

# **Farm to School Student Advisory Council**

## **Farm to School in Ohio**

The Ohio Farm to School program aims to connect schools with local farms in order to serve healthy meals using Ohio-grown foods. This program increases student knowledge about food and agriculture, increases students' exposure to a variety of foods, and creates new markets and opportunities for Ohio farmers. Interest in Farm to School has increased in recent years. Because of this, we are seeking input from students.

Farm to School takes many shapes, and schools have the opportunity to participate in Farm to School in a variety of ways that include but are not limited to:

- ◆ Featuring one or more local food item as part of the school lunch or snack program, salad bar, school fundraiser, or special event
- ◆ Starting a school garden program and incorporating garden produce into lunch or snack
- ◆ Holding cooking and tasting demonstrations featuring local foods

## **The Farm to School Student Advisory Council**

The Farm to School student advisory council will provide a forum for high school students in Ohio where they can play an active role in shaping and implementing Farm to School initiatives in their state. This council will provide students with a way to voice their concerns and ideas regarding Farm to School initiatives, which include creating access to healthy Ohio-grown food in schools, teaching students about the path from farm to fork, and creating new markets for Ohio farmers. Students of Ohio need to be heard. Students have already expressed a desire to help create and shape Farm to School initiatives in their communities and in their schools; this council will provide students with a forum to influence local and state level programming. By including students in a Farm to School steering committee, we intend to provide students with leadership opportunities and give students a sense of ownership in farm and school programming.

## **Call for Student Advisory Council Representatives**

The Ohio Department of Agriculture Farm to School Initiative would like to extend a call for Student Advisory Council members who will represent high schools throughout Ohio. In order to apply, students must be enrolled in grades 9-12 in a public, private, or charter school in Ohio. Students who are motivated, demonstrate strong leadership skills, have an interest in agriculture, local food issues, or food and nutrition issues and possess a desire to shape Farm to School initiatives in their school district will be given the highest consideration. Experience is not necessary, but students should have an interest in creating personal, school-wide, and community-wide change. If students are selected as a member of the 2010-2011 Farm to School Student Advisory Council, they should be responsible and reliable individuals who are able to pledge a commitment to the Farm to School Advisory Council—this includes attending meetings. Applications are due on January 5<sup>th</sup>, 2011 at 5:00 PM.

If you have any questions about the Farm to School Program or the Farm to School Student Advisory Council, contact Julie Whitson at 614-387-1095 or [JWhitson@agri.ohio.gov](mailto:JWhitson@agri.ohio.gov).

# Farm to School Student Advisory Council Application

You should consider becoming a part of the Farm to School Student Advisory Council if you are motivated, demonstrate leadership skills, have an interest in agriculture or local food issues, and possess a desire to shape Farm to School initiatives in your school district. It is not necessary that you have experience, but it is important that you're willing to work together with students from across the state in an effort to shape and expand Farm to School programming in your community. Please complete this application (subject fields and answers to questions) in a separate word document and mail or email it to the addresses provided.

<b>Name:</b>	<b>Age:</b>	<b>Grade Level:</b>
<b>Address:</b>	<b>City, Zip:</b>	
<b>Email:</b>	<b>County:</b>	
<b>Home Phone:</b>	<b>Cell Phone:</b>	
<b>School District:</b>		
<b>Name of School:</b>		
<b>Geographic Setting:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Urban <input type="checkbox"/> Suburban <input type="checkbox"/> Rural		
<b>Agricultural Background:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Producer <input type="checkbox"/> Non-Producer <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please list):		

Copy and paste the text from this table into a word document. Fill out each subject field on a separate line.

**Please answer the following questions:**

- 1) Why are you interested in becoming a member of the Farm to School Student Advisory Council? (400 word limit)**
- 2) What interests you about Farm to School? (300 word limit)**

- 3) Are there parts of the school food program at your school that you would like to see changed? (300 word limit)
- 4) How do you plan on starting a Farm to School program at your school? If your school already has a Farm to School program, describe the program and explain how you would change this program to make it better. (500 word limit)
- 5) Please describe any leadership skills or experience that you have as a leader. (200 word limit)

Applications must be received via mail or email by **5:00 PM on Wednesday, January 5<sup>th</sup>, 2011.**

Mail or email applications to:  
**Julie Whitson**  
Ohio Farm to School Program  
Ohio Department of Agriculture  
8995 E. Main Street  
Reynoldsburg, OH 43068

Email: [JWhitson@agri.ohio.gov](mailto:JWhitson@agri.ohio.gov)

**Checklist of items needed to apply to the Student Advisory Council:**

<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Application</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Principal and Student Consent Form</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Parent/Guardian Waiver Form</b>

Applicants will be chosen by a committee of representatives from the Ohio Department of Agriculture and the Ohio Department of Education.

# Farm to School Student Advisory Council School Consent Form

I hereby consent that \_\_\_\_\_ (name of student) can participate in the activities of the Farm to School student advisory council. I understand that if this student is selected as a member of the 2010-2011 Farm to School student advisory council, he/she is pledging to make a time commitment for research, projects or other endeavors related to the council. This student will be responsible for attending one state-wide meeting to be held in the spring of 2011. The Ohio Department of Agriculture is not responsible for the transportation of students to or from events. Students will be reimbursed a maximum of \$50 for transportation costs incurred while traveling to and from each event.

I have read this form and consent to this student participating in the Farm to School student advisory council.

**Student Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Principal Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

Completed applications must be received via mail or email by 5:00 P.M., Wednesday, January 5<sup>th</sup>, 2011.

Mail to: Farm to School Student Advisory Council  
Julie Whitson, Ohio Farm to School Program  
Ohio Department of Agriculture  
8995 East Main Street  
Reynoldsburg, Ohio 43068

Email: [JWhitson@agri.ohio.gov](mailto:JWhitson@agri.ohio.gov)

## **WAIVER and ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

The undersigned is the parent or legal guardian of a minor child participating in Farm to School Student Advisory Council. The meetings of the Council will occur both at the Ohio Department of Agriculture in Reynoldsburg, Ohio and at various other locations throughout the State of Ohio. The undersigned acknowledges and understands that there are potential hazards involved in meeting at the Ohio Department of Agriculture, as well as at other locations in the State. These hazards include, but are not limited to, possible exposure to diseases, as well as the hazards involved in travel to and from the meeting locations.

The undersigned hereby waives any and all liability and will hold the Ohio Department of Agriculture, the State of Ohio, and its employees harmless for any claims arising as the result of injury, disease, accident or similar mishap while present on the ODA campus, at any other meeting location, to include travel to and from the meeting location. The undersigned will hold ODA, the State of Ohio, and its employees harmless for any claims arising out of the performance of their duties and will indemnify and hold ODA, the State of Ohio, and its employees harmless for any act or omission while performing services which are not directed or authorized by ODA. This waiver also applies to the undersigned heirs and assigns.

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Parent/Legal Guardian

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Date