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STATE OF MAINE  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
23 STATE HOUSE STATION  
AUGUSTA, MAINE  
04333-0023

JOHN ELIAS BALDACCI  
GOVERNOR

SUSAN A. GENDRON  
COMMISSIONER

TO: Senator Justin Alford, Chair  
Representative Patricia Sutherland, Chair  
and Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs  
Senator John Nutting, Chair  
Representative Wendy Pieh, Chair  
and Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry  
Senator Joseph Brannigan, Chair  
Representative Anne Perry, Chair  
and Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services

FROM: Susan A. Gendron, Commissioner 

DATE: 3/3/2010

SUBJECT: Report of the Working Group in Response to "Resolve, Directing the Department of Education and the Department of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources to Convene a Work Group To Strengthen Farm-to-school Efforts in the State"

The Department of Education, the Department of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources and the Department of Health and Human Services, on behalf of work completed by the Farm to School workgroup are pleased for the opportunity to present the enclosed Report of the working group in response to "Resolve, Directing the Department of Education and the Department of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources to Convene a Work Group To Strengthen Farm-to-school Efforts in the State" Final Report to the Joint Standing Committees on Education and Cultural Affairs, Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry and Health and Human Services. The Report, completed by the Farm to School workgroup, was filed by the Department of Education, the Department of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources and the Department of Health and Human Services in accordance with the provisions of Resolve 2009, Chapter 106 (LD 1140) Resolve, Directing the Department of Education and the Department of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources To Convene a Work Group To Strengthen Farm-to-school Efforts in the State (EMERGENCY).

We look forward to the opportunity to present the Report to, and have a conversation with the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs, the Joint Standing Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry and the Joint Standing Committee Health and Human Services at your convenience.

Attachment



# Report of the Working Group in Response to Resolve, 2009, Chapter 106

## Resolve, Directing the Department of Education and the Department of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources To Convene a Work Group To Strengthen Farm-to-School Efforts in the State

Whereas, Farm to School initiatives:

- Are effective and innovative approaches to help youth eat healthier and more nutritious foods, improve academic performance, introduce learning opportunities with regard to food production and preparation, and provide hands-on education;
- Help preserve working farmland, invigorate local economies, rebuild and revitalize communities, promote environmental stewardship, and realize the goals of the state's food policy;

Whereas, the State's public schools are tax-supported and the purchase by schools of local products strengthens the local tax base.

This legislation establishes a process to review and strengthen Farm to School initiatives throughout the State. The process includes the following agencies, groups, and organizations:

- University of Maine Cooperative Extension
- Maine School Food Service Association
- Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association
- Maine Center for Public Health
- Maine Nutrition Network
- The Maine Agriculture in the Classroom Program Association
- Healthy Maine Partnerships
- Focus on Agriculture in Rural Maine Schools
- Maine Harvest Lunch Program
- Western Mountains Alliance
- Maine agriculture commodity groups

This report summarizes the duties completed by the Maine Farm to School Work Group in response to the request by the Maine State Legislature, LD1140. The work group, made up of parties required by the resolve, met monthly in 2009. The report includes duties required by the resolve. Duties 1 and 2 are combined in the report.

**Recommendations** based on the completion of these duties are provided on page 6 at the end of this report.

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## Resolve Duties 1 & 2. Status, Capacities, and Barriers of Current Farm to School Efforts (See Appendix A for the full report)

Farm to School efforts – with educational and food-purchasing components – have been growing in Maine since the 1990’s. Over 200 schools have Farm to School programs. Progress has been made due to the work of numerous individuals and organizations.

The coordination of Farm to School programs varies by region. In many cases, there are teams of people working together in a school district or county. Agencies most frequently involved at the local level include school districts, non-profit and community-based organizations, and in many cases a committed staff person, teacher, farmer, cook, or parent. These Farm to School teams work together to coordinate events, assist program startup, and catalyze new initiatives.

Although program coordination partners vary, there are similar elements of each Farm to School program. There are four primary ways that schools and communities implement Farm to School programs: a) Maine Harvest Lunch, b) school gardens, c) curriculum programs, and d) local food purchasing.

### *1.a Maine Harvest Lunch*

Maine Harvest Lunch, MHL, is an annual event held by schools throughout the state. It serves as an entry point to Farm to School programs for many schools – food service staff order and cook farm fresh foods, students learn to harvest from their gardens, and teachers integrate food curriculum. Food for MHL may be gathered by students at farms or school gardens, purchased by school food service staff directly from farms, or ordered through a local food distributor. In 2008 and 2009 Maine Harvest Lunch was celebrated over the course of a week.

**Table 1: Capacities and barriers for Maine Harvest Lunch**

Capacities	Barriers
Established food service staff and kitchens, which provide lunch and breakfast	School Food Service staff may not regularly use local fresh foods; A local food distribution, ordering, and delivery system is not in place
Maine farms continue to produce food	Purchases (by schools) are only made once a year in the fall
Involved teachers integrate lessons on local food into the curriculum.	Teachers need additional resources to help them align lessons on foods and or nutrition to Maine education standards

### *1.b School Gardens*

School gardens are an important component of Farm to School programs because they provide hands-on educational opportunities and access to food by students. The size and approach to school gardens vary widely, but all garden programs serve several purposes. First, gardens provide a valuable educational tool for teaching nutrition, agriculture, science, and math in addition to many other subjects. Gardens are providing food for school food service programs (school lunches, breakfast, or summer lunch programs). In

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school districts with larger school gardens they also support opportunities for student employment, provide school nutrition programs with food, and supply farm stands. Many school have active school gardens, and acreage is increasing every year.

**Table 2: Capacities and barriers for school gardens**

Capacities	Barriers
Many schools have ample space for gardens	Lack of funding (seeds, tools, etc...) and permission to use land
There are numerous potential gardeners: students, staff, parents, community members	Lack of care and coordination in the summer (when students are not in classes)
Teachers have many opportunities to incorporate gardens into educational programming	Lack of staff time, knowledge of gardening, and limited access to curricular resources

### *1.c Curriculum Programs*

In addition to using school gardens as an educational tool, educators in Maine utilize additional methods to teach students about food, nutrition, and agriculture. Teachers use strategies such as taste tests, farm tours, garden scavenger hunts, and recipe development to educate youth about the benefits of growing and eating local foods. The majority of activities and lessons used to teach students about the facets of the food system (producers, distributors, processors, retail, and consumers) are hands on and engage students who may only see one side of the system (consumption). These activities (and vocational courses) also help youth to envision agriculture and culinary arts as important occupational fields. Together these education strategies promote healthy eating behaviors and increased awareness of the impact of lifestyle choices.

**Table 3: Capacities and barriers to Farm to School curriculum programs**

Capacities	Barriers
There are many educational resources available	Need for better coordination between school curriculum and other Farm to School elements
There are many ways to teach students about food	Need for more classroom lesson plans that satisfy Maine Learning Standards

### *1.d Local food purchasing*

A growing number of school food service staff purchase local food for school meals throughout the year. Local food can be purchased directly from producers or through food distributors during the school year. A project to utilize local food in the summer is underway in Cumberland and Oxford counties. The initiative assists schools in buying and processing local foods during summer months (when produce is plentiful and schools are empty). The following section addresses the potential for program expansion and the barriers to local food purchasing.

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**Table 4: Capacities and barriers to local food purchasing**

Capacities	Barriers
Schools may have food service staff that are able to prepare foods	Many school food service staff do not have the necessary time, recipes, equipment, and tools; Schools do not have enough space to store food
Food production in Maine is vibrant – local food is sold at farmers markets and is featured at restaurants	The growing season for produce is almost over when students go back to school; Producers need support to initiate relationships with schools
School districts practice decision-making on the local level in regard to (local) food purchasing	School wellness policies in some districts do not address local food purchasing
There is support for school food service staff to buy local food with school dollars	It is difficult for food producers to receive a fair price because they compete with subsidized food and commodities

### **Resolve Duty 3: Status of Existing Statewide Networks (See Appendix B for full report)**

Currently, the Farm to School network operates through three main channels: education, agriculture, and health to promote experiential learning, viability of local farms, and access to healthy foods. The collaboration between these organizations is happening at the local level; it is not formally coordinated at either a regional or statewide level.

Local schools and communities that have support from regional and local organizations move forward with Farm to School programs. The regions with the strongest connectivity and support for programs have formed or are forming partnerships with a variety of members and have hired program coordinators. However, in order to connect resources and partners more effectively, there remains a significant need to strengthen the working relationships and the overall framework for the Farm to School network in Maine.

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## Duty 4: National Best Practices (See Appendix C for full report)

In order to compile a list of best practices from an organizing and programmatic perspective, the work group reviewed literature and spoke with national program officers and Farm to School leaders. Impacts on foodservice, farming, students, parents, and community were examined in order to determine recommendations for Maine.

In states with successful Farm to School programming there are some common and effective practices that promote success. Visible, measurable successes are best; such as initiatives that target food service directors and farmers directly. This list includes actions already being taken in Maine:

- 3.a Local school boards have the freedom to adopt **quotas for local food** purchasing and to set purchasing rules for school systems.
- 3.b Local food **events** (such as Maine Harvest Lunch) are promoted in schools throughout the state. Events include educational components and are state supported.
- 3.c Federal, state, and local programs (such as the USDA Fresh Fruit and Veggie Program) are utilized in order to **incorporate local food** into schools.

Some practices that have not yet been initiated in Maine include:

- 3.d Creating policies to mandate **interdepartmental collaboration** on Farm to School efforts at a state level. Collaboration provides:
  - o Guidance for state investment (i.e., state personnel time, mini grants) and legitimization of programming
  - o Institutionalization of program activities into policy and administrative practice
- 3.e Making **annual funding** available for Farm to School initiatives via public channels. In some cases funds decrease annually until a self-sustaining model is established. Grants or funding are made available to support schools and local organizations in food purchasing, curriculum programming, and capacity-building.
- 3.f Making sales of local product to schools (and other tax supported institutions) tax deductible or eligible for a tax credit, which provides **incentive for producers** to sell to schools (and other public institutions).
- 3.g Initiating state and local **purchasing policies** to allow schools to accept up to 10 percent above the lowest bid when purchasing in-state agriculture products, and allow schools to award smaller contracts without requiring other bids.
- 3.h Starting statewide initiatives to support **work groups** organized around specific topics (i.e. policy, procurement, educational programming, networking, communications, research and evaluation).



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## Resolve Duty 5. Recommendations

- 1) Support Program Implementation:
  - a) Encourage **collaboration** among the departments of Agriculture, Health and Human Services, and Education to establish a **strategic plan** for interagency and public-private partnership that:
    - i) integrates specific program initiatives into existing and prospective community and school funding streams;<sup>ii iii</sup>
    - ii) supports local program implementation such as technical assistance, training, and assisting schools in purchase of food storage facilities and kitchen equipment; and
    - iii) includes an evaluation component to measure impacts.
- 2) Provide Financial Incentives:
  - a) Expand to include all local foods, and fund the **Local Produce Fund** (existing state statute see footnote), which provides reimbursements to schools for money spent on local produce<sup>iv</sup>.
  - b) Allow a five percent (5%) **tax credit for Maine growers and food producers** selling to schools and other public institutions.<sup>v</sup>
  - c) Request the Departments work with USDA to establish a minimum percent of **commodity funds** to be spent on local food by schools.
  - d) Provide **model policies** to support purchases of local foods by schools<sup>vi</sup> (i.e., recommend that school boards adopt local food purchasing benchmarks).
  - e) Adopt a **state procurement policy** that mandate a 5 percent (10%) minimum percent food purchases to be spent on local food.<sup>vii</sup>
- 3) Assist Program Development:
  - a) Make Farm to School **curriculum programs** available to all schools (elementary, middle, high, and vocational).
  - b) Provide that students throughout Maine have access to **agricultural/horticultural and culinary vocational programs**.
  - c) Create a **Farm to School recognition program** for schools that purchase local food and utilize Farm to School curriculum programs.<sup>viii</sup>
- 4) Strengthen Wellness Policies:
  - a) Strengthen the USDA-required **local school wellness policies** by requiring inclusion of Farm to School language and activities inside and outside the classroom.

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<sup>i</sup> As per OK, OR, CT, VT, & WA; which mandate interdepartmental collaboration and guide state investment in, and institutionalization of Farm to School programming. See Appendix C.

<sup>ii</sup> Some states (PA, DE, VT, OR, & CT) have allocated grant funding to, or have encouraged funding for legislation that promotes Farm to School activities. See Appendix C.

<sup>iii</sup> The Maine ACES (Agricultural Creative Economy) report researched Maine's needs and barriers; it recommended annual funding for farm to school program development.

<sup>iv</sup> ME Revised Statutes Title 20-A Education: Part 3: Elementary and Secondary Education Ch. 223: Health, Nutrition and Safety Subchapter 7: School Lunch and Milk Program, Subsection 6602: School food

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service programs, 12: Local Produce Fund. (<http://mainelegislature.org/legis/statutes/20-A/title20-Asec6602.html>)

<sup>v</sup> As per RI, tax incentive gives farmers a 5% income tax credit when they sell to schools. See Appendix C.

<sup>vi</sup> As per MA, NY, MD, and TN, schools can pay up to 5-10% above the lowest bid to purchase in-state food. Also schools award local contracts in smaller amounts without competing bids, and/or establish local procurement preferences. See Appendix C.

<sup>vii</sup> Current guidelines Maine Revised Statutes, Title 7, Chapter 8-A: Food and Food Policy, Subchapter 1, schools are to purchase food from Maine farms and fisheries when possible.

(<http://mainelegislature.org/legis/statutes/7/title7ch8-Asec0.html>)

<sup>viii</sup> As per the NY Pride of NY program and CT Farm Fresh Schools program, which recognize schools that meet specified local purchasing benchmarks. See Appendix C.



## Notes on the following Appendices

The Farm to School Work Group formed sub groups to address the duties outlined in Resolve LD1140. They produced the following Reports which were used by the Work Group as guidance in creating the Recommendations in the Report.

Appendix A is a **Maine Farm to School Profiles Report** which addresses two duties: Duty 1. Assess the status of regional and statewide farm-to-school efforts throughout the State, including policies, practices and curricula; and Duty 2. Review the existing capacities of and barriers to facilitating the purchase and use of local products. To complete this job, contacts were recruited in each of the Public Health Districts (York, Cumberland, Western, Central, MidCoast; Downeast; Penquis and Aroostook) who completed a questionnaire about both the status of farm to school projects and the capacities and barriers within their districts. These individual reports can be made available to anyone who wishes a copy. What is provided here is a compilation that gives an overview and flavor of the status across the state.

Appendix B is a **Maine Farm to School Networks Report** which addresses Duty 3: Review the status of networking channels that connect farm-to-school efforts throughout the State. This Report was primarily completed by the Knox-Lincoln County Cooperative Extension Office that tracked down contact information for the diverse stakeholders involved in supporting farm to school efforts across the state.

Appendix C is a **Best Practices Report** which addresses Duty 4. Review best practices and evaluate methods from other farm-to-school programs outside the State. The subgroup contacted Farm to School staff around the nation, and searched the literature available through the National Farm to School Network and compiled this Report on Best Practices.

Appendix D is **Farm to School Legislation: A State-by-State Listing**, published by the National Farm to School Network.



## Appendix A

### Introduction Farm to School in Maine

Farm to School efforts in Maine have been expanding since the early 2000's. In the cafeteria, students eat food fresh from local farms, fisheries and school gardens. Students learn about the food system by helping out in gardens and greenhouses, visiting farms, and tasting foods. Farm to school programs link local food producers to schools (K-12) with the objectives of 1) increasing student consumption of healthy local foods, 2) teaching students about nutrition and food systems, and 3) supporting the economy by purchasing from local producers. Each year in mid-September, schools around the state celebrate the Maine Harvest Lunch. In September, 2007, more than 200 schools participated in the event.

Local grassroots energy is catalyzing ideas toward more formal organization and promotion of policy that supports foodservice programs that feature local food. In February 2008, the Farm to School Work Group was created. It is made up of a diverse group of stakeholders including: Dept of Agriculture, Dept of Education, Dept of Health and Human Service, Maine Organic Farmers & Gardeners (MOFGA), Eat Local Foods Coalition, School Food Service Association, Maine Center for Public Health, Maine Nutrition Network, Univ of Maine Cooperative Extension, Food for Maine's Future, Farmland Trust, Western Mountains Alliance, FARMS (Focus on Ag. In Rural Maine Schools), Soil and Water Conservation District, and Healthy Maine Partnerships: Healthy Acadia, Healthy Oxford Hills, Healthy Rivers Region and the Healthy Communities Coalition.

In September of 2008, the work group asked the State to support its efforts; Rep. Jeff McCabe (Skowhegan) sponsored LD1140, a resolve for the work group to:

1. Assess the status of Farm to School efforts locally including policies, practices and curricula, and of regional or state efforts to support this work.
2. Review the capacities and barriers that facilitate the purchase and use of local products.
3. Review networking channels that connect efforts.
4. Review best practices and evaluation methods from other farm to school programs outside of Maine.
5. Prepare recommendations for strengthening Maine farm to school programs in a report to the Legislature.

The information for this booklet was collected the work group in an effort to address the first two charges. Questionnaires about farm to school efforts (school involvement, curriculum connections, farmer readiness, and program challenges) were distributed to contacts in each of the eight public health districts. Contacts in each district helped to contribute to the body of information. The purpose of this booklet is to share information about what is going on at the local level with farm to school programs (as charged by the state). The information provided is not exhaustive, and is meant to provide a snapshot of programs and opportunities in Maine.

If you would like a copy of the questionnaires from each district, please contact Ken Morse, Healthy Oxford Hills, 739-6222.

### **Aroostook County**

In October 2007, children in Aroostook County tasted local foods as part of the week-long Celebrate Harvest event. A list of local farmers and their products that has been shared with schools. Since that time, the five participating schools have continued to incorporate local foods into cafeterias and classrooms. School grounds now have fruit trees and gardens and each fall students get to visit local farms. Local foods are served in school meals and snacks (as part of the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program grants).

MSAD#1 has had a 38 acre farm since 1991. Students that work on the farm (60 are employed) grow produce that is sold at roadside stands, local grocery stores non-profit organizations, restaurants and many of the other area schools. The farm makes apple cider, collects honey from bee hives and grows hydroponic vegetables.

### **Central District**

The program started in 2006 when the school health coordinator began to create conversations between farmers and food services.

This year multiple schools participated in the Maine Harvest Lunch. Students contributed by making posters to celebrate foods grown close to home.

School gardens and field trips to farms are utilized to engage students in hands-on learning about growing food. Farmers in MSAD#59 that participate in an Adopt-a-School program sell food to a school and teach lessons there.

Interest is high among schools and hospitals; a survey given to institutions in the Somerset area revealed that 80 percent are interested in buying local food.

### **Cumberland County**

Cumberland County was the site of the reemergence of the Maine Harvest Lunch. Gorham Middle School inspired similar lunches around the state. This work was supported by mini grants and program support from participating Healthy Maine Partnerships. The mini grants were available to school food service to provide resources and incentive to create connections with local producers in the spring. Support has included gatherings to connect farmers and food service staff and garden trainings for teachers.

The program has expanded its partnerships with after-school programs to encourage more organizations to teach youth about food and agriculture. Schools also have garden programs initiated by teachers, parents, nutrition program staff and community organizations.

Multiple organizations are collaborating on the “Recipe for Success” pilot project. The goal is to increase local foods utilization and access to nutritional food in schools by building school capacity to process and preserve fresh foods in season. A toolkit for this project is scheduled for release in January 2010.

### **Downeast District**

The Downeast Farm to School program started in 2005 in Hancock County and 2007 in Washington County with workshops that featured presentations about how to start and maintain farm to school programs.

Today, the region has two farm to school program coordinators (hosted by Healthy Acadia) and multiple organizations contribute to garden-based education and the purchasing of food from local farmers. These partners have created directories of farmers and put on workshops for food service; and assessed the readiness of markets for local food.

Students participate in the program by cooking and helping in the kitchen; writing menus and harvesting food for special school meals from school gardens and farms.

### **Midcoast District**

In 2006, Farm to School language was incorporated into the Union 74 and Boothbay Region Wellness Policies, and included in the Union 74 Coordinated School Health Program Work Plan.

The F.A.R.M.S. (Focus on Agriculture in Rural Maine Schools) project constitutes a combined economic development strategy and community health initiative.

Students eat local food each fall as part of the Harvest Lunch. They also participate in taste tests, garden, and support recipe development.

### **Penquis District**

The farm to school program in the Penquis District is nascent. Cooperative Extension and a farmer organization have been working to increase the amount of local food purchases by schools.

While farms may be willing to sell local foods to schools, the food services is not committing to buying the food.

This year many schools participated in the Maine Harvest Lunch.

### **Western District**

Since 2004, schools in the western district have been purchasing local foods. The food is served for the Maine Harvest Lunch and meals throughout the year.



School gardens are popping up around the district, some are as large as one acre. The Buckfield Middle School has a one acre garden that is woven into the school curriculum and the community. Students learn to grow food and sell it to their community out of a farm stand. The garden will soon be expanded and will include a greenhouse.

## **York District**

The program started in 2003 when the school began purchasing apples from local farmers. There was an increase in the fresh fruit consumption of students. Later, the schools began purchasing local potatoes. Bonny Eagle Middle School has a garden club that created a school garden and greenhouse in the spring of 2008.

## **Conclusions**

### **Barriers to schools:**

Labor costs: sourcing local product, time to clean and process fresh produce, program coordination, need to plan in advance

Logistics: school cooks put time into picking up the food, multiple deliveries, delivery times are not convenient

Infrastructure: lack of food storage

Availability of local foods: insufficient quantity, transportation issues, lack of interested farmers, crop failure, growing season does not match school year

Money: low school budgets, food cost, economic Slump

Program support: lack of school champions and community support, over reliance on volunteers, connecting to the whole school and curriculum

Relationships with farmers: few school cooks are in contact with farmers Miscellaneous: appearance of product (not consistent, also may be unwashed); consolidation has led to the loss of farm to school language in wellness policies; convenience foods

### **Needs of Schools:**

Labor: need training for scratch cooking, need to know what is seasonally available

Infrastructure: food storage

Availability of local foods: reliability, value added or lightly processed product (i.e. husked corn, cut squash, canned goods)

Money: need funds for local purchases, school cooks need to know their budgets to make good purchasing decisions Program support: program coordination, community support

Relationship with farmers: need to do matchmaking, need to create relationships, need for communication between parties

Miscellaneous: kid-friendly recipes with local foods, standards for packing, labeling, delivery, scratch cooking, language in wellness policies

### **Barriers to producers:**

Relationship with school: need contracts and communication developed in winter, difficult to start relationship

Problems for small producers: perception that only large farms can participate, competition with subsidized food and commodities

Logistics: expensive to deliver small amounts of product, coordination with other producers and with schools

Money: schools unable to pay a fair price Post-harvest handling: washing and preparing product

**Needs of producers:**

Relationship with school: good communication well in advance to plan, allies within the school, online tools for communicating product availability

Logistics: efficient transportation, access to Distributors

Infrastructure: storage capacity

Money: fair prices

**Recommendations**

- **Institutional change:** 1) work with school boards to value and emphasize local purchases and classroom learning through hands-on learning; 2) change in job descriptions and staff expectations to work with local producers and serve seasonal foods; 3) fund training for converting kitchens to scratch cooking; 4) provide start up funds for school gardens; 5) create a position for a Maine Farm to School Coordinator
- **Health prioritization:** 1) Farm to School objectives as top public health priority; 2) address local food in the Child Nutrition Act; 3) change school wellness policies to include local food language;
- **Incentives to buy local:** 1) support the local vegetable fund for schools; 2) reimburse school nutrition programs for buying local food; 3) tiered reimbursement rate that favors fresh ingredients; 4) require local foods be incorporated into school lunch programs; 5) increase NSLP subsidies
- **Encourage farmers:** 1) increase subsidies to growers of fresh fruits and vegetables; 2) DOA-supported communication network to connect farms with school; 3) tax incentives for farms who sell to local institutions; 4) fund the creation of regional directories of producers; 5) fund the Eat Local Food Coalition's Maine Food Map project; 6) develop handbook for schools that want to purchase locally
- **Further research:** Conduct a comprehensive statewide survey of farms, fisheries, schools and other institutions to determine specific needs for increasing instate selling/purchasing volume
- **Education:** 1) fit garden curriculum to Maine Learning Results; 2) provide funding for tastings, farm tours, and other events for students to learn about food production and the nutritional value of fresh foods



## Appendix B

### Report on Task 3: Status of Networking Channels that Connect Farm to School Efforts throughout the State

This list of agencies, organizations and community resources is compiled using the eight identified public health districts in Maine and the counties within those districts. Statewide organizations with farm to school program resources including but not limited to Maine Ag in the Classroom, Maine Nutrition Network, Maine Department of Education Child Nutrition Services, Maine School Garden Network and Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association are listed in the final section.

Healthy Maine Partnerships (HMPs) in each region have been listed; some partnerships are more involved in farm to school efforts than others including some who have designated farm to school coordinators. This is also the case for Soil and Water Conservation Districts. University of Maine Cooperative Extension has sixteen county offices throughout the state. Programs of UMaine Extension that can support farm to school efforts include agriculture, nutrition; gardening and horticulture, youth and family development and business and community development.

Businesses and not-for-profit organizations which support farm to school efforts by providing educational programs and resources and those who assist with procurement and delivery of local foods have been included in this list. As the local foods movement in Maine is growing rapidly, there may be other supports not listed here. Please contact your local Healthy Maine Partnership, UMaine Extension or Soil & Water Conservation District office for updated supports. Private farms were not included as there are extensive lists on the Get Real Get Maine website, Eat Maine Foods website and the Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners (MOFGA) website- see statewide listings pp.16-19.

#### **Aroostook District Aroostook County**

Central Aroostook Soil & Water Conservation District  
735 Main Street, Suite #3  
Presque Isle, ME 04769  
Telephone: (207)764-4153  
Fax: (207)768-3407  
[info@caswcd.org](mailto:info@caswcd.org)  
[www.caswcd.org](http://www.caswcd.org)

Healthy Aroostook  
Carol Bell, HMP Coalition Director  
771 Main Street  
Presque Isle, ME 04769  
207-768-3056 x639  
[cbell@acap-me.org](mailto:cbell@acap-me.org)  
[www.healthyarostook.com](http://www.healthyarostook.com)

Healthy Aroostook  
Tracy Tweedie, HMP Project Director

20 Hartford Street  
Houlton, Maine 04730  
Tel: 207-532-0908  
Fax: 207-532-4755  
[trtweedie@yahoo.com](mailto:trtweedie@yahoo.com)

MSAD#1 Educational Farm  
Aaron Buzza, Farm Manager  
Physical Address: 340 State Street, Presque Isle, Maine 04769  
Mailing Address: 79 Blake St., Suite 3, Presque Isle, ME 04769  
Tel: 207-764-7725  
[aaron.buzza@sad1.org](mailto:aaron.buzza@sad1.org)

Power of Prevention  
Rachel Charette, HMP Coalition Director  
194 East Main Street  
Fort Kent, ME 04743  
207-834-1944  
[rachel.charette@nmmc.org](mailto:rachel.charette@nmmc.org)  
[www.powerofprevention.org](http://www.powerofprevention.org)

Southern Aroostook Soil & Water Conservation District  
Angela Wotton  
304 North Street  
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[www.saswcd.org](http://www.saswcd.org)

St. John Valley Soil & Water Conservation District  
139 Market Street, Suite 106  
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Presque Isle, ME 04769-0727  
800-287-1462 (in Maine)  
or 207-764-3361

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University of Maine Cooperative Extension, Aroostook County  
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800-287-1469 (in Maine)  
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## **Downeast District Washington County**

St. Croix Valley Healthy Communities  
Paul Stuart, HMP Coalition Director  
10 Barker St  
Calais, ME 04619  
207-454-0761  
[pstuart@scvhc.org](mailto:pstuart@scvhc.org)  
[www.healthystcroix.org](http://www.healthystcroix.org)

University of Maine Cooperative Extension, Washington County  
34 Center Street  
Machias, ME 04654  
800-287-1542 (in Maine)  
or 207-255-3345  
[ceswsh@extension.umaine.edu](mailto:ceswsh@extension.umaine.edu)

Washington County One Community  
Eleody Libby, HMP Coalition Director, (207) 263-7691, [elibby@wc-oc.org](mailto:elibby@wc-oc.org)  
Regina Grabrovac, Farm to School Coordinator, (207) 255-0036, [grabrovac@gmail.com](mailto:grabrovac@gmail.com)  
PO Box 679  
Machias, ME 04654  
[www.washingtoncountymaine.com/wcoc](http://www.washingtoncountymaine.com/wcoc)

Washington County Soil & Water Conservation District  
51 Court Street  
PO BOX 121  
Machias, ME 04654  
Telephone: (207)255-4659  
Fax: (207)255-6817  
[wcsxcd@verizon.net](mailto:wcsxcd@verizon.net)  
[www.downeastsoilwater.org](http://www.downeastsoilwater.org)

## **Hancock County**

Bucksport Bay Healthy Communities  
Mary Jane Bush, HMP Coalition Director  
66 Bridge Street  
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207-469-6682  
[mjbush@bucksportbayhealth.org](mailto:mjbush@bucksportbayhealth.org)  
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College of the Atlantic  
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105 Eden Street  
Bar Harbor, ME 04609  
207-288-5015  
[www.coa.edu/index.htm](http://www.coa.edu/index.htm)

Hancock County Soil & Water Conservation District  
190 Bangor Road  
Ellsworth, ME 04605  
Telephone: (207)664-7496  
Fax: (207)667-3585  
[megan.facciolo@me.nacdnet.net](mailto:megan.facciolo@me.nacdnet.net)  
[www.ellsworthme.org/soilandwater](http://www.ellsworthme.org/soilandwater)

Healthy Acadia  
Doug Michael, HMP Coalition Director, [doug@healthyacadia.org](mailto:doug@healthyacadia.org)  
Sue DeBlieck, Farm to School Coordinator, [sue@healthyacadia.org](mailto:sue@healthyacadia.org)  
Maria Donahue, School Health Coordinator, [mdonahue2@u98.k12.me.us](mailto:mdonahue2@u98.k12.me.us)  
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Healthy Peninsula  
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Union River Healthy Communities  
Helena Peterson, HMP Coalition Director  
52 Christian Ridge Road  
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207-667-5352  
[healthy@downeasthealth.org](mailto:healthy@downeasthealth.org)  
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**Penquis District  
Penobscot County**

Bangor Region Public Health and Wellness  
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Heart of Maine Resource Conservation & Development  
1423 Broadway  
Bangor, ME 04401  
207-947-6622 x5  
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Partnership for a Healthy Northern Penobscot  
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**Piscataquis County**

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Piscataquis County Extension Office  
Contact: Donna Coffin, Extension Educator  
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Dover-Foxcroft, Maine 04426  
[www.mainehighlandsfarmers.com](http://www.mainehighlandsfarmers.com)



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42 Engdahl Drive  
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## **Central District Somerset County**

Greater Somerset Public Health Collaborative (Somerset Heart Health)  
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Sebasticook Valley Healthy Communities  
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207-487-3890 x115  
[dlittlefield@emh.org](mailto:dlittlefield@emh.org)  
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Somerset County Soil & Water Conservation District  
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Skowhegan, ME 04967  
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## **Kennebec County**

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Monmouth Grows  
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Time and Tide Resource Conservation and Development Area  
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Augusta, ME 04330-5692  
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## **Western Maine District Franklin County**

Franklin County Soil & Water Conservation District  
107 Park Street  
Farmington, ME 04938  
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## **Oxford County**

Healthy Oxford Hills  
Ken Morse, HMP Coalition Director, ME Rep. to NE Region F2S Steering Committee  
207- 739-6222, [ken@healthyoxfordhills.org](mailto:ken@healthyoxfordhills.org)  
Kate Goldberg, Education Coordinator, 207-739-9751, [kate@healthyoxfordhills.org](mailto:kate@healthyoxfordhills.org)  
181 Main Street  
Norway, ME 04268  
[www.healthyoxfordhills.org](http://www.healthyoxfordhills.org)

River Valley Healthy Communities Coalition  
Carol Emery, HMP Program Manager

94 River Street  
Rumford, ME 04276  
207-364-7408  
[rvhcc@qwi.net](mailto:rvhcc@qwi.net)  
[www.rvhcc.org](http://www.rvhcc.org)

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University of Maine 4-H Camp & Learning Center at Bryant Pond  
PO Box 188  
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207-665-2068  
[bp@umext.maine.edu](mailto:bp@umext.maine.edu)  
[www.extension.umaine.edu/bryantpond](http://www.extension.umaine.edu/bryantpond)

### **Androscoggin County**

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254 Goddard Road  
PO BOX 1938  
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Fax: (207)783-4104  
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[www.androscogginswcd.net](http://www.androscogginswcd.net)

Bates College  
2 Andrews Rd.  
Lewiston, ME 04240-6028  
(207) 786-6255  
[www.bates.edu](http://www.bates.edu)

Healthy Androscoggin  
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[www.healthyandroscoggin.org](http://www.healthyandroscoggin.org)

Lots to Gardens  
Kirsten Walter, Director  
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Lewiston, ME 04243-7292  
(207)513-3844

[lotstogardens@gmail.com](mailto:lotstogardens@gmail.com)  
[www.stmarysmaine.com/nutrition-center-of-maine/lots-to-gardens](http://www.stmarysmaine.com/nutrition-center-of-maine/lots-to-gardens)

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[andsag@extension.umaine.edu](mailto:andsag@extension.umaine.edu)

## **Midcoast District**

Time and Tide Resource Conservation and Development Area  
21 Enterprise Drive, Suite #1  
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[Ron.Desrosiers@me.usda.gov](mailto:Ron.Desrosiers@me.usda.gov)  
[www.timeandtide.org](http://www.timeandtide.org)

Maine Harvest Link  
Mike Gold, produce brokering and custom delivery services  
16 Waning Rd  
Unity, ME 04988  
tel: 207-877-1182  
[mike@maineharvestlink.com](mailto:mike@maineharvestlink.com)  
[www.maineharvestlink.com](http://www.maineharvestlink.com)

## **Waldo County**

Belfast Co-op  
Belfast, ME 04915  
(207) 338-2532  
[www.belfast.coop](http://www.belfast.coop)

Healthy Waldo County  
Vyvyenne Ritchie, HMP Coalition Director  
118 Northport Ave.  
Belfast, Maine 04915  
207-930-6761  
[vritchie@wchi.com](mailto:vritchie@wchi.com)  
[www.healthywaldocounty.org](http://www.healthywaldocounty.org)

Linda Hartkopf  
MSAD #34 School Health Coordinator  
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NewForest Institute  
66 Monroe Highway  
Brooks, ME 04921  
207-722-3625  
[tammy@newforestinstitute.org](mailto:tammy@newforestinstitute.org)  
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One Tanglewood Road  
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Waldo County Soil & Water Conservation District  
266 Waterville Road  
Belfast, ME 04915  
Telephone: (207)338-1964  
Fax: (207)338-4972  
[kym.sanderson@me.nacdnet.net](mailto:kym.sanderson@me.nacdnet.net)  
[www.waldosoilandwater.org](http://www.waldosoilandwater.org)

Unity College  
Jesse Pyles, Sustainability Coordinator [jpyles@unity.edu](mailto:jpyles@unity.edu)  
(207) 948-3131 x295  
90 Quaker Hill Road  
Unity, Maine 04988  
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## **Knox County**

Aldermere Farm, a program of Maine Coast Heritage Trust  
70 Russell Avenue  
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207-236-2739, 207-230-2582 (fax)  
email: [aldermere@mcht.org](mailto:aldermere@mcht.org)  
[www.aldermere.org](http://www.aldermere.org)

Farmer's Fare  
PO BOX 480, Rte 90  
Rockport, ME 04856  
207-236-3273  
[www.farmersfaremaine.com](http://www.farmersfaremaine.com)

Good Tern Natural Foods Co-op and Café  
750 Main St.  
Rockland, ME 04841  
[www.splitpeastudio.com](http://www.splitpeastudio.com)

Knox County Community Health Coalition  
Connie Putnam, HMP Coalition Director, 207-594-5440 x3  
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Woody Moore, School Health Coordinator, 207-596-2002  
24 Lincoln Street  
Rockland, ME 04841  
[www.penbayymca.net/kcchc/kcchc.html](http://www.penbayymca.net/kcchc/kcchc.html)

Knox-Lincoln Soil & Water Conservation District  
191 Camden Road  
Warren, ME 04864  
Telephone: (207)273-2005  
Fax: (207)273-2228  
[kathy.ward@me.nacdnet.net](mailto:kathy.ward@me.nacdnet.net)  
[www.knox-lincoln.org](http://www.knox-lincoln.org)

Port Clyde Fresh Catch  
Community Supported Fisheries (CSF)  
Midcoast Fishermen's Association  
Jessica Libby, Order Fulfillment Coordinator/CSF Manager  
[jessica@midcoastfishermen.org](mailto:jessica@midcoastfishermen.org), (207) 975-2191  
P.O. Box 223  
Port Clyde, Maine 04855  
[www.portclydefreshcatch.com](http://www.portclydefreshcatch.com)

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## **Lincoln County**

Chewonki Foundation  
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Wiscasset, ME 04578-4822  
(207) 882-7323  
[www.chewonki.org/sustainablefood/default.asp](http://www.chewonki.org/sustainablefood/default.asp)

Focus on Agriculture in Rural Maine Schools (FARMS)  
PO Box 268, Wiscasset, ME 04578  
207-882-7564

[arw@ceimaine.org](mailto:arw@ceimaine.org)  
[www.farmsforme.org](http://www.farmsforme.org)

Healthy Lincoln County  
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[hlchmp@midcoast.com](mailto:hlchmp@midcoast.com)  
[www.youthpromise.org/hlc.html](http://www.youthpromise.org/hlc.html)

Morris Farm Trust  
156 Gardiner Road  
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Ph:207-882-4080  
Email: [info@morrisfarm.org](mailto:info@morrisfarm.org)  
[www.morrisfarm.org](http://www.morrisfarm.org)

Rising Tide Community Market  
323 Main Street  
Damariscotta, ME 04543  
207-563-5556  
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### **Sagadahoc County**

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[access@midcoasthealth.com](mailto:access@midcoasthealth.com)  
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Bath Regional Career and Technical Center, Culinary Arts Program  
Instructor- Emily Dittman, [edittman@rsu1.org](mailto:edittman@rsu1.org)  
800 High Street  
Bath, ME 04530  
207-443-8257  
[www.rsu1.org/bath\\_regional\\_voc\\_center.aspx](http://www.rsu1.org/bath_regional_voc_center.aspx)

Bowdoin College Organic Garden  
Brunswick, Maine 04011  
207-725-3000  
[www.bowdoin.edu/organic-garden/the-food/resources.shtml](http://www.bowdoin.edu/organic-garden/the-food/resources.shtml)

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## **Cumberland District Cumberland County**

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Cumberland County Soil & Water Conservation District  
35 Main Street  
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Healthy Lakes Region  
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Local Sprouts  
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[www.sites.google.com/site/localsproutscooperative/Home](http://www.sites.google.com/site/localsproutscooperative/Home)

Rippling Waters Organic Farm  
Richard Rudolph  
55 River Road  
Steep Falls, Maine 04085  
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Wolfe's Neck Farm  
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## **York District York County**

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Partners for Healthier Communities  
Sarah Roberts, HMP Coalition Director  
25 June Street  
Sanford, ME 04073  
207-490-7033  
[sroberts@goodallhospital.org](mailto:sroberts@goodallhospital.org)

University of Maine Cooperative Extension, York County  
21 Bradeen Street, Suite 302  
Springvale, ME 04083  
800-287-1535 (in Maine)  
or 207-324-2814  
[cesyrk@extension.umaine.edu](mailto:cesyrk@extension.umaine.edu)

York County Soil & Water Conservation District  
21 Braden Street  
Springvale, ME 04083  
Telephone: (207)324-0888  
Fax: (207)324-4462  
[info@yorkswcd.org](mailto:info@yorkswcd.org)  
[www.yorkswcd.org](http://www.yorkswcd.org)

York County Farmers' Network  
Frank Wertheim, Extension Educator  
University of Maine Cooperative Extension  
21 Bradeen St Suite 302  
Springvale, Me 04083  
207-324-2814 or 1-800-287-1535 (in state)  
[frankw@umext.maine.edu](mailto:frankw@umext.maine.edu)  
[www.ycfn.org](http://www.ycfn.org)

## **Statewide:**

Coordinated School Health Programs  
Judith Sipowicz, Director  
Maine Department of Education  
23 State House Station  
Augusta, ME 04333  
Tel. 207-624-6696  
Fax 207-624-6691

Crown O' Maine Organic Cooperative (COMOC),  
"Maine Products for Maine People" delivery service throughout the state  
PO Box 532  
Gardiner ME 04345  
207-588-0060  
207-316-5321  
[marada@crownofmainecoop.com](mailto:marada@crownofmainecoop.com)  
[www.crownofmainecoop.com](http://www.crownofmainecoop.com)

Eat Maine Foods and the Maine Foods map  
[www.eatmainefoods.org](http://www.eatmainefoods.org)

Farm Fresh Connection (delivery of Maine grown goods)  
Martha Putnam  
Freeport, ME  
207-939-4748  
[Martha@farmfreshconnection.org](mailto:Martha@farmfreshconnection.org)  
[www.farmfreshconnection.org](http://www.farmfreshconnection.org)

Get Real, Get Maine  
"The Market and Production Development Division of the Maine Department of Agriculture sponsors this web site to help Maine food and agricultural businesses connect with prospective customers."  
[www.getrealmaine.com](http://www.getrealmaine.com)

Maine Ag in the Classroom  
MAITCA Executive Director, Willie Sawyer Grenier  
28 State House Station  
Augusta, ME 04333  
Phone: 207.287.5522  
Email: [maitca@maine.gov](mailto:maitca@maine.gov)  
[www.agclassroom.org/me](http://www.agclassroom.org/me)

Maine Dairy & Nutrition Council • Maine Dairy Promotion Board  
Sarah Platt, RD, School Nutrition Programs Manager  
333 Cony Road  
Augusta, ME 04330  
Phone 207-287-3621 • Fax 207-287-7161 • Toll-free orders 888-496-6255 •  
[info@drinkmainemilk.org](mailto:info@drinkmainemilk.org)  
[www.drinkmainemilk.org](http://www.drinkmainemilk.org)

Maine Department of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources  
Market and Production Development, Division of  
28 State House Station Deering Bldg. - AMHI Complex  
Augusta, ME 04333-0028  
(207) 287-3491  
[www.maine.gov/agriculture/contacts/index.html](http://www.maine.gov/agriculture/contacts/index.html)

Maine Department of Education, Child Nutrition Services, Farm to School  
Contact: Walter Beesley, [walter.beesley@maine.gov](mailto:walter.beesley@maine.gov)  
23 State House Station Augusta, ME 04333-0023  
(207)624-6843  
Fax (207)624-6841  
[www.maine.gov/education/sfs/farm.html#f2slist](http://www.maine.gov/education/sfs/farm.html#f2slist)

Maine Department of Health and Human Services  
Physical Activity and Nutrition Program  
David Crawford, Program Manager, [David.Crawford@maine.gov](mailto:David.Crawford@maine.gov)  
Key Plaza, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor, 11 State House Station

Augusta, ME 04333-0011  
(207) 287- 5044  
[www.healthymainepartnerships.org/panp/contactus.aspx](http://www.healthymainepartnerships.org/panp/contactus.aspx)

Maine Farmland Trust  
97 Main St  
Belfast, ME 04915-6536  
(207) 338-6575  
[www.maineFarmlandtrust.org](http://www.maineFarmlandtrust.org)

Maine Nutrition Network  
Mary Ann Bennett, Project Specialist II  
(207) 626-5044  
[mbennett@usm.maine.edu](mailto:mbennett@usm.maine.edu)  
Cutler Institute for Health and Social Policy  
Muskie School of Public Service, USM  
45 Commerce Drive, Suite 11  
Augusta, ME 04330  
[www.maine-nutrition.org](http://www.maine-nutrition.org)

Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association (MOFGA) and Maine Harvest Lunch  
PO Box 170, 294 Crosby Brook Road  
Unity, Maine 04988  
207-568-4142  
[www.mofga.org](http://www.mofga.org)

Maine Pomological Society  
Renae Moran, secretary  
c/o Highmoor Farm, P.O. Box 179  
Monmouth Maine 04259  
Phone 207-933-2100  
[info@maineapples.org](mailto:info@maineapples.org)  
[www.maineapples.org](http://www.maineapples.org)

Maine Potato Board  
744 Main Street, Rm 1  
Presque Isle, ME 04769  
Phone: (207) 769-5061  
Fax: (207) 764-4148  
[mainepotatoes@mainepotatoes.com](mailto:mainepotatoes@mainepotatoes.com)  
[www.mainePotatoes.com](http://www.mainePotatoes.com)

Maine School Food Service Association  
President, Doris Demers  
207-363-5554  
[ddemers@yorkschoools.org](mailto:ddemers@yorkschoools.org)  
York & Kittery Schools, Director

Maine School Garden Network  
[www.msgn.org](http://www.msgn.org)

University of Maine Cooperative Extension  
5741 Libby Hall  
Orono, ME 04469-5741  
(207) 581-3188  
1-800-287-0274 (in Maine)  
TDD: 1-800-287-8957 (in Maine)  
[www.extension.umaine.edu](http://www.extension.umaine.edu)

University of Maine System  
16 Central Street  
Bangor, ME 04401  
(207) 973-3201  
[www.maine.edu](http://www.maine.edu)



## Appendix C

### Report & Recommendations of the Task 4 'Best Practices' Subcommittee Mary Ellen Doyle, Ellie Libby, Renee Page, Amy Winston 16 October 2009

#### Goal, Purpose & Approach

The Task 4 subcommittee looked at best practices from an organizing and programmatic perspective, products and tools, procurement, distribution, funding, and foodservice production (handling, preparation, recipe development and menu planning in the kitchen). We reviewed the existing literature on farm to school, including National Farm to School Network survey data, and interviewed state level program officers and farm to school leaders nationwide. We also looked at impacts on foodservice, farming, students, parents, and community to determine some areas for recommendation for Maine Farm to School.

#### Farm to School Definition

For purposes of this report, Farm to School is local product in school meal programs, including salad bars, entrees and other meal items, classroom snacks, and taste tests; and integrated educational activities, such as taste tests, chef demos or farmer class visits, farm tours and field trips, harvest of the month, greenhouses, composting and recycling. Farm to School addresses local agricultural sustainability, children's health, educational standards, and community economic development, thus making it an exceptional tool for advancing common goals in each of these areas. Plainly stated, it is a win-win situation, a solution to multiple contemporary health and education, economic and environmental issues.

As of August, 2009, the National Farm to School Network (NFSN) counted more than 2000 programs in 41 states. The NFSN measures five priority program areas:

1. **Training and Technical Assistance**
2. **Policy**
3. **Networking**
4. **Media and Marketing**
5. **Information Services**

We feel these areas offer a starting point to use as an initial template or framework for developing Maine's Farm to School focus and strategic objectives. An additional area for focus that is essential is research and program evaluation.

#### 1. Training & Technical Assistance

- **Effective planning and capacity building – establishing farm to school planning committees**
- **culinary boot camp training and student demo cooking to develop efficiently and market effectively to students new recipes featuring local products to increase participation**
- **kitchen assessments for school food service programs to determine readiness, equipment and storage needs, staff training**



- effective participatory community development process – Community buy-in
- school classroom curriculum development institutes to link food based education to school foodservice local procurement
- matchmaking farms and food producers with schools
- value-adding products to save labor in school kitchens and assist producers

## 2. Policy

- Interdepartmental collaboration and synergy guide state investment in farm to school as a way to legitimate, integrate and institutionalize initiatives into state administrative policies, practices and procedures.
- States such as Vermont and Connecticut, Oregon, Oklahoma, and many others (for complete listing, see National Farm to School Network, *Farm to School Legislation: A State by State Listing*, 2009) fund personnel staff time for farm to school coordination. Funding is allocated from the state's general fund or obtained through external funding streams and particular technical assistance activities may be outsourced to nonprofits or consultants to streamline costs.
- Legislative policy establishes a roadmap for information sharing, interdepartmental collaboration and public-private partnerships to implement and benchmark farm to school related project activities, including marketing to and matchmaking Maine farmers/food producers and Maine schools (along with other institutional markets).
- Annual funding for farm to school planning, capacity building, and implementation mini-grants.
- Programs (viz. Connecticut Farm Fresh Schools, Pride of New York) that expand existing state agricultural marketing campaigns (such as Get Real Get Maine) to schools buying local or local producers selling to schools.
- Linking increased state reimbursements for school nutrition programs to farm to school purchasing (as in Oregon's Kaiser Foundation funded pilot program in rural and urban schools) has demonstrated economic and other impacts, and made local purchasing economically viable.
- Local school boards that have adopted area quotas for local procurement per district in Tennessee and Rhode Island effectively engage, educate local school districts (i.e., boards).
- Connecticut, Massachusetts and New York successfully feature weeklong harvest meals with educational activities that celebrate local foods.
- Several states have passed Resolutions urging full federal funding for farm to school in the upcoming Child Nutrition Reauthorization Act. There are currently three additional proposed bills for federal farm to school funding that states may support.
- Rhode Island makes sales to schools (and other tax supported institutions) tax deductible (eligible for a 5% tax credit). This incentive has made the school market even more appealing to producers.

- States that work with existing USDA and other federal, state, or organize local programs to incorporate local produce leverage state funds as match to maximize funding for farm to school in order to help ensure systematic access to these funds at the state and local levels.
- MA and NY are among state that allow up to 10% above the lowest bid to facilitate purchase of in-state agricultural products. Schools may award contracts up to \$25,000 (this amount is currently being reconsidered for increase) without requiring other bids. Permitting (and encouraging) local and regional governmental bodies to establish local procurement preferences by majority vote supports farm to school.
- States that continue to expand farm to school as official practice consider additional supplemental legislation to address specific challenges to school food procurement that make local purchasing difficult (see, for instance, Vermont's additional legislation to support meat and milk processing).

### 3. Networking, Program Coordination Models and Statewide Organizing

#### Program Coordination: Existing Models

In addition to these standards constituting best policy practices - they are pioneering in policy, program, and implementation - a look at coordination models for state level farm to school programs reflects at least three key models:

- (1) *Non-profit collaboration* (e.g., Vermont FEED, Ecotrust, Portland, Oregon; Farm to Table, Santa Fe, New Mexico; Kids First, Rhode Island);
- (2) *State agency based program* (e.g., Oregon, Oklahoma, Connecticut, Washington, California - .see Best Practices Survey attached to this document for details);
- (3) *University based*;
- (4) *Individual consultants* (for example, Massachusetts Farm to School, Kids First, Rhode Island).

These models are not necessarily mutually exclusive. States reinforce departmental work with contracted services that employ non-profits or consultants for particular purposes to achieve efficiency or maximize efficacy based on cost and requisite training and expertise or experience.

#### Statewide Organizing

The results of a National Farm to School Network (Northeast Regional Lead Agency and Regional Steering Committee) farm to school survey on statewide organizing demonstrates that many states (indicated by 29 of 30 (97% of) respondents have some type of statewide organizing taking place. (A note about survey validity and reliability: This does not necessarily mean that 29 out of 30 states have some degree of state level organizing; the actual number of states represented is unknown. Neither is the small sample size (30) generalizable; rather, it is suggestive of patterns that may be used to

extrapolate meaning to formulate additional questions for further inquiry. This subcommittee devised a questionnaire to use as the basis for semi-structured interviews with farm to school leaders outside Maine; triangulating these results has yielded some more verifiable observations about best practices outside Maine and created context to understand whether they are transferable or adaptable to Maine.)

*Origin and Process* Farm to school is relatively new. Therefore, statewide organizing efforts remain relatively young (25% are 1-2 yrs old and another 25% 3-5 yrs old – i.e., one half are less than 5 years old), with just over 10% at an advanced age of 5 or more years). Just over a third (35%) of state level farm to school projects have designated leaders; 5% rotate leadership positions and the majority are run democratically by consensus with participants feeling fully engaged. Most (54%) efforts began as a group effort; (35%) were started by a non-profit; 23% were state-initiated; 23% originated with state farm to school legislation, and 15% grew out of a university. For most respondents, state level activities included networking (96%); information sharing (93%); for 64%, activities included state level policy (legislation) and a website; and 61% of state activities included education programs. Of those that began as group efforts, some (15%) work groups and collaborations have officers and a few (12%) have MOUs, organizationally - 65% are open and have unlimited seats; in most (76%) the original founders are still active (they are mostly very new still, so this is not surprising that their sustainability and integration/institutionalization remains a key question and must be a key variable taken into consideration in developing Maine Farm to School.

*Coordination* As far as program model or coordination, 48% (of respondents) reported that in their state a government agency coordinates or develops farm to school related program/activities; 26%, a nonprofit; 19% are a partnership; 11% are university based; and 11% are at the workgroup stage, a task force, network, or council of members (however that is defined); and 7% are individual consultants or project directors.

Programs that really target foodservice directors and farmers directly, not just service providers, other non-profit or government workers, are most effective. Successful groups organize specific work groups around demonstration pilot projects or topical areas such as policy, procurement, education/curriculum programs, networking, communications, research and evaluation.

#### 4. Media and Marketing

- Regularly update Maine profile on national Farm to School Network website (farmtoschool.org)
- Maine Farm to School Newsletter to accompany listserv
- Develop and/or market existing web food buyers exchange
- Host matchmaking meetings for farmers and foodservice directors
- Develop and supply marketing materials for program like Get Real Get Maine specific to schools buying local, including educational posters for classrooms and

cafeterias that illustrate the importance of and celebrate Maine agriculture and buying, eating, and growing local foods.

- Convene annual conference/send state reps to National Farm to Cafeteria and regional Northeast conference

## 5. Information Services

*Communication* In many programs (92%) email is the predominant mode of communication. Meetings are held via conference call (81%) as well as in person (73%). Online sharing tools or platforms from listserves, BaseCamp, Google docs, and actual marketplace exchanges are increasingly popular (and practical) tools as well.

Farm to school program coordinators and networks convene meetings, workshops, and annual conference events and serve as information clearinghouses. Cutting edge programs have developed innovative web site exchanges linking farmers with school foodservice directors (as well as other markets) – such as Oregon’s Foodhub ([www.ecotrust.org/foodhub](http://www.ecotrust.org/foodhub)) and New Hampshire Virtual Farmers Marketplace ([www.nhfarms.com](http://www.nhfarms.com)) – as well as matchmaking through face to face meetings and relationship building (e.g., The Vermont Foods Matchmaker for Local Food Buyers, Sellers and Distributors).

## Addendum 1: Details about Federal and other State Policies

### Federal Policy

The Farm Bill established local geographic preferences in bidding for school foodservice contracts, funded the Community Food Projects program through USDA, and helps build local food infrastructure. Child Nutrition Act Reauthorization established ...

Working with existing programs

### State Policy

24 states have some kind of Farm to School legislation, including the following Northeast states (besides Maine): Connecticut, Delaware, Massachusetts, New York, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, and Vermont. These along with Oregon and Washington, Oklahoma, are considered best practices. These examples of state legislation contain a number of possible policy options (i.e. recommendations) for Maine to consider. Please refer to Appendix 2 for additional details on state-specific policies and links to the referenced legislation.

#### *New York:*

- Policy establishes New York Harvest for New York Kids Week in October
- Requires NYS Dept of Ed to work with NYS Dept of Ag
- Allows schools to pay farmers prices comparable to what they would otherwise pay for locally grown foods through conventional channels as opposed to comparing to national wholesale prices
- Breaks down other barriers to schools accepting bids from local farmers and creates avenue for local farmers to be part of traditional purchasing mechanisms

#### *Pennsylvania:*

- Healthy Farms-Healthy Schools Bill creates a statewide grant program that supports nutrition education, parent involvement and connections to Pennsylvania farms.
- Along with Delaware, Pennsylvania has a state resolution urging Congress to fund the Farm to Cafeteria Projects Act (part of Child Nutrition Reauthorization Act) and any legislation that promotes farm to school partnerships

#### *Vermont:*

- F2S Planning and Implementation Grants to schools (up to \$15,000) for start-up funds. Funded through state, as part of its farm to school legislation, through Agency of Agriculture.
- Training and technical assistance offered to schools and farmers. TA provided by FEED in conjunction with the VT Agency of Agriculture and Department of Education.
- Research and pilot use of local meats and dairy in schools

#### *Maryland:*

- Jane Lawton farm to school program promotes sale of MD grown products to MD schools
- Development/maintenance of a website and database for participating farmers
- Series of promotional events such as Maryland Homegrown School Lunch Week

- Requires Board of Works to adopt regulations allowing 5% price preference above the lowest bid for Maryland grown products
- Schools and state facilities shall review procurement regulations and, to the extent possible, use the 5% price preference to purchase local products

*Massachusetts:*

- Mass Harvest Week
- HB 4429 (Ch. 123 of Acts of 2006) allows state agencies to pay up to 10% above the lowest bid to purchase in-state agriculture products and state procurement officers may award contracts up to \$25,000 without seeking other bids (as mandated by standard procurement procedures). Governmental bodies may establish local procurement preferences by majority vote.

*Washington:*

- Dept of General Admin shall work with Dept of Agric to identify strategies to increase purchase of Washington products
- This was declared emergency legislation to improve health of rural economies and the agricultural economy
- State Dept of Agric will facilitate purchase of WA grown food by schools and will create the WA grown fresh fruit and vegetable grant program, and educational school gardens
- Revision of food procurement procedures [to buy local products]
- Creates farmers to food banks pilot program

*Oregon:*

- Requires DoE to establish OR Farm to School and School Garden Program to utilize OR products and produce from school gardens, promote food and garden based educational activities, and work with state Dept of Agric to develop farm to school related programs
- To fund the Dept of Educ's costs the Dept may accept contributions of monies and assistance from any source, public or private
- Requires Dept of Educ to report by Feb 1 2009 to Legislature on farm to school/school garden activities established under sec 1 of this 2008 Act

*Rhode Island:*

- Allows farmers to obtain 5% tax credit based on cost of production if they sell to local schools, offering incentive to participate in farm to school programs
- Farm to school language is embedded in the Rhode Island Nutrition Requirements (i.e., state regulation) and directly in district contracts.
  - Specifically, all 32 contracts in RI have language that is at least similar to the following: “\_(Name of FSMC)\_, as the agent of the LEA, will maximize use of RI/locally grown products, including but not limited to, fruits, vegetables and dairy products, whenever possible, and when purchased by the LEA directly, such fruits, vegetables and dairy products must be used by \_\_\_(Name of FSMC)\_\_\_ in the LEA's Food Service Program.”
  - At the state level, the RI Nutrition Program Requirements must meet current federal school breakfast, national school lunch, and after-school snack program

requirements and exceed federal requirements for all federally reimbursable meals and snacks (including a la carte foods and beverages sold or offered by school food service operations campus wide, and at fundraisers, school stores, vending, classroom rewards, celebrations and special events) according to specified criteria. Compliance is monitored by the Department of Education's existing school nutrition review process. These standards were drafted in February and March 2009 and became effective in July, so evaluation is outstanding. Categorical standards were developed for whole grains, fruits and vegetables, cooked legumes, sodium, milk and juice, sweeteners, and a la carte competitive foods (including snacks and vending). In addition to minimum servings of a variety of types of different state approved fruits and vegetables at each meal or snack, Rhode Island Nutrition Requirements specifically state: "Schools will utilize locally (preferably RI) grown and harvested produce when available."

#### *Connecticut:*

- Established farm to school program in Department of Agriculture; DoA to collaborate with Dept of Education to promote sale of CT grown farm products to schools/districts, and other educational instns under DoE jurisdiction
- DoA role to encourage, solicit, and guide CT farmers through process of selling to schools/districts and other educational institutions while working with Dept of Ed to support schools through the local procurement process. DoA also required to develop and maintain a database of farmers interested in farm to school, and provide farmer outreach
- DoE to promote events like CT Grown for CT Kids Week to bring students together with CT agriculture both inside and outside the classroom. DoE to solicit schools/districts/other institutions to purchase CT grown products and provide outreach, guidance, and training to districts, parent and teacher organizations, schools and school foodservice directors concerning the value and procedure for purchasing and incorporating CT foods into their menus
- Allocates \$100K annually to encourage sale of CT grown food to schools, restaurants, retailers, other businesses/instns statewide
- CT Farm Fresh Schools promotes CT schools serving CT farm products. Schools which buy more than 20% local are eligible for CT Farm Fresh School certification and able to be promoted as such

#### *Tennessee:*

- Each local school board's plan for compliance with nutritional meal programs specifically includes provisions for encouraging purchase of local agric products, including setting geographic preferences for use of agricultural products from each local school board's county or other geographical area, as well as flexible bidding processes to assist farmers to bid competitively on portions of a given contract/nutrition plan, rather than the entire plan (may break out parts of contracts – e.g., for specific products - for local farmers/producers). Each local school board required to submit plan for compliance to commissioner 60 days prior to start of school year, and modifications in succeeding years also 60 days before school starts.

## Addendum 2: References

### **References:**

Joshi, Anupama and Andrea Misako Azuma. 2009. "Bearing Fruit: Farm to School Program Evaluation Resources and Recommendations." National Farm to School Network. Center for Food and Justice, Urban and Environmental Policy Institute, Occidental College.

Joshi, Anupama, Azuma, Andrea Misako, and Gail Feenstra. 2008. "Do Farm to School Programs make a Difference? Findings and Future Research Needs." *Journal of Hunger & Environmental Nutrition*, Vol. 3(2/3).

Northeast Regional Lead Agency National F2S Statewide Organizing Survey results (conducted for short course on statewide organizing at National Farm to Cafeteria Conference, Portland, OR, April, 2009).

National Farm to School Network: [www.farmentoschool.org](http://www.farmentoschool.org)

Conversations with RLAs, foodservice directors, other farm to school project directors, coordinators, and leadership.



## Farm to School Survey - Best Practices October 2009

1. Does your state have a state policy regarding Farm to School? Yes No

If yes, please comment on the key points and what you feel is useful or what you would like to see added.

Does your policy include?

- Legislation that a Farm to School Program be staffed under a Dept of Agriculture, Education or other (like a non profit- does this go out to RFP). If so what is this position, a coordinator, marketing, other? Is the position FT/PT, added onto the persons already full job description, other? Where does the funding for this position come from- general fund? Dept of Ag, Dept of Ed?
- A requirement for the creation and maintenance of a master list of farmers willing to participate in Farm to School
- Mandate regarding preferential purchasing of local foods when possible
- Allocation of funds to for Farm to School-mini grants, funding for local produce or meats/fish,
- Tax credit to farmers selling to schools
- Tax credit to schools buying local produce and food
- Price buffer or preference allowed for purchasing local product
- Support for school gardens
- Support for nutrition education to be aligned/ a part of with Farm to school
- Language that allows Farm to school to be sustainable and not dependent on the presence of one individual to keep the initiative alive
- A minimum amount required

2. How do you think Farm to School is best coordinated? (Indicate if responder is a Coordinator and what Dept or Org they belong to)

State Dept of Ed or Ag,, University system, Private, Other? Why?

3. What are the distribution models used in your state?

Are they effective? Do you have any other recommendations?

4. How do the successful Farm to School programs in your state handle the following?

- Cleaning produce
- Prepping produce
- Handling produce to meet food safety standards

5. Is there any funding that is allocated to coordinating farm to school in your state? (If not already addressed by question 1.)

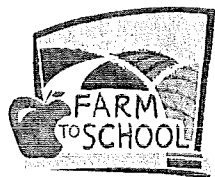
6. Does your state have a state Farm to School Website?

If yes what would one find there?

Tools to get started?

List of farmers?

Technical assistance of another kind?



## Appendix D

# Farm to School Legislation: A State-by-State Listing

To date, 24 states have passed legislation regarding farm to school programs. Below are summaries and links to the text of this legislation. This information should reflect legislation that has passed as of August 11, 2009.

<a href="#">CA</a>	<a href="#">CO</a>	<a href="#">CT</a>	<a href="#">DE</a>	<a href="#">GA</a>	<a href="#">IL</a>	<a href="#">IA</a>	<a href="#">KY</a>	<a href="#">ME</a>
<a href="#">MD</a>	<a href="#">MA</a>	<a href="#">MI</a>	<a href="#">MT</a>	<a href="#">NM</a>	<a href="#">NY</a>	<a href="#">OK</a>	<a href="#">OR</a>	<a href="#">PA</a>
<a href="#">RI</a>	<a href="#">TN</a>	<a href="#">TX</a>	<a href="#">VT</a>	<a href="#">VA</a>	<a href="#">WA</a>			

### California

To search for California state legislation: <http://www.assembly.ca.gov/acs/acsframeset2text.htm>

#### **SB 281 (2005 California Statute, Chapter #236)**

Introduced in 2005, SB 281 established the California Fresh Start Program that provides an additional 10 cents per a meal for fruits and vegetables. SB 281 also encourages schools to buy California products when commercially available. As a part of nutrition education, sampling of produce is required, and may include purchase of local products for this purpose.

According to SB 281 the State Department of Education will have \$400,000 to provide grants, on a competitive basis, to a county office of education or community college. Of this \$400,000, no more than \$100,000 can be used to cultivate an online professional development seminar for school-site staff on serving, safe-handling guidelines, marketing, and promoting nutritious fruits and vegetables. Also no more than \$300,000 is to be used to conduct a comprehensive evaluation of educational materials and marketing of California Fresh Start Pilot Program.

[Back to State List](#)

### Colorado

To search for Colorado state legislation:

[http://www.state.co.us/gov\\_dir/leg\\_dir/olls/session\\_laws\\_of\\_colorado.htm](http://www.state.co.us/gov_dir/leg_dir/olls/session_laws_of_colorado.htm)

#### **SB 127 (2006 Colorado Session Laws, Chapter #242)**

[http://www.state.co.us/gov\\_dir/leg\\_dir/olls/sl2006a/sl\\_242.htm](http://www.state.co.us/gov_dir/leg_dir/olls/sl2006a/sl_242.htm)

SB 127 established the Fresh Fruits and Vegetables pilot program for the 2006-2007 and 2007-2008 school years, to provide students in participating public schools with free fruits and vegetables. Interested school districts must apply for the program through the Department of Education. Eligible schools are selected based on a variety of criteria, one of which is to ensure that a certain percentage of students enrolled in a particular school district are eligible for reduced or free lunch under the federal "National School Lunch Act." This bill also requires that participating schools use Colorado fruits and vegetables to the maximum extent possible.

\$500,000 was appropriated. \$350,000 was used to convert reduced price meals to free meals. \$150,000 went to the Fresh Fruits and Vegetables Pilot Program.

**HB 1307 (2005 Colorado Session Laws, Chapter #317)**

[http://www.leg.state.co.us/CLICS2005A/csl.nsf/fsbillcont3/7D29AAABBE3A21EA87256FA3007CC90B?Open&file=1307\\_enr.pdf](http://www.leg.state.co.us/CLICS2005A/csl.nsf/fsbillcont3/7D29AAABBE3A21EA87256FA3007CC90B?Open&file=1307_enr.pdf)

Under HB 1307 governmental bodies purchasing agricultural products are allowed to preference Colorado products over out of state products as long as the quality is equal, the Colorado producer is able to meet requested quantity, and price is either lower than the lowest out of state bid, or "reasonably exceeds" the lowest bid. "Reasonably exceeds" is defined as a bid that may exceed the lowest bid and can be paid for by the existing fiscal budget.

[Back to State List](#)

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**Connecticut**

To search for Connecticut state legislation: <http://www.cga.ct.gov/>

**HB 5847 (2006 Connecticut Acts, P.A. 06-135)**

<http://www.cga.ct.gov/2006/ACT/PA/2006PA-00135-R00HB-05847-PA.htm>

HB 5847 is "an act implementing the provisions of the budget concerning education" and therefore pertains to a variety education related programs including farm to school. The farm to school program is established within the Department of Agriculture, which will collaborate with the Department of Education to promote the sale of Connecticut-grown farm products to school districts, individual schools and educational institutions that are under the jurisdiction of the Department of Education.

The Department of Agriculture's (DOA) role is to encourage, solicit, and guide Connecticut farmers through the process to sell their products to school districts, individual schools and educational institutions, while also working with the Department of Education to support schools through the local procurement process. The DOA is also required to develop and maintain a database of farmers interested in farm to school, and to outreach to these farmers.

According to this bill the Department of Education (DOE) will promote events such as Connecticut Grown for Connecticut Kids week to bring school kids together with Connecticut agriculture inside and outside of the classroom. The DOE should "encourage and solicit school districts, individual schools and other educational institutions under its jurisdiction to purchase Connecticut-grown farm products, and provide outreach, guidance and training to districts, parent and teacher organizations, schools and school food service directors concerning the value of and procedure for purchasing and incorporating into their regular menus Connecticut-grown farm products."

**PA 05-228 (2005 Substitute Senate Bill #410)**

[http://www.cga.ct.gov/asp/cgabillstatus/cgabillstatus.asp?selBillType=Public+Act&bill\\_num=228&which\\_year=2005&SUBMIT1.x=7&SUBMIT1.y=12&SUBMIT1=Normal](http://www.cga.ct.gov/asp/cgabillstatus/cgabillstatus.asp?selBillType=Public+Act&bill_num=228&which_year=2005&SUBMIT1.x=7&SUBMIT1.y=12&SUBMIT1=Normal)

Allocates \$100,000 annually to encourage the sale of Connecticut-grown food to schools, restaurants, retailers, and other institutions and businesses in the state.

**SB 589 (2004 Connecticut Acts, P.A. 04-222)**

<http://www.cga.ct.gov/2004/act/Pa/2004PA-00222-R00SB-00589-PA.htm>

SB 589 is "an act concerning the preservation of the family farm and Long Island Sound" and therefore pertains to various agriculture-related programs including the Connecticut Farm Fresh Schools program. Administered by the Commissioner of Agriculture, Connecticut Farm Fresh Schools is to promote Connecticut schools that are serving Connecticut farm products. Schools, including public, non-public, and higher education institutions, in which 20% or more of the food served by the school consists of Connecticut grown/produced foods are eligible to be certified as a "Connecticut Farm Fresh School" and are able to use "Connecticut Farm Fresh School" in promotional materials and activities.

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## Delaware

To search for Delaware state legislation: <http://legis.delaware.gov/>

### HR 74 (2004)

<http://legis.delaware.gov/LIS/LIS142.NSF/vwLegislation/HR+74?Opendocument>

House Resolution 74 urges Congress to pass the Farm to Cafeteria Projects Act (Child Nutrition Reauthorization), and any other legislation promoting farm to school partnerships. The goals of this bill are to assist schools in purchasing locally grown food, provide more healthy fresh food for school children, educate children and their families about foods grown in their communities, and to expand market opportunities for local farms.

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## Georgia

To search for Georgia state legislation: <http://www.legis.state.ga.us/>

### SB 44 (2009, Act #58)

[http://www.legis.ga.gov/legis/2009\\_10/sum/sb44.htm](http://www.legis.ga.gov/legis/2009_10/sum/sb44.htm)

This act allows purchasing preferences for bids on certain supplies, materials, equipment, and agricultural products manufactured or produced in Georgia, allowing schools to preference local products for purchases that are under \$100,000.

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## Illinois

To search for Illinois state legislation: [http://www.illinois.gov/government/gov\\_legislature.cfm](http://www.illinois.gov/government/gov_legislature.cfm)

### HB 0078 (2009, Public Act 096-0153)

<http://www.ilga.gov/legislation/BillStatus.asp?DocNum=78&GAID=10&DocTypeID=HB&LegId=40067&SessionID=76&GA=96>

This Act, the Farm Fresh Schools Program Act, recognizes that it is in the best interest of the state to encourage and invest in farm to school programs to improve child health and strengthen local economies. It establishes a competitive grant program for the implementation of farm to school programs and also creates the Farm Fresh School Fund in the state treasury, from which grant money will come.

### HB 3990 (2009, Public Act 096-0579)

<http://www.ilga.gov/legislation/publicacts/fulltext.asp?Name=096-0579>

The Local Food, Farms, and Jobs Act creates the Illinois Local and Organic Food and Farms Council. This council will be responsible for facilitating the growth of an Illinois-based local farm and food economy. The Act establishes local food procurement goals for state agencies to purchase 20% of their food locally by 2020 and State-funded institutions such as schools would have a goal of 10% by 2020. It also creates a local food purchase preference for state-owned food buyers that allows them to pay a premium of up to 10% above the lowest bid in order to purchase locally grown goods.

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## Iowa

To search for Iowa state legislation: <http://www.legis.state.ia.us/>

### SF 601 (2007)

<http://coolice.legis.state.ia.us/Cool->

[ICE/default.asp?Category=billinfo&Service=Billbook&menu=false&ga=82&hbill=SF601](http://www.ice.state.ia.us/ICE/default.asp?Category=billinfo&Service=Billbook&menu=false&ga=82&hbill=SF601)

Iowa's farm to school program was originally part of SF 209 and SF 452, and is currently written into SF 601. This bill establishes a statewide Iowa farm to school program that is administered by the Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship and a Farm to School Council. The purpose of this program is to improve child nutrition in schools and strengthen local and regional farm economies. This program encourages the relationships between Iowa farms and Iowa schools (elementary and secondary) to purchase locally and regionally produced or processed foods to provide Iowa's children with fresh minimally processed food for inclusion in school lunches.

**SF 551 (2007)**

<http://coolice.legis.state.ia.us/Cool->

[ICE/default.asp?Category=billinfo&Service=Billbook&menu=false&hbill=SF551](http://www.ice.state.ia.us/ICE/default.asp?Category=billinfo&Service=Billbook&menu=false&hbill=SF551)

\$80,000 was appropriated for farm to school in FY08 and another \$80,000 was appropriated for FY09. Money will go toward salaries, support, maintenance, and other miscellaneous needs.

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## Kentucky

To search for Kentucky state legislation: [http://www.lrc.ky.gov/record\\_search.htm](http://www.lrc.ky.gov/record_search.htm)

**HB 484 (2008 Kentucky Acts, Chap. # 37)**

[http://www.ncsl.org/programs/enviro/healthyCommunity/healthyCommunity\\_search.cfm](http://www.ncsl.org/programs/enviro/healthyCommunity/healthyCommunity_search.cfm)

This bill would extend the provisions of KRS 45A.645 to encourage governing boards of public post secondary institutions to purchase Kentucky-grown agricultural products if the vendor can meet quality and pricing requirements; and if the institutions purchase agricultural products. See HB 669 from 2006 for further details. (Last Update: 6/3/2008)

**HB 626 (2008 Kentucky Laws, Chap. #154)**

[http://www.ncsl.org/programs/enviro/healthyCommunity/healthyCommunity\\_search.cfm](http://www.ncsl.org/programs/enviro/healthyCommunity/healthyCommunity_search.cfm)

This bill amends current law concerning the Kentucky Proud program. It creates a Kentucky Proud Advisory Council and creates a Kentucky Proud promotion fund, with a grant program using available funds. Before a state agency may purchase Kentucky-grown agricultural products, the vendor shall be required to participate in the Kentucky Proud program, if the vendor can meet quality and pricing requirements. See HB 669 from 2006 for further details.

**KRS 45A.645 (2006)**

<http://www.lrc.ky.gov/KRS/045A00/645.PDF>

This bill addresses the direct marketing of Kentucky-grown products to state agencies. Under KRS 45A.645 State agencies shall purchase Kentucky-grown agricultural products if quality and pricing requirements can be met. All vendors selling to state agencies must participate in the Kentucky-Grown Labeling Program. All Kentucky-grown products that are purchased by state agencies must also be reported to the legislature. Also non-U.S. grown agricultural products must be labeled with a country of origin label if they are purchased by a state agency.

**HB 669 (2006 Kentucky Acts, Chapter 244)**

<http://www.lrc.ky.gov/record/06RS/HB669/bill.doc>

This bill amends KRS 45A.645, requiring state agencies to purchase Kentucky-grown agriculture products if vendors can meet quality and pricing requirements. Also, prospective vendors may also apply for marketing assistance from the state, as long as the vendor is participating in the Kentucky grown labeling and logo program.

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## Maine

To search Maine state legislation: <http://janus.state.me.us/legis/>

### **LD 1140/ HP 784 (2009 RESOLVE, Chapter 106, LD 1140, item 1)**

[http://www.mainelegislature.org/legis/bills/bills\\_124th/billtexts/HP078401.asp](http://www.mainelegislature.org/legis/bills/bills_124th/billtexts/HP078401.asp)

This Resolve directs the Department of Education, the Department of Health and Human Services, and the Department of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources to establish a work group to strengthen farm to school efforts in Maine. The work group will study current farm to school programs and interests to gain insight into current challenges and successes of establishing and maintaining farm to school programs in Maine. Based on the results of the study, the work group will offer more targeted recommendations for strengthening farm to school programs and initiatives within the state. A report of the study results and recommendations will be submitted to the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs, the Joint Standing Committee on Agriculture, Conservation, and Forestry, and the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services by February 1, 2010. Various organizations will be invited to participate in the working group, including the University of Maine Cooperative Extension, the Maine School Food Service Association, the Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association, the Maine Center for Public Health, the Maine Nutrition Network, the Maine Agriculture in the Classroom Program Association, the Healthy Maine Partnerships, Healthy Oxford Hills, Focus on Agriculture in Rural Maine Schools, Maine Harvest Lunch Program, Western Mountains Alliance, Maine Agricultural Commodity Groups, and other statewide organizations that support Maine agriculture, public health, environment, and economy.

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## Maryland

To search Maryland state legislation: <http://mlis.state.md.us/#pryr>

### **HB 883 (2006 Maryland Laws, Chapter 360)**

<http://mlis.state.md.us/2006rs/bills/hb/hb0883t.pdf>

HB 883 requires the Board of Works to adopt regulations allowing a 5% price preference above the lowest bid for MD grown products. Schools and state facilities are to review procurement regulations and use the 5% price preference for purchasing local products. This section does not apply if it is inconsistent with federal law.

### **SB 158 (2008 Maryland Laws, Chapter #371)**

[http://www.ncsl.org/programs/enviro/healthyCommunity/healthyCommunity\\_search.cfm](http://www.ncsl.org/programs/enviro/healthyCommunity/healthyCommunity_search.cfm)

This bill establishes the "Jane Lawton Farm to School Program" in the Department of Agriculture to promote the sale of farm products grown in the state to schools. This includes developing a database of farmers interested in selling their farm products to schools, creating a promotional event entitled "Maryland Homegrown School Lunch Week," and providing experiential learning for students, such as trips to local farms. The companion to this bill is HB 696.

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## Massachusetts

To search for Massachusetts state legislation: <http://www.mass.gov/legis/laws/seslaws.htm>

### **HB 4429 (Chapter 123 of Acts of 2006)**

<http://www.mass.gov/legis/laws/seslaw06/sl060123.htm>

Earlier versions of this bill include HB 4324, HB 4381, HB 4404. Language was originally made part of the Economic Stimulus Package 2006, and is now a law as Section 4 of Chapter 123 of Acts 2006. HB 4429

allows state agencies to pay up to 10% above the lowest bid to purchase in-state agriculture products as long as there is no conflict with other state or federal laws. State procurement officers may award contracts up to \$25,000 without seeking other bids, as required by standard procurement procedures. A governmental body may establish a preference for purchasing local products by majority vote.

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## Michigan

To search for Michigan state legislation:

[http://www.legislature.mi.gov/\(S\(eieyyhuxshgrck45t5xsssrf\)\)/mileg.aspx?page=home](http://www.legislature.mi.gov/(S(eieyyhuxshgrck45t5xsssrf))/mileg.aspx?page=home)

### HB 6365 and 6366 (Public Act 343 of 2008)

[http://www.legislature.mi.gov/\(S\(pifmimbto4pzi3bdfracoc45\)\)/mileg.aspx?page=getObject&objectName=mc1-380-1274](http://www.legislature.mi.gov/(S(pifmimbto4pzi3bdfracoc45))/mileg.aspx?page=getObject&objectName=mc1-380-1274)

This act, signed into law in December 2008, amends the Revised School Code with regard to procurement of supplies, equipment, and food among other things. The act includes measures to increase the state's small purchase threshold for school food purchases - a school district or public school academy is not required to obtain competitive bids for purchasing food unless the food is purchased in a single transaction costing more than \$100,000.

### HB 6368 (Public Act 315 of 2008)

Public Act 315, "The Farm to School Procurement Act", was signed into action 12/18/2008 and establishes a farm to school program supported by the Department of Agriculture and the Department of Education. The act calls for the coordination and development of farm-to-school procurement processes and procedures; to provide recommendations for producers to access school-related food programs; and to provide for the dissemination of certain information to schools and farm product producers.

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## Montana

To search for Montana state legislation: <http://leg.mt.gov/css/bills/default.asp>

### SB 328 (2007 Montana Laws, Chapter #146)

<http://data.opi.mt.gov/bills/2007/billpdf/SB0328.pdf>

SB 328 allows public agencies to preference Montana agricultural products when price "reasonably" exceeds the lowest price quoted for a similar out of state product. "Reasonably" exceeding the lowest price quoted means that the public agency can remain within its budget without supplemental or additional appropriation to pay for the potentially higher cost of local procurement. This provides an optional exemption from the Montana Procurement Act for public institutions.

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## New Mexico

To search for New Mexico state legislation: <http://legis.state.nm.us/lcs/BillFinder.asp>

### SM 54 (2008)

This resolution commits the Senate to having additional fresh fruits and vegetables served in school meals to every New Mexico student and to strengthening New Mexico's farming communities and increasing farmers' incomes by purchasing fruits and vegetables, when available, from New Mexico farmers.

The Senate requests that the school districts and their respective boards of education and superintendents place great emphasis on, and make a high priority as a matter of educational policy for, the purchase of locally grown foods in their school food programs for the benefit of their students.

The Senate should encourage the food service directors of New Mexico school districts to search out in their various locales, with the assistance of the New Mexico department of agriculture and farm to table, local farmers who want to supply locally grown foods for school food programs.

**SB 90 and HB 264 (2007)**

[http://www.ncsl.org/programs/enviro/healthyCommunity/healthyCommunity\\_search.cfm](http://www.ncsl.org/programs/enviro/healthyCommunity/healthyCommunity_search.cfm)

This bill appropriates \$85,000 from the general fund to provide New Mexico grown fresh fruits and vegetables when available to the Valley High School cluster in the Albuquerque public school district.

**HJM 34 (2001)**

<http://legis.state.nm.us/lcs/session.asp?chamber=H&type=JM&number=34&Submit=Search&year=01>

This bill encourages the Department of Agriculture and the Department of Education to collaborate on increasing the use of New Mexico agricultural products in public school meals. One of the goals in New Mexico is to expand marketing and selling opportunities for the state's farmers and ranchers.

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**New York**

To search for New York state legislation:

<http://public.leginfo.state.ny.us/frmload.cgi?MENU-09735958>

Also available, National Conference of State Legislatures' report on the history of F2S in NY:

<http://www.ncsl.org/programs/health/publichealth/foodaccess/f2sny.htm>

**2002 New York Laws, Article 2, Section 16, subdivision 5-b under Agriculture and Markets**

<http://public.leginfo.state.ny.us/menugetf.cgi?COMMONQUERY=LAWS> (Click "AGM Agriculture and Markets", "Article 2", "16")

**AND**

**2002 New York Laws Article 7, Section 305, subdivision 31 under Education**

<http://public.leginfo.state.ny.us/menugetf.cgi?COMMONQUERY=LAWS> (Click "EDN Education", "Article 7", "305")

Under the jurisdiction of the Education Department with cooperation from the Commissioner of Education and Commissioner of Agriculture and Markets this law establishes a farm to school program to facilitate and promote the purchase of New York farm products by educational institutions in New York. The department will also work on making relevant information available to farmers, farm organizations, and institutions interested in establishing farm to school programs. The department shall also coordinate promotional events such as New York Harvest for New York Kids Week in early October each year.

**S 6024 (2004 New York Laws, Chapter #269)**

<http://public.leginfo.state.ny.us/menugetf.cgi?COMMONQUERY=LAWS> (Click "GMU General Municipal", "Article 5-A", "103")

Allows school districts to apply for permission to purchase directly from associations of more than 10 farmers when no other farmers or smaller associations are available. Raises the dollar cap on direct purchases \$0.15 to \$0.20 per meal per student.



Requires the NYS Education Department to develop regulations with input from the Department of Agriculture and Markets that should:

1. accommodate the provisions of the State Farm-to-School Law;
2. allow schools to pay farmers prices comparable to what they would otherwise pay for locally grown foods through their conventional channels as opposed to comparing to national wholesale prices;
3. allow school districts interested in purchasing local farm products to notify interested farmers statewide in accordance with provisions of the Farm-to-School Law by using publications, websites and other mechanisms;
4. ensure that schools provide a fair opportunity to all farmers interested in selling to them and that schools select the seller or sellers based on the usual traditional purchasing criteria (i.e. low price, quality, reliability, delivery, etc.) without having to divide up purchases proportionally among competing bidders;
5. provide guidelines for dept of education approval of purchases by schools from associations of 10 or more farmers;

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## Oklahoma

To search for Oklahoma state legislation: <http://www.lsb.state.ok.us/>

### **HB 2655 (2006 Oklahoma Session Laws, Chapter #257)**

[http://webserver1.lsb.state.ok.us/2005-06bills/HB/HB2655\\_ENR.RTF](http://webserver1.lsb.state.ok.us/2005-06bills/HB/HB2655_ENR.RTF)

In HB 2655, the director of the Oklahoma Farm to School Program is established under the Department of Agriculture, Food and Forestry. The Director will establish public and non-profit partnerships to develop farm to school programs; provide state leadership to encourage school districts to buy from local farmers; and provide workshops and training for food service, farmers, processors, and others involved in farm to school work. Staff shall be made available from the departments of Health, Education and Human Services to assist in implementation of the program, seek grant funding and private donations for the program, and develop a web site to assist farmers in coordinating fresh food procurement.

\$100,000 was permanently allocated to the Department of Agriculture for the program but not written in the specific language of the bill. The money has been appropriated in total for the past two years

### **HB 2833 (56 O.S. Supplemental 2007, Section 245)**

This bill continues the "Oklahoma Food Security Act" until December of 2012. The Food Security Committee will continue to meet and work on issues such as supporting community food security initiatives and encouraging food production on the local level, supporting efforts to provide farmers' markets with the technology for accepting food stamps, encouraging the use of home and community gardens for food production, and supporting creative transportation methods for connecting at-risk populations with nutritious foods.

This year, HB 2833 included the schools as part of the overall goals of the Oklahoma Food Security Task Force: "Involve schools in identifying and improving students' access to sufficient and nutritious foods." The Governor signed HB 2833 on Friday, June 6th, 2008.

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## Oregon

To search for Oregon state legislation: <http://www.leg.state.or.us/>

### **HB 3601 (2008 Oregon Laws, Chapter #21)**

[http://www.ncsl.org/programs/enviro/healthyCommunity/healthyCommunity\\_search.cfm](http://www.ncsl.org/programs/enviro/healthyCommunity/healthyCommunity_search.cfm)

This bill requires the Department of Education to establish the Oregon Farm to School and School Garden Program. These programs help schools utilize Oregon food products and produce from school gardens, promote food and garden-based educational activities, and work with the state Department of Agriculture to develop farm to school related programs. For the purpose of paying the costs of the Department of Education of administering the Oregon Farm to School and School Garden Program, the department may accept contributions of moneys and assistance from any source, public or private.

On or before February 1, 2009, the Department of Education shall report, in the manner provided in ORS 192.245, to the Seventy-fifth Legislative Assembly on the activities related to the Oregon Farm to School and School Garden Program established under section 1 of this 2008 Act.

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## **Pennsylvania**

To search for Pennsylvania state legislation: <http://www.legis.state.pa.us/>

### **SB 1209 (2006 Pennsylvania Laws, Act #184)**

<http://www.legis.state.pa.us/CFDOCS/Legis/PN/Public/btCheck.cfm?txtType=HTM&sessYr=2005&sessIn d=0&billBody=S&billTyp=B&billNbr=1209&pn=2047>

SB 1209 is known as the Healthy Farms and Healthy Schools bill. This law creates a statewide program modeled after the Kindergarten Initiative. Recognizing the benefits of integrated programs that combine nutrition education, parent involvement, and a connection to local agriculture for students and farmers in Pennsylvania, this program trains teachers and other educational staff on nutrition and agriculture education. Also, a list of Pennsylvania farmers who have agreed to supply foods to Pennsylvania schools was established, and grants have been awarded to schools for procurement of local produce and implementation of educational programs. Grant amounts are limited to 75% of the amount necessary to develop the program and are not to exceed \$15,000 annually, per school. Applicants may use in-kind support to match the amount granted. Money for the Healthy Farms and Healthy Schools is provided by the Governor's budget (<http://www.state.pa.us/papower/cwp/view.asp?A=11&Q=471208>) . \$500,000 has been appropriated for 2007 and 2008 with a similar budget for the same amount through 2012.

### **HR 821 (2004)**

<http://www.legis.state.pa.us/cfdocs/billinfo/billinfo.cfm?year=2003&sind=0&body=H&type=R&BN=0821>

Almost word for word the same as Delaware resolution [HR74], urging Congress to support the Farm to School Projects Act of 2003 and any other legislation that assists schools in purchasing local foods, provides more healthy and fresh food for school children, educates children and their families about foods grown in their communities, and expands market opportunities for local farms.

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## **Rhode Island**

To search for Rhode Island state legislation: <http://www.rilin.state.ri.us/>

### **(2007 Rhode Island General Laws, Section 44-30-27)**

<http://www.rilin.state.ri.us/statutes/TITLE44/44-30/44-30-27.HTM>

This act allows Rhode Island farmers to obtain a 5% income tax credit, based on the cost of production, if they sell to local schools, offering incentive for farmers to participate in farm to school programs.

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## Tennessee

To search for Tennessee state legislation: <http://www.legislature.state.tn.us/>

### **SB 3341 (2008 Tenn. Public Acts, Chapter # 963)**

[http://www.ncsl.org/programs/environ/healthyCommunity/healthyCommunity\\_search.cfm](http://www.ncsl.org/programs/environ/healthyCommunity/healthyCommunity_search.cfm)

This bill specifies that each local school board's plan for compliance with nutritional breakfast and lunch programs include specific provisions to encourage purchasing local agricultural products. This would include setting preferences for the use of agriculture products from each local school board's county or geographical region, as well as allowing flexible bidding processes to assist farmers to bid competitively on portions of a given nutrition plan, rather than an entire nutrition plan. The legislation requires each local school board to submit to the commissioner a plan for compliance with this part sixty (60) days prior to the beginning of the school year. For each subsequent school year, it requires each local school board to submit modifications to the plan sixty (60) days prior to the beginning of the school year.

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## Texas

To Search for Texas state legislation: <http://www.legis.state.tx.us/Home.aspx>

### **SB 1027 (2009)**

<http://www.legis.state.tx.us/BillLookup/History.aspx?LegSess=81R&Bill=SB1027>

This bill establishes an Interagency Farm to School Coordination Task Force made up of members from the state Department of Agriculture, the Texas Education Agency, the Department of State Health Services and representatives of fruit and vegetable producers, school food service organizations, food distribution businesses, child nutrition advocacy organizations, parent organizations, educational institutions, and health nutrition educators. The task force will design and update nutrition and food education resources, expand food-focused experiential education programs, help identify funding sources, create a database of local food available for school use, make available training programs for farmers and ranchers to market their products to schools and school districts, and provide technical assistance and advice to schools.

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## Vermont

To search for Vermont state legislation: <http://www.leg.state.vt.us/docs/docs2.cfm>

### **SJR 59 (2004)**

<http://www.leg.state.vt.us/docs/legdoc.cfm?URL=/docs/2004/acts/ACTR386.HTM>

This resolution urges Congress to enact the proposed "Farm to Cafeteria Projects Act."

### **HB 456 (Act 145 of 2006)**

<http://www.leg.state.vt.us/docs/legdoc.cfm?URL=/docs/2006/acts/ACT145.HTM>

HB 456 encourages farm to school initiatives through improvements to local infrastructure and education. The Commissioner of Education is to award small grants from the education fund to schools that use Vermont products in their school meals and provide nutrition education for students. It also establishes a mini-grant program, with maximum awards being \$15,000, to assist with purchasing equipment, resources and materials that increase local purchasing and education regarding nutrition and agriculture. Grants may also be used for professional development for teachers to learn more about farm to school connections. The Department of Agriculture is to make one-time awards to local processors who are processing local produce for Vermont schools or institutions, while the food service personnel and Commissioner of Education are to provide training in local purchasing and processing for food service

providers. This bill also requires that a report be submitted to appropriate legislative committees on how to increase local purchasing by state entities.

**HB 522 (Act # 38 of 2007)**

<http://www.leg.state.vt.us/docs/legdoc.cfm?URL=/docs/2008/acts/ACT038SUM.HTM>

HB 522 sets goals for Vermont to support in-state agriculture. This includes Vermont's own "buy local" campaign that promotes the purchasing of locally produced foods and dairy products. This bill also establishes systems to connect local producers and processors with state purchasing entities to facilitate marketing local foods. Strategic and technical assistance will also be made available to local producers and processors to create or enlarge facilities necessary to expand sales to the state and other markets. [Although this is a broad direct marketing bill, it does encourage farm to school initiatives, as schools are considered "other markets."]

**HB 91 (Act # 24 of 2007)**

<http://www.leg.state.vt.us/docs/legdoc.cfm?URL=/docs/2008/bills/passed/H-091.HTM>

HB 91 makes the mini-grant farm to school program created by Act #145 of 2006, also referred to as HB 456, permanent. Each grant awarded is not to exceed \$15,000.

\$110,000 was designated for this Act in the 2008 session. \$85,000 will go to farm to school mini grants, and another \$25,000 will go to training and technical assistance for schools to develop their farm to school programs.

**H. 192 (Section 2)**

<http://www.leg.state.vt.us/docs/2010/bills/Passed/H-192.pdf>

The Milk and Meat Pilot Program will test the feasibility of and options for centralized statewide purchasing of local milk and meat for school meals and offer technical assistance and training to school staff regarding sourcing, use, storage, and preparation of local foods.

**H. 313 (Section 35)**

<http://www.leg.state.vt.us/docs/2010/Acts/ACT054.pdf>

The Farm to Plate (F2P) Initiative directs the Vermont Sustainable Jobs Fund, in consultation with the Sustainable Agriculture Council and other stakeholders, to develop a ten-year strategic plan to strengthen Vermont's farm and food sector. The primary purpose of the F2P Initiative is to set goals and strategies to strengthen Vermont's farm and food sector, which will increase access to healthy, affordable food for all Vermonters, support existing and new agricultural enterprises, and create sustainable jobs. The plan is due to be complete by June 30, 2010 and will be delivered to the Governor and Vermont Legislature in January, 2011.

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## Virginia

To search for Virginia state legislation: <http://leg1.state.va.us/>

**SB 797 (Chapter #352 of 2007 Virginia Laws)**

<http://leg1.state.va.us/cgi-bin/legp504.exe?071+ful+SB797ER>

SB 797 authorizes the Commissioner of Agriculture and Consumer Services to create a website that promotes Virginia agricultural products to educational institutions. The website should include information such as farmers' contact information, amount and types of produce available.

The website is available at: <http://www.vdacs.virginia.gov/vagrown-july/index.shtml>.

**SJ 347 (2007)**

<http://leg1.state.va.us/cgi-bin/legp504.exe?071+ful+SJ347ER>

SJ 347 authorizes the Secretary of Agriculture and Forestry and the Secretary of Education to establish a

Farm to School Task Force that will develop a plan for implementing a farm to school program in Virginia. The task force will study methods for providing information to the Virginia Department of Education, interested schools divisions and institutions of higher education regarding the availability of Virginia products. The task force has been formed.

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## Washington

To search for Washington state legislation:

<http://apps.leg.wa.gov/billinfo/search.aspx?term=farm%20to%20school>

### **HB 2657 (2002 Washington Laws, Chapter #166)**

According to HB 2657, the Department of General Administration, through the state purchasing director, shall encourage state agencies and local agencies doing business with the state to purchase Washington agricultural products when available. The Department of General Administration shall work with the Department of Agriculture to identify strategies to increase the purchase of Washington products. This was declared emergency legislation to improve the health of rural economies and the agricultural economy. HB 2657 is still on the books; however, SB 6483 goes far beyond 2657.

### **SB 6483 (2008)**

This is a comprehensive piece of legislation, requiring the following:

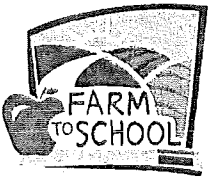
1. The State Department of Agriculture will facilitate the purchase of Washington grown food by schools, by linking school districts and local producers, as well as integrating curricula and programs that demonstrate the benefits of local food.
2. The creation of the Washington Grown Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Grant Program in the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction, to facilitate consumption of Washington grown-nutritious snacks to improve student health and expand the market for locally grown fresh produce.
3. Revision of food procurement and food contract procedures to facilitate the purchase of Washington grown food by state agencies and institutions to the maximum extent practicable. A school district may develop and implement policies and procedures to facilitate and maximize purchases of Washington grown food.
4. School districts may operate school gardens or farms as appropriate for the purpose of growing fruits and vegetables to be used for educational purposes.
5. The creation of the Washington State Farmers Market Technology Improvement Pilot Program to lend technological hardware to farmers markets to assist farmers markets and Washington farmers develop the capability to accept electronic payment cards, including electronic benefits transfers.
6. The creation of the Farmers to Food Banks Pilot Program. The Office of Financial Management shall work to develop measures for reporting on changes and trends in the purchasing of Washington-grown food by state agencies, institutions of higher education, and schools. The companion to this bill is HB 2798.

If specific funding for the purposes of this act, referencing this act by bill or chapter number, is not provided by June 30, 2008, in the omnibus appropriations act, this act is null and void.

\$1.49 million in funding was appropriated to implement 6483. \$600,000 will be used to provide grant funds to elementary schools with high numbers of low-income students to make available a locally-grown fruit and vegetable snack program.

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### **Acknowledgements**

*Many thanks to Doug Shinkle who has actively updated state farm to school legislation for the National Conference of State Legislatures*

*The Community Food Security Coalition extends grateful thanks to Martelle Esposito, Kim Szeto and Greg Fogel, CFSC Interns, for their tenacity in researching this information, and Ilana Blankman, for her editing expertise. Additionally, a big thank you to Eric Hoffman, CFSC Policy Associate, for his hard work in refining this document.*

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## **Resolve, Directing the Department of Education and the Department of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources To Convene a Work Group To Strengthen Farm-to-school Efforts in the State**

**Emergency preamble.** Whereas, acts and resolves of the Legislature do not become effective until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted as emergencies; and

**Whereas,** farm-to-school initiatives are effective and innovative approaches to help youth eat healthier and more nutritious foods, improve academic performance, introduce learning opportunities with regard to food production and preparation and provide hands-on experiential education; and

**Whereas,** farm-to-school initiatives help preserve working farmland, invigorate local economies, rebuild and revitalize communities, promote environmental stewardship and realize the goals of the State's food policy; and

**Whereas,** the State's public schools are tax-supported and the purchase by schools of local products strengthens the local tax base; and

**Whereas,** this legislation establishes a process to review and strengthen farm-to-school initiatives throughout the State; and

**Whereas,** in the judgment of the Legislature, these facts create an emergency within the meaning of the Constitution of Maine and require the following legislation as immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety; now, therefore, be it

**Sec. 1 Convene work group. Resolved:** That the Department of Education, the Department of Health and Human Services and the Department of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources, referred to in this resolve as "the departments," shall convene a work group to study farm-to-school initiatives and programs in the State and develop recommendations for strengthening farm-to-school efforts in the State; and be it further

**Sec. 2 Participants. Resolved:** That, in conducting the review and developing recommendations, the departments shall invite the participation of the following agencies, groups and organizations:

1. The University of Maine Cooperative Extension;
2. The Maine School Food Service Association;
3. The Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association;
4. The Maine Center for Public Health;
5. The Maine Nutrition Network;
6. The Maine Agriculture in the Classroom Program Association;
7. The Healthy Maine Partnerships;
8. Healthy Oxford Hills;



9. Focus on Agriculture in Rural Maine Schools;
10. Maine Harvest Lunch Program;
11. Western Mountains Alliance;
12. Maine agricultural commodity groups; and
13. Other statewide organizations involved in supporting Maine agriculture, public health, the environment and the Maine economy; and be it further

**Sec. 3 Duties. Resolved:** That the departments, with input from and in consultation with the participants set forth in section 2, shall:

1. Assess the status of regional and statewide farm-to-school efforts throughout the State, including policies, practices and curricula;
2. Review the existing capacities of and barriers to facilitating the purchase and use of local products;
3. Review the status of networking channels that connect farm-to-school efforts throughout the State;
4. Review best practices and evaluate methods from other farm-to-school programs outside the State; and
5. Prepare recommendations for strengthening farm-to-school initiatives and programs within the State; and be it further

**Sec. 4 Report. Resolved:** That the departments shall submit a report on the study conducted pursuant to section 1 to the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs, the Joint Standing Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry and the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services by February 1, 2010.

**Emergency clause.** In view of the emergency cited in the preamble, this legislation takes effect when approved.