



# Ohio Farm to School Program

The Ohio Farm to School Program is facilitated through the Ohio Food Policy Advisory Council and is a collaboration between the Ohio Departments of Agriculture and Education. The Ohio Farm to School Program is a comprehensive effort to increase access to healthy food options for Ohio's students and create new markets and opportunities for Ohio's farmers. The initiative is funded by a U.S. Department of Agriculture Specialty Crop Grant.

## How Does the Ohio Farm to School Program Work?

Ohio Farm to School activities include a wide-range of purchasing and educational programs.

Some examples include:

- Procuring Ohio-grown foods as part of the school meals or snack programs
- Planting school gardens
- Teaching composting, waste management and agri-science
- Facilitating farm visits or classroom visits by farmers
- Conducting nutrition and cooking classes tied to information on how to access Ohio-grown foods



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## Why is this Important?

- The Ohio Farm to School Program adds more Ohio-grown food into the school meals of Ohio children.
- This program improves access to healthier, locally grown foods and helps boost Ohio's economy.
- In the 2009-2010 school year, Ohio schools spent \$52.5 million on fruit and vegetables for school lunches. If schools purchased 25 percent of their produce from Ohio farmers, \$13.1 million would go back into our local economy.
- Nutritious food is vital to growing children, providing them with the energy they need and helping them to develop healthy lifestyles.
- In Ohio, 35 percent of all third graders are classified as obese or overweight.
- Diabetes prevalence in Ohio has increased by 63.8 percent over the past decade, from 5.8 percent in 1998 to 9.5 percent in 2007.



## How Can My School Participate?

Contact the Ohio Department of Agriculture's Farm to School Coordinator at 614-387-1095 or [farmtoschool@agri.ohio.gov](mailto:farmtoschool@agri.ohio.gov). For more information, visit [www.agri.ohio.gov/](http://www.agri.ohio.gov/)

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