

Wisconsin Farm to School (F2S) and Farm to Early Care and Education (ECE) Statewide Information Sessions

January 23, 2025, 1:30-2:30 PM

Welcome and Introductions (5 minutes)

In the Chat: Please share your name, email address (if comfortable), place of work, and position.

Icebreaker question: What is your best advice for staying warm this cold January?

Icebreaker comments: Warm soup and warm drinks, stay inside, wear wool socks, go to a warm climate, warm pets close by, and consume warm food.

Agency Updates (35 minutes)

Department of Public Instruction (DPI) F2S Team - 5 minutes

Training Opportunities

- Wisconsin Farm to School Recognition Program: Check-in Call: Join the F2S Team for a mid-year check-in about the [Wisconsin F2S Recognition Program](#). Connect with us to troubleshoot challenges, share success stories, or to learn more about the program to sign-up for the first time! The call will be held Tuesday, January 28 from 1:30-2:30 PM. [Register](#) to receive a calendar invite and link to join.
- Produce Processing Training Continuing: Chef Jeff is continuing in-person produce processing training for school nutrition professionals for the remainder of SY 2024-25 and SY 2025-26. The goal of these training sessions is to increase speed, skill, and confidence with processing of raw produce to increase local product procurement. Training can be tailored to fit the needs of your operation. Fill out the [Training Interest Form](#) to request a training visit for your school or district.

New Resources

- The F2S team has two new resources available to help guide connections between farmers and school food service directors: [Connecting with School Food Service Directors In a Nutshell](#), [Connecting with Farmers, Ranchers, and Producers In a Nutshell](#)

Upcoming Events

- Cultivating Connections: A Wellness and Farm to School Summit- Save the Date: Save the date for this two-day summit focusing on school wellness and F2S! The summit will provide innovative strategies that promote student health and knowledge of local food systems through educator engagement, policy implementation, and partnership opportunities. Anyone interested in school wellness and F2S are welcome including school wellness

leaders, school nutrition staff, farmers, educators, and F2S advocates. Registration for conference attendees to open in March 2025. When: August 5 and 6, 2025, Where: Chula Vista Resort, Wisconsin Dells, Wisconsin

Local Foods Vendor Show: A local foods vendor show will take place August 5 from 1-4 PM. [Registration for vendors](#) is open!

Open Grants

- Madison Area Master Gardener Association (MAMGA) grant applications are being accepted for gardening and horticulture projects for 2025. These grants support school garden projects and nonprofit community-based garden projects located within Dane County. Grant application and submission information may be found on the [MAMGA Website](#). Applications are due March 1.
- Agriculture in ALL Classrooms Grants for incorporating agricultural themes into unexpected curriculum. Formal and non-formal (volunteer) educators and/or groups are eligible to apply for Agriculture in ALL Classrooms Grants of up to \$500 per grant. Learn more and apply: <https://www.wisagclassroom.org/awards/grant-classroom/>. Applications are due February 1.

Other News

- Local Food for Schools (LFSCC): DPI is applying for the LFSCC grant to support local food purchases at K-12 schools and early care and education sites. State agencies must submit their application for funds to the USDA by April 30, 2025. We have not received any guidance on when the funds will be sent to state agencies and made available to schools/early care or farmers/aggregators. Watch the School Nutrition Team bulletins and Harvest Highlights newsletters for updates. Interested in Harvest Highlights? [Subscribe here](#).
- The F2S team attended the Wisconsin School Board Association Convention Exhibitor Fair January 22-23 to promote F2S initiatives to school administrators!
- DPI is getting a Fork Farms hydroponic grow tower to promote F2S within the agency! The tower will live at the DPI from February - May and will be raffled off to one lucky school district in May to celebrate Wisconsin School Garden Day! If you are at the DPI, stop by and check it out!

AmeriCorps Updates

- Host site applications for the 25-26 service year will open in February sometime. Our program is undergoing some big changes from a direct service model to an indirect capacity building model. More details will be shared soon on our website!

DPI ECE Team - 5 minutes

- Working on plans to secure and distribute funds from possible grants in the near future.

Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection (DATCP) - 5 minutes

- No updates.

Department of Health and Human Services (DHS) - 5 minutes

- Farm to ECE - doing policy and environmental changes and working in collaboration with other departments. The Farm to ECE work group is open to all to collaborate. Email Stef (stefanie.bugaschscopoline@dhs.wisconsin.gov) to join.

University of Wisconsin - Madison, Division of Extension - 5 minutes

- The Wisconsin Chilli Lunch is February 27th.
<https://health.extension.wisc.edu/wi-chili-lunch/>
- Harvest of the Month is now accessible without a password; ECE version will be available soon! <https://health.extension.wisc.edu/harvest-of-the-month/>
- Harvest of the Moon Team has new foods and sample resources available on the website but not digitally accessible as of yet.
<https://health.extension.wisc.edu/harvest-of-the-moon/>
- New resource to help institutional settings, including schools incorporate local grains.
[Food Service Directors' Guide to Local Grains.](#)
- Hmong-Focused Farm to School Networking calls. These statewide calls aim to get folks connected and learning about each other's work with Hmong-focused Farm to School (and related work such as farmer wholesale readiness). Email Cathryn if you would like to join: cherlihey@wisc.edu.

Kids Forward/healthTIDE: USDA School Food Transformation Grant- 5 minutes

- We're excited to share that the next application window for Lake Michigan School Food Innovation grants is opening soon. This will be the second round of SPARK grants, with up to \$100,000 available for each awardee. Please share widely with anyone who you think might be interested. FYI, current SPARK grantees **ARE** eligible to apply. See attached press release and/or check out the updated website here:
<https://innovateschoolfood.org/grants/>

- Important details-
 - Award Range: \$30,000 – \$100,000
 - Grant Cycle: One year, with optional 4-month extension period.
 - **Application opens: February 14, 2025**
 - Final Application Deadline: May 30, 2025.
 - Project Timeline: September 1, 2025 – August 31, 2026.
- 2025 Launch Webinar: Sparking Your Innovative Ideas
Thursday, Feb 27, 2025 at 10 a.m. CST/11 a.m. EST in Spanish and at 11 a.m. CST/12 p.m. EST in English. Register here: <https://innovateschoolfood.org/support/>
 - This webinar will cover an overview of the Spark Award Request for Applications, including what's changed from our first round, and the answers to a few of your most frequently asked questions. There will be time to meet and greet your State Leads, along with others interested in Innovation Hub grants for your state!

Wisconsin Early Childhood Association (WECA) - 5 minutes

- Tuesday, February 4th discussion is coming and all can join in. Childcare providers and applications and sharing with care providers. Incentives offered for \$300 for a CSA share and easy go gardening package for family child care programs for north and northeast regions. For questions about Wisconsin Early Childhood Association projects, contact Catherine at chansen@wisconsinearlychildhood.org.
- WEESN's website includes the eligibility criteria for WEESN Plus Coaching: <https://wisconsinearlychildhood.org/programs/weesn/>

Question and Answer on Agency Updates (10 minutes)

None

Guest Update: Rooted

- Registration is now open for the Teaching in Nature's Classroom course! Here is the link: <https://wischoolgardens.org/tnc-course/>

Next Meeting: February 27, 2025, 1:30-2:30 PM

Meeting ended 1:58pm