

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

May 23, 2024, 1:30-2:30 PM

Welcome and Introductions

- In the Chat: Please share your name, email address (if comfortable), place of work, and position. Icebreaker question: What is your favorite thing to grow in your garden (if you have one).

Agency Updates (30 minutes)

- Department of Public Instruction (DPI) F2S Team - 5 minutes
 - Training Opportunities
 - Processing Trainings: open to all schools that operate the NSLP/SBP. Schools can select up to three produce items they would like to learn how to process safely and efficiently. Chef Jeff comes to the school and provides training on peeling, slicing, and chopping these three items. Valders, Howard-Suamico, and Hartford Union have received training so far and a summer session has been scheduled for August for the Coulee region with 18 districts in attendance. Request a training using this link: https://widpi.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_escv8ur6J03yBdY
 - Taste Test Assistance: DPI F2S Specialists will be helping with student taste tests this summer! Request a visit to your summer school program between **July 8 and August 2, 2024**, by emailing DPIF2S@dpi.wi.gov. F2S specialists will coordinate one or two school visits based on availability. These visits could include help preparing samples, handing out samples to students, and free F2S swag to use as incentives for kids who try a bite!
 - New Resources
 - Free, F2S Promotional Items! Schools that participate in the NSLP/SBP can order a variety of F2S promotional items with the new WI F2S logo. Items include Breakfast and Lunch Menu Signage, Producer Highlight Posters, Window Clings, Paper and Vinyl Stickers, and magnets. Place an order using the [Promotional Items Order Form](#).
 - [Transitioning from the LFS](#): The DPI F2S and USDA Foods Team created a new resource to help schools, aggregators and producers to keep local purchasing momentum going post-LFS! The resource provides information on available funding sources for schools to purchase local products, procurement regulations, where to find local products as a school, and ideas for promotion to encourage buy-in and support for local purchasing.
 - The new [Crediting Local Beef for the Child Nutrition Programs](#) resource shows schools how to credit raw, local beef towards the USDA Meal Pattern requirements.

- Upcoming Events
 - Cucumber Crunch: Celebrate summer and local foods by participating in the Cucumber Crunch! Pick any date this summer to collectively Crunch into local cucumbers. If cucumbers are not available during your summer programming, choose another local, in-season fruit or vegetable to crunch! [Register your program for the Crunch](#) and receive free stickers for your event.
 - Farm Technology Days: Look for the F2S booth at Farm Technology Days 8/13-8/15.
 - SNA- WI: The DPI F2S team will present at SNA-WI in June. David will be a speaker on the Building Sustainable F2S Connections panels and Jeff will hold a processing training.
 - The DPI School Nutrition Team will be hosting their annual summer training for school nutrition departments in July. Look for the F2S track classes including- Building Sustainable F2S programs with AmeriCorps F2S Program; Leadership in F2S Programs and Combining Education with School Gardens; Buying Local, Choose What Works Best for You; Fork Farms Hydroponic Towers; and Funding for F2S Activities.
- Extra note
 - Jeff - Central Rivers Farmshed visit - they do culturally relevant meals once a week at the high school, working with them to put together a Hmong Traditional Foods toolkit.
- DPI ECE Team - 5 minutes
 - Starting Summer Food Service reviews
 - [Celebrate Summer Section on website](#)
- Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection (DATCP) - 5 minutes
 - F2S Grantee site visit in Mauston with USDA and DPI on 5/16 for WI School Garden Day → great example of how to incorporate ag education and career development into your program
 - Also visited Montello's program → they also have a lot of wonderful things happening
 - F2S Council meeting just happened
 - Will also be attending SNA conference for Marketplace vendor show
- Department of Health and Human Services (DHS) - 5 minutes
 - State Physical Activity and Nutrition Program
 - Farm to ECE Workgroup Meeting → email Stef (stefanie.bugaschscopoline@dhs.wisconsin.gov) if you want to get involved
- University of Wisconsin - Madison, Division of Extension - 5 minutes

- Will be joining everyone at SNA conference
- Talking about how to coordinate education and meal programs with the tools extension has available
- Working on Hmong focused F2S resources and capacity building
- Kids Forward/healthTIDE: USDA School Food Transformation Grant- 5 minutes
 - <https://innovateschoolfood.org/>
 - Total Applications Submitted: 67 🎉!!
 - Spark: 42 submitted (11 from WI submitted)
 - Innovation: 25 submitted (8 from WI submitted)
 - By State:
 - IL: 16 submitted
 - IN: 13 submitted
 - MI: 17 submitted
 - **WI: 19 submitted**
 - Out of State: 2 submitted
 - Watch for future rounds of funding
 - Hopefully they will be able to share more about who was awarded by our next meeting in June

Question and Answer on Agency Updates (15 minutes)

- [Transitioning from the Local Foods for Schools \(LFS\) Program Resource](#) - how to find funds to purchase local foods
- [Cucumber Crunch Resources](#) - lots of resources and ideas on how to participate
- Q: How to prepare for the next round of funding for the Innovation and Spark grants?
 - A: [visit their website](#) to review the videos and project ideas, when the awardees are announced read through their projects to learn more
- Is Summer EBT an avenue for F2S?
 - [Summer EBT](#) (Electronic Benefit Transfer) is an income-based program that helps families who qualify buy food for their children while school is out. Wisconsin will send \$120 in benefits for each eligible school-age child. Although Summer EBT uses free and reduced income eligibility data from schools to qualify children for the program, that is the extent to which school nutrition departments are involved. Families can use their Summer EBT funds to purchase locally at farmers' markets; however, the market and farm must agree to accept EBT funds.

DHS is the lead agency on the Summer EBT project and thus, they are better situated to promote the use of EBT funds for local products.

- Q: Is anyone applying to the [Newman's Own](#) grant due June 11?
 - A: Possibly Journey Sutter at Parkside, great grant to look into

Guest Update: Rooted/Wisconsin School Garden Network (WGSN) (5 minutes)

- Summary of Statewide ECE survey results
 - [Summary of results](#) - this is a preliminary summary that is not quite ready to be shared widely yet
 - Not a lot of knowledge about WI School Garden Day or WSGN
 - People wanted to learn about ECE through resources like newsletters, websites, and blogs (>70%)
 - The most popular gardening activity was growing food outdoors (70%).
 - The most popular food connection activities (this term includes nutrition education) were taste testing, including children in food preparation, and reading stories about growing and preparing food, all at 65-70%
 - About 15-20% of respondents said they take field trips to farmers markets or local farms.
 - 20% of respondents said they participated in the Great Apple Crunch. Less than 10% said they participated in Chili Lunch or School Garden Day.
- WI School Garden Day recap
 - May 16th, 2024
 - [GROW La Crosse](#) - lots of press
 - Madison School Farm with REAP had kindergarteners for a field trip
 - [AmeriCorps Farm to School WI School Garden Day Video](#)

Additional Q&A (10 minutes)

- Q: Does the cucumber crunch need to be everyone in the school?
 - A: No, you can participate in any way that works best for you

Next Meeting: June 27, 2024, 1:30-2:30 PM