

FARM TO SCHOOL Webinar Series

These webinars will be approximately 30 minutes each. Can't make it? They will be recorded and posted on the USDA FNS Community Food Systems website: <http://www.fns.usda.gov/farmtoschool/videos-and-webinars>

January 14, 1:00 PM EST - Intro to Farm to School: Planning and Building a Team:

How does a farm to school team function? Learn tips and best practices for building a farm to school team, facing struggles and surprises, and building a foundation for a successful project. Steve Merinelli, Food Service Director from Milton Town, Vermont, joins us to share his first-hand experiences.

Registration: <https://cc.readytalk.com/r/8041ljksl4lc&eom>

January 28, 2:00 PM EST - Setting Goals and Establishing an Evaluation Baseline:

How do you know if your activities are helping local farmers and improving student health? Learn how to integrate program planning/evaluation tools and techniques that will document outcomes and show the impacts of farm to school programs.

Registration: <https://cc.readytalk.com/r/jold9c50eip0&eom>

February 4, 2:00 PM EST - Finding and Buying Local Foods:

USDA Farm to School local food procurement guru, Christina Conell, breaks down the how to's of finding and buying local food. We'll cover a few procurement basics and then focus on where the opportunities are to target local products in the purchasing process. Join to gain insights on how to start making change in your process, big or small.

Registration: <https://cc.readytalk.com/r/egf94pkpefl2&eom>

February 18, 2:00 PM EST - Farm to School Menu Planning:

Let's bring local products to life on your school lunch and breakfast menus! This presentation will take you through the menu planning cycle and show you the variety of ways to incorporate local products into your school recipes, salad bars, and cycle menus so they become permanent items in your kitchen inventory.

Registration: <https://cc.readytalk.com/r/c8h5kxmgkmbym&eom>

March 3, 2:00 PM EST - Food Safety: How can we ensure the safety of farm fresh food? We'll share local food safety best practices, including identifying safety measures for school gardens and school salad bars.

Registration: <https://cc.readytalk.com/r/5vzreykxw70o&eom>

March 17, 2:00 PM EDT - Promoting Your Farm to School Program: You've put in so much hard work! Now, how do you promote your farm to school program to ensure student, school, and community engagement? Hear about programs that have successfully promoted farm to school programs while managing a tight budget.

Registration: <https://cc.readytalk.com/r/upjlruplmamm&eom>

March 31, 2:00 PM EDT - School Gardening: Hear about the different ways to incorporate school gardens into your farm to school program, as well as, hear how schools are successfully procuring school garden produce for their meal programs.

Registration: <https://cc.readytalk.com/r/mp75gq1qterq&eom>

April 7, 2:00 PM EDT - Curriculum Integration: Experiential education is an important component of successful farm to school programs. This webinar will help you plan for your farm to school educational efforts and brainstorm food, agriculture, and nutrition-related educational activities with which you can engage students.

Registration: <https://cc.readytalk.com/r/wb1r7we3d6r6&eom>

April 28, 2:00 PM EDT - Program Sustainability:

Your farm to school project is blooming! But what will happen if funding levels decrease or community interest lags? With this webinar, plan ahead for these potential scenarios and learn about program sustainability best practices.

Registration: <https://cc.readytalk.com/r/h7vwxofhwglj&eom>

May 12, 2:00 PM EDT - Evaluating Your Program: We all know that farm to school programs create positive economic impacts for local and regional farmers and improve the health and well-being of our nation's children. But how can we measure these changes to document these positive impacts? Hear from seasoned farm to school evaluators to learn best practices for evaluating your farm to school efforts.

Registration: <https://cc.readytalk.com/r/l27wtsvj3ai1&eom>

May 26, 2:00 PM EDT - Tying it All Together and Digging In: Join us for a healthy dose of motivation! Deborah Kane, Director of USDA's Office of Community Food Systems, will hit the highlights by showing how local procurement fits into the larger farm to school picture and share several resources to help you meet your local purchasing goals.

Registration: <https://cc.readytalk.com/r/j5k0uh1vk78&eom>