guides



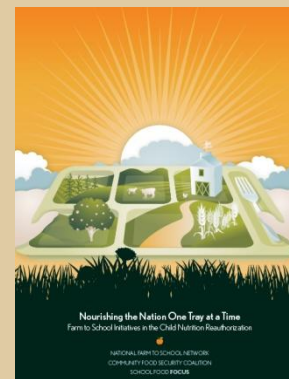
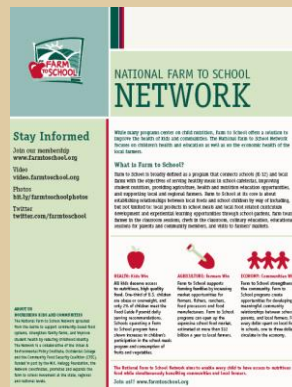
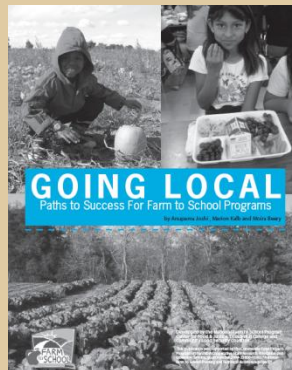
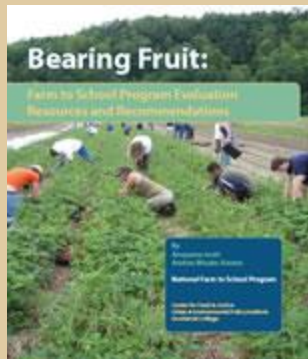
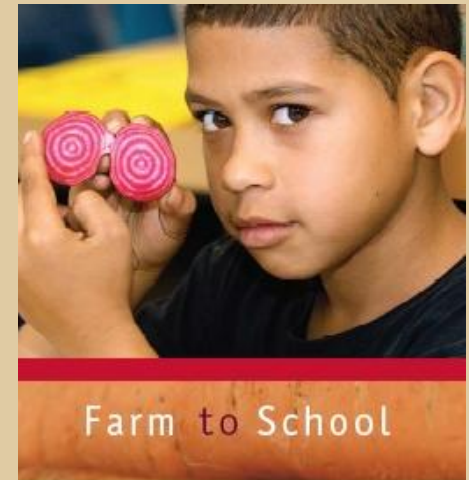
Please note the procurement sections in these manuals are out dated. See USDA Farm to School Website for the latest procurement requirements at <http://www.fns.usda.gov/cnd/F2S>.

- ❑ 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>

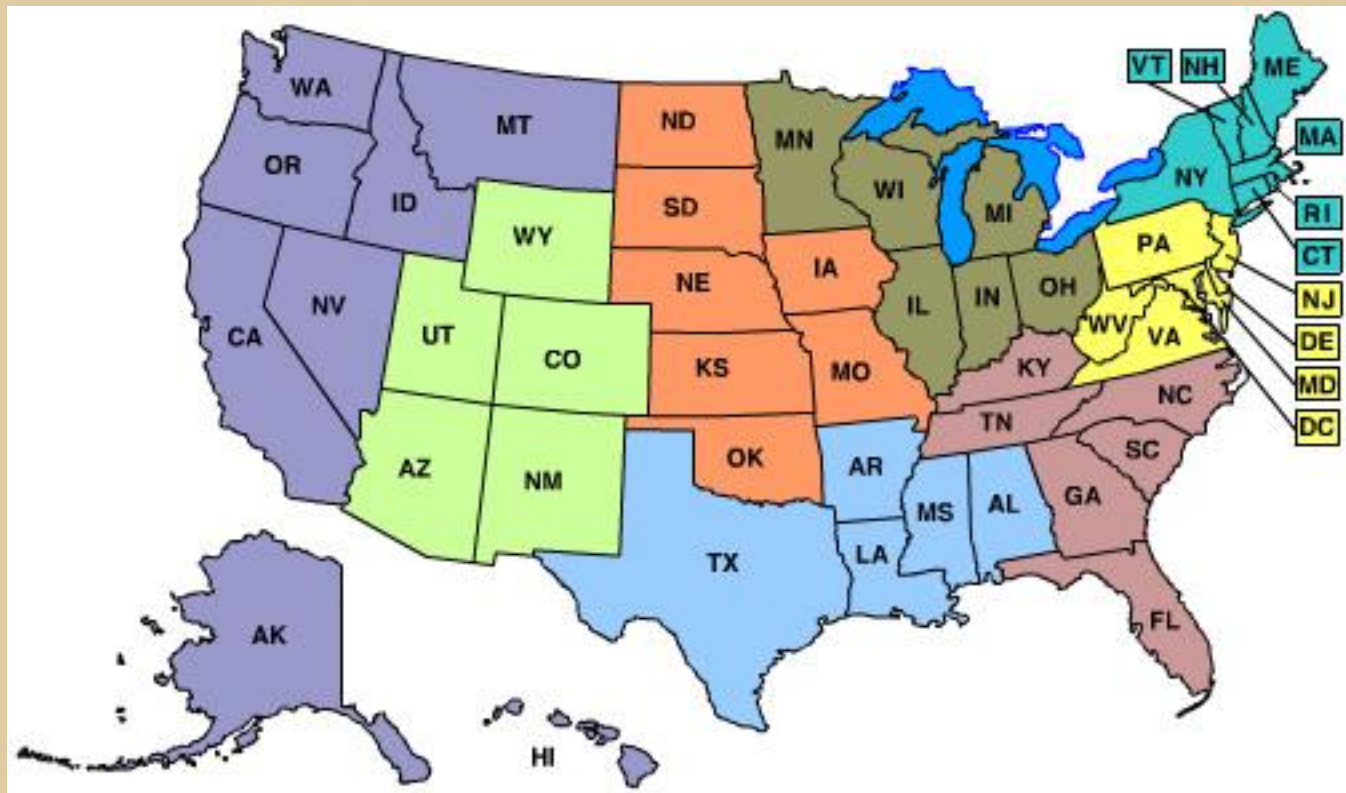
National Farm to School Network

- 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



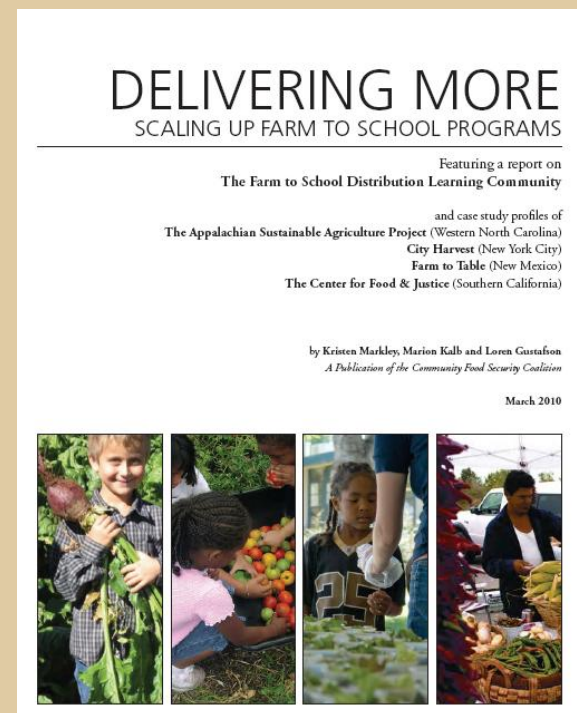
Distribution



Community Food Security Coalition

Delivering More: Scaling Up Farm to School Programs

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



Nuevos Mercados Para Su Cosecha

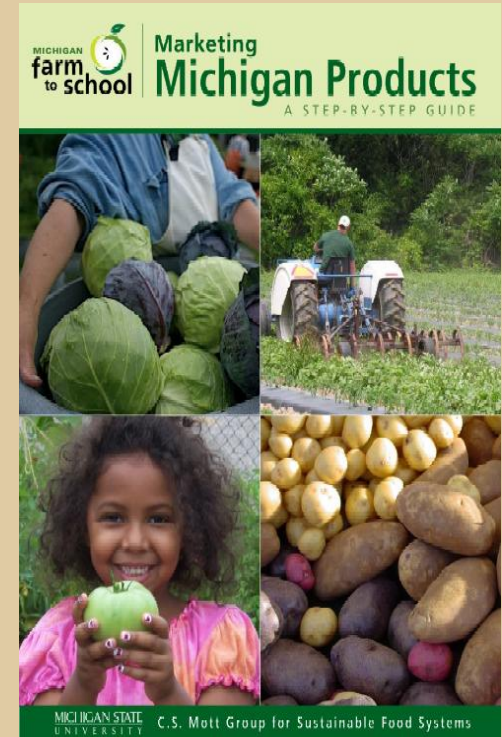
New Ways to Sell What You Grow

- 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



<http://www.mifarmtoschool.msu.edu/index.php?q=marketing-guide>

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/>



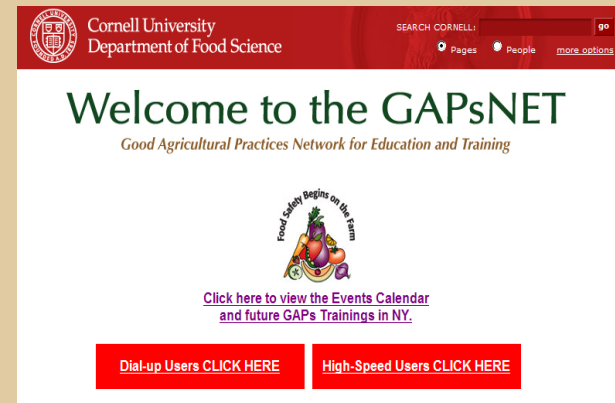
Food Safety



National GAPs Education Center

- **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>

- Joint Institute for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition (JIFSAN)

<http://www.jifsan.umd.edu/training/gaps.php>

USDA's Food Safety Resources:

- Good Agriculture Practices (GAP) Good Handling Practices (GHP)

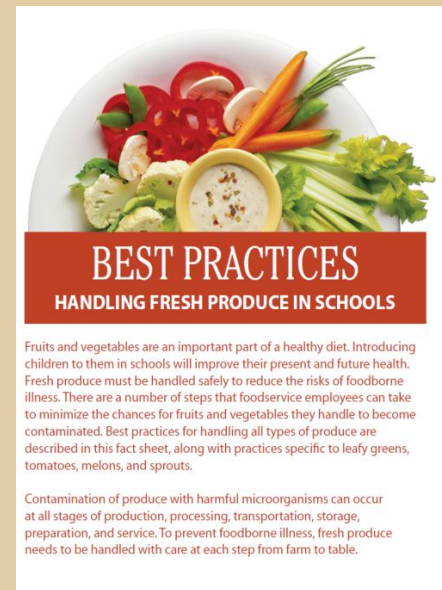
<http://www.ams.usda.gov/gapghp>

- Cooperative Extension

<http://www.csrees.usda.gov/Extension>

- Best Practices: Handling Fresh Produce in Schools

http://www.fns.usda.gov/fns/safety/pdf/best_practices.pdf



Examples of State Food Safety Resources:

- IA State University Cooperative Extension
<http://www.extension.iastate.edu/foodsafety/>
- KY Dept. of Agriculture offers free GAP Training
<http://www.kyagr.com/consumer/food/FarmtoSchool.htm>
- WA Dept. of Agriculture provides Mock GAP Audits
<http://www.foodsafetynews.com/2010/07/mock-good-agricultural-practices-audit/>
- 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

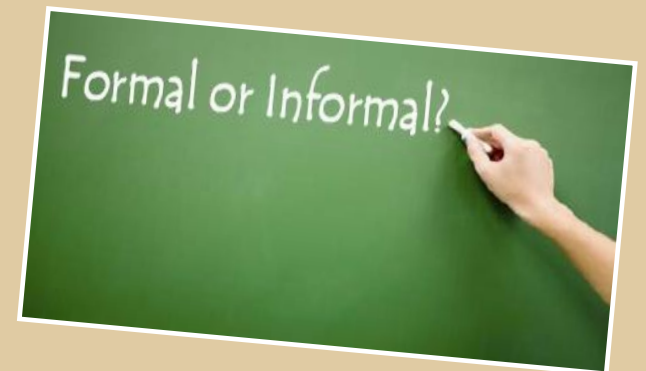


USDA's Resources...

- 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
http://www.fns.usda.gov/cnd/governance/Policy-Memos/2009/SP_32-2009_os.pdf
 - ▣ Provides frequently asked questions regarding the operation of a school garden

- Fresh, Healthy, and Safe Food: Best Practices for Using Produce from School Gardens
http://www.farmentoschool.org/files/publications_188.pdf

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



Cooking with Kids

hands-on food & nutrition education for a healthy future

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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



SAVE THE DATE! CWK Second Annual Harvest Brunch, October 10, 2010 from 11am-1pm. Cost: \$50 per person. Call 505-438-0098 for tickets. Featuring the culinary talents of CWK [Super Chefs](#)

<http://www.cookingwithkids.net/>

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DOWNLOAD



School Lunch Initiative Evaluation
Results of a new three-year study about one of the most comprehensive school food reform efforts in the nation.

DOWNLOAD



Rethinking School Lunch Guide
Our popular planning framework will be revised and updated, just in time for National School Lunch Week.

BOOK



Big Ideas: Linking Food, Culture, Health, and the Environment
A conceptual framework for integrated learning based on food and food production.

<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

http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal/usda/usdahome?navid=YOUTH_RESOURCES&parentnav=RURAL_DEVELOPMENT&navtype=RT

□ Food & Nutrition Services

□ Team Nutrition <http://teamnutrition.usda.gov/>

□ Farm Service Agency (FSA)

□ FSA Kids <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA/kidsapp>



Agriculture in the Classroom

- Find your state's Agriculture in the Classroom:

<http://www.agclassroom.org/state/websites.htm>

United States Department of Agriculture
Agriculture in the Classroom

Home | About AITC | State Programs | Teacher Center | Student Center | Resource Directory | National Conference

STATE WEBSITES

STATE PROGRAMS

- State Contacts
- State Contacts PDF
- State Websites
- State Summaries
- Nat'l. Program Leader

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Share with us the resources
that helped you.

Questions and Answers



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