

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

September 26, 2024, 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: Tell us about your Great Apple Crunch, if you are participating!

### Agency Updates (30 minutes)

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

- WI F2S Recognition Program for schools: launching October 2024!
  - Annual event 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.
  - Recognition by school (versus district)
  - Informational webinar: October 1, 1:30-2:30: [Registration link](#)
  - Please share widely with your school partners - open to any staff members in the district (not just school nutrition staff)
- Wisconsin Farm to School Survey will be released early October.
  - Will be sent to the Food Service Director of each School Food Authority (SFA) in Wisconsin. Anyone who works with F2S in 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 (i.e., what are they purchasing, where are they purchasing from, what are opportunities for growth)
    - Understand School Nutrition Director challenges with buying directly from local farmers/producers. Identify areas where additional support is needed to increase participation (i.e., food safety and procurement requirements, increasing farmer awareness of the school market).
    - What types of nutrition education are occurring in schools related to F2S? Are schools partnering with external agencies to get this done?
    - 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. Develop sustainable F2S models.

- Open until October 31- please help us to encourage completion! Will offer incentives for survey completion.
- Will be working with WEC for formal analysis of the data which is expected February 2025.
- NEW resource: [How to Get Started With Farm to School In A Nutshell](#) -geared towards schools who have the common question, how do we start F2S? Ideas for tangible places to start, possible partnerships, funding opportunities, and how to build a sustainable program.
- Open grants:
  - [Rise Gardens Education Grant](#): The Rise Gardens Education Program empowers schools and educational institutions to foster hands-on learning and sustainable food education through accessible hydroponic gardening systems and supplies. Each month, selected schools, homeschooling families, or educational organizations receive a Triple Garden or one of five Mason Jar Classroom Kits to enrich their curriculum with hydroponic gardening.
  - [Walmart Spark Good Local Grants](#): (3 rounds: March 1 - July 15, August 6 - October 15, November 1 - December 31) Each year, Walmart U.S. stores, Sam's Clubs and Distribution Centers award local cash grants ranging from \$250 to \$5000. These local grants are designed to address the unique needs of the communities where stores operate. This round of applications is open until October 15.
  - [Salad Bars to School](#): Salad Bars to Schools (SB2S) is a granting program that provides schools and districts with salad bar equipment and support, such as Cambro bars, camchillers, and technical assistance.
  - [Whole Kids Bee Grants](#): These grant programs allow for schools and non-profit organizations to receive support for educational beehives and bee programming so students can observe bees up close and learn about the vital role these pollinators play in our food system. New applicants can apply for a \$1,500 monetary grant or equipment grant for an indoor observation hive.
  - [The Fruit Tree Planting Foundation \(FTPF\)](#): Fruit Trees for Your Community: The Fruit Tree Planting Foundation (FTPF) is an international nonprofit charity dedicated to planting fruitful trees and plants to alleviate world hunger, combat global warming, strengthen communities, and improve the surrounding air, soil, and water. FTPF programs strategically donate orchards where the harvest will best serve communities for generations, at places such as community gardens, public schools, city/state parks, low-income neighborhoods, Native American reservations, international hunger relief sites, and animal sanctuaries.

DPI ECE Team - 5 minutes

- Great Apple Crunch completed! Will register and submit photo.
- New consultant Justin Young joining Farm to ECE project ([justin.young@dpi.wi.gov](mailto:justin.young@dpi.wi.gov))

#### DPI AmeriCorps

- We currently have AmeriCorps member spots available in Kaukauna, Hayward, Arbor Vitae, and Howard Suamico. If you know anyone interested in serving as a member, let me know! [Kara.ignasiak@dpi.wi.gov](mailto:Kara.ignasiak@dpi.wi.gov)

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

- Farm to School Grantee gathering on Tuesday, Sep 24, 2024

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

- Closing year one of funding through SPAN
- Upcoming Farm to ECE conference in La Crosse: Nov 2, 2024
  - Event webpage:  
<https://www.theparentingplace.net/classes/farm-to-ece-conference/>
  - Registration form:  
<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=Sf4ohHHeukWOr8oYXR2E1ihdDNYT2cFARqiaT72s9DBUNDc0Q0FIT1VXVIA5QUZOWFFaTUplMIZaVC4u>

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

- Website under construction
- Register for Great Apple Crunch!
- HOM - new information will be available translated
- Quarterly Hmong F2S calls through Spark grant project
  - Email [cherlihey@wisc.edu](mailto:cherlihey@wisc.edu) to be added to list
- Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection
- **Growing the Wisconsin Chili Lunch:** Centering Wisconsin Growers to Increase Farm to Institution Sales. The Community Food Systems Program at UW-Madison Division of Extension will increase procurement and technical knowledge around procurement of 3-5 Wisconsin-grown vegetable specialty crops to Wisconsin institutions (K-12 schools, hospitals, early care centers, and colleges) by leveraging the Wisconsin Chili Lunch to provide supply chain coordination, technical assistance, and outreach materials to the state's vegetable growers and supply chain partners. \$92,300
  - Chili Lunch coming up in February 2025  
<https://healthyliving.extension.wisc.edu/events/chili-lunch/>

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

- Lake Michigan School Food System Innovation Hub Wisconsin Listening Session today (9/26) at 3:30 pm *passed*
  - Register:  
<https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZYtd-6srzoiHtfHtuCITopghjYOOSWo mkkJ#/registration>
  - <https://innovateschoolfood.org/grantees/>

- The “Rising Suns” project is a collaboration between the Menominee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin’s (MITW) Department of Agriculture and Foods Systems and the Menominee Indian School District’s (MISD) Forestry Education Department to develop a Tribal Future Farmers Association. “Rising Suns” will create programming for students to cover hands-on topics such as food forestry, farming, indigenous gardening practices, maple grove management/tapping, and more. The food produced within the program be used to build production for the MISD Food Service alongside a number of new, healthy recipes

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

Q: Are any of the grants available to Out of School Time programs to implement Farm to program?

A: Yes, the Lake Michigan Innovation Hub grants are open to Out of School time programs.

Q: School farm collaboration with FFA?

A: New Richmond and Mauston School Districts have wonderful farm programs. Contact [april.yancer@wisconsin.gov](mailto:april.yancer@wisconsin.gov) for an introduction.

Q: Are there any places to get ideas for farm-to-school curriculum and implementation?

A: Farm to School Curriculum from DPI:

<https://dpi.wi.gov/school-nutrition/farm-to-school/in-the-classroom>

- <https://www.wisagclassroom.org/>
- <https://edibleschoolyard.org/>

Q: How have you overcome teachers’ hesitancy in participating in farm-to-school?

A: Kara Ignasiak: find a “champion” teacher with special interest to spark enthusiasm

- Frame F2S as an offering rather than another task to complete. Incorporate into the existing curriculum whenever possible. Tie nutrition education to standards that already have to be taught.

Q: How can we get Americorp members to help out at our school with the program?

A: DPI F2S Americorps webpage with resources

<https://dpi.wi.gov/school-nutrition/farm-to-school/amicorps>

**Next Meeting: October 24, 2024, 1:30-2:30 PM**