HHFKA 2010
Section 243: Access to Local Foods

The Secretary shall create a Farm to School Program to:

1. Distribute grant funding to improve access to local foods in schools.
2. Provide training and technical assistance to improve access to local foods in schools.
3. Disseminate research and data on existing programs and opportunities for expansion.
Local Food

Food Education
School settings
Benefits

• Willingness to try new foods.
• Increased consumption of fruits and vegetables (.99 – 1.3 servings/daily)
• Improved knowledge and awareness regarding gardening, agriculture and healthy eating.
Local in Summer
Research
42% of districts surveyed by USDA say they participate in farm to school activities.

That’s 5,254 districts and 42,587 schools bringing the farm to school for the benefit of an estimated 23.6 million children.

https://farmtoschoolcensus.fns.usda.gov

www.farmtoschoolcensus.fns.usda.gov
2015 Farm to School Census tell us...

76% of respondents (3,002 out of 3,954 districts) experienced at least one of the following benefits:

- reduced food waste (18%)
- lower school meal program costs (21%)
- greater acceptance of the new meal pattern (28%)
- increased participation (17%)
- greater community support (39%)
Growth of Farm to School

Source: USDA.

Number of farm to school programs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Number</th>
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<td>1996-1997</td>
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<td>2000-2001</td>
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<td>2003-2004</td>
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<td>2005-2006</td>
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<td>2008-2009</td>
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<td>2012-2013</td>
<td>4,322</td>
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<td>2014-2015</td>
<td>5,254</td>
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Grants
Farm to School Grant Awards To Date

FY 2013 - FY 2016

• 300 projects
• 50 states, DC, Virgin Islands
• $20.2 M
• Requests from 1,300+ projects seeking ~$98 M
Technical Assistance
USDA FOODS: A RESOURCE FOR BUYING LOCAL

USING DOD FRESH TO PURCHASE LOCAL PRODUCE

THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program (DoD Fresh) allows schools to use their USDA Foods entitlement dollars to buy fresh produce. The program, operated by DoD's Defense Logistics Agency, began in school year (SY) 1994-1995 as a pilot in eight states. As of 2013, schools in 46 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, and Guam participate; schools received more than $100 million worth of produce during SY 2012-2013.

What are the advantages of DoD Fresh?

- **Flexibility:** States can change DoD Fresh allotments on a monthly basis, which allows them to utilize USDA Foods entitlement dollars more effectively. USDA does not impose a cap on the amount of entitlement dollars or the amount of cash reimbursement funds that a state can allocate to DoD purchases.
- **Consistency:** DoD Fresh vendors update the catalog weekly, and depending on the state, schools can receive deliveries every week, making ordering timely, fresh, and responsive to market fluctuations.
- **High quality:** DoD mandates high-quality standards through vendor selections and inspections.
- **Variety:** DoD Fresh vendors offer at least 50 different types of produce, available in multiple forms (whole, pre-cut, and a variety of pack sizes) and from multiple sources (local and non-local), all at a fixed price.
- **Easy ordering and funds tracking:** Schools place orders via the web-based Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Order/Receipt System (FVORS). The prices listed in the FVORS catalog reflect the prices that schools will be billed for the product. FVORS tracks schools' entitlement fund balances and total order costs. DoD manages vendor payment and reconciliation.
Farm to School TOOLKIT

Bring the farm to your school
The Team
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Tribal Gardens
Get Involved

- Subscribe to our e-newsletter (more than 25,000 subscribers!)
- Help us connect producers with schools
- Promote our RFA among producers

Subscribe at www.usda.gov/farmtoschool