



# **INDIANA GROWN FOR SCHOOLS NEWSLETTER**

Indiana's Statewide Farm to School Network

## **INDIANA GROWN FOR SCHOOL NETWORK RECOGNITION PROGRAM**

Engaging students in an environment influenced by farm to school is something to be proud of, and we want to help you market your success! Using our marketing products, you will be able to showcase to the community, families, and future residents the great things that are happening in your school as you receive different badges. If you have questions or would like to learn more, we encourage you to reach out to our Farm to School Coordinator, Brianna Goode, at [bgoode@health.in.gov](mailto:bgoode@health.in.gov).

# NEWS & EVENTS

## FARM TO SCHOOL CENSUS

USDA Food and Nutrition Service has been tracking the growth and change of farm to school programming since 2013. The Farm to School Census is a one of a kind data source compiled from surveys sent to more than 18,000 school food authorities. Check out the links below to learn more about farm to school activity in the national school lunch program.

- [Farm to School Census Results](#)
- [2023 Farm to School Census Partner Resources](#)



## SUCCESSFUL FARM TO SCHOOL SUMMIT

Over 120 college students, teachers, school food service staff members, child nutrition professionals, farmers, gardeners, and advocates gathered to learn and network about expanding the Northeast Indiana region's Farm to School programs. Speakers shared updates about regional Farm to School initiatives and the abundance of resources that are available to schools and early childhood programs interested in developing school gardens, food and farming curriculum, and local procurement in school cafeterias. Based on the enthusiastic turnout for the Summit, the NE Indiana Farm to School Team hopes to organize future farm to school events. Stay tuned for more details!





## **KIDS TASTE LOCAL PEARS!**

In November the NE Indiana Harvest of the Month taste tests featured local pears. Thanks to the dedication of the NE Farm to School Team and the continued generosity of a local donor, the impact of Harvest of the Month keeps growing!

- Number of students participating: 3,933
- Number of regional school districts: 12
- Number of schools: 22
- Number of classrooms: 82
- Local pears purchased: 2,785
- Local Sources: Woods Edge Family Farm, The Olde Farmhouse, & Josh's Jungle

The students at Bunche Montessori Early Childhood Center described the pears as “sweet, delicious, and bussin!” We are grateful to the NE Indiana Farm to School team partners for their continued efforts!

## **INDIANA HORTICULTURE CONFERENCE** JAN. 22-23, 2024

The Indiana Horticultural Conference & Expo is a two-day meeting designed to inform vegetable and fruit producers on production practices, pest management, food processing and safety, marketing, and new regulatory requirements at the Hendrick's County Fairgrounds. The Conference provides networking opportunities to reacquaint with old friends and business contacts, as well as form new connections.

**[REGISTER HERE!](#)**

## **INDIANA SMALL FARMS CONFERENCE** FEB. 29-MARCH 1, 2024

Mark your calendars to attend this annual gathering hosted by the Purdue Extension Diversified Farming and Food Systems team held at the Hendricks County Fairgrounds in Danville, IN.

**[LEARN MORE](#)**

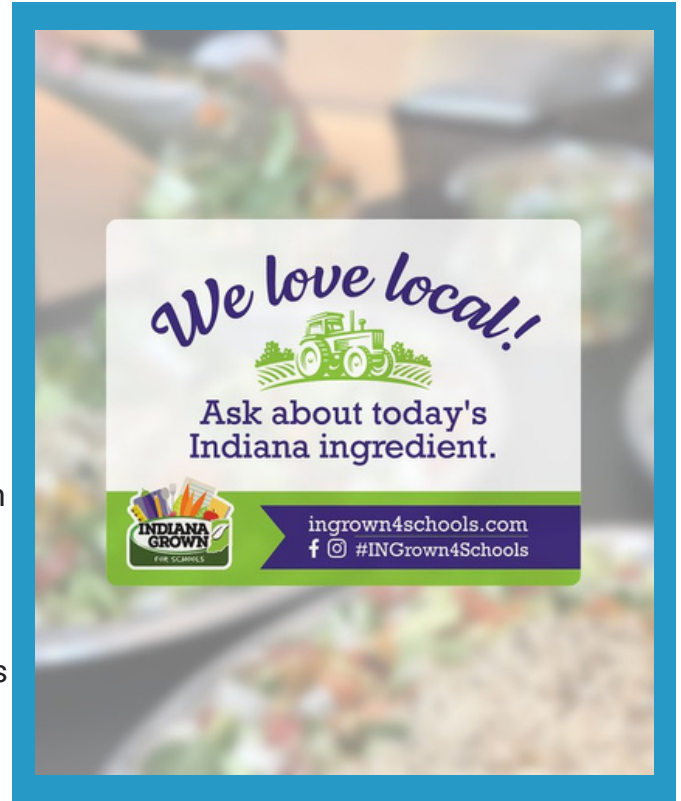
# RESOURCES

## INDIANA GROWN FOR SCHOOLS NETWORK HARVEST OF THE MONTH DATABASE

Indiana Harvest of the Month celebrates a different in-season, locally-grown food item every month. Harvest of the Month is a great way to buy, grow, and serve more local food while teaching kids about healthy eating, nutrition, and agriculture!

The Indiana Harvest of the Month database provides you with access to classroom and cafeteria activities, lesson plans, videos highlighting Indiana producers, recipes, awesome promotional material, and more! All classroom lessons and activities have been aligned with Indiana Academic Standards for K-5 classrooms.

[ACCESS THE RESOURCES HERE](#)



## TASTE TESTING EVENT RESOURCES

Taste tests are a great way to introduce new menu items and get students excited to try healthy food choices. Use these resources to help plan and host a successful taste-testing event.

[ACCESS THE RESOURCES HERE](#)

## KIDS GARDEN COMMUNITY RESOURCE LIBRARY

Looking for inspiration? Dig into these top-rated resources! Use the filters to explore guides, curricula, webinars and more for teaching and learning through the garden.

[ACCESS RESOURCES HERE](#)

# STRATEGIES TO REDUCE FOOD WASTE IN SCHOOL MEAL PROGRAMS

This resource highlights some of the most effective strategies to help reduce, recover, and recycle food waste from school meals. Many of the strategies also apply to other child nutrition programs.

[ACCESS RESOURCE HERE](#)



## ONE TREE PLANTED ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION RESOURCES

One Tree Planted's FREE grade school program designed for K-12 helps teachers and parents discuss environmental education with fun and engaging lessons, modules, videos, and activities.

Let's get the next generation of environmental stewards excited about how they can make a big difference through small actions.

[ACCESS RESOURCES HERE](#)

## PEOPLE'S GARDEN WEBINAR RECORDINGS

Learn from experts from USDA and beyond who will share planting tips and resources that benefit community gardens. We'll also share on-the-ground stories of gardens making a difference by growing fresh, nutritious food for their communities.

[ACCESS RECORDINGS HERE](#)

## FARM TO SCHOOL RESOURCES IN ICN CNSS RESOURCE HUB

The Institution for Child Nutrition's (ICN) [Child Nutrition Sharing Site \(CNSS\) Resource Hub](#) is a one-stop shop for all operation-related child nutrition program resources. The resource hub now features a section for [farm to school resources](#). These free resources from various farm to school stakeholders cover a variety of topics, such as building your farm to school team, promoting your farm to school program, native/traditional food resources, and more.

[ACCESS RESOURCE HUB HERE](#)

# GRANTS & FUNDING

## 2023 USDA FARM TO SCHOOL GRANT DEADLINE: JAN. 24, 2024

The USDA Farm to School Program is excited to announce the official release of the fiscal year (FY) 2024 Farm to School Grant Program Request for Applications (RFA). USDA will award up to \$12 million in competitive grants to eligible entities through the grant program this fiscal year. Each grant will help implement farm to school programming that increases access to local food in eligible schools, connects children with agriculture for better health, and inspires youth to consider careers in agriculture.

[LEARN MORE](#)



## PLANTS GRANT DEADLINE: JAN. 22, 2024

Applications for Chef Ann Foundation's newest grant program Partnerships for Local Agriculture & Nutrition Transformation in Schools (PLANTS) are open! They are seeking proposals for projects led by groups of local partners with systemic and equity-driven approaches to transforming school food supply chains. Projects should seek to build and strengthen relationships among community-based food system stakeholders and School Food Authorities (SFAs) as well as expand scratch cooking in schools in order to build more nourishing school meal programs. Grant awards will be between \$500,000 and \$600,000 and will not require grantees to match funding. Entities eligible to apply include School Food Authorities, food producers, food distributors and aggregators, nonprofits, and local government agencies.

[LEARN MORE](#)

## **YOUTH GARDEN GRANT** DEADLINE: DEC. 15

Since 1982, the Youth Garden Grant has supported school and youth educational garden projects that enhance the quality of life for students and their communities. In 2024, fifty programs will receive award packages consisting of a cash prize and a variety of gardening tools and supplies. Any organization in the United States or US Territories planning a new or improving an existing garden program that serves at least 15 youth between the ages of 0 and 18 is eligible to apply.

[APPLY HERE](#)



## **SEEDMONEY GARDEN GRANTS** DEADLINE DEC. 15

SeedMoney is offering challenge grants to diverse food garden projects through a 30-day crowdfunding challenge running from November 15 to December 15. Grants are open to all types of public food garden projects (youth gardens, community gardens, food bank gardens, etc.) regardless of their location. The size of a grant a project can receive depends on how much it is able to raise over the 30-day period compared to other projects participating in the challenge. This year, SeedMoney will be offering a total of 408 grants ranging from \$100 to \$1000.

[LEARN MORE](#)

## **SALAD BARS FOR SCHOOLS** ROLLING APPLICATION

Is your district ready to implement salad bars as part of your reimbursable meal program? To qualify for a Salad Bars to Schools grant you must offer the salad bar as part of the reimbursable meal served in your district. The 6-foot, five-well salad bar package is for locations that serve at least 100 reimbursable meals daily. Any district or independent school participating in the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) is eligible to apply.

[LEARN MORE & APPLY](#)



# STAY IN TOUCH!



#INGROWN4SCHOOLS



# CONTACT INFORMATION

**BRIANNA GOODE**

 [bgoode@health.in.gov](mailto:bgoode@health.in.gov)

**WEBSITE**

[www.ingrown4schools.com](http://www.ingrown4schools.com)

**ON ALL SOCIAL MEDIA:**

@ingrown4schools