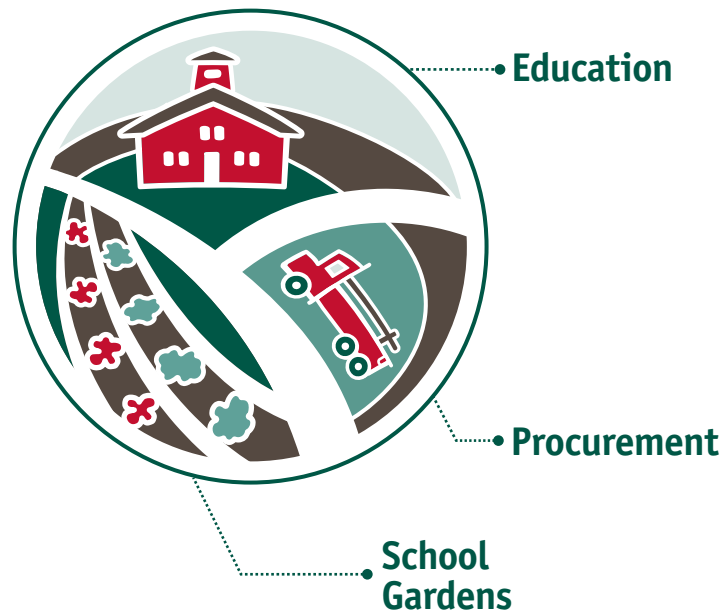




WHAT IS farm to school?

Farm to school enriches the connection communities have with fresh, healthy food and local food producers by changing food purchasing and education practices at schools and preschools. Students gain access to healthy, local foods as well as education opportunities such as school gardens, cooking lessons and farm field trips. Farm to school empowers children and their families to make informed food choices while strengthening the local economy and contributing to vibrant communities.



WHY farm to school?

Kids Win

Farm to school provides all kids access to nutritious, high quality, local food so they are ready to learn and grow. Farm to school activities enhance classroom education through hands-on learning related to food, health, agriculture and nutrition.

Farmers Win

Farm to school can serve as a significant financial opportunity for farmers, fishers, ranchers, food processors and food manufacturers by opening the doors to an institutional market worth billions of dollars.

Communities Win

Buying from local producers and processors reduces the carbon footprint of food transportation while stimulating the local economy. Educational activities such as school gardens and composting programs help to create a healthy environment around the school community.

BY THE numbers

40,328

Number of schools involved*

23.5 million

Number of students reached*

\$385 million

Dollar amount spent on locally purchased foods*

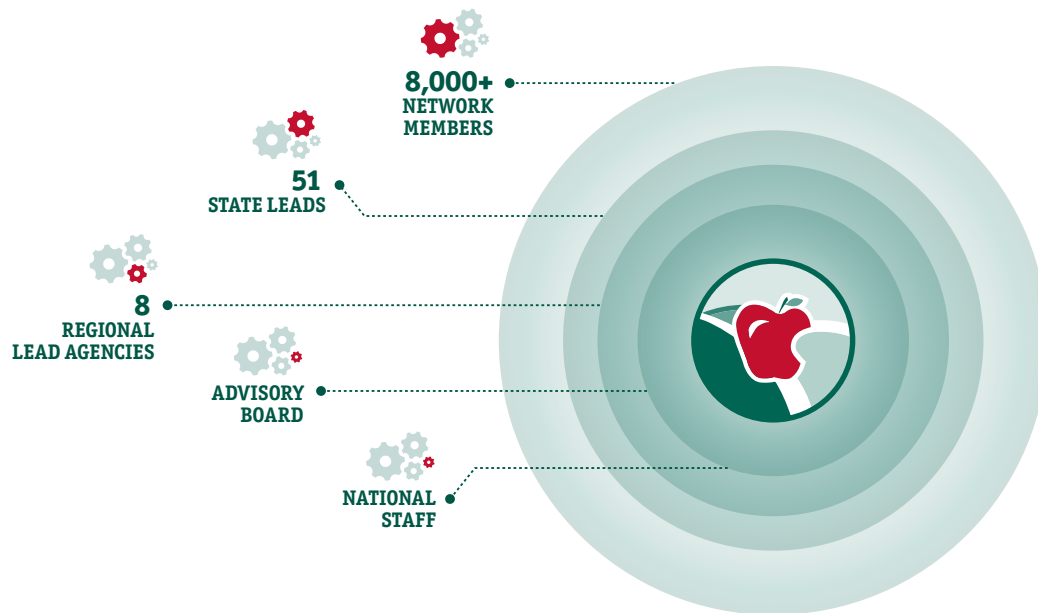
*Estimates based on data from the USDA Farm to School Census for the 2011-2012 school year.



WHO we are

The National Farm to School Network (NFSN) is an information, advocacy and networking hub for communities working to bring local food sourcing and food and agriculture education into school systems and preschools. Farm to school empowers children and their families to make informed food choices while strengthening the local economy and contributing to vibrant communities. NFSN provides vision, leadership and

support at the state, regional and national levels to connect and expand the farm to school movement, which has grown from a handful of schools in the late 1990s to approximately 38,000 schools in all 50 states as of 2012. Our network includes national staff, eight Regional Lead Agencies, 51 State Leads, an advisory board and thousands of farm to school supporters.



WHAT we do

Information

Our website is home to a large, searchable database of farm to school and farm to preschool resources ranging from curriculum and recipes to evaluation toolkits and food safety advice. We host a webinar series, and we share news and information through our monthly email newsletter and social media channels. We create and collate farm to school information and data for use by stakeholders across the country.

Advocacy

NFSN is the voice for the farm to school movement and the leading resource for information about national, state and local policies that impact farm to school and farm to preschool. We advocate for supportive policies and provide regular policy updates through our blog and newsletter. NFSN also organizes an annual public awareness campaign every October for National Farm to School Month.

Networking

Our state and regional leads are the heart of our network. They serve as the networking hub on the local level and share information, resources, needs and opportunities with their counterparts across the country. NFSN hosts the biennial National Farm to Cafeteria Conference, which convenes a diverse group of stakeholders from across the farm to cafeteria movement.