



INDIANA GROWN FOR SCHOOLS NEWSLETTER

Indiana's Statewide Farm to School Network

**FARM TO SCHOOL MONTH
IS COMING SOON!**

October is National Farm to School Month - a time to celebrate the connections happening all over the country between children and local food and farms. From taste tests in the cafeteria and nutrition education activities in the classroom, to farm visits and school gardens, we encourage you to join the celebration!

Throughout this month's edition of the Indiana Grown for Schools Website, we have provided a variety of opportunities and resources to celebrate the upcoming farm to school month.

OCTOBER IS NATIONAL FARM TO SCHOOL MONTH!

CELEBRATE FARM TO SCHOOL MONTH THIS OCTOBER WITH THE INDIANA GROWN FOR SCHOOLS NETWORK

Every October, Farm to School Month is celebrated by the National Farm to School Network. The Indiana Grown for Schools Network encourages you to celebrate too!

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. We will be sharing ideas for activities that can tie into these weeks throughout this newsletter and on our social media platforms.

2023 INDIANA FARM TO SCHOOL MONTH

WEEK ONE
OCT. 2-6

SCHOOL GARDEN HARVEST WEEK

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

WEEK TWO
OCT. 9-13

CLASSROOM CONNECTIONS WEEK

Incorporate agriculture and nutrition education in the classroom.

WEEK THREE
OCT. 16-20

SCHOOL LUNCH HEROES WEEK

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

WEEK FOUR
OCT. 23-27

FARM TO ECE WEEK

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

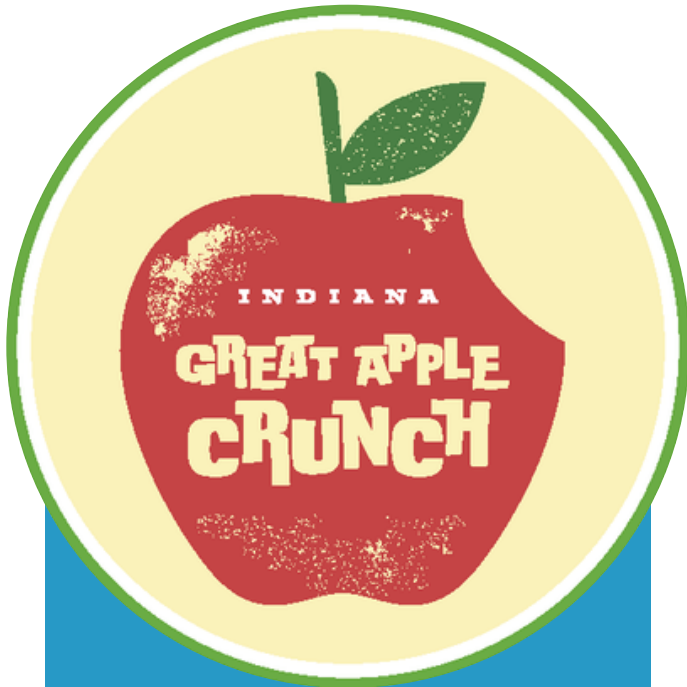
FARM TO SCHOOL MONTH PHOTOS

The Indiana Grown for Schools Network invites you to submit photos representing any of the weekly themes to highlight your community's farm to school efforts. These photos will be shared in our monthly newsletters as well as our social media platforms.



[SUBMIT PHOTOS HERE](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS



INDIANA GREAT APPLE CRUNCH

In celebration of National Farm to School Month, the Indiana Department of Education's Office of Nutrition Programs and Purdue Extension 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 to receive your Crunch Guide, stickers, and more.

[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](#)

Unsure where to start? Check out these upcoming webinars for support:

Celebrating Food Day

Thursday, Sept. 14 at 2 p.m. EDT

[REGISTER HERE](#)

Using Local Proteins in Child Nutrition Recipes

Thursday, Sept. 28 at 2 p.m. EDT

[REGISTER HERE](#)



RESOURCES



ADVOCATING FOR FARM TO SCHOOL: HOW TO HOST A SITE VISIT WITH ELECTED OFFICIALS

Are you planning a special farm to school event this fall? Showcasing your farm to school efforts is one of the most impactful ways to advocate for farm to school! Some officials may have never heard of farm to school before, and site visits are a great opportunity for them to learn more. Giving decision makers at any level or branch of government the opportunity to experience your farm to school program firsthand will not only make them familiar with farm to school, but also allow them to interact with those who benefit the most.

[ACCESS THE RESOURCES HERE](#)

A GUIDE TO BUILDING COMMUNITY

Vermont Food Education Every Day (FEED) created a guide to developing connections between farm to school, school garden, and youth agricultural programs and the larger community. The guide includes information on engaging families, cultivating volunteers, farm-based field trips, and more.

[ACCESS THE FULL GUIDE HERE](#)

A GUIDE TO TASTE TESTING LOCAL FOOD IN SCHOOLS

This taste test guide has the information, curriculum, and recipes needed for schools and cafeterias to implement farm to school taste tests.

[LEARN MORE](#)

NEWSLETTERS, INFO SHEETS, AND RECIPES FOR FAMILIES

Keep parents and families informed about your school garden and send home info sheets on the plants and veggies you're growing, including recipe ideas.

[LEARN MORE](#)

THE EDIBLE SCHOOLYARD PROJECT: RESOURCE LIBRARY

Discover free lesson plans and materials created by a variety of partners to encourage garden exploration through a variety of curricular areas.

[LEARN MORE](#)

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES



CLASSROOM GRANTS

DEADLINE: SEPT. 15

CHS Foundation provides \$500 grants each year to pre-kindergarten-12th grade teachers who have classroom projects that use agricultural concepts to teach reading, writing, math, science, social studies and more. Eligible projects include classroom and schoolyard gardens, embryology projects (i.e. incubating chicken embryos inside fertilized egg until they hatch), aquaculture projects (farming of aquatic organisms, such as fish, shellfish, and plants in water environment for food, products, or conservation), and agricultural literacy reading programs to name a few. Teachers have until June 1 of the following year to complete the project and submit a final report. Only state-certified classroom teachers employed by a school district or private school teachers are eligible to apply.

[LEARN MORE AND APPLY HERE](#)

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](#)

FARM FIELD TRIPS



ARE YOU INTERESTED IN HOSTING FARM TO SCHOOL FIELD TRIPS?

The Indiana Grown for Schools Network is eager to spotlight farms that are interested in or currently providing educational experiences for students across the state. We would love to learn more about the experiences that your farm offers so we can share your information with schools or early childhood centers who are interested in participating. If you are interested in engaging and promoting agriculture experiences with members in your community, please complete the survey below.

[FARM FIELD TRIP SURVEY](#)

PLAN YOUR NEXT FIELD TRIP!

WEA CREEK ORCHARD

5618 S. 200 EAST | LAFAYETTE

Wea Creek Orchard is currently hosting field trips for K-5 schools. During the trip, students will enjoy 3-7 educational stations, depending on the size of the group. Students also have the opportunity to pick apples or gourds, depending on the time of year.

[CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE](#)



COUNTY LINE ORCHARD

200 S. COUNTY LINE ROAD | HOBART

County Line Orchard is eager to host K-5 students who are excited to learn about honey bees, apple processing, cider pressing, photosynthesis, and more! Students will have the opportunity to pick a fresh local apple or pumpkin while they are visiting County Line Orchard.

[CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE](#)

SUNRISE ORCHARDS INC.

19498 COUNTY ROAD 38 | GOSHEN

Sunrise Orchards Inc. has been hosting K-5 Schools and ECEs for over 60 years! Students will enjoy apple picking, hayrides, gourd hunting, and cider sipping with owner, Maureen Kercher, also known as Mrs. Apple.

[CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE](#)



AT EASE ORCHARD

9016 N. STATE ROAD 109 | WILKINSON

At Ease Orchard is eager to host middle school or high school students for educational opportunities focused on beekeeping and orchard knowledge!

[CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE](#)



CHANDLER'S ORCHARD & COUNTRY MARKET

2849 S. CO ROAD 825 E | FILLMORE

Chandler's Orchard is eager to share their love for growing fresh quality produce with all ages. They provide opportunities for visitors to learn about apple, pumpkin, and strawberry production. They offer hayrides to the pumpkin patch and an opportunity to sample their delicious apple cider.

[CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE](#)

EVANSVILLE COUNTRYSIDE ORCHARD

16800 OLD PETERSBURG ROAD | EVANSVILLE

Evansville Countryside Orchard is owned and operated by Kristi Schulz who taught HS biology and science for 20 years! She is eager to extend her passion for farming and education to schools in her community. At Evansville Countryside Orchard students will experience a tour of the orchard with a variety of interactive learning stations. Each student will also enjoy picking a piece of fruit, depending on the seasonality.

[CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE](#)



STAY IN TOUCH!



#INGROWN4SCHOOLS

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