



NH Farm to School Case Studies

Auburn Village School Garden
Auburn, NH

Gardening bug catches on in Auburn

The new garden is a result of the school's wellness committee and parents who wanted their kids to get outside more often and use their classroom knowledge in a garden setting.

The goal of the garden is to promote agriculture-based learning and encourage outdoor enjoyment and healthy eating habits. The parents would like this experience to instill a life long love of gardening. Teachers will be able to use the garden in their curricula to teach science, math, PE, journaling, music and art.

The students were surveyed as to what type of garden they wanted with the winners being the rainbow garden of flowers and the pizza shaped garden of vegetables and herbs.

The kindergarten grew some plants from seed to start the garden off. Over the summer months some of the produce will be donated to the veterans from the local VA medical center. In the fall, the students will benefit from the vegetables through the cafeteria. A composting program will be the next step thanks to a donation of a compost bin by a community member.

The garden club fundraising committee secured a variety of donations and funds from the PTA, "Go Green" bracelet sales, a grant from Welch's, the Auburn Conservation Commission and many community members. Going forward the garden will rely on donations and in-kind gifts.

Garden coordinator and teacher, Rachel Dowd, says the students are excited about the garden, from its construction to being able to assist with planting, caring for and eating the produce as well.

NH Farm to School (NHFTS) is a statewide program working to connect NH farms and schools. Farm to school connections enable schools to serve healthy, locally grown foods in their cafeterias, integrate farms, food, and nutrition into their curriculum, and explore food and agriculture-based learning opportunities. NHFTS is a program of the University of New Hampshire's Sustainability Academy, and is grateful for the generous support of Share Our Strength and the New Hampshire Charitable Foundation.

