



WISCONSIN FARM TO SCHOOL
FISCAL YEAR JULY 1, 2019 - JUNE 30, 2020

ANNUAL REPORT

WISCONSIN FARM TO SCHOOL ADVISORY COUNCIL & STEWARDSHIP TEAM
WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, TRADE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION

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LETTER FROM THE SECRETARY

Wisconsin has a diverse agriculture industry that produces a wide variety of high-quality nutritious foods. Governor Tony Evers has consistently advocated for connecting the dots between wholesome, nutritious Wisconsin-produced food products and Wisconsin schools. The Wisconsin Farm to School Network contributes to the resiliency of both rural and urban communities by connecting those dots and educating students, teachers, and communities on ways to engage in local agriculture and access Wisconsin-grown foods.

I am proud of the work that has been accomplished by the Wisconsin Farm to School Advisory Council and their dedication to strengthening farm to school in Wisconsin. I am also thankful for the many Wisconsin farmers, processors, distributors, organizations, and programs that are collaborating and partnering on innovative farm to school and institution supply chain solutions. There is opportunity in these new partnerships, and I look forward to seeing new initiatives and programming that expand farm to school access to communities throughout the state.

Sincerely,



Randy Romanski

Secretary-designee, Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP)





EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In the 2019-2020 fiscal year, the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) Farm to School and Institution (F2S&I) and Wisconsin Local Foods Program, along with the Wisconsin Farm to School Advisory Council and stakeholders from around the state, expanded existing networks and forged new partnerships with the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The COVID-19 pandemic exposed weaknesses and resiliencies in our food systems and communities that illuminated our path forward to strengthen equitable food systems and ensure access to healthy foods for all communities through innovative initiatives and creative partnerships. Wisconsin's well-established farm to school education and engagement activities enabled the Wisconsin Farm to School Network (WI F2SN) to respond supportively to community needs and continue to offer successful events celebrating farmers, food service personnel, schools, and Early Childhood Education communities.

F2S WI FARM TO SCHOOL OVERVIEW

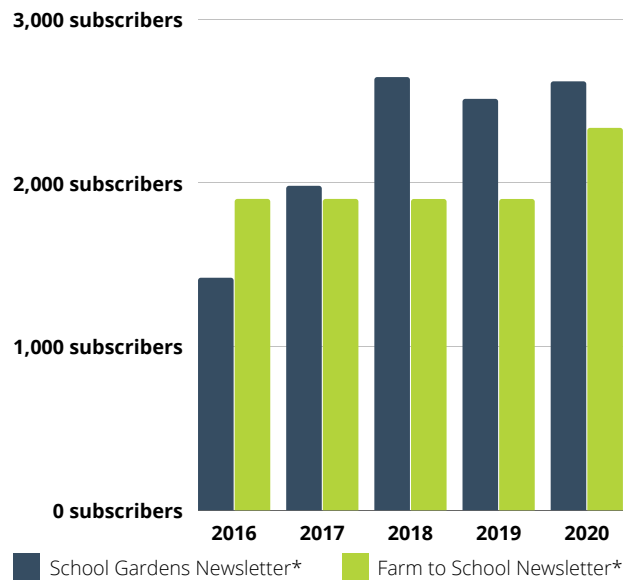
Farm to School (F2S) is an international movement supporting local producers in providing bountiful, nutritious school meals and snacks for all. Farm to School programs operate nationwide within three core elements: **Procurement, School Gardens, and Education.**

F2S programs are shaped through the collaborations of federal and state agencies and the work of farmers, food distribution businesses, processors, school teachers, chefs, food service staff, school boards, community organizations, community based businesses, parents, caregivers, and students.

The Wisconsin Farm to School Network seeks to strengthen communities by providing statewide access to Wisconsin-grown agricultural foods, school gardens, and nutrition education with an emphasis on increasing access for food insecure communities.

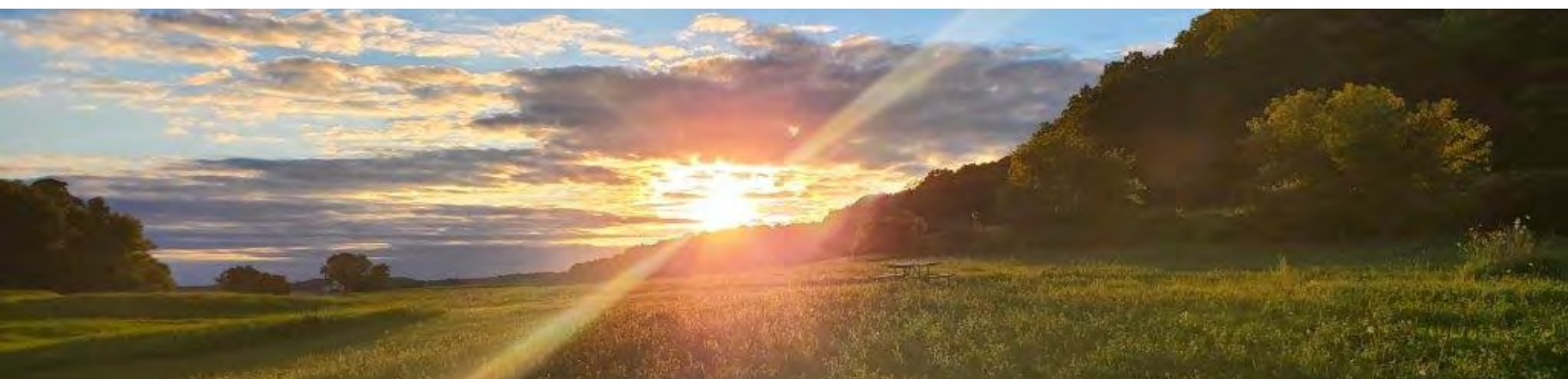


Green areas indicate Public School District Farm to School participation in one or more activities*



The WI Farm to School Network has created two newsletters aggregating news and resources

**Subscribe to the Farm to School/ECE Newsletter at <http://eepurl.com/cCMvPf>
 Subscribe to the WI School Garden Newsletter at <http://wischoolgardens.org>**





WISCONSIN FARM TO SCHOOL ADVISORY COUNCIL EQUITY STATEMENT

The Wisconsin Farm to School Advisory Council is committed to advancing racial and social equity and addressing disparities in access to the benefits of farm to school in Wisconsin.

The Wisconsin Farm to School Advisory Council, Stewardship Team, and Leadership Team have started to reimagine existing support structures related to farm to school efforts in Wisconsin and revise them in a way that encompasses diversity, equity, and inclusivity. This team continues to work on building connections and relationships with people and organizations representing impacted communities. The short-term goal is to have more of these voices be involved in the Advisory Council, Stewardship Team, and Leadership Team.



EQUITABLE FOOD SYSTEMS

*Equitable food systems create a new paradigm in which all — including the most vulnerable, those living in low-income neighborhoods, and communities of color — can fully participate, prosper, and benefit. It is a system that, from farm to table and from processing to disposal, ensures economic opportunity, high-quality jobs, safe working conditions, access to healthy, affordable, and culturally appropriate food, and environmental sustainability.**

RACIAL AND ETHNIC DISPARITIES

Racial and ethnic disparities exist in our food system. Access to healthy food is a challenge, especially in low-income communities of color, and disparities exist in the quality, variety, quantity, and price of food available. More than one in five children are at risk of hunger and, among African-Americans and Latinos, the number is one in three. Black and Latino youth have substantially higher rates of childhood obesity than their white peers. When compared to Caucasians, Native Americans are twice as likely to lack access to safe and healthy foods which has led to higher obesity and diabetes rates. Many food system workers take home poverty-level wages, with women, Blacks, and Latinos most likely to earn the lowest. In regard to land ownership, Latinos make up 3.2 percent of today's farm owners, American Indians or Alaska Natives 1.8 percent, Black or African people 1.6 percent, and Asians constitute less than 1 percent.

These outcomes span both urban and rural settings and are a result of structural and institutional racism, perpetuating policies, and practices that put racial and ethnic groups at a disadvantage.*

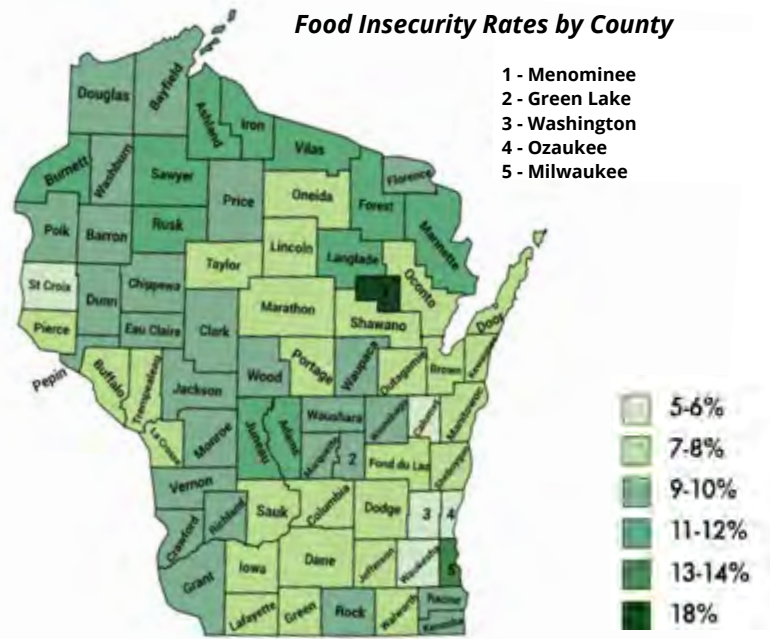


FOOD INSECURITY AND RACIAL AND ETHNIC DEMOGRAPHICS

The map to the right portrays the food insecurity rates by county. While formulas include poverty, unemployment rates, and other benchmarks to calculate rates of food insecurity, they do not take into account community assets.

The table identifies Black, Indigenous, people of color, and White populations in each food insecure percentage bracket.

Inequities in the accessibility of food for Black populations, Tribal Nations of Wisconsin, and people of color are evident. This data is being used to develop priorities, commitments, and strategic efforts in Wisconsin Farm to School. These efforts are aimed towards more equitable access to farm to school benefits and increased food security and sovereignty through equitable food system development.



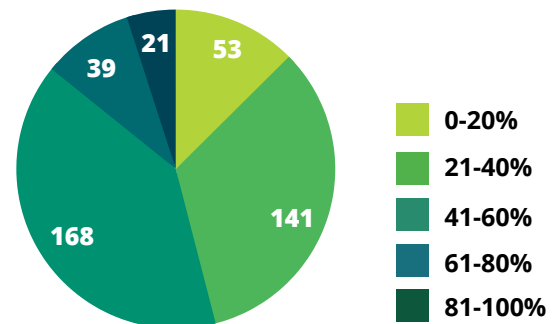
Racial and Ethnic demographics of each food insecure percentage bracket shown

FOOD INSECURITY %	AMERICAN INDIAN	ASIAN	BLACK	HISPANIC	WHITE
5-6%	0.54%	2.18%	3.04%	6.52%	87.02%
7-8%	1.50%	2.00%	1.44%	7.20%	85.10%
9-10%	1.83%	1.50%	1.80%	6.24%	86.20%
11-12%	7.30%	0.54%	1.10%	3.54%	81.40%
13-14%	0.60%	3.50%	32.33%	20.90%	38.00%
18%	93%	0.00%	0.00%	6.00%	1.00%

*Other races accounted for in percentages include Native Hawaiian and 2 or more races

FREE & REDUCED MEAL PROGRAMS

Wisconsin's free and reduced meal programs are very important avenues for improving food access equity. The chart to the right accounts for 422 Wisconsin K-12 school districts. The brackets show the percentage of students who received free or reduced meals in 2019. Of the 422 school districts shown in the chart, 228 (54%) have 40% or more of their student body receiving free and reduced meals.



Number of WI School Districts and the percentage of students receiving free and reduced meals





COVID-19 IMPACTS & RESPONSES

COVID-19 SUPPLY CHAIN DISRUPTION AND RESPONSE

The COVID-19 pandemic brought to light weak points in the supply chain and the resiliency of local agricultural and community partnerships. Farmers, processors, distributors, retailers, and food service including schools, early care, university campuses, elderly care meal programs, and others were impacted. DATCP worked through the Farm to School and Institution and Wisconsin Foods Program, Dairy Recovery Program, and Passion for Pork initiative to support new connections and keep food moving from producer to communities amid the pandemic.

Farm to School and Institution and Wisconsin Foods Program

The DATCP F2S&I and Wisconsin Foods Program supported local supply chain connections for local food businesses, community non-profits, schools, early care centers, pantries, and food banks.

Wisconsin food suppliers pivoted quickly and effectively, proving to be a nimble, resilient, and essential sector of Wisconsin agriculture. Unfortunately, not all businesses were equipped for added expenses or positioned to take on additional risk in uncertain times, resulting in a halt of production and services.

Hmong Agricultural Businesses

Pivoting during COVID-19 presented additional barriers for Hmong producers that provide a substantial amount of fresh vegetables to Wisconsin. Systematic barriers made it difficult for Hmong producers to sell to new markets and resulted in some producers opting out of production in 2020.

Tribal Nations of Wisconsin

Tribal communities quickly evaluated and expressed need for infrastructure, equipment, non-commodity fresh and indigenous foods, and support of several agricultural projects, business developments, and local food initiatives for children, elders, and direct to households.

Meal Kits, Services, and New Supply Chains

Community non-profits, restaurants, corporate kitchens, and community farms collaborated to fund and create meal kits, offer home delivery, and provide food for early care centers.

Minimally Processed Vegetables to Institutional Kitchens and Services

Vegetable processors saw an increase in schools looking for other options to their traditional 6/10 canned and frozen vegetables. Processors, such as Seneca Foods, were able to offer vegetables in shelf stable four ounce cups and saw an increase in demand for these items.



Dairy Recovery Program

The nation's dairy economy was thrown into immediate disarray due to COVID-19. Local, domestic, and international markets shut down almost overnight. Warehouses that stock and move dairy products quickly filled to capacity. Supply chain distribution, logistics, and order fulfillment either shut down or struggled to adjust. Dairy companies and farm families alike struggled to find a market for their milk, and some began facing serious challenges regarding their ability to stay in business. In some cases, the financial losses and psychological challenges were significant.

While the industry worked to adapt to the challenges of the pandemic, many consumers found themselves experiencing food insecurity due to both supply chain disruptions and lost employment.

In the spring and early summer of 2020, individuals and groups from around Wisconsin united together to address the intense challenges the dairy industry was facing. Organized as the Wisconsin Dairy Recovery Program, the groups and individuals were able to develop networks and means to move dairy products to those who were facing serious challenges of finding and acquiring quality foods. Groups and associations that played a prominent role included the DATCP, Dairy Farmers of Wisconsin, and the Hunger Task Force. Other groups and individuals that assisted included dairy farmers, farm cooperatives, dairy companies, and those offering financial and in-kind contributions.

Passion for Pork

The pork supply in the United States primarily consists of four companies that operate several large processing plants. These companies do not have operations in Wisconsin, meaning commercial hog producers must transport market hogs out of state. Many smaller farms that do not have load-lot quantities of market hogs ready at one time struggle to find market access.

Additionally, Wisconsin does not have large scale market hog processors (only two sizeable facilities) but does have a sizeable meat sector made up of small butcher shops. Not all of these community businesses harvest livestock. Those that do typically harvest one day per week and don't specialize in hogs, but instead harvest beef, hogs, sheep, and sometimes goats and bison.

The COVID-19 pandemic presented issues that caused some larger meat processing plants in Wisconsin to temporarily shut down. In an effort to help alleviate the supply chain bottlenecks that were created and help find markets for Wisconsin pork products, DATCP and the Wisconsin Pork Association (WPA) partnered to create the Passion for Pork program. This program was able to connect pork producers needing to sell market hogs with small processors looking for hogs. A processing/distribution business picked up primals for further processing. The Passion for Pork Program had a dual goal of partnering with organizations to get pork to anyone facing food insecurity and helping Wisconsin pork producers.



SCHOOL MEAL SERVICE DISRUPTION

When COVID-19 cases started increasing across the United States, schools across Wisconsin closed their doors, bringing school lunch programs to a halt. While some schools closed from March to June 2020, others continued serving lunches through pick-up or drop-off programs.

Wisconsin School Food Authorities (SFA) administer units for school feeding programs that receive federal reimbursements for meals. Schools that did not serve any meals saw a disruption in those reimbursements and child food security. SFAs that chose new meal service models saw new demands for pre-packaged foods. However, COVID-19 also brought along a massive supply chain disruption that caused issues securing pre-packaged fruits, vegetables, and cheeses.

The Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction (DPI) responded by:

- Introducing schools to agencies that could connect schools and suppliers.
- Directing 154 SFAs to apply for USDA Meal Pattern Flexibility Waivers. 130 (19%) SFAs were approved for meal pattern flexibilities.
- Offering a virtual, summer F2S courses led by the Department of Public Instruction (DPI) that educated participants on healthy habits, food access, and nutrition.
- Providing free meals to all children through programs such as the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) and Seamless Summer Option (SSO).

**WI
SFAs**

65%

made new food service models

35%

did not service lunch March 30 - June 30, 2020

SCHOOL GARDEN ADJUSTMENTS

AmeriCorps members assisted in growing school gardens and providing at-home gardening experiences for communities.

- Encouraged families to visit their school garden over the summer (one at a time) to plant with supplies left for them
- Worked with community members to create virtual tours of several gardens and posted a virtual tour of their school garden's high tunnel on Facebook
- Partnered with several community organizations to distribute and provide garden kits in honor of Wisconsin School Garden Day. These kits were sent with school meals for students taking classes from home and included soil, seed packets, planting instructions, and a recipe on how to cook the resulting food
- Grew food in gardens for the summer meal program and donated to those in need during the pandemic. Onions, peppers, tomatoes, and mixed greens were grown so students would have something to come back to in the fall.



FFA COVID-19 RESPONSE

As COVID-19 spread, local FFA chapters took a stand to protect their communities.



Loyal FFA

In Clark County, this local chapter contributed to the community by handing out signs in solidarity and holding 5 dairy drives. 140 families were served each time and in total, they distributed 700 gallons of milk, 350 pounds of butter, 1,470 pounds of cheese, 280 pounds of beef sticks, 130 Clark pizzas, and 700 ice cream cones.

Adams-Friendship FFA

In the central Wisconsin town of Adams, FFA purchased 100 packages of cheese curds and 100 gallons of milk and donated it to Meals on Wheels. They also did 150 grilled cheese bags filled with butter, bread and cheese so families could make their own, provided 600 families with produce including apples, pears, potatoes and onions, and had Cheeseburger giveaways that included one pound of ground beef, buns, and cheese. Sweet corn giveaway giving families six ears of corn and pounds of butter.

Whitewater FFA

Raised \$10,000 selling yard signs designed by FFA members. Used the funds to purchase 250 quarts of ice cream, 250 bags of cheese curds, 200 half-gallons of chocolate milk, and 1,000 baked potato bags with potatoes, sour cream, butter, and shredded cheese.

Big Foot FFA

Worked with Wisconsin FFA Foundation and Rally to Fight Hunger to purchase an animal from local farmer. They were able to donate 500 packages of meat to help local families in their community.

Gresham FFA

In this Shawano County village, the local FFA partnered with FFA Alumni to commit \$1,000 towards dairy products to give away. They also partnered with their local F.R.E.S.H. (Food Resources Education Sustainability Health) division. This partnership led to a new food pantry in Gresham and provided 100 families with boxes of food weekly during the initial shutdown.

Waupun FFA

Outside of Fond du Lac, the Waupun FFA Chapter purchased and gave away 300 signs to show solidarity with farmers. They then held a 10-week food drive in which they distributed approximately \$75,000 worth of food such as milk, fresh mozzarella cheese curds, frozen pizzas from a local company, Culver's frozen custard, potatoes with sour cream and butter, and 800 25 pound packages of different dairy products. In the first nine weeks, they averaged 1,000-1,500 items distributed per week. They then purchased 1,000 servings of yogurt and 4,000 servings of string cheese and donated it to the school lunch program.

Slinger FFA

In Slinger, WI FFA worked with local producers and designed commendable yard signs (shown below) that they sold and then donated the proceeds to the Slinger Food Pantry. \$4,600 was raised.





RECOMMENDATIONS & STRATEGIES

Invest in procurement, supply chain development, and regional food system infrastructure for schools and institutions

- Enhance F2S equity and accessibility geographically, racially, financially, and, with Tribal Nations. Rural and urban schools alike are in need of improved access and have unique supply chain needs and opportunities.
- Focus on Wisconsin's largest school districts, especially those with the highest free and reduced lunch rates
- Create a Farm to School Procurement Mentoring Program
- Enable public and private funding partnerships
- Encourage the School Supported Agriculture model
- Develop new procurement technical assistance programs
- Fund a full-time, travelling farm to school specialist to educate about the sustainability of F2S programming in schools and incorporate more F2S curriculum at schools
- Promote resources that strengthen supplier and buyer connections. By promoting these resources, they will grow in popularity and become more accessible to schools.
- Assess market growth opportunities for producers and local food suppliers in school and institutional procurement
 - Collect and organize available procurement and local foods purchasing data
 - Identify missing data
- Research and develop sustainable, streamlined reporting of data needed to inform the local food sector of the growth opportunity of school and institutional markets

Establish Wisconsin Farm to School metrics to better quantify and share successes and economic impacts, and pilot Farm to Institution metrics

- Research and identify programs and policy development that are most applicable in Wisconsin

Develop administrative rules and fund the Wisconsin Farm to School Grant Program created by Act 293

- Develop rules to address equity and inclusion through application and grant procedures, establish metrics, and streamline local purchasing data



Develop strategic statewide farm to school infrastructure to address inequities in farm to school through identifying leadership, projects, and partnership in each region of the state and support regional coalition development

- Technical assistance can be tailored to the producers, buyers, and support resources in each region. Extension, DPI, Wisconsin Farmers Union, Farm Fresh Atlas, Health TIDE, and many other partners are already organizing regionally on outreach, technical assistance, resourcing and purchasing and distribution.

Increase school meal reimbursement rate with incentives to purchase Wisconsin-grown foods that improve meal quality and support producers

- Research and report on benefits of models from other states including California, Washington DC, Kentucky, New Mexico, and New York. These states provide an additional 5-15 cents per plate in meal reimbursements for purchasing foods produced in-state. Specific aspects to look at include purchase reporting, administrative processes, cost, labor needs, and metrics.

Educate farmers, school food staff, educators, students, and community members about the benefits of Wisconsin agricultural foods and basic practices of farm to school

- Update existing resources
- Engage new partner organizations
- Host a Wisconsin Farm to School Summit
- Develop direct-to-student agricultural and nutrition education materials
- Expand F2S education and outreach during National Farm to School Month
- Establish a statewide farm to school event in late March or early April to encourage year-round education and activity opportunities
- Create a hub for Wisconsin Farm to School resources to easily share all F2S & Early Childhood Education (ECE) resources in one place. Tools and resources are published by DATCP, DPI, University of Wisconsin - Center for Integrated Agricultural Systems (UW-CIAS), Rooted, and others with no central clearinghouse. Many states have a single farm to school website which aggregates up-to-date information and resources.

Invest in school garden developments

- Compensate staff time to create programs, organize garden activities, and coordinate volunteers, student involvement, and the management of gardens year round
- Provide funds for schools to build infrastructure and purchase supplies for sustainable gardens, such as irrigation equipment, gardenscape supplies, composting systems, and greenhouses for learning and growing





PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY CHAIN

DPI/USDA PROCUREMENT

There are regulated **procurement methods** from which SFAs choose including:

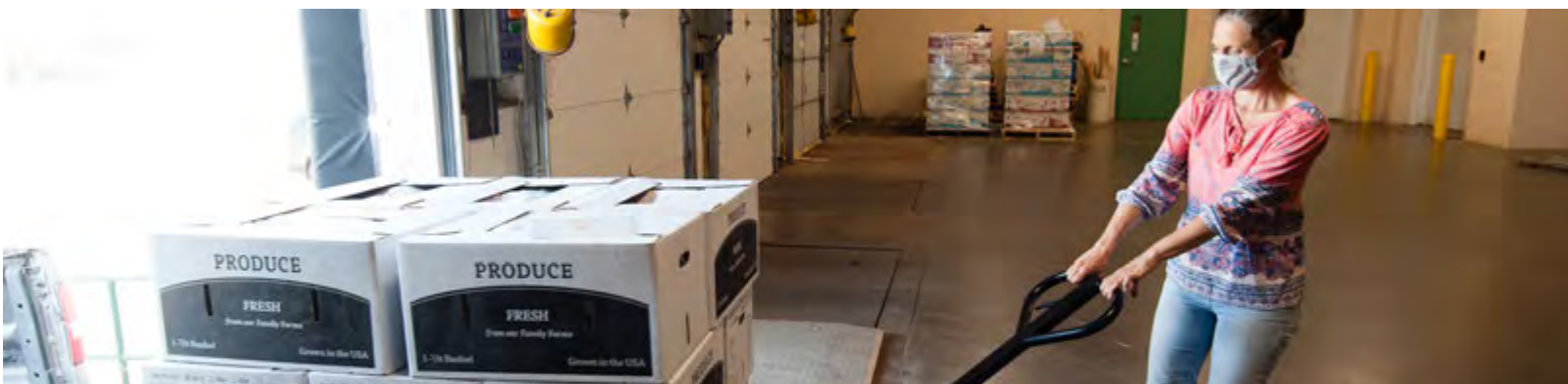
- micro-purchase (most common Wisconsin F2S procurement method)
- small purchase, also known as 3 bids and a buy
- Invitation for Bid (IFB), also referred to as “sealed bid” or “request for bid (RFB)”
- Request for Proposal (RFP)

There are several **programs** that schools can participate in to provide food for students including:

- National School Lunch Program
 - USDA Foods
 - DoD Fresh
- School Breakfast Program (SBP)
- Special Milk Program (SMP)
- Wisconsin School Day Milk Program (WSDMP)
- Afterschool Snack Program (ASP)
- Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP)
- Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program (FFVP)
- Summer Meal Program Choices

USDA/DPI PROGRAMS	\$ SPENT ON FOOD	\$ SPENT ON WISCONSIN FOODS	% OF WI FOODS IN PURCHASING
NATIONAL			
USDA Procurement (all national programs)	\$1,849,455,347	\$66,407,428	3.59%
USDA Procurement (child nutrition programs)	\$1,135,127,948	\$40,889,960	3.60%
WISCONSIN			
Total Food Procurement by/for WI schools	\$189,584,338	\$9,188,610 (estimate based on 2015 F2S Census)	4.86%
Department of Defense Fresh Fruit & Vegetable Program	\$3,224,456	\$1,545,632	47.93%
USDA Fresh Fruit & Vegetable Program	\$2,888,527	\$151,070	5.23%

The Wisconsin Farm to School Advisory Council recognizes that the data above is not all encompassing and believe that procurement numbers are higher than what is reflected.



HIGHLIGHTED WISCONSIN F2S SUPPLY CHAIN INITIATIVES

Local supply chain developments provide opportunities for economic growth in rural and urban areas. They also connect dairy, meat, vegetable, and grain producers, farmer cooperatives, and processing, distribution, packaging, and technology companies to Wisconsin markets. These partnerships can be nimble and lead to greater innovation, resiliency, and more equitable solutions.



Westby Cooperative Creamery

This creamery makes bulk yogurt for Perfect Parfait, the company that sells yogurt dispensers for institutions such as schools. With the support of the Dairy Processor Grant, 604 cases of yogurt were purchased during the 2019-20 school year. A sharp decline was seen with the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic.



Sassy Cow Creamery

Supplied 97,782 pints of 1% white milk & 233,215 pints of 1% chocolate milk to schools this year after adding new processing equipment and 1% chocolate milk was reformulated to have lower sugar with the support of the Dairy Processor Grant.



Six Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) Farm Businesses

Supplied 12 Child Care and Family Care Centers in a pilot to develop this supply chain and make meaningful connections around healthy foods. Each program received one share scaled for Early Child Education Programs weekly throughout the growing season. Funding was provided from Kids Forward using grant dollars from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation. Site locations included six in Dane County, three in Columbia County, two in Milwaukee County, and one in La Crosse County.



Growing a Farm to College Community of Practice

Seven Wisconsin college and university culinary food service leaders met to discuss practices and ways to effectively increase purchases in Wisconsin specialty crops. There are more than 274,000 consumers at college campuses, indicating that the total number of potential beneficiaries is significant. In partnership with UW-Madison Grainger Center for Supply Chains, an inquiry into apple purchasing was made which resulted in a pivot in activities to serve these large higher education campuses at the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic. This included providing regular, monthly calls to convene partners for peer-learning through the general disruption to food service.



Wisconsin Farm To School AmeriCorps Program

Through this program, 112 local producers supplied food to schools.



WISCONSIN FARM TO SCHOOL PRODUCER AND SUPPLIER PARTNERS

Provided Foods for Taste Testing

Amber Acres Farm | Barthel Fruit Farm | David Bartling | Bayfield Apple Company | Belgioioso | Berry Farm
Big Springs Fish Farm | Birds Eye | Black Bear Fruits | Cherryland's Best | Chippewa Valley Bean Co.
Christensen's Apple Orchard | Concord Farms | Country View Dairy | Layne C & Becky V | Driftless Organics
Earth Fire Co./Fifth Season Co-op | Echo Valley Farm | Eillien's | Ela Orchard | Bill Ernst | Feltz Dairy Farm
Fietz Family Farms | Fifth Season Co-op | Fort Healthcare Kitchen Staff | Full Harvest Farm
Green Pastures Farm/Fifth Season Co-op | Gentle Breeze Honey | Habelman Bros. Co.
Helene's Hilltop Orchard | Highland Valley Farm | Stephani Hoffmann | Jasper Apples
Jay's Hilltop Sugarhouse | Jelli's Market | Bill Jenkins | Morgan Jessee & Bill Sturke (Grandparent's Garden)
Johnson Creek High School Garden | Kettle Moraine Honey | Kickapoo Honey | Knapp's Fresh Vegies
Lakeview Berry Farm | Lamers Dairy | Lonely Oak Farms | Mapleton Dairy | Meadowlark Community Farm
Mullins Cheese | Needfire Farms | New Orchard | New Traditions | Northwoods Orchard | Ocean Spray
Orange Cat Comm. Farm | CROPP/Organic Valley | Palm Mushroom Cellar | Patz Maple and Honey Farms
David Pavelski | Plate's Full Acres | Primitive Pastures | Quednow's Heirloom Apple Orchard | Red Cliff Farm
Red Door Farm | Red Mesh Brand | River Valley Ranch | Roudolph | Rubi Reds LLC | Ruesch Century Farm
Star Dairy | Silver Sage Farm | Laura Snowbarger | Stevens Point Farmers Market | Stevens Point Co-op
Superior Fresh | SYSCO Local Baraboo Farm | Teitz Family Farms | The Main Grain Bakery | The Maple Dude
Theys Orchard | Tipi Produce | Tommy D's | Twin Lake Cranberry | Uncle Mike's Bakery | Valley Popcorn
Voegeli Farms | Whitefeather Organics | Wisner Farm and Produce | Yodelay Yogurt

Provided Foods for School Menus

Alpine Ridge Orchard | Belgioioso | Bush Brothers & Co | Concord Farms | Eplegaarten
Green Pastures Farm/Fifth Season Co-op | Jelli's Market | Jones Dairy Farm | Klement's Sausage Co.
Olden Organics | Paragon Potato Farms | Parrfection Produce | Pieper's Fruit Farm
SYSCO Local Baraboo Farm | Wisner Farm Produce

Provided Educational Engagement Activities

4K Trip to Farm | Bargender Family Farm | Bayfield Apple Company - Michael
Country Bumpkin Farm | Farmer Donna | Feltz Dairy Farm | Ferguson's Orchard
Gentle Breeze Honey - Gene Woller | Grosheck Farms | Hauser's Superior View Farm - Dane Hauser
Jasper's Apples - Rick Jasper | Meadowlark Community Farm - Lauren Kreutzer
Meadows Honey Homestead - Rob Cummisford | Northwoods Orchard and Farm Market - Nadine Tully
Orange Cat Community Farm - Laura Mortimore | Red Cliff Farm - Alissa Stutte
The Draw - Nat Larson | Wetherby Cranberry Marsh

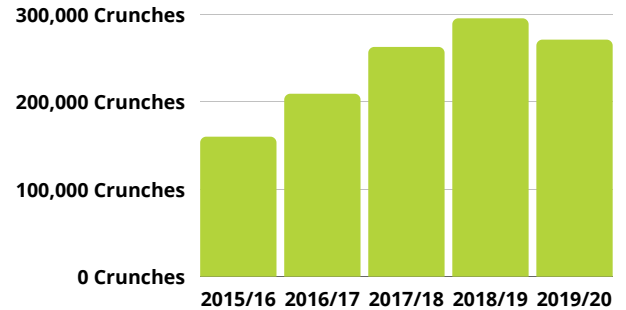


SUPPLY CHAIN ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES LED BY THE CENTER FOR INTEGRATED AGRICULTURAL SYSTEMS AT UW MADISON (UW-CIAS)

Great Lakes Great Apple Crunch

October 2019 marked the Sixth Annual Great Lakes Great Apple Crunch, a celebration of Wisconsin orchards, the Wisconsin Farm to School Network, and National Farm to School Month.

Wisconsin school districts, early care sites, hospitals, colleges, and supporting partners participate in this event which is a collaborative effort of six Upper Midwest states including Wisconsin, Minnesota, Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, and Ohio.



270,758

apples crunched

1,000

sites across Wisconsin

64

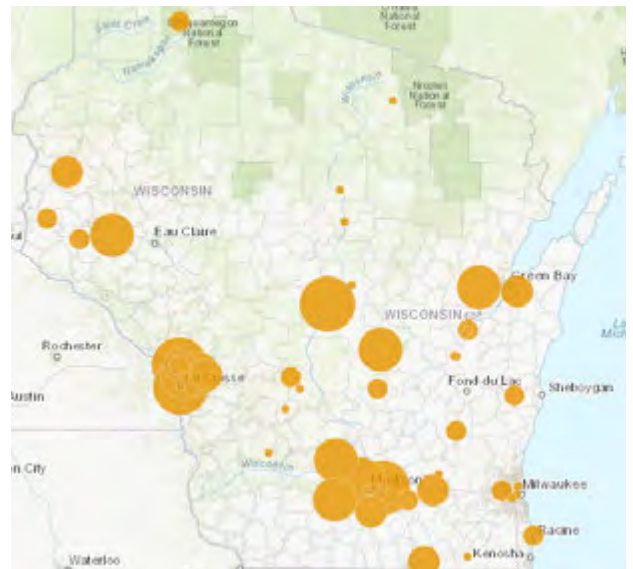
participating Wisconsin orchards

Wisconsin Chili Lunch

In 2017, a partnership of six public schools and two area hospitals piloted the Wisconsin Chili Lunch. The event was a huge success and launched statewide the following year with statewide farm to school partnership support.

The Wisconsin Chili Lunch is a great way to highlight farm to cafeteria efforts and provides an opportunity to practice sourcing local foods, supporting local farmers, and joining forces with cafeterias and kitchens to be “vocal for local.”

Wisconsin Chili Lunch Participation Map



48,454

bowls of chili served in 2019



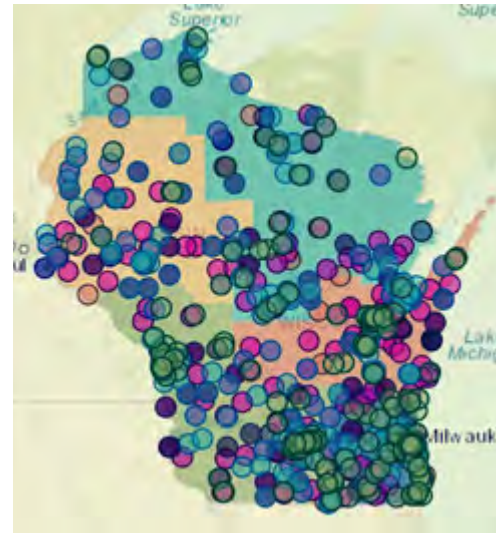
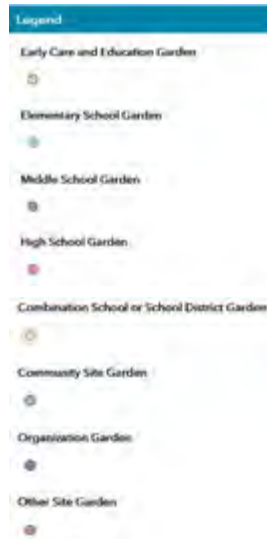


SCHOOL GARDENS

The Wisconsin School Garden Network offers workshops and technical assistance to individuals and programs including finding appropriate curricular resources, helping to connect them with school garden support organizations in their region, and guidance on starting and growing a garden program. In addition, they provide a newsletter and mapping for networking around Wisconsin school gardens.

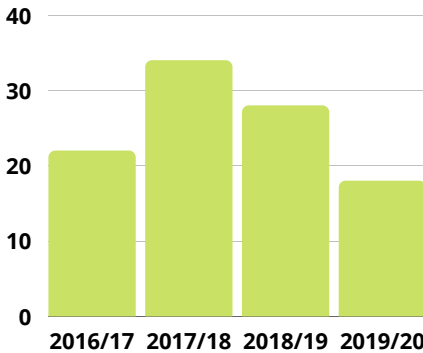
WISCONSIN SCHOOL GARDEN DAY

Every year since 2019, the Governor of Wisconsin has signed a proclamation declaring the third Thursday of May as Wisconsin School Garden Day. The day brings recognition to the people and programs giving Wisconsin's youth access to innovative, hands-on educational opportunities. It is typically celebrated by visiting school gardens. Early Childhood Education (ECE) programs and K-12 schools participated by posting online using the hashtag #wischoolgardenday.

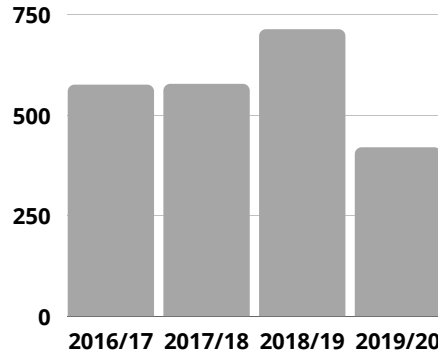


2019: **30** school garden visits | **3** state representatives and 1 mayor | **50+** postings
 2020: **11** school garden visits (COVID-19 limited in-person participation) | **30+** postings

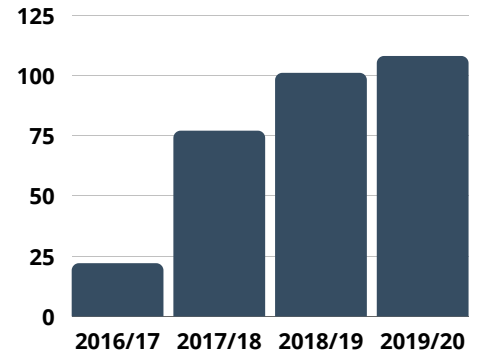
Workshops Per Year



Workshop Attendees Per Year



1:1 Technical Assistance Per Year





NUTRITION & AG EDUCATION

WISCONSIN FARM BUREAU FEDERATION AG IN THE CLASSROOM PROGRAM

This program seeks to work within existing curricula to provide basic information on the nation's largest industry: agriculture. It provides teaching resources and lesson plans to teachers and classroom volunteers to help K-12 students develop an understanding of how food is grown. Online training and video series such as Training Tuesdays and "Where are we going today with Wisconsin Ag in the Classroom?" were developed this year.

1,574

students participated
in the essay contest

29

additional grants that purchased
The Hungry Planet books

\$500

in Teacher Mini-Grants for
agriculture literacy projects

\$6,749

in AITC Matching
Grants

WISCONSIN AMERICORPS FARM TO SCHOOL PROGRAM

This program provides an innovative approach to building healthy communities by improving child nutrition through the implementation of educational farm to school activities for students and families.

5,021

students received
nutrition education

50

local procurement info shared
with school food service directors

18

farmers gave presentations
to students

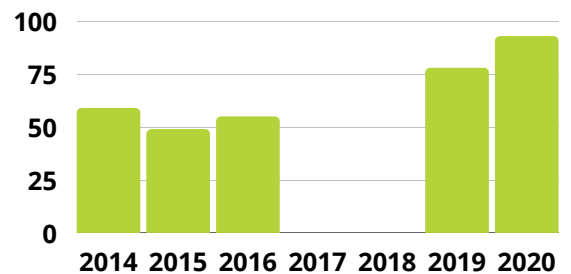
71

nutrition lessons
taught

DPI SUMMER NUTRITION SKILLS DEVELOPMENT COURSES

The DPI School Nutrition Team offers optional training each summer to school nutrition professionals on a variety of topics around operating USDA Child Nutrition Programs (CNPs). A farm to school course of two to four hours is usually presented. Content varies to cover all aspects of farm to school activities and any requirements particular to the CNPs.

Courses Per Year



GRANT FUNDING

\$1,188,340

USDA SPECIALTY CROP BLOCK GRANTS | \$149,032

This grant aims to enhance the competitiveness of specialty crops. Specialty crops are defined as “fruits, vegetables, tree nuts, dried fruits, horticulture, and nursery crops (including floriculture).”



ROOTED | \$74,032

This project involves the creation of a collection of recipes called "Celebrating Seasonality: Wisconsin-grown recipes for the early childhood setting." The goal of this recipe guide is to publish 12 seasonal Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP)-friendly early care recipes that feature a Wisconsin-grown fruit or vegetable, are easy to prepare and serve in the ECE setting, profile four diverse Wisconsin specialty crop growers, and highlight four ECE programs using Wisconsin-grown foods.



University of Wisconsin - Center for Integrated Agricultural Systems | \$50,000

Wisconsin Farm to College Community of Practice is a statewide project that engages college and university food service partners around a Community of Practice for fostering peer-to-peer learning, provides technical assistance to colleges in local purchasing, and increases demand for Wisconsin specialty crops. The central long-term objective of this project is to grow demand for, and access to, Wisconsin-grown specialty crops.



WI Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection | \$25,000

This project involves providing minimally processed veggies to schools through collaboration with local supply chain partners and SFA directors and personnel.



USDA FARM TO SCHOOL GRANTS | \$374,308

These annual grants to schools, school districts, nonprofits, state agencies, agricultural producers, and Tribal Nations allow recipients to plan, implement, or provide training on F2S activities.



La Crosse County Health Department | \$100,000

The project aims to establish and provide ongoing promotion of an annual statewide Wisconsin Chili Lunch, a one-day event where school districts and SFAs across the state serve the same Wisconsin chili recipe featuring minimally processed seasonal Wisconsin-grown vegetables, dairy products, and protein. The goal is to strengthen supply chains for Wisconsin-grown products to school markets including vegetables, dry beans, and proteins, increase the availability of local foods in schools, and raise awareness of farm to school programs and their benefits for students, schools, farmers, communities, and the economy.



WI Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection | \$98,457

This grant is for supporting the development of a Wisconsin Farm to School dairy products through collaboration of supply chain partners and school food service directors. The goal is to create products that support Wisconsin farmers and school food service entities in providing healthy foods in school meal programs.



Milwaukee Public Schools | \$93,246

This project features curriculum integration through a specialty agriculture science program. Students will engage in agriculture-based learning to increase awareness of careers in animal science, horticulture science, food science, environmental science, agribusiness, and culinary arts. This multi-faceted project develops student leaders as stewards for urban agriculture while expanding youth access and familiarity to fresh produce. Elements include increasing learning opportunities, field trips to explore greenspace, and gaining knowledge on farming, indoor growing machines, and edible schoolyards to access fresh produce, tastings, and samplings.



Red Cliff Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians | \$82,605

Mino Bimaadiziwin Sugarbush and Agriculture Education Project is a collaborative effort between the Red Cliff Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians and the Bayfield School District. This project involves student participation in every step of the process in making sugarbush maple syrup, a traditional indigenous food. Additionally, this project aims to increase school district participation in Mino Bimaadiziwin Farm's activities through field trips and increase district funds towards the purchase of local foods.



W.K. KELLOGG FOUNDATION GRANTS | \$450,000



Kids Forward, Rooted, and The Parenting Place | \$450,000



This project brings together partners to develop policy, resources, and programs to support farm to ECE in Wisconsin which targets children in the 0-5 years age group. Program activities include providing trainings to ECE providers on local purchasing, gardening, nutrition education, and family engagement.



NEMOURS FOUNDATION FUND | \$180,000



Healthy Early and Supporting Families Together Association | \$180,000



A statewide collaborative partnership that exists to increase equitable opportunities for healthy eating and physical activity for Wisconsin kids and families. Starting in 2019, Healthy Early began receiving funding from Nemours, a child health organization. Nemours funding has allowed for funding to support training early care providers on farm to early care strategies. These trainings are being supported by Rooted and Healthy Early partners.

DATCP DAIRY PROCESSOR GRANTS | \$35,000

This grant is focused on improving the dairy industry in Wisconsin by fostering innovation and economic growth to increase profitability.



Sassy Cow Creamery | \$20,000

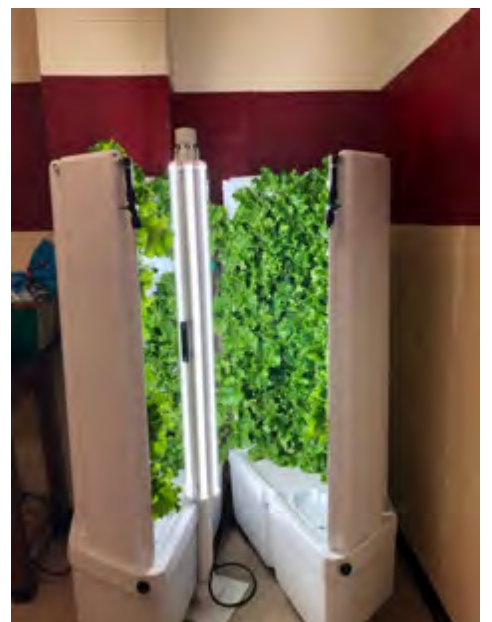
Project includes researching and implementing a plan and process for getting more milk into schools and identifying what ways worked best to establish a market into area schools. The goal was to bring in the proper equipment and packaging to be able to supply the creamery's milk into schools and learn the process of how schools met their milk needs and what they were looking for.



Westby Cooperative Creamery | \$15,000

Project includes expanding bulk yogurt into institutional food service markets with an established bulk yogurt product line for cafeteria dispensing to meet the needs of schools, colleges, hospitals, and other institutions.







BACKGROUND & STRUCTURE

In 2009, after many years of statewide grassroots efforts, Wisconsin Act 293 established the DATCP Farm to School Program, formalizing and providing structure to Wisconsin Farm to School and creating the DATCP Farm to School Advisory Council.

DATCP FARM TO SCHOOL ADVISORY COUNCIL members are nominated and appointed by the Secretary of the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection. The council is composed of 15 individuals working in various sectors that advance farm to school, including agricultural and local food supply chain leaders, child health and nutrition professionals, school food service authorities, educators, and community leaders. The council makes key recommendations that guide the development of Farm to School in Wisconsin and create the Wisconsin Farm to School Annual Report .

WISCONSIN FARM TO SCHOOL STEWARDSHIP TEAM are non-voting members of the council and serve as a working body to engage the Wisconsin Farm to School Network around the council's key recommendations, align state agency efforts, coordinate strategies statewide, and seek funding. The Wisconsin Farm to School Stewardship Team is composed of employees from the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection, University of Wisconsin-Madison Center for Integrated Agricultural Systems, Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction, and ROOTED.

WISCONSIN FARM TO SCHOOL LEADERSHIP TEAM is coordinated by the Stewardship Team and is for Farm to School practitioners. Farmers, local food suppliers, farm to school leaders of nonprofits, government agencies and community organizations come together to discuss what is happening in farm to school. It is a meeting to touch base on how things are in F2S day-to-day, how to plug into developing activities, projects and programs, communicate on opportunities, needs, and barriers, connect with the DATCP Farm to School Advisory Council key recommendations, and work together to create and carry out Wisconsin Farm to School strategic plans.

WISCONSIN FARM TO SCHOOL NETWORK (WI F2SN)

These statewide formalized structures, along with a network of local and grassroots farm to school initiatives throughout the state, make up the Wisconsin Farm to School Network.



WISCONSIN FARM TO SCHOOL ADVISORY COUNCIL

This council was formed by Wisconsin Act 293 in 2009 with the goal of advising DATCP on future state level policy and strategy for farm to school in Wisconsin. The Council is responsible for producing an annual report and remaining connected with on-the-ground farm to school efforts in the state. Members are appointed to a three-year term and each member may serve for two consecutive terms.

Standing Partners

Krista Knigge

Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection

Charles Warzecha

Wisconsin Department of Health Services

Jessica Sharkus

WI Department of Public Instruction

Chef Irene Pawlisch, CSC, SNS

WI School Nutrition Association

Child Health Professionals

Daithi (David) Wolfe

Kids Forward

Amy Meinen

University of Wisconsin-Madison Center for Child and Family Well-Being & School of Human Ecology

Lisa Kingery, MS, RDN

FoodRight, Inc.

Farmers

Sarah Christman

Hunger Task Force

Support Organizations

Cathy Statz

Wisconsin Farmers Union

Darlene Arneson

Wisconsin Farm Bureau - Ag in the Classroom

School Food Service Professionals

Jim Degan

School District of Janesville

Michael Gasper

School District of Holmen

At Large

Erin Badtke

Seneca Foods

Cynthia Holt

Holt Community Consulting

Nancy Dorman

Wisconsin Association of School Boards, Inc.

WISCONSIN FARM TO SCHOOL STEWARDSHIP TEAM (NON-VOTING)

Kim Wahl

Rooted

Susan Bostian Young

DPI

Vanessa Herald

UW-CIAS

April Yancer

DATCP





APPENDIX

REFERENCES AND DATA SOURCES

PAGE 5: WI FARM TO SCHOOL OVERVIEW

[HTTPS://WWW.SCHOOLGARDENS.ORG/](https://www.schoolgardens.org/)

[HTTPS://DATCP.WI.GOV/PAGES/GROWING_WI/FARMTOSCHOOL.ASPX](https://datcp.wi.gov/pages/growing_wi/farmtoschool.aspx)

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PAGE 19: NUTRITION & AG EDUCATION

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