

≈ Farm to School ≈

Keep Farm to School Strong in Wisconsin

The Wisconsin Farm to School Program is imperative for the growth and success of farm to institution opportunities for Wisconsin's farmers, supply chain partners, and students. Farm to school has a strong history of positive economic impacts for farmers and schools, along with health benefits for students in Wisconsin. The Wisconsin Farm to School Program was formally created through a bipartisan vote to support Act 293 passed in 2009.

► **Wisconsin schools purchase over \$9 million of Wisconsin-grown foods each school year. That's huge for our economy and family farmers!**

Governor Walker's proposed budget explicitly eliminates the Wisconsin Farm to School Program, "to reflect budget efficiency measures," even though the state's schools purchase over \$9 million of Wisconsin-grown foods each year thanks to Farm to School programming. This short-sighted budget cut (annual \$66,400 and 1.0 FTE GPR position expenditure) limits market development, training, and resource development to capitalize on the 47% of schools who indicate a desire to increase or begin purchase of local foods.



Fact sheet is brought to you by:



What does Farm to School need for success?

Wisconsin Farm to School needs the capacity and expertise of a dedicated farm to institution specialist. A Program Director position, with an emphasis on institutional purchasing and supply chain development is imperative to maximize purchasing opportunities in Wisconsin. This is a pivotal time to provide key technical assistance to growers and distributors as they expand to meet institutions' needs. Targeted technical assistance is also needed to support the 47 percent of schools, early care centers, hospitals and other large institutions who indicate they will increase or begin purchases of Wisconsin-grown foods.

In the 2017-2019 budget, Wisconsin Farmers Union supports:

- Fully fund Wisconsin Farm to School in the 2017-2019 budget. At \$132,800 and only 1 full-time position, it is a small investment in a program that pays back so much to farmers, schools, and the state's economy, especially in comparison to other programs that have retained funding. If DATCP no longer wishes to house the program, DPI would be the next best home for Farm to School. All we ask is the program remain fully funded and have a home.

Wisconsin Farmers Union is a member-driven farm organization committed to enhancing the quality of life for family farmers, rural communities and all people through educational opportunities, cooperative endeavors and civic engagement. Learn more at www.wisconsinfarmersunion.com.



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