



INDIANA GROWN FOR SCHOOLS NEWSLETTER

Indiana's Statewide Farm to School Network

INDIANA FOOD DAY REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN!

Each year, the Hoosier State celebrates Indiana Food Day, to showcase local food and encourage healthy eating. Food Day is organized by the Indiana Department of Health in partnership with the Indiana Grown for Schools Network. Indiana Food Day coincides with National Farm to School Month each October--and showcases a different local food item every year to give students the chance to explore our state's diverse agricultural bounty! This year's theme is all about versatile, nutrient-packed pumpkins--of which Indiana is the nation's third-largest producer!

[LEARN MORE & REGISTER HERE](#)

NEWS & RESOURCES

TAKE THE INDIANA FOOD VISION SURVEY!

The Indiana Food Vision is for every Hoosier who eats or grows food and who wants to have a voice in shaping our future. Together, we are creating a road map for cultivating a robust, nourishing, and equitable food system where all communities in Indiana thrive. The Indiana Food Vision is a 'by the people for the people' effort to center the voices of Hoosiers who eat, grow, or buy food in Indiana - that means YOU! Please take a few minutes to share about your day-to-day food system experience by clicking the link to the survey.



Your Voice. Your Vision.

[COMPLETE SURVEY HERE](#)

HEALTHY MEALS INCENTIVES RECOGNITION AWARDS

Action for Healthy Kids (AFHK) and USDA are recognizing and celebrating school food authorities (SFAs) who have made operational changes to improve the nutritional quality of their school meals, as well as those who engage students and families in school meal participation and nutrition education. If you've made changes to your school recipes and menus or engaged students in menu planning and nutrition education, you may qualify for a Healthy Meals Incentives Recognition Award. AFHK has made the application process easier and faster. Awardees will receive national and local recognition, including a stipend to attend an exclusive national Healthy Meals Summit in Las Vegas. This recognition award is ongoing until June 30, 2025. Congratulations, Portage Township Schools as a recent recognition award winner!

[LEARN MORE HERE](#)

2024 SUSTAINABLE GARDENING WITH KIDS ACTIVITY GUIDE

KidsGardening and High Country Gardens are committed to helping people create sustainable, wildlife-friendly, climate-friendly landscapes and green spaces. This guide provides information on how kids can get involved in the planning, planting, and care of sustainable gardens, so they feel empowered to take action and make positive contributions to their communities.

[CHECK OUT THE RESOURCES HERE](#)



USING GARDENS TO GROW HEALTHY HABITS FACT SHEET

School gardens have been around for over 100 years, and school districts continue to use them today to establish healthy eating habits, as educational tools in the classroom, and to promote community inclusion. This fact sheet for farm to school stakeholders provides examples of school gardens that have taken root and resources to continue growth.

[ACCESS RESOURCE](#)

FOOD SAFETY TIPS FOR SCHOOL GARDENS

Schools across the nation are using gardens to help children discover where food comes from and to develop healthy eating habits. Gardens provide a way for children to grow, harvest, prepare, and ultimately taste new fruits and vegetables. When appropriate precautions are taken, fruits and vegetables from school gardens can be served safely to students. Before starting a school garden, we encourage you to learn more about food safety in the school gardens!

[LEARN MORE HERE](#)

GARDEN TO CAFETERIA TOOLKIT

Slow Food USA, in partnership with Whole Kids Foundation, has developed a toolkit to help school district food services safely bring school garden produce onto the lunch line. The toolkit builds on the successes and safety protocols of four school districts across the United States to provide templates, and it details a step-by-step process to help district food services develop their own protocols.

[DOWNLOAD TOOLKIT HERE](#)

EATING LEARNING GROWING: A DELICIOUS GUIDE TO CULTURALLY RELEVANT FARM TO SCHOOL EDUCATION

This resource embodies the Center for Ecoliteracy's core principle, Nature Is Our Teacher, by sharing how diversity, including diversity in human communities, is a foundation for healthy patterns of living and a healthier planet. It provides a framework, activities, and reflections that help educators enhance farm to school lessons to make them more culturally relevant and celebrate fruits and vegetables.

[DOWNLOAD RESOURCES HERE](#)

BEE CAUSE PROJECT: GETTING TO KNOW THE BASICS OF BEES

This six-week bee unit includes comprehensive lesson plans and educator guides specifically built to explore the lives of bees with your students.

[LEARN MORE](#)

RURAL HEALTH NETWORK'S FARM TO ECE OUTREACH MATERIALS

The Rural Health Network has created a variety of farm to ECE outreach materials to provide state, national, and local guides for starting a new farm to ECE program and tips for gardening with children in ECE settings.

[STARTING YOUR FARM TO ECE PROGRAM GUIDE](#)

[GROWING TOGETHER GUIDE](#)

EDUCATED CHOICES PROGRAM RESOURCES

The Educated Choices Program provides free educational programs globally, focusing on the impact of food choices on human and planetary health. The following are some of their resources:

- [Growing Community Roots](#) digs into the history of gardening and the important role community gardens play in creating a healthier, more equitable food system in the United States.
- [Our Carbon Footprint](#) explores the environmental impacts associated with the production of modern food products and food waste while recognizing sustainable alternatives.
- [Rethinking Food Waste](#) will take viewers on an exploration of how a slice of pepperoni pizza is made, from field to plate and even into the trash can. They will discover the various ways food waste is created at every stage of the food system, from production to consumption, and will learn how to be more conscious consumers to avoid waste with food choices.
- [Micronutrient Rainbow](#) encourages viewers to eat healthy in a fun way - by eating the rainbow! The video aims to break down each color to see what micronutrients they provide and how they help build a healthy body and mind.



FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

PILOT LIGHT FOOD EDUCATION FELLOWSHIP DEADLINE: MAY 27

Pilot Light, a Midwest Region USDA Farm to School Grantee, has launched the application for the 2024-2025 Food Education Fellowship. Pilot Light created the Food Education Fellowship to invest in pre-kindergarten through grade 12 teacher leaders who are committed to bringing food education to their students. In addition to integrated food education lessons, fellows will partner with an individual or organization in the food space to support student-led advocacy work within their classrooms.

[LEARN MORE & APPLY HERE](#)

2024 LOTS OF COMPASSION GRANT DEADLINE: JUNE 2

Together, Mrs. Meyers Clean Day and KidsGardening designed the Lots of Compassion Grant program to support local leaders looking to transform vacant lots into gardens to help grow compassion in their community. In 2024, up to 10 grantees will receive \$20,000 each to transform a vacant lot into a garden. A total of \$200,000 will be awarded annually.

[LEARN MORE AND APPLY](#)

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! Applications are welcome from all eligible organizations, and in particular seek to be inclusive of organizations led by and/or representing historically marginalized and under-represented groups, including Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC).

[APPLY HERE](#)

HUNGER TO HEALTH COLLABORATORY 2024 PRIZES FOR INNOVATION

DEADLINE: JUNE 14

With increasingly convergent national food and health challenges, the need for successful, upstream models and solutions that advance health equity is clear. In response, the Hunger to Health Collaboratory launched its Prizes for Innovation in 2023. The H2HC Prizes for Innovation identify and highlight innovative food and nutrition work that offers promising, upstream models and replicable, scalable solutions that significantly advance health equity in communities throughout the U.S. H2HC awards two \$100,000 prizes annually, and prize winners are introduced at the H2HC Fall Summit. The 2024 Fall Summit will be in Boston on Thursday, Nov. 21.

Eligibility Criteria

- Proof of 501(c)3 tax-exempt status or affiliation

Programs or initiatives must be designed to:

- focus on food and/or nutrition challenges to advance health equity in U.S. communities
- reach across established disciplines to catalyze new collaborations and pathways
- use a promising, change-making approach
- demonstrate the potential for regional/national scalability
- demonstrate the potential for replicability
- address upstream, systemic factors for the longer term
- demonstrate measurable impact
- consider longer-term sustainability

Prize winners will be required to:

- attend the H2HC Fall 2024 Summit in Boston on Nov. 21
- report on Prize-related activity next year at the H2HC Fall 2025 Summit
- collaborate ongoingly on H2HC initiatives, learning community activities, media relations, and other related work
- publicize the H2HC Prize and ongoing updates on its organizational website and in social media

For questions, please refer to the [FAQs](#); any additional questions may be submitted to info@h2hcollaboratory.org.

[LEARN MORE & APPLY HERE](#)



UPCOMING EVENTS

COMMUNITY CHAT: IRRIGATION

MAY 21, 3 P.M. EDT

Join this Community Chat to ask your questions and share ideas about all things related to irrigation! This will be an opportunity to learn more about the best watering method for your garden, setting up drip irrigation systems, lessons and activities related to water, and more!

[REGISTER HERE](#)

ASPHN'S 2024 FARM TO EARLY CARE & EDUCATION CONVENING

JUNE 11-13, MINNEAPOLIS

ASPHN's next Farm to Early Care and Education (ECE) Convening, Cultivating Connections: Bridging the Gaps to Strengthen Farm to ECE, will take place on June 11-13, 2024 in Minneapolis. Attendees can expect to gain knowledge and resources to build capacity for equitable, comprehensive Farm to ECE at the state or local level, explore the significance of outdoor learning environments and Farm to ECE on children's resilience, connect and learn with other dedicated Farm to ECE advocates across the nation, and leave with enthusiasm for exploring and implementing innovative Farm to ECE practices, resources, and tools.

[REGISTER HERE](#)

COMMUNITY CHAT: COMPOSTING

JUNE 18, 3 PM EDT

Join this Community Chat to ask your questions and share ideas about all things related to composting! This will be an opportunity to learn more about composting options, troubleshooting your compost, vermicomposting, composting activities for kids, and more!

[REGISTER HERE](#)

INDIANA FARM TO SCHOOL & ECE SYMPOSIUM

JUNE 18 & 19

The agenda and registration for the Farm to School and ECE Symposium can be found on the Indiana Grown for School's [event page](#). The event will be held at the Hendricks County Fairgrounds on Tuesday, June 18, and Wednesday, June 19. Participants will learn about gardening, local procurement, and agriculture education. All teaching, food service, and school administrative staff are welcome to attend. Contact [Sophie Lindley](#) with any questions.

[REGISTER HERE](#)

SUCCESS STORY



PAOLI'S PIGS & PRODUCE: TAKING LEARNING TO THE NEXT LEVEL

Following the lead of agriculture teachers Cory Scott and Samantha Goen, Paoli Jr. Sr. High School students have helped create and develop a program to bring their lessons to life – with real-world practice raising pigs and growing produce for other students. “It started years ago with a pig,” Scott said. “I’m an agriculture teacher, and the school wanted me to teach more math and English. I went to my boss and told him that if they wanted more of that, I was going to bring a pig to school and we were going to do math and English around the pig. We’ll calculate gain and feed and write stories and blog posts about our adventures with Miss Boots.”

Miss Boots was the name of the beloved first pig – an experiment and learning experience that led to a unique student program bigger than anyone could have imagined. The students started taking care of their pig, calculating her feed, and sharing stories about her growth in the greenhouse. As the program grew, they got more pigs, and agriculture teacher Samantha Goen started working with students to build a hydroponic system for students more interested in the plant side of things. They started with 4’ x 8’ floor beds and began selling that lettuce to the cafeteria. “Kids at school realized that lettuce is supposed to have flavor and taste,” says Scott. “They loved it, and we quickly ran out of floor space because they were eating it so fast. We had to ramp up production a little bit.” The students built eight vertical beds that relied on a circulating pump and gravity to make the most of the limited space they had available. The next big hurdle was building a barn. The pigs, produce, and people had all outgrown the greenhouse they started in and now needed more space to house all of their ongoing projects. Building a barn would take a lot of time and a lot of money, but the students were determined to make it happen.

[READ THE FULL STORY HERE](#)

STAY IN TOUCH!



#INGROWN4SCHOOLS

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