



Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy

Farm2School

Favorite Ways to Celebrate Farm to School Month September 2011

In the Cafeteria

- **Menu your favorite Farm to School (“F2S”) foods** during Farm to School Month.
- Make F2S visible in your cafeteria and classroom with **cafeteria line signs**, farmer photos, **Farm to School posters** and bulletin boards.
- Feature **F2S foods in your school colors** (like locally grown red, green and yellow peppers or purple and white varieties of cauliflower).
- Highlight favorite Farm to School items on your **Salad Bar**.
- Have staff wear **F2S t-shirts, aprons** or other F2S-related attire.
- Hang up a **map of your region** to show where your schools’ farmers are located.

For Students

- Read **short messages** on the morning “News” that highlight F2S foods on the menu that day and F2S activities happening during Farm to School Month.
- Run **F2S-related videos** on Smartboards before classes get started.
- Ask your **farmers to visit** with students in the cafeteria, classroom or school garden.
- Collaborate with your farmers to arrange a **farm visit** that give kids a chance to get their hands in the dirt and see where their food comes from.
- Mobilize students, the PTSA, community volunteers or interested organizations to shuck corn or **help with F2S taste-testings**. Feature foods from your school garden if you can.

- Inform teachers about the Farm to School foods you will be featuring and encourage them to discuss those foods or display **F2S signage** in the classroom.

For Parents and Community

- Highlight your F2S program in August and September at **Back to School events**, Curriculum Nights, in school offices and other visible locations in your district.
- **Invite** parents, farmers, administrators, media and community members to lunch.
- Include a few short **educational messages** on your September menu, newsletter or website to highlight your F2S foods and F2S Month activities with parents.
- Deliver a Farm to School **presentation** at a School Board meeting or other event with administrators, parents and community members.
- Send your farmers a **beginning-of-the-school-year kick-off letter** that highlights your F2S plans for the school year and thanks them for being a part of it.
- In late August or early September, send local media a **press release** about your F2S program. Describe how you will celebrate F2S Month and how the community can get involved.

Resources to help

The Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy's "I Dig My Farmer" Promotional Package includes free, easy-to-use graphics and templates for most of the ideas above. Learn more at: www.iatp.org/farm2school.

FFA (formerly Future Farmers of America) may have High School Agriculture teachers and students who can help organize and conduct F2S activities. Find a nearby FFA leader at: <http://www.mnffa.org/ContactUs/ChapterDirectory/tabid/4128/Default.aspx>.

General information about F2S is available from the MN Department of Education at: http://education.state.mn.us/MDE/Learning_Support/FNS/SNP/019557



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