

# WISCONSIN FARM TO SCHOOL

*Linking the Land with  
the Lunchroom*



# Wisconsin Farm to School (F2S)

Farm to school encourages healthy lifestyles in children and helps support local economies. In Wisconsin, farm to school programs connect schools with locally and regionally grown and produced products.

In 2011, 72 WI schools and/or districts actively engaged with F2S !



# Goals of Wisconsin Farm to School

- Promote children's health by providing fresh, and minimally processed foods in schools to support the development of healthy eating habits



**Madison**



# Goals of Wisconsin Farm to School

- Strengthen children's and communities' knowledge about and attitudes toward agriculture, food, nutrition and the environment



**Spooner**



# Goals of Wisconsin Farm to School

- Strengthen local economies by expanding markets for Wisconsin's agricultural producers and food entrepreneurs





# Farm to School Values

- An individual's lifelong well-being depends on healthy eating habits

## Wauzeka



# Farm to School Values

- Children should have access to fresh, healthy and minimally processed food as part of a nutritionally balanced school meals program



**Chilton**



# Farm to School Values

- Wisconsin farms that serve local markets make essential contributions to a diverse food system





# Farm to School Values



**Whitewater**

- Schools and nutrition professionals are important partners in supporting community well-being, local economies and environmental stewardship through their food and nutrition education programs and purchasing practices



# Community support for farm to school



# Farm to School in Wisconsin

## ***Local, farm-fresh foods can be purchased:***

- Directly from farmers
- From a farmers' market
- From a growers' collaborative or cooperative
- Through a distributor or broker who procures from local farmers



# Types of Farms Working with Wisconsin Schools

- Orchards
- Dairy and meat producers
- Produce: Small, medium and large growers





# Using Local Products in School Programs

- Whole items
- Salad or fruit/veggie bars



**New Richmond**

**Waupaca County**



**Chilton**

# Using Local Products In School Programs

- Substitute item or ingredient already used
- Develop new recipes and menus to include local products

## Viroqua



# Using Local Products In School Programs

- Snack programs
- Freezing seasonal items for year round use

**Madison**



**Viroqua**





# School Food Service Challenges and Opportunities

**Delivery**

**Food safety**

**Price**

**Time**

**Finding Local Producers**

Seasonality

Scale/reliable supply

Labor/food prep

Staff skills

Storage/refrigeration

Student preferences

**Chilton**





# Producer Challenges and Opportunities

**Price point**

**Food safety/liability insurance**

**Delivery**

**Scale**

**Time**

Meeting packing specs

Seasonality

Storage/refrigeration

Quantity



# Challenges and Opportunities

Although challenges exist, there are tools and resources available to address them. Tools and resources for schools and producers can be found at:

- UW Center for Integrated Agricultural Systems—  
<http://www.cias.wisc.edu/toolkits/>



# Educational Activities

➤ Taste tests

**Mt. Horeb**



➤ Cooking demos



**Port Edwards**

# Educational Activities

➤ Farm tours

**Madison**



**Prairie Du Chien**





# Educational Activities

## Barron County



## ➤ Field Trips

## Monona Grove



# Educational Activities

➤ Chef/farmer visits

**Washburn**



**Spoooner**



# Educational Activities

➤ School gardens

➤ Greenhouses

**Madison**





# Educational Activities

➤ Cooking contests

➤ Composting/recycling

## Viroqua



COOKING UP CHANGE 2010  
*National Healthy Cooking Contest*



# Educational Activities

- Harvest of the month
  - CSA, farmers' markets
  - Visual Displays



New Richmond



# WI Farm to School Program Support

- UW Center for Integrated Agricultural Systems  
<http://www.cias.wisc.edu/toolkits/>  
<http://www.cias.wisc.edu/category/farm-to-fork/farm-to-school/>
- Health in Practice  
<http://www.healthinpractice.org/obesity-prevention/farm-to-school>
- Make Farm to School Happen <http://makefarm2schoolhappen.org/>
- Team Nutrition (DPI) [http://fns.dpi.wi.gov/fns\\_f2s](http://fns.dpi.wi.gov/fns_f2s)
- AmeriCorps (DATCP)  
[http://datcp.wi.gov/Business/Buy\\_Local\\_Buy\\_Wisconsin/Farm\\_to\\_School\\_Program](http://datcp.wi.gov/Business/Buy_Local_Buy_Wisconsin/Farm_to_School_Program)
- National Farm to School Network <http://www.farmentoschool.org/>
- USDA Farm to School Program <http://www.fns.usda.gov/cnd/f2s/>



THANKS!

