

FARM TO SCHOOL

Summarizing County Information from the USDA Farm to School Census

1. Start with a comprehensive list of all public, private and charter schools in the county. If you are new to the area, check with colleagues from other program areas. Some possible ways to find out about area schools might be from 4-H, Family and Consumer Sciences, including the Plan of Work for SNAP-Ed and/or Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program (EFNEP), Community Development and Agriculture and Natural Resources. The Ohio Department of Education publishes the Public School list of free and reduced lunches: <http://education.ohio.gov/Topics/Other-Resources/Food-and-Nutrition/Resources-and-Tools-for-Food-and-Nutrition/MR81-Data-for-Free-and-Reduced-Price-Meal-Eligibil>
2. Visit <https://farmtoschoolcensus.fns.usda.gov/>
 - a. Click "Find Your School District" for the following two options
 - i. If you click on Ohio on the US map there is a state summary and alphabetical list of all reporting schools and districts in the state or ...
 - ii. Use your list of local schools and individually type each school or district name in the search box. Click "go" and check the list for your choice
3. What are the results? For Farm to School activities, did your school or district answer:
 - a. No, with no plans. What were their objections?
 - b. No, but plan to. What activities are they interested in pursuing?
 - c. Yes, currently engaging in activities. What are the activities? What food are they serving?
4. Create a Farm to School County Summary of the listed information. You can compile the information however you would like but here are some suggestions for a short county summary. Also see an example on the back of this page.
 - a. List the names of schools and school districts currently participating in Farm to School and which activities they are participating in, including foods served.
 - i. For future planning – can OSU Extension help with any connections? Can any of the current activities or foods served be used as a model for other interested schools?
 - b. List the names of schools interested in future Farm to School activities. What activities did they list for the future?
 - i. For future planning – can OSU Extension help with any of these activities?
 - c. List the names of schools with no plans for Farm to School activities with their objections.
 - i. For future planning – how can OSU Extension help the school overcome these objections?
 - d. From your list of results, what were the most frequently checked future activities? (results may vary)
 - i. Rank the answers from the most checked to least checked
 - ii. For future planning – how can OSU Extension help schools meet those future plans?

A few points to keep in mind:

- Can't find your district? It's because USDA does not have a record for your school district.
- In this census, this is self-reported data and may conflict with other data sources.
- This data is reported for schools and school districts by the food service director so it may or may not list all farm to school activities depending on the size of the school or district.



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Sample Layout Summary for County Farm to School

XXX County Farm to School Census Results 2015-16

Schools/Districts currently participating in Farm to School Activities	Used local foods in meals	Used local foods in FFVP	School Garden	Smarter Lunchroom
School X	milk bread ice cream	-	-	-
School Y	carrots broccoli apples pears strawberries		yes	-
School Z	yes	-	yes	yes

Schools planning to engage in Farm to School in the future
School District A
School B
School District C

Schools/Districts for with no plans for Farm to School	Reasons
School D	bidding, procurement, availability
School E	catered meals
School District F	reliability, kitchen equipment

Planned Activities ranking/# of respondents	
student field trips to farms or orchards	5
evaluate changes in student acceptance and food waste	5
serve products from school-based gardens or school-based farms in the cafeteria	5
taste tests/demos of products from school-based gardens	5
promote locally produced foods at school in general	4
celebrate Farm to School Month	3
serve locally produced foods as a Smart Snack	3
use Smarter Lunchroom strategies	3
use cafeteria food coaches to promote the consumption of local foods	3
training to school food service staff on farm to school or school gardens	3
use USDA Team Nutrition materials	1
farmer(s) visit, themed promotions, integrate into curriculum	1

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