

Ohio Farm to School Monthly Cultivators + Classrooms + Cafeterias

Issue No. 1 | November 2021

Welcome!



A very thoughtful "cruncher" celebrating Farm to School Month with the Great Lakes Apple Crunch at Lakota Head Start. 280,000 Ohioans Crunched throughout October to celebrate Farm to School Month!

Welcome to the inaugural edition of the Ohio Farm to School Newsletter! Produced monthly in coordination with the Ohio Department of Education, Ohio Department of Agriculture, and The Ohio State University Extension Farm to School Program, the publication will bring resources and stories from across Ohio highlighting and celebrating work being done in the field to bring the benefits of Farm to School programming to children of all ages.

Farm to School is Growing in Ohio

Results from the latest Farm to School [census](#) show that 1,589 schools representing 866,823 Ohio students are participating in Farm to School through activities such as serving local foods in the cafeteria, experiential learning in the classroom, in the garden, or on the farm. Interested in Farm to School? Technical assistance can be provided through the [Ohio Farm to School Network](#) or the [FNS Office of Community Food Systems](#).

Want to be featured in the next monthly newsletter and on Ohio's Farm to School

Nightingale Montessori **FRIDAY, OCTOBER 29, 2021**
 Welcomes You to: A Fall Farm-to-School HARVEST PARTY & PLANT SALE!

Edible Schoolyard
 & Nature Preserve

Join us for a Garden Tour with Jared Martin & Terry Fredrich on our new campus.
 Explore our living lab: greenhouse and biodynamic/permaculture garden beds.
 Walk our woodland restoration trail. Learn about healthy soils and native plants.
 Visit our enchanted food forests, arboretum, and wetland habitats.

Nightingale Montessori in Springfield, Ohio hosted a Garden Tour during Farm to School Month.

Websites? Share your F2S success stories with us!

Submit Your F2S Success Story



FARM TO SCHOOL GRANT SPOTLIGHT:

Parma City School District

Ohio's newest USDA 2022 Farm to School Grant Now Open

[Spice Field Kitchen, Inc.](#) - \$36,400 Cleveland, Ohio

[Clermont Northeastern Local Schools](#) - \$45,910 Batavia, Ohio

[Graham Local School District](#) - \$100,000 Page Saint Paris, Ohio

[Green Umbrella](#) - \$96,524 Cincinnati, Ohio

[MyWhy](#) - \$96,536 Cincinnati, Ohio

[Reynoldsburg City School District](#) - \$91,180 Reynoldsburg, Ohio

[Saint Stephen Community Services, Inc.](#) - \$96,460 Columbus, Ohio

USDA annually awards competitive Farm to School grants that support planning, developing, and implementing farm to school programs. Open to state, regional, and local organizations, these grants are an important way to initiate, expand, and institutionalize farm to school efforts. The Fiscal Year (FY) 2022 [Farm to School Grant](#) RFA is now open and can be found at [Grants.gov](#).

Visit the Grant Applicants Resources page to access other helpful resources, including webinars on applying for a Farm to School Grant.

JOIN THE OHIO FARM TO SCHOOL NETWORK

Since forming in 2011, the Ohio Farm to School Network has been led by The Ohio State University Extension. Comprised of representatives from state and local

agencies, school districts, non-profit organizations, food producers, distributors, and other stakeholders within the food system, this group meets quarterly to support efforts in the procurement, serving, and teaching about local foods to children throughout Ohio. [Register here](#) to join the next network meeting on December 9th, 9:30-noon via zoom.



In 2020, Ohio Department of Agriculture, in partnership with Ohio Department of Education, was awarded a \$100,000 USDA State Agency F2S Grant to strengthen the existing Ohio Network. Through that process, eight regional networks were created providing a framework for coordination among Ohio F2S programs while celebrating the regional characteristics and cultures found around the state.

Thank you to the following individuals or organizations that have offered to lead their regional networks.

Northwest: Open

North Central: Open

Northeast: [Alison Patrick](#), Cuyahoga County Board of Health



Students from Sandusky City Schools learn about processing fresh apples during their Seamless Summer Option Program.

West Central: [Haley Carretta](#), PHDMC
 Central: Carol Smathers and Haley Scott, [OSU Extension](#)
 East Central: [Heather Neikirk](#), OSU Extension
 Southwest: [Anne Schneider](#) and Michaela Oldfield, Green Umbrella
 Southeast: [Tom Redfern](#), Rural Action and [Denise Natoli Brooks](#), CSU Extension

For more information on the regional networks, visit the Ohio Farm to School [website](#) and [Facebook page](#)



Franklin County Public Health Ohio Days Farm to School program provides schools in Franklin County with resources, tools, and support in carrying out Farm to School activities. These activities fall into three categories, local procurement, school gardening, and Farm to School in the classroom.



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