



What is Farm to School?

FARM TO SCHOOL PROGRAMS CONNECT SCHOOLS WITH LOCAL FARMS

Schools buy and feature farm fresh foods such as fruits and vegetables, eggs, honey, meat and beans on their menus; incorporate nutrition based curriculum; and provide students experiential learning opportunities through farm visits, gardening and recycling programs. Farmers have access to a new market through schools and participate in programs designed to educate kids about local food and agriculture.

SCHOOL DISTRICTS IMPLEMENT PROGRAMS IN SEVERAL WAYS

1. Farm Fresh Salad Bar offered as part of the National School Lunch Program.
2. Local food featured in the cafeteria.
3. Local food featured at a fundraiser or special event.
4. Local food used in “hot lunch” offering.

FARMERS SELL TO SCHOOLS IN SEVERAL WAYS

Some examples include:

- Selling directly to schools by establishing a relationship with the food service staff.
- Selling directly to schools, but through a Farmers’ Market
- Selling through a cooperative structure where farmers come together to minimize the transportation and administration costs.
- Selling to wholesale distributors.
- Selling to the Department of Defense’s Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program, which delivers local food to schools.

FARM TO SCHOOL CAN PROVIDE A VARIETY OF EXCITING EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

Learning opportunities for children can take the form of school gardens, recycling and composting programs, farm visits, hands on nutrition education classes, classroom visits by farmers, cooking demonstrations, etc.

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