



# MICHIGAN FARM TO SCHOOL: DIGGING IN AND TAKING ROOT

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## WHAT IS FARM TO SCHOOL?

Farm to School centers around efforts to offer **local foods in school and early childhood food programs**.

This applies to a variety of initiatives in Michigan, including school garden programs, fundraisers using local agricultural products, farmer visits to school classrooms and cafeterias, school field trips to nearby farms and other curriculum connections.

## WHY FARM TO SCHOOL?

- › Fresher food
- › Increased variety
- › Greater ability to specify needs of school food service programs
- › Support of local farmers and the local economy
- › Support the Michigan Good Food Charter goal that Michigan institutions purchase 20% of their food from local growers, producers and processors by 2020.

## WHO IS INVOLVED?

**Food service professionals, farmers and distributors** have been working together to overcome challenges and improve availability and distribution.

State government, community organizations, agricultural commodity groups, universities, administrators, teachers, parents and community members are supporting efforts to make Farm to School a reality.

## MICHIGAN FARM TO SCHOOL RESOURCES

Sign up for the Michigan Farm to School **listserv** and access our guides and resources at the Michigan Farm to School **website** [mifarmtoschool.msu.edu](http://mifarmtoschool.msu.edu).

There, you will also find information about the MI Farm to School Grant Program which provides **mini-grants** to Michigan early childhood programs and K-12 schools to start and/or expand Farm to School programs. This grant program and Michigan Farm to School activities are funded by the W.K. Kellogg Foundation.

### GUIDES

[Marketing Michigan Products: A Step-By-Step Guide](#) helps Michigan farmers market their products to local schools. Information about food safety, school food budgets and templates of forms food service directors may use to request quotes for local food are included.

[Farm to Early Childhood Programs: A Step-By-Step Guide](#) provides tools and resources to help early childhood program providers of all types and sizes purchase and use local foods in meals and snacks.

[Purchasing Michigan Products: A Step-By-Step Guide](#) helps school food service directors purchase Michigan foods from local farmers and suppliers. Resources to link with local farmers, templates of forms to request quotes and a summary of the regulatory environment are included.

[Garden to Cafeteria: A Step-By-Step Guide](#) provides an approach for school garden educators and stakeholders, both experienced and newcomer, to source products from school gardens for use in the cafeteria or food program.

[Putting Michigan Produce On Your Menu: How to Buy and Use Michigan Produce in Your Institution](#) provides purchase and use equivalencies, storage tips, and a seasonal availability chart to help institutional food service professionals use Michigan foods.

### CONTACTS

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## ADDITIONAL FARM TO SCHOOL RESOURCES

**Cultivate Michigan** is a local food purchasing campaign of the Michigan Farm to Institution Network that can help institutions find, use and promote Michigan featured foods. Go to [cultivatemichigan.org](http://cultivatemichigan.org) for more information.

**Hoophouses for Health** is a loan program managed by the Michigan Farmers Market Association to help farmers increase good food production throughout the year while increasing good food access to vulnerable children and families. Farm to School connections may be available in your community. Visit [mifma.org/hoophousesforhealth/](http://mifma.org/hoophousesforhealth/) to learn more.

**National Farm to School Network** is an information, advocacy and networking hub for communities working to bring local food sourcing and food and agriculture education into school systems. Visit [www.farmtoschool.org](http://www.farmtoschool.org) for resources, farm to school news and more.

## ADDITIONAL FARM TO SCHOOL CONTACTS

**Michigan State University Extension** | [www.msue.anr.msu.edu](http://www.msue.anr.msu.edu)

- › Mariel Borgman (southwest Michigan), 989-506-3922, [mborgm@anr.msu.edu](mailto:mborgm@anr.msu.edu)
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- › Kaitlin Koch (southeast Michigan), 586-469-6088, [kochkait@anr.msu.edu](mailto:kochkait@anr.msu.edu)
- › Terry McLean (Genesee County), 810-244-8530, [mcleant@msu.edu](mailto:mcleant@msu.edu)
- › Michelle Walk (Upper Peninsula), 906-635-6368, [walkmich@msu.edu](mailto:walkmich@msu.edu)
- › Kendra Wills (west Michigan), 517-930-0928, [willsk@anr.msu.edu](mailto:willsk@anr.msu.edu)

**Groundwork Center for Resilient Communities** (northwest Lower Michigan) | [www.groundworkcenter.org](http://www.groundworkcenter.org)

- › Diane Conners, 231-499-3937, [diane@groundworkcenter.org](mailto:diane@groundworkcenter.org)
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**Michigan Department of Education** | [www.michigan.gov/mde](http://www.michigan.gov/mde)

- › Jamie Malnar (School Food Distribution), 517-335-3792, [MalnarJ1@michigan.gov](mailto:MalnarJ1@michigan.gov)
- › Melissa Lonsberry (Child and Adult Care Food Program), 517-241-0526, [LonsberryM@michigan.gov](mailto:LonsberryM@michigan.gov)

**Michigan Department of Agriculture & Rural Development** | [www.michigan.gov/mdard](http://www.michigan.gov/mdard)

- › Lori Yelton, 517-335-3853, [yeltonl@michigan.gov](mailto:yeltonl@michigan.gov)

**Michigan Department of Health & Human Services** | [www.michigan.gov/mdhhs](http://www.michigan.gov/mdhhs)

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The **Michigan State University Center for Regional Food Systems** engages the people of Michigan, the United States and the world in developing regionally integrated sustainable food systems. Our vision is a thriving economy, equity and sustainability for Michigan, the country and the planet through food systems rooted in local regions and centered on Good Food: food that is healthy, green, fair and affordable. Visit [foodsystems.msu.edu](http://foodsystems.msu.edu) and connect with @MSUCRFS on Twitter and Facebook.