



INDIANA GROWN FOR SCHOOLS NEWSLETTER

Indiana's Statewide Farm to School Network

INDIANA GROWN FOR SCHOOLS ALL-NETWORK MEETING

The Indiana Grown for Schools Network invites you to join us Sept. 28 from 3-4:30 p.m. EDT for our bi-annual all-network meeting. During this meeting you will hear from other network members on how they have planned, implemented, and sustained farm to school projects in their community. You will also learn a variety of ways to celebrate the upcoming farm to school month in October. If you did not receive a meeting invite and would like to attend, please email our Farm to School coordinator, Brianna Goode at bgoode@health.in.gov.

We look forward to seeing you there!

NEWS & EVENTS

KEEP IT GROWING WORKSHOP SERIES

Southeast Indiana Farmers, you can grow more food all year long! Join the free “Keep It Growing” series to learn how to use “season extension” to harvest more produce in spring, fall, and winter. “Keep It Growing” combines farm tours and workshops where you can:

- Learn from farmers who already do season extension
- Connect with other farmers who want to start growing more food - and earning more money - throughout the year
- Talk details like planting dates, potential challenges, infrastructure costs, and how season extension can build your business

[CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE & REGISTER](#)



PILOT LIGHT SNACKTIME EXPLORERS EDUCATORS NEEDED!

Pilot Light seeks **curious and passionate elementary school teachers** at Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program (FFVP) recipient schools in Indianapolis Public Schools to participate in our 2023-2024 SnackTime Explorers program. Educators who are interested in bringing food education adventures to their elementary students are **strongly encouraged to apply**.

[LEARN MORE HERE](#)

[APPLY HERE](#)

HEALTHY MEALS INCENTIVES RECOGNITION AWARDS

As part of a cooperative agreement to implement the USDA Food and Nutrition Service’s Healthy Meals Incentives Initiative, Action for Healthy Kids is offering recognition awards to celebrate school food authorities that have made significant improvements to the nutritional quality of their school meals. The Healthy Meals Incentive Initiative Recognition Awards will spotlight innovative practices, student and community engagement activities, and strategies schools have used to provide meals that are consistent with the 2020-2025 Dietary Guidelines for Americans. The application for nominees opened on June 30 and will remain open through School Year 2024-2025.

[LEARN MORE HERE](#)



RESOURCES

NEW FARM TO ECE VIDEOS

Check out this three-part video series highlighting farm early childhood education (ECE) classroom activities inspired by Shelburne Farms' Cultivating Joy & Wonder. Hosted by Shelburne Farms educators Jed Norris and Hannah Corbin, these how-to videos explore outdoor, place-based learning, cooking with kids, and extending children's knowledge of agriculture and the food they eat.

[LEARN MORE](#)

PILOT LIGHT'S FOOD EDUCATION CENTER

The Pilot Light Food Education Center includes PreK-12 lessons for students that make it easy to integrate food education into existing curricula and to inspire your students' curiosity while continuing to build informed relationships with food.

[VIEW RESOURCE LIBRARY](#)

THE FARM TO SCHOOL REVOLUTION: SELLING INTO FARM TO SCHOOL VIDEO RESOURCE

Check out this quick and easy resource for any farmer looking to get into the marketplace. "The Farm 2 School Revolution" showcases best practices for a farmer looking to sell products to any school. Communities see the educational and nutritional values of providing fresh and local food for students and the economic benefits to supporting local farms. This gives farmers the opportunity to contribute to a positive movement by selling directly to schools, while simultaneously expanding their market and revenue streams.

[WATCH THE VIDEO RESOURCE HERE](#)

USDA BACK TO SCHOOL RESOURCES

Students thrive in healthy school nutrition environments. Strengthen, energize, and renew your school's efforts to support healthy choices with these ready-to-go resources.

[VIEW RESOURCES](#)

INDIANA RECIPIENTS OF THE 2023 USDA FARM TO SCHOOL GRANT



INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

The Division of Nutrition and Physical Activity (DNPA) within the IDOH will complete a range of activities from July 2023-2025, building upon the successful farm to school expansion over the last four years and responding to the changing landscape as the nation emerges from the COVID-19 pandemic. First, the DNPA will host 20 to 40 community-centered listening sessions to receive feedback about the success, challenges, and visions of the farm to school effort in IN, driving the formation of a strategic priority document to support schools in achieving their farm to school goals. Next, the DNPA will identify 10-20 local educational agencies (LEAs) participating in the Local Food for Schools (LFS) program to receive funding for the implementation of additional farm to school programming. Lastly, the DNPA will hire a Farm to School Value Chain Professional (FSVCP) to support the local procurement of produce in school markets statewide. Working with the Northwest IN Food Council, the FSVCP will join the IN Value Chain Network.

WILD PANSY FARMS

Wild Pansy Farm will canvass an 18-county region to identify five partners for a future farm-to-school implementation grant. They will conduct due diligence research and taste tests to prepare large batches of soup made from farm-raised produce, for distribution to schools. They will use the Turnkey Action Planning Grant to finance travel and salary associated with these activities and create a written plan to execute in 2024.

NWI FOOD COUNCIL

Students and families that are served by the School City of East Chicago (SCEC) have a high demonstrated need for improved food access and nutrition literacy. Community members in East Chicago are particularly vulnerable, as demonstrated by the Social Vulnerability Index, food insecurity data, and the Food Environment Atlas. The NWI Food Council and SCEC leadership will work to address this need by developing an action plan for farm to school initiatives in partnership with Purdue Extension, New Venture Advisors, and the East Chicago community. This action plan will focus specifically on the two SCEC elementary schools of William McKinley and Benjamin Harrison, who are eager to engage with farm to school activities and expand opportunities for student engagement with local food and farms. The action planning process will build on long standing relationships between grant partners, while also cultivating opportunities for new collaborations and meaningful community engagement.



**“
KIDS WIN.
FARMERS WIN.
COMMUNITIES WIN.
”**

FY 2024 FARM TO SCHOOL GRANT REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS ARE COMING SOON!

The fiscal year (FY) 2024 Farm to School grant program request for applications (RFA) is coming later this year. We encourage anyone who expects to seek funding through the upcoming Farm to School Grants to review the closed [Farm to School FY 2023 RFA](#). Please note that application requirements are subject to change.

STAY IN TOUCH!



#INGROWN4SCHOOLS

CONTACT INFORMATION

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