



INDIANA GROWN FOR SCHOOLS NEWSLETTER

Indiana's Statewide Farm to School Network

FARM TO SCHOOL SYMPOSIUM REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN!

The Farm to School and Early Care and Education (ECE) Symposium registration is now open. The event will be held at the Hendricks County Fairgrounds on June 18 and 19. Participants will learn about gardening, local procurement, and agriculture education. All teaching, food service, and school administrative staff are welcome to attend. Email questions to Sophie Lindley, SLindley@doe.in.gov.

[REGISTER HERE](#)

NEWS & RESOURCES

USDA BEGINNING FARMER RESOURCES

Are you new to farming? USDA offers resources and grant funding opportunities to beginning farmers and ranchers. USDA can help you get started or grow your operation through a variety of programs and services, from farm loans to crop insurance, and conservation programs to disaster assistance. USDA supports and has resources for all beginning farmers including urban growers, LGBTQ+ farmers, young farmers, and women farmers. Additionally, you can sign up for the Farmers.gov blog. The blog covers topics such as loans and grants, conservation efforts, and farm life.

[CHECK OUT THE RESOURCES HERE](#)



SELLING LOCAL FOODS TO SCHOOLS: A RESOURCE FOR PRODUCERS FACT SHEET

An increasing number of schools are sourcing locally grown foods for their school meals and snacks. As a farmer, rancher, or other food producer, this means there are market opportunities in your own backyard and an opportunity to feed children in your community. Learn more about selling local foods to schools by reading USDA's Selling Local Foods to Schools fact sheet!

[VIEW THE FACT SHEET HERE](#)

NASDA GAP TOOLKIT

The USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service and the National Association of State Departments of Agriculture (NASDA) Foundation designed a Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) grower toolkit and corresponding website to increase underserved farmers' access to new and existing markets and USDA food safety certification programs. The GAP toolkit includes new, user-friendly educational resources with an emphasis on GroupGAP, a USDA farm food safety program that provides the specialty crops industry with opportunities to supply and buy fruits, vegetables, and related products certified as being produced using GAP. The Toolkit explains GAP programs, the advantages of the programs, expected costs and fees, misconceptions, the audit process, and relevant resources.

[LEARN MORE HERE](#)



HARVEST OF THE MONTH IN THE CAFETERIA WEBINAR (RECORDING)

Harvest of the Month (HOTM) is a farm to school initiative that highlights an item each month that can be sourced locally and served in Indiana's school meals. School nutrition is a partner in education. Learning does not stop when you enter the school cafeteria. The farm to school movement connects all parts of the food system with all aspects of the school day. Are you interested in learning more? We encourage you to check out the recording to learn from Food Service Directors who shared the challenges, lessons learned, and successes as they incorporated Harvest of the Month into their cafeterias.

[WATCH RECORDING HERE](#)

HOW SCHOOL MEALS FOR ALL CAN IMPROVE AND PUT LOCAL FOODS ON THE MENU

School Meals for All policies don't have to perpetuate the status quo of school food. This two-page resource from National Farm to School Network demonstrates the short-, mid-, and long-term benefits of School Meals for All and shares perspectives from the NFSN partners about how this policy alone can improve meal quality and put local food on the menu.

[LEARN MORE HERE](#)

GRAPHICS THAT DEMONSTRATE THE MUTUAL BENEFITS OF FARM TO SCHOOL AND SCHOOL MEALS FOR ALL

This new article from the National Farm to School Network explores how advocates across the nation have visually illustrated how farm to school and School Meals for All policies can work together to transform school food.

[READ THE BLOG HERE](#)

TEAM NUTRITION TRAININGS AVAILABLE IN SPANISH & HAKHA CHIN

Eight hours of virtual meal pattern training for front-line staff is available in Spanish and Hakha Chin. These courses are eligible for the \$100 monetary incentive from the 2022 USDA Team Nutrition Grant. Share this opportunity with frontline staff who may benefit from translated training. Contact IDOE's [TN Training Grant team](#) with questions.

[DOWNLOAD HERE](#)

FARM TO EARLY CARE CURRICULUM

Tri-Valley's interactive Farm to Early Care Curriculum was created by Jami Rokala and Deb Cooper when they realized there was a need for early care curriculum that coincided with Minnesota's growing season and met Head Start Performance Standards. This curriculum uses nutrition experiences in such a way that all other developmental areas are expanded upon. Tri-Valley's Head Start and Early Head Start centers support locally grown food as they learn about agriculture and healthy eating in the classroom. Farm to early care has been an exciting opportunity for the children to explore healthy foods to which they may not otherwise be exposed.

[ACCESS CURRICULUM HERE](#)

[ACCESS CURRICULUM TEACHERS MANUAL HERE](#)

A GUIDE TO USING THE CREATIVE CURRICULUM TO SUPPORT FARM TO ECE MODELS

The Creative Curriculum for Preschool is a comprehensive, research-based curriculum is designed to help teachers plan experiences that promote learning through play, exploration, and discovery—a natural fit for Farm to ECE learning. Teachers can use The Creative Curriculum® strategies and activities to provide meaningful learning opportunities that build on children's innate interest in and curiosity about food and its connections to their lives and the world around them. This guide explores how teachers can use The Creative Curriculum for Preschool and associated resources as a foundation to embed farm-to-ECE learning opportunities into their existing practices. The Guide is organized into four sections:

- Incorporating Farm to ECE into Classroom Interest Areas
- Planning Activities that Support Farm to ECE Learning
- Using Farm to ECE Learning to Support Child Assessment
- Supporting Family Engagement through Farm to ECE Learning

[ACCESS CURRICULUM FOR PRESCHOOL HERE](#)



UPCOMING EVENTS

INDIANA FARM TO SCHOOL OFFICE HOURS

APRIL 17, 3:30-4:30 P.M. EST

What: Join Farm to School Coordinators from the Indiana Grown for Schools Network and other farm to school and early-care stakeholders each month to discuss and find answers to your questions related to local foods and making farm to school and early-care successful in your community.

Who: Anyone with questions related to farm to school and farm to ECE. All are welcome: farmers, school nutrition professionals, early-care providers, parents, teachers, distributors, gardeners, local public health professionals, extension educators, and other farm to school and ECE advocates.

When: We will host farm to school office hours on the third Wednesday of each month from 3:30-4:30 p.m. EDT. If these times don't work for you, you can [submit your questions here](#).

You can request a calendar invite by emailing [Brianna Goode, bgoode@health.in.gov](mailto:bgoode@health.in.gov).

EVERY DAY IS EARTH DAY ON THE DAIRY FARM!

APRIL 19, 10 A.M. EST

Join the American Dairy Association Indiana as they celebrate how dairy farmers care for their cows, land, and water! Abbie Herr loves spending time with her cows on the family's dairy farm outside of Kendallville, Indiana. She knows the cows by name and many of them are mothers and daughters from several generations on the farm. They also milk their cows with robots and keep the barn clean and comfortable for the cows with many kinds of technology. Follow along as Abbie shows us how they recycle water, protect their soil, and reduce energy use on their dairy farm. This tour is open to all classrooms and students from kindergarten through 12th grade.

[REGISTER HERE](#)





FARM TO ECE STATE SURVEYS: THE WHY & HOW OF STATE SURVEYS

MAY 14, 2-3 P.M. EST

Join ASPHN as they host experts, farmers, and educators to share success stories, innovations, and opportunities in farm to ECE.

[REGISTER HERE](#)

RACIAL EQUITY LEARNING LAB MICRO-SERIES

MAY 17, 2 PM-3:30 P.M. EST

The National Farm to School Network invites you to join our Racial Equity Learning Lab micro-series, following the successful completion of our initial cohort. Designed to highlight key learnings and promote racial equity in our collective efforts, these sessions mirror pivotal aspects of the original Lab, covering topics like shared language, appreciative inquiry, and community agreements. While attending both sessions is highly encouraged, registration for either offers a detailed agenda and overview.

[REGISTER HERE](#)

INDIANA SCHOOL HEALTH NETWORK CONFERENCE

JUNE 4-5, 7 A.M.-4 P.M., EST, PLAINFIELD

Join the 16th annual Indiana School Health Network Conference! This year's theme, "Seeds of Hope: Growing a Strong Future for Hoosier Kids," symbolizes the nurturing of positive change and growth in the health and well-being of Indiana's children. It highlights the importance of providing them with the support, opportunities, and resources needed to flourish, be healthy, and succeed. The conference is free for all attendees and will encourage discussions and initiatives that highlight innovative approaches, community involvement, policy changes, and evolving opportunities.

[REGISTER HERE](#)

[VIEW AGENDA](#)

[CONFERENCE SESSIONS](#)

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES



LAKE MICHIGAN SCHOOL FOOD SYSTEM INNOVATION HUB DEADLINE: APRIL 30

The Lake Michigan School Food System Innovation Hub fosters collaborations that nourish students, connect schools with local farms and businesses, and celebrate the region's cultures and communities. Applications for funding opened on February 1, 2024. Funded applications will be considered from local food system leaders across Illinois, Michigan, Wisconsin, and Indiana – especially in areas that don't have equitable access to resources:

- **Spark Awards:** fund projects that need a short-term infusion of funds for school food system and marketplace improvements, such as capacity-building, planning, and product testing projects.
 - \$10,000 - \$75,000 award range; one-year grant cycle, with optional 4-month extension period.
- **Innovation Collaborative Awards:** fund projects that promote systems-level change in the school food system and marketplace, such as scaling up of programs, regional partnerships, or new program or product development and integration.
 - \$250,000 award; 2.5-years grant cycle.

[WATCH PRE-LAUNCH WEBINAR](#)

[APPLICATION SUPPORT](#)

ASPHN FARMWISE: A FARM TO CACFP LEARNING COLLABORATIVE OPPORTUNITY

DEADLINE: APRIL 30

Through a Fiscal Year 2024 cooperative agreement, the Association of State Public Health Nutritionists (ASPHN), partnering with the National Farm to School Network, National CACFP Sponsors Association and the USDA, will administer the first Farm to Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) Institute and Learning Collaborative, called FARMWISE. Ten state coalitions will have the opportunity to explore state approaches to advance Farm to CACFP to increase young children's access to healthy environments and local foods. FARMWISE aims to expand state Farm to CACFP by enhancing capacity, program awareness, Farm to CACFP policies, systems, environments, and collaborations.

[READ THE INFORMATION PACKET HERE](#)

[APPLY HERE](#)

USDA'S AGRICULTURE MARKETING SERVICE ANNOUNCES LOCAL AGRICULTURE MARKET PROGRAM

MAY 14

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Agricultural Marketing Service (USDA AMS) announced the availability of approximately \$26 million for the Local Agriculture Market Program (LAMP) to help local and regional food entities develop, coordinate, and expand producer-to-consumer marketing, local and regional food markets, and local food enterprises. Additionally, AMS has added to the suite of resources available to support communities and practitioners in local and regional food systems development.

[LEARN MORE](#)

FOOD JUSTICE FOR KIDS PRIZE BY NEWMAN'S OWN FOUNDATION

DEADLINE: JUNE 11

Is your organization working towards food justice for kids in the United States? If so, this is your chance to receive up to \$100,000 in grant funding over the next 2 years and deepen your impact! The Newman's Own Foundation is seeking applications from organizations working in two priority program areas: Indigenous Food Justice and Nutrition Education & School Food. The Newman's Own Foundation welcomes applications from all eligible organizations, and in particular seeks to be inclusive of organizations led by and/or representing historically marginalized and under-represented groups, including indigenous people and people of color.

[INDIGENOUS FOOD JUSTICE APPLICATION](#)

[NUTRITION EDUCATION & SCHOOL FOOD APPLICATION](#)

STAY IN TOUCH!



#INGROWN4SCHOOLS

CONTACT INFORMATION

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