



April 25, 2017

Hello, readers!

April offers lots of excuses to celebrate. It is National Garden Month for one. It also boasts Earth Day, Arbor Day, and Environmental Education Week. It is not too late to connect the children in your life to the great outdoors.

Spend some time digging in the garden and imagine the growers in your community doing the same. Explore a fruit tree in bloom and map the nearby orchards for educational or procurement opportunities down the line. Watch green return to your school yard in the form of plush grass and your school cafeteria as fresh spinach leaves.

Then, continue the celebration by checking out the new resources, professional development opportunities, and more below.

Early childhood professionals will notice the new Farm to Early Care and Education header. Resources throughout apply to the early care and education setting, but if you have limited time, [this new section will keep you in the know about local and national farm to early care and education activities.](#)

Happy April, farm to school champions!

Click below to read further about:

- [General Info, Updates, and Resources](#)
- [Webinars, Conferences, and Trainings](#)
- [Farm to Early Care and Education](#)
- [In the News with Farm to School](#)



### [Reducing Food Waste In Out-Of-School Time: Best Practices Guide](#)

*Public Health Law Center*

Students discard 26 percent of the total food budget annually. Serving high-quality meals and snacks that are less likely to be discarded can improve your program participation rates, reach, and overall impact.

### [Case Study: Shrinking the Carbon and Water Footprint of School Food A Recipe for Combatting Climate Change](#)

As schools across the nation grapple with how to feed kids healthier, more sustainable food on tight budgets, an inspiring story from Oakland Unified School District provides a roadmap for change. Friends of the Earth's new case study shows how the district was able to significantly reduce its carbon and water footprint by replacing a share of its meat, poultry and cheese purchases with plant-based proteins. These actions also saved the district money and improved students' access to healthful food.

[Read the case study here.](#)

### [Local Food Pricing: Survey for Food Service](#)

This survey is for food purchasers to share information on their willingness to pay for locally grown, source-identified foods. Please encourage school, hospital, and college foodservice buyers to take this 10-minute survey to help the Wisconsin Farm to Institution Project work with broadline and produce distributors on carrying more Wisconsin-grown foods. Thank you for your feedback!



[Take the survey here.](#)

**Locally sourced carrot coins. Image courtesy of REAP Food Group.**

## Farm to Summer: How Regional Offices and State Agencies Support Farm to Summer

*Recording Available*

Increasingly, Summer Meal sponsors are embracing the Farm to Summer movement by serving fresh, local foods and offering engaging activities, and Regional and State-level staff play a unique role in supporting these efforts. This USDA webinar provides an overview of farm to summer activities, resources, and a snapshot of how Regional offices and State agencies have encouraged sponsors to adopt farm to summer principles. From MAP addendums to partner meetings, discover how your Regional and State colleagues support “bringing the farm” to Summer Meal Programs.

[Watch the recording here.](#)

## Ingredient Guide: For Better School Food Purchasing

School Food Focus has created a resource for school food leaders and manufacturers alike who are committed to improving the overall quality, nutritional value, and safety of food provided to all students in every school. The guide highlights unwanted ingredients to eliminate, or those to watch out for, as new food products are developed and others are modified.

[Download the guide here.](#)



## Webinar: School Garden Program Sustainability and Finances

**April 25, 1pm PST**

School gardens are tremendously popular and valuable resources, but these programs often face questions about if they can continue year-to-year. In this webinar, the National School Garden Network will discuss dedicated garden program staffing, community engagement, and other factors that lead to programmatic sustainability. You'll also learn from successful initiatives to secure corporate sponsorships; community partnerships; legislation; and school or district-level investments that lead to financial sustainability.

[Learn more and register here.](#)

## Register for the 2017 Hunger and Health Summit: Forward Together

**May 9-10, Wisconsin Rapids**

The theme for our summit this year is Forward Together. We hope that this theme is a clarion call to all stakeholders - hunger fighters, healthcare advocates, physicians, hospitals, policymakers, growers, and food industry - to come together to learn about and develop realistic, evidence-based solutions to reduce food insecurity and poverty, and ultimately improve the health of Wisconsin.

[Click here to learn more and register!](#)



## Webinar Recording: Statewide Farm to ECE Network Building

[Watch the Webinar Recording](#)

Statewide network building is a key approach to institutionalizing farm to ECE. Watch a recording of the April NFSN Farm to ECE Webinar to hear from farm to ECE leaders who share models from their states and identify keys to success in building statewide networks.

Watch all past NFSN webinars in our [Resource Library](#).

## Pop-up Market at ECE Centers

*By: Kara LeClair, RDN and Kenna Ho, MS*

As toddlers stir from their naps and parents shuffle in and out of the Burke County Early Head Start every afternoon, hellos and pleasantries are exchanged between staff and parents. The scene usually ends in a sleepy-eyed child walking out the doors with their caregiver, heading on their way until the next morning.

However, on Wednesdays, at the beginning of this school year, the day ended just a little bit differently, thanks to an after-school farmer's market pilot funded by a [2016 National Farm to School Network Innovation Award](#) granted to [Georgia Organics](#).

Read the rest of this exciting blog [here!](#)

## CACFP Meal Pattern

Farm to ECE can help you meet the new CACFP Meal Pattern requirements. Look for Wisconsin-grown options for fruits, vegetables, whole grains, and more. Training tools, like this infographic, are available from USDA's Team Nutrition at <https://www.fns.usda.gov/tn/team-nutrition>.



### Cambridge PTO Program Plans Busy Spring

Spread out on a table in front of Gene Gowen are a blender, an array of natural ingredients like blueberries, honey and yogurt, and 60 small empty paper cups, lined up like sentries... Read the whole article [here](#).

Source: [Cambridge News](#)

### Wisconsin Farm to School Efforts Could Expand Amid State Uncertainty

Despite concerns Wisconsin's farm to school leadership could be cut in the next state budget, local proponents are carrying on with expanded outreach of local, healthy food selections. "What's happening in the classrooms and cafes is not going away. We know we have passionate schools and producers committed to farm to school," said Beth Hanna, farm to school director for Community GroundWorks and NFSN Wisconsin Core Partner. "What is at stake is the big picture planning ... needed to continue at significant levels or to scale up." Read the whole article [here](#).

Source: [Green Bay Press-Gazette](#)

### Farm to School Series from WisCONTEXT

[WisContext](#), a service of Wisconsin Public Radio, Wisconsin Public Television and Cooperative Extension recently put out a farm to school series featuring many local partners including Columbia County's Emerald Meadows, REAP Food Group, Holmen School District, and more. View the series, titled The Varied Forms of Farm to School, at [this link](#):

Source: [www.wiscontext.org](http://www.wiscontext.org)



### Wisconsin Farm to School: Just the FAQs

The cafeterias in the Germantown School District take a decidedly fresh turn in the fall. For as long as it lasts, food and nutrition director Shelley Juedes brings in a bountiful array of fresh produce: scrumptious apples from nearby [Rim's Edge Orchard](#) and fresh vegetables — broccoli, onions, potatoes and more — from longtime area farmer Lenny Semerad.

Source: [Milwaukee Journal Sentinel](#)

### Farm-to-School Programs In Wisconsin Face Logistical Hurdles

We learn about farm-to-school programs in our state, and the logistical challenges they face. The program features Mike Gasper, Nutrition Services Supervisor at School District of Holmen, Wisconsin.

Source: Aired on the Wisconsin Public Radio program [Central Time](#) on April 11, 2017.

---

Copyright © 2017, Farm to School Newsletter, All rights reserved.

The Farm to School Newsletter is distributed by Community GroundWorks.



Our mailing address is:  
Community GroundWorks  
3601 Memorial Ave, Suite 4  
Madison, WI 53704



Want to change how you receive these emails?  
You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#)

