Wisconsin’s Farm to School Efforts

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What is Farm to School?

• CDC – has recommended F2S as one strategy to combat obesity

• WI aim to support Comprehensive Farm to School Programs
  – Local Foods in Meal Programs
    • Breakfast, lunch, or snacks
  – Educational Component
    • Nutrition Education
    • Agriculture Education
  – School Gardens

• Ultimately communities define and decide
Timeline

• 2008 – Great Lakes Regional Farm to School Lead is placed at the Center for Integrated Systems at UW - Madison
• 2008-2009 – Established AmeriCorps F2S Program; other individual program began to spring up around the state
• 2009 – Passed Act 293 – Framework for F2S Program becomes reality
  – Farm to School Council is established
  – A position was created at DATCP for Farm to School – in the process of being recruited
  – A grants program was established with 0 dollars allocated
• 2009 – ARRA Funding for Statewide F2S work as well as Community funding for Wood and LaCrosse
  – Farm to School Toolkits were created – trainings around the state in coordination with DPI
• 2011 – First Statewide Farm to School Summit
• 2012 – DATCP contracted with UW CIAS to carry out T&T assistance program for farm to school
• 2012 – Economic Benefits Analysis – increase in meal reimbursement rates tied to local foods – underway
• 2012 – 12 Communities received grants through Transform WI to work on food system projects
Current Landscape of Farm to School

• At least 88 districts are involved in local food purchasing

• 63% of respondents to the Wisconsin Farm to School Survey of Food Service Directors spent some money on local foods during the 2010 school year. An increase from 38% in 2009

• 88% of respondents are interested in purchasing more local product

• Besides using local food, 51% of schools have classroom food education, 38% have lunchroom taste testing, 31% have farm field trips, and 25% have school gardens
AmeriCorps F2S Program

• Goal: To provide nutritional education activities for students K-12 with the purpose of reducing childhood obesity by increasing access and exposure to local foods in the classroom, lunchroom and after school programs.

• Provides communities with two half – time members to increase the capacity of communities to implement farm to school strategies
UW – Extension Crawford County
B.A. Kennedy Elementary, Wauzeka Elementary, Catholic Schools

F2S Catalyst
- DRIFTLESS ORGANIC GROWN
  - 30 members
- Crawford County Economic Development Center and Kitchen Incubator Project

Partnerships
- Opportunity Center
- City of Prairie du Chien
- Crawford County
BMI Percentile

Healthy weight for children: BMI <85th percentile
Evaluation Project – Key Findings

• Farm to School increases knowledge and attitudes as well as consumption of fruits and vegetables among children by providing more access to fruit and vegetables through lunch meals.

• Improvements in student behaviors tended to increase incrementally with more years of Farm to School programming.

• This implies that Farm to School programs may have gradual, yet sustaining positive impact on student health behaviors.

• http://www.fammed.wisc.edu/farm-to-school-report