

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

October 24, 2024, 1:30-2:30 PM

### Welcome and Introductions (5 minutes) - Happy National F2S Month!

- In the Chat: Please share your name, email address (if comfortable), place of work, and position. Icebreaker question: How did/will you celebrate National Farm to School month?
- National Farm to School Month proclamations:
  - [Governor Evers' Proclamation](#)
  - [Office of the State Superintendent of Public Instruction Proclamation](#)
- **This is our last meeting of 2024.** New recurring calendar invites for 2025 will be sent next week. Meetings will continue to be held on the 4th Thursday of every month from 1:30-2:30 PM. Please send any meeting feedback or suggestions to [brittany.zerbe@dpi.wi.gov](mailto:brittany.zerbe@dpi.wi.gov).

### Agency Updates (30 minutes)

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

- DPI AmeriCorps F2S Program
  - Still have member openings in Kaukauna, Arbor Vitae, Hayward, and Howard Suamico. Please spread the word to those who may be interested in serving! Application can be found on our website. Please share with your networks.
- Save the Date for the *first* Cultivating Connections: A Wellness and Farm to School Summit!
  - **Who:** Anyone interested in school wellness and farm to school, such as school wellness leaders, school nutrition staff, farmers, educators, and farm to school advocates.
  - **What:** Two-day summit featuring a local foods vendor show and educational sessions on innovative strategies that promote student health and knowledge of local food systems through educator engagement, policy implementation, and partnership opportunities.
  - **When:** August 5 and 6, 2025
  - **Where:** Chula Vista Resort, Wisconsin Dells, Wisconsin
  - Registration information will be available in March 2025. Please complete the [Intent Form](#) if you plan to attend. This will provide the DPI School Nutrition Team helpful planning information but does not commit you to attend.

- The Wisconsin Farm to School Survey is due next Thursday, October 31.
  - The Survey was sent to the School Nutrition Director of each School Food Authority (SFA) in Wisconsin (that participates in the National School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs). Anyone who works with F2S at the SFA can help with the completion.
  - Goals:
    - Gain a better understanding of local food supply chains and understand how local food procurements are conducted in Wisconsin schools.
    - Understand School Nutrition Director challenges with buying directly from local farmers/producers.
    - What types of nutrition education are occurring in schools related to F2S and who is doing this work?
    - Where are school gardens in Wisconsin? Who is providing the manpower for garden work? How are garden activities funded?
    - Understand the barriers to sustainable F2S activities.
    - **Please help us encourage completion! We will draw prizes for those who complete the survey.**
  - The Wisconsin Evaluation Collaborative (WEC) will conduct a formal analysis of the data which is expected February 2025.
  
- It's not too late to [register](#) for the WI F2S Recognition Program!
  - Annual event for schools to gain recognition and celebrate F2S accomplishments!
  - 4 Recognition levels + 1 Bonus Level
  - Complete activities related to the F2S core elements to determine your level.
  - Please share widely with your school partners - open to any staff members in the district (not just school nutrition staff)
  
- Wisconsin Local Food for Schools (LFS)
  - No further updates from the USDA regarding the timing of the release of the second round of funds
  - Evaluation from the first round of funding - 1 pager and comprehensive report are publicly posted ([LFS Report and Summary](#))! This is hot off the press! All schools, producers, and aggregators who participated in LFS will receive a thank you package with the report later this month.
  
- Open Grants
  - CHS Foundation, [CHS Classroom Grant](#)
    - \$500 grants available to pre-kindergarten-12th grade teachers who have classroom projects that use agricultural concepts to teach reading, writing, math, science, social studies and more.
    - Due: November 15, 2024
  - Waiting for the USDA Farm to School grant to open - typically it opens in October

- Project SCALES, visit [projectscales.com](https://projectscales.com)
  - The next round of Project SCALES grants are open now through December 13, 2024. As part of the USDA's [Healthy Meals Incentives Initiative](#), Project SCALES (Supporting Community Agriculture and Local Education Systems) is now offering funding and support for innovative projects that will build relationships among stakeholders in the school food system, and strengthen the school food marketplace.
  - Applicants need at least three partners, which must include at least one school food authority and one food industry partner (growers, producers, processors, distributors). Additional partners can be from those sectors or other organizations such as nonprofit organizations, Indian Tribal Organizations, or other food system partners.
  - Grants for up to three years range from \$500,000 to \$1,000,000.

DPI ECE Team - 5 minutes

- Dana-Started working on Farm to ECE website on SNT webpage-working on cleaning it up and adding content.

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

- No updates

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

- Steph-Re-doing their website with helpful F2ECE/F2S content
- F2ECE conference on Nov 2, 2024 Open to all

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

- Sarah Smith-Encouraging continuing to participate in Apple Crunch-registration is open through October: <https://healthyliving.extension.wisc.edu/events/apple-crunch/>
- Updating website and redesigning to improve HOM resources.

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

- Healthy Meals Summit Fall 2024  
<https://healthymealsincentives.org/fall-2024-healthy-meals-summit/>  
<https://www.fns.usda.gov/newsroom/fns-006.24>
- Special Note: Megan and Bobbie from New Richmond are presenters! Tuesday 10/22 Title: Impactful Scratch Cooking - For Students & Staff (Monona Grove, Superior, Ashwaubenon, REAP and many other districts representing WI!)
- 3rd annual Healthy Meals Summit will be in October 2025.
- A photo was shared from the Menominee HS. They are one of the School Food Innovation grantees. Their project is called "Rising Suns". Here they are learning meat processing.

**Question and Answer on Agency Updates (10 minutes)**

**Guest Share #1: Wisconsin Early Childhood Association (WECA) (5 minutes)**

- Catherine Hansen-[Website](#) update
- New WECA Cookbook available with an online version
- Link-<https://wisconsinearlychildhood.org/programs/weessn/weessn-food-systems/>
- Gardening channel with videos on different topics on F2ECE and work being done in childcare programs.
- Hosting an apple crunch this Tuesday

**Question and Answer on Guest Updates (5 minutes)**

**Next Meeting: January 23, 2025, 1:30-2:30 PM**