

MICHIGAN FARM TO SCHOOL SERVING UP LOCAL FOODS



Farm to school centers around efforts to purchase and serve local foods for school food programs.

Farm to school also provides students with hands-on educational activities, such as school-based gardens, taste tests, and farm field trips.

Why farm to school?

- Kids can benefit from increased access to a wide variety of fresh local foods and opportunities to learn about healthy food choices.
- Schools can support local farmers and the local economy.
- Farmers and food businesses can diversify their markets by tapping into growing demand from schools.
- Communities can support the Michigan Good Food Charter initiative. Learn more at michiganfood.org.

Who is involved?

School food service professionals, farmers, food hubs, processors and distributors have been working together to improve the availability and distribution of local foods for school food programs.

State government, community organizations, agricultural commodity groups, researchers, school administrators, students, parents, and community members are supporting efforts to make farm to school the norm rather than the exception in Michigan.

Michigan Farm to School Resources

Sign up for the Michigan Farm to School Listserv and access our guides and resources at the Michigan Farm to School website: mifarmtoschool.msu.edu.

For food service directors and professionals:

Purchasing Michigan Products: A Step-By-Step Guide

foodsystems.msu.edu/purchasing-michigan-products

Making Michigan Recipes Work

Culinary training and resources by Michigan State University Extension and Cultivate Michigan

foodsystems.msu.edu/michigan-recipes

Putting Michigan Produce on Your Menu: How to Buy and Use Michigan Produce in Your Institution

foodsystems.msu.edu/michigan-produce-in-your-institution

For farmers:

Hoophouse Production and Marketing Guide

Suggestions for planting and pricing from the Michigan Farmers Market Association

foodsystems.msu.edu/hoophouse-guide

Marketing Michigan Products to Schools: A Step-By-Step Guide

foodsystems.msu.edu/marketing-michigan-products

For educators:

Garden to Cafeteria: A Step-By-Step Guide

foodsystems.msu.edu/garden-to-cafeteria

For general inquiries: EXPLORE: foodsystems.msu.edu
EMAIL: CRFS@msu.edu
CALL: 517-353-3535
FOLLOW: @MSUCRFS

Email addresses and phone numbers for individual staff members can be found on the people page of our website.

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Additional Farm to School Resources

- **10 Cents a Meal for Michigan's Kids and Farms** is a state-funded program that provides participating schools with match funding to purchase and serve Michigan-grown fruits, vegetables and legumes. Visit tencentsmichigan.org to learn more.
- **Cultivate Michigan** is the local food purchasing campaign of the Michigan Farm to Institution Network that helps institutions find, use, promote and track Michigan featured foods. Go to cultivatemichigan.org for more information.
- **National Farm to School Network** is an information, advocacy, and networking hub for communities working to bring local food sourcing, school gardens, and food and agriculture education into schools and early care and education settings. Visit farmtoschool.org for tools, resources, news, and more.



Michigan Farm to School Contacts

MSU Center for Regional Food Systems - foodsystems.msu.edu

- Colleen Matts, 517-432-0310, matts@msu.edu
- Meagan Shedd, 517-432-4525, mshedd@msu.edu

Michigan State University Extension - msue.msu.edu

- Mariel Borgman (Southwest Michigan), 989-506-3922, mborgm@msu.edu
- Julia Darnton (Genesee and Saginaw Counties), 989-758-2507, darntonj@msu.edu
- Sarah Eichberger (Northwest Lower Michigan), 231-922-4836, eichber2@msu.edu
- Jae Gerhart (Washtenaw County), 989-430-0926, gerhart1@msu.edu
- Abby Harper (Mid-Michigan), 517-676-7207, harperab@msu.edu
- Becky Henne (Statewide liaison with Health & Nutrition Institute), 517-543-4468, henner@msu.edu
- Abbey Palmer (Upper Peninsula), 906-439-5058, palmerab@msu.edu
- Wendy Wieland (Northwest Lower Michigan), 231-439-8987, wieland5@msu.edu
- Garrett Ziegler (West Michigan), 616-608-7436, zieglerg@msu.edu

Groundwork Center for Resilient Communities - groundworkcenter.org

- Diane Conners, 231-499-3937, diane@groundworkcenter.org
- Meghan McDermott, 773-294-9650, meghan@groundworkcenter.org

Michigan Department of Education - michigan.gov/mde

- Jamie Malnar (School Food Distribution), 517-335-3782, MalnarJ1@michigan.gov
- Melissa Lonsberry (Child and Adult Care Food Program), 517-241-0526, LonsberryM@michigan.gov

Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development - michigan.gov/mdard

- Lori Yelton, 517-335-3853, yeltonl@michigan.gov

The Michigan State University Center for Regional Food Systems advances regionally-rooted food systems through applied research, education, and outreach by uniting the knowledge and experience of diverse stakeholders with that of MSU faculty and staff. Our work fosters a thriving economy, equity, and sustainability for Michigan, the nation, and the planet by advancing systems that produce food that is healthy, green, fair, and affordable. Learn more at foodsystems.msu.edu.

