



INDIANA GROWN FOR SCHOOLS NEWSLETTER

Indiana's Statewide Farm to School Network

HAPPY NATIONAL FARM TO SCHOOL MONTH!

Each October, National Farm to School Month is celebrated by the National Farm to School Network in all 50 states! This year's Farm to School Month theme is ***Rooted in Community: Growing Stronger, Together***. It highlights that at the core, farm to school is built for and by communities, with all of us working together to cultivate a better future for everyone. Farm to school brings together a community of individuals across sectors, generations, and interests who all share a common vision of an abundant, nourishing, and equitable food system.

GET INVOLVED!

INDIANA FARM TO SCHOOL MONTH CELEBRATIONS

Join us and other organizations across the state in recognizing the importance of farm to school through activities, lesson plans, local food, and fun! The Indiana Grown for Schools Network will have four themed weeks during farm to school month highlighting different pillars of farm to school and student engagement. The Indiana Grown for Schools Network invites you to submit photos representing any of the weekly themes.

You can submit photos [here](#).

School Garden Harvest Week - Oct. 2-6

Celebrate opportunities, successes, and challenges with your school garden!

Classroom Connections Week - Oct. 9-13

Incorporate agriculture and nutrition education in the classroom!

School Lunch Heroes Week - Oct. 16-20

Highlight the importance of local foods in school meals and the people who provide them!

Farm to ECE Week - Oct. 23-27

Celebrate early childhood education as an ideal stage to introduce children to farm to school!

INDIANA GREAT APPLE CRUNCH

In celebration of National Farm to School Month, the Indiana Department of Education's Office of Nutrition Programs is hosting The Indiana Great Apple Crunch throughout the month of October. Crunch into a locally grown Indiana apple to celebrate and share pictures and videos of your students and staff crunching into fresh apples!

[REGISTER HERE](#)

Need apples? Find an orchard near you using the Indiana Grown for Schools Network's [Producer Directory/Map](#).

INDIANA FOOD DAY

The Indiana Department of Education is excited to celebrate proteins for the 2023 Indiana Food Day! School Food Authorities can celebrate any day in the month of October!

[LEARN MORE](#)



INDIANA'S F2S TEAM IS GROWING!

FARM TO SCHOOL COORDINATOR Indiana Department of Education

Sophie Lindley is the new Farm to School Coordinator at the Indiana Department of Education. Sophie is excited to be in this space to help support school communities in their efforts to teach kids about agriculture, gardening, and knowing where our food comes from. She became a dietitian after going to college and quickly came to learn that she wanted to combine her love for gardening with her nutrition background. Sophie has spent the last three years working in the foodservice department at a local school district. This experience helped her understand the importance of children learning the connection between food, agriculture, and health. Sophie is excited to be joining a statewide network that seeks to expand farm to school practices across Indiana!



FARM TO SCHOOL COORDINATOR NWI Food Council

Veronica Jalomo recently joined the NWI Food Council team as the Farm to School Coordinator. She will lead the development and support of farm-to-school efforts in the Northwest Region and for the networks and organizations supported by the NWI Food Council.

Veronica will support the continued development of other organizational farm-to-school programming, continue to cultivate and strengthen relationships and serve as a reliable connector and bridge to stakeholders in the value chain. Veronica is no stranger to this work; she has experience in the development, implementation, and evaluation of policy, systems, and environmental strategies. In

her most recent role as community wellness coordinator/local foods & community garden specialist at Purdue Extension Nutrition Education Program, she aimed to address the health disparities surrounding the issue of food insecurity to make healthy choices more accessible by partnering with community agencies and schools who strive in making a positive impact on the health and well-being of underserved communities.



RESOURCES



HARVEST OF THE MONTH DATA BASE

Find resources from Indiana Grown for Schools and from our farm to school partners across the state of Indiana. We have resources for students, teachers, foodservice directors, and more! All resources are **FREE** and available to download for use in schools, child care facilities, or homes!

[HARVEST OF THE MONTH DATABASE](#)

UPDATED PRODUCER DIRECTORY/MAP

The Indiana Grown for Schools Network is excited to share our most up-to-date Producer Directory/Map. The [Producer Directory/Map](#) now has a field trip category that provides schools and ECEs with information about producers across the state who are eager to provide educational experiences. If you are a producer interested in hosting field trips, we encourage you to fill out the survey below!

[FARM FIELD TRIP SURVEY](#)

NFSN'S FARM TO SCHOOL MONTH RESOURCES

Gear up to celebrate National Farm to School Month in October! This year's theme is Rooted in Community: Growing Stronger, Together. Throughout October, NFSN will be celebrating achievements, sharing stories of collaboration and community, and highlighting **progress toward racial equity** in farm to school. To help you celebrate, NFSN has put together newly-updated resources, including a fact sheet and downloadable posters, stickers, bookmarks, and other templates.

[VIEW ALL RESOURCES HERE](#)

USDA FARM TO SCHOOL CENSUS

The USDA will field the Farm to School Census, collecting information from school food authorities (SFAs) on their use of local food in school meals and participating in farm to school activities in school year 2022-2023. Each SFA will receive a unique link to their own online survey portal. Now is a great time for SFAs to begin preparing to complete the census by exploring the [Farm to School Census Partner Resources webpage](#); there, SFAs can find useful tools including a [Farm to School Census Sample Survey](#), a [Preparation Worksheet](#), [FAQs](#), and a [Checklist for Success](#).



GO NAPSACC IN INDIANA

From mealtime, to playtime, to story time, children have many opportunities each day to learn and practice healthy habits. Go NAPSACC is a trusted online tool that helps child care programs support children's healthy eating and physical activity.

Why Go NAPSACC?

- Proven track record. Child care programs nationwide have used Go NAPSACC to make meaningful changes to improve children's health.
- Convenient. Tools and resources are there at your fingertips, available any time you need them.
- Flexible. Focus on changes that mean the most to you and your child care program. Work at your own pace and set your own goals. Expect to spend around an hour per week for six to eight weeks completing one unit.
- FREE. Tools are available at no cost to you and coaching support is available through SPARK Learning Lab
- Go NAPSACC's learning areas include child nutrition, breastfeeding, physical activity, outdoor play, screen time, oral health, and farm to ECE!

[SEE HOW OTHERS HAVE FOUND SUCCESS WITH GO NAPSACC](#)

[SEE A SNEAK PEAK OF GO NAPSACC'S TOOLS & RESOURCES](#)

To learn more or sign up, contact Marsha Hearn-Lindsey at MarshaHL4554@gmail.com.



WEBINARS & EVENTS



RECORDING: INDIANA GROWN FOR SCHOOLS ALL-NETWORK MEETING

Did you miss the bi-annual Indiana Grown for Schools All-Network Meeting Sept. 28? No problem! You can find the recording of the meeting and other past webinars by visiting our website.

[VIEW RECORDING](#)

CELEBRATE LUNCH TRAYS MANY WAYS WEBINAR

Time: 3-4 p.m. ET Oct. 12

In celebration of National School Lunch Week, Team Nutrition will present a [Meal Talk Webinar](#) to highlight the many ways to offer school lunch with inspiration from across the country. Speakers from the Arizona Department of Education and Bellingham Public Schools in Washington will share strategies and success stories related to incorporating student food preferences and locally grown foods in USDA standardized recipes. Participants will also learn about USDA's Team Nutrition resources and the Healthy Meals Incentive Recognition Awards.

[REGISTER HERE](#)

NATIONAL FARM TO SCHOOL NETWORK 2023 MOVEMENT MEETING

Time: 3-5 p.m. ET Oct. 26

The National Farm to School Network is thrilled to extend an invitation to their vibrant Farm to School community for the upcoming 2023 Movement Meeting. This annual event serves as a gathering point for dedicated advocates in the Farm to School and Farm to Early Care and Education realms, providing an invaluable opportunity to come together, rejoice in our shared achievements, foster meaningful connections, ignite inspiration, and collectively nurture our growth. Your presence will make this occasion memorable!

[REGISTER HERE](#)

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

BEE GRANTS

Deadline: Oct. 15

In partnership with the Bee Cause Project, Whole Kids Foundation Bee Grants allow for schools and non-profit organizations to receive support for educational beehives and bee programming so students can observe bees up close and learn about the vital role these pollinators play in our food system.

[LEARN MORE AND APPLY HERE](#)



BUDDING BOTANIST GRANTS

Deadline: Oct. 20

Running a successful meal program requires more than food. School cafeterias and community centers need equipment like refrigerators and coolers. If you are looking to purchase equipment for your cafeteria, click the link below to submit a grant inquiry today!

[LEARN MORE](#)

HEALTHY MEALS INCENTIVES INITIATIVE

Rolling applications

Running a successful meal program requires more than food. School cafeterias and community centers need equipment like refrigerators and coolers. If you are looking to purchase equipment for your cafeteria, click the link below to submit a Grant Inquiry today!

[LEARN MORE HERE](#)

SUCCESS STORY

DALEVILLE COMMUNITY SCHOOLS



Congregating around garden beds this fall in Daleville Community Schools' Outdoor Learning Lab, sixth graders anticipated what they might find beneath the soil. After learning about the origin of potatoes from the Incan Empire in Peru and the way they spread through trade economies across the world, students were curious what happened to the small pieces of sprouting potatoes they planted with their fifth grade classes last spring. With a burst of excitement, students began digging through the soil underneath the foliage that had died back to leave the potatoes beneath. More than 80 students couldn't contain their excitement in finding the BIGGEST, the smallest, and so so many more in-between. They couldn't wait to carry back the large boxes of produce to share with their student community in collaboration with the school cafeteria.

Meanwhile, more than 80 first graders participated in harvesting carrots and onions they planted last spring as kindergarteners. In kindergarten, they explored the difference between planting tiny carrot seeds and bulb onions. They waited all summer, only to be absolutely elated by the giant carrots they pulled from the ground where they left those tiny seeds as well as large onions in place of the tiny bulbs. They compared the root vegetables to the leafy vegetable of celery, then they worked with their teachers to use the vegetables as real-world objects in a math activity to fill a giant "10" frame as they practiced adding two numbers together to equal 10.

Daleville Elementary School cafeteria staff worked with students to receive the produce and made preparations to serve roasted potatoes, carrots, onions, and celery to the entire elementary school - more than 500 students! Wow!

The students were thrilled to get outside, follow the process from seed to table, and have something meaningful to contribute to their school community. The incredible cafeteria staff went out of their way to prepare students to try something new by giving them the exciting news in advance and celebrating students' hard work by showing a slideshow of harvest and preparation photos during the lunch period. Students loved it, and it was an opportunity for whole-school collaboration on healthy eating!

STAY IN TOUCH!



#INGROWN4SCHOOLS

CONTACT INFORMATION

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