

What's new at www.nhfarmtoschool.org

- Resources to find farms in your area and a list of farms that currently participate in farm to school.
- A list of distributors who carry local or regional produce.
- Farm to school posters and stickers that you can print and use in the cafeteria.
- Upcoming events where NH Farm to School will be represented.
- School garden resources like grant opportunities and case studies.

Food Safety Information

USDA Produce Regulations

The USDA does not require that domestically produced fresh fruits and vegetables be inspected. Rather, growers are advised to voluntarily adopt and follow GAP (Good Agricultural Practices) and GHP (Good Handling Practices) as defined in the FDA's "Guide to Minimize Microbial Food Safety Hazards for Fresh Fruits and Vegetables" <http://www.fda.gov/Food/FoodSafety/Product-SpecificInformation/FruitsVegetablesJuices/>

Good Agricultural Practices (GAP)

Guidelines for farmers to prevent food-borne illness. Guidelines include suggestions for pre-planting, production, harvesting and post-harvest handling.
<http://www.hort.uconn.edu/lpm/foodsafety/toc.htm>

Food Safety Modernization Act includes new regulations of practices on produce farms that are overseen by the FDA.
<http://sustainableagriculture.net/fsma/>

Resources

Farm to Institution New England is a 6-state collaboration working to strengthen our regional food system by increasing the demand for local foods by New England institutions.
<http://www.farmtoinstitution.org>

NH Agriculture in the Classroom

A program that provides free agricultural learning materials for all grade levels. Curriculum kit topics include dairy, soil, bees, seeds, farm animals and syrup. Visit www.nhagintheclass.org or call 224-1934.

USDA and Farm to School

This online resource was formed to assist schools in starting or expanding their Farm to School activities; assist in the communication between farmers and schools and keep you informed of the legislative and regulatory changes that influence Farm to School activities.
<http://www.fns.usda.gov/farm-school>

USDA Farm to School Grants

If your school is interested in starting or expanding it's farm to school program, consider applying for a grant. Producers are also eligible to apply for a support service grant. RFP for 2104 grants will be released in January 2014.
<http://www.fns.usda.gov/cnd/f2s/>

National Farm to Preschool

For information about farm to preschool programs around the country, visit <http://farmtopreschool.org>



How Do I Participate?
*A guide for farmers, schools
and distributors*



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The NH Farm to School Program

works with food service directors, farmers, distributors, school administrators, teachers, and health educators to foster connections between local farms and New Hampshire school cafeterias and classrooms.

There are many ways to participate!

Farmers:

- Contact the schools in your town or district and talk with the Food Service Directors. Find out which fruits and vegetables they typically need, and let them know which farm products you plan to have available during the months school is in session.
- Contact the NH Farm to School Program and let us know you're interested in selling to schools. We can provide you with contacts at participating schools.
- Consider growing some crops specifically for a school.
- Explore the possibility of selling to a distributor who buys from local farms and supplies local schools.
- Offer tours to school groups so that the next generation will learn where their food comes from.

A few things schools will need from you:

- Delivery on an agreed upon day.
- An invoice with net 30 terms
- Schools would like to know what is going to be available ahead of time, as meals are planned weeks in advance.
- Schools want to buy from farms that use Good Agricultural Practices.

Schools:

- Ask your produce distributor if they offer locally grown fruits and vegetables. Make it a priority to order foods grown locally.
- Buy NH-grown produce directly from a local farm. To find farms in your area, visit the "Find NH Farms" page at www.nhfarmtoschool.org.
- Post information for your staff and students about the local farms where the food was grown. Contact us if you need a farm to school poster.



- If your current distributor does not offer local options, contact one who does. Visit www.nhfarmtoschool.org for a current list.
- Organize a local foods taste test in your cafeteria.
- Plan a local harvest meal, featuring local foods.
- Start a school vegetable garden.
- Take a field trip to a local farm.



Distributors:

- Source locally grown fruits and vegetables to sell to your school accounts.
- Provide information on your website or invoices about the origin of the produce, so that schools can pass this information on to their students.
- Visit www.nhfarmtoschool.org to find out more about our program.

