

## WHAT IS FARM TO SCHOOL?

Farm to School programs connect farms with school cafeterias and classrooms. Farm to School activities include a wide range of purchasing and educational programs:

Procuring locally grown foods as part of the school meals or snack program

Using local foods in after school and summer nutrition programs

Cooking and tasting demonstrations

Facilitating farm visits or classroom visits by farmers

Planting school gardens

Teaching composting, waste management and agricultural science

Workshops for growers, food-service personnel and teachers

## WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT?

Research shows that Farm to School provides a multitude of benefits:

**Prepares** children to learn

**Improves** health and well-being

**Strengthens** the local economy

**Builds** healthy communities

## FARM TO SCHOOL VISION

An Indiana where local farms, local markets and local schools work together to ensure the health of children, farms, the environment, the economy and communities.

## INDIANA FARM TO SCHOOL NETWORK

The Indiana Farm to School Network (IFSN) includes several organizations that are collaborating to advance sound policies, programs and resources to expand the capacity for successful Farm to School efforts throughout Indiana. Members include:

ARAMARK Education

Black Swan Brew Pub

Butler University, Center for Urban Ecology

Center Valley Organics

Dig-IN

ECOCERT ICO LLC

Farmers, Ranchers and Producers

Feeding Indiana's Hungry

Food and Growers Association

Food Service Directors

Gleaners Food Bank of Indiana

Green B.E.A.N. Delivery

Hoosier Organic Marketing Education

Indiana Cooperative Development Center

Indiana State Department of Agriculture

Indiana Department of Education, Farm to School

Indiana State Department of Health, Division of Nutrition and Physical Activity; Food Protection Program

Indiana Farm Bureau

Indiana Healthy Weight Initiative

Indiana Horticulture Congress

Indiana Public Health Association

Indiana University Health

Lafayette School Corporation

My Local Indiana

National Farm to School Network, Regional Lead

Piazza Produce

Purdue Extension, Hancock and Marion Counties

Purdue University, Horticulture, Agriculture Economics

Southeastern Indiana Farm to School Program

The Third House Advocacy

This Old Farm

Tipton Community School Corporation

Treat America Food Services

United States Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Service, Farm to School

Wea Creek Orchard

## THE IFSNS EFFORTS:

- Provide vision, leadership and support to connect and strengthen the Farm to School movement across Indiana.
- Establish and maintain a list of farmers and food processors who are interested in selling their products to schools.
- Increase access to Indiana-grown and produced foods by identifying purchasing opportunities and building the State's distribution capacity.



## WHAT COULD HAPPEN AS A RESULT OF THIS WORK?

- Schools, restaurants and other institutions will increase the amount of locally grown and produced foods in their food service
- Students, teachers, parents, school food-service directors and community members will increase their awareness of local food and agriculture systems
- Indiana farms will gain access to local markets

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## WHAT CAN YOU DO TO SUPPORT FARM TO SCHOOL EFFORTS IN INDIANA?

**Food Service Directors:** Tell your food distributor that you are interested in purchasing local food and supporting the local economy.

**Farmers and Producers:** Contact the food service director at your nearby school to learn the school's needs and when they need it.

**School Teachers:** Many curricula exist that allow teachers to integrate food and food system concepts into classroom learning. Network with other teachers and administrators about what your school or district could do to support Farm to School.

**Parents and Community Members:** Approach the school administration and school boards to communicate your support of Farm to School in your community. Volunteer in the classroom or the cafeteria.

## HOW CAN MY FARM OR SCHOOL PARTICIPATE?

*IFSN is supported by the Indiana Department of Education, Indiana State Department of Health, Indiana State Department of Agriculture and Purdue Extension.*

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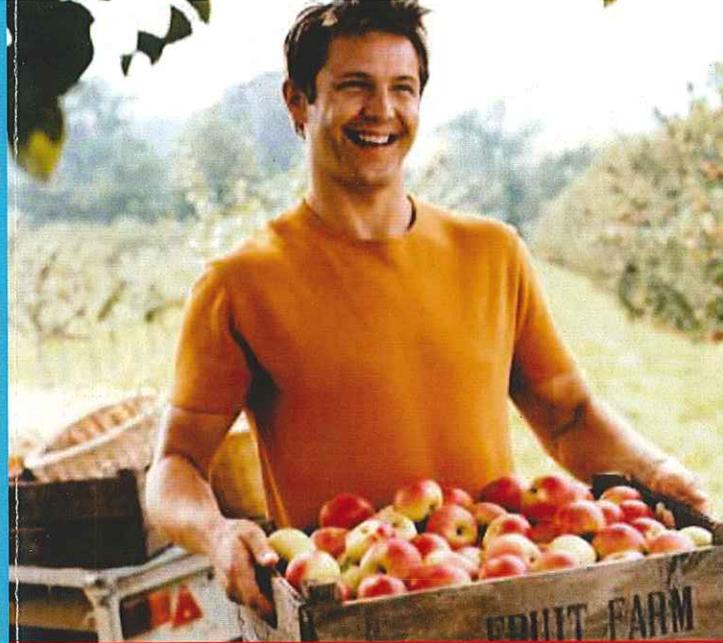
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Please visit our website: [www.farmtoschool.org/IN/](http://www.farmtoschool.org/IN/)

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**- NOURISHING KIDS AND COMMUNITIES -**

