

The 2014 Vermont Farm to School Program Report



Building a Culture of Change by Connecting Health, Education, and Agriculture in Schools

2014 Program Impacts

- 7** New schools established new FTS programs in 2014
- 46** Farm relationships established and enriched
- 460** Farm to School-based activities reported
- 1,813** New students engaged in FTS programming in 2014
- \$77,291** In grant funding allocated to schools in 2014
- \$132,318** Invested by 2014 grantees in local food purchases
- 100%** Of grantees promoted vegetables to their students
- 100%** Of grantees reported active involvement by farmers, agricultural producers, students, and teachers
- 100%** Of grantees participated in farm field trips, taste tests, school gardening, nutrition education, agriculture education, and local cooking activities

Vermont Farm to School Program Impacts Since 2007

Total investment of \$1,372,000

Programming in 124 schools

Over 34,000 students impacted

Support for Farm to School Programming



“At a time when obesity rates among our kids continues to rise, we need to do more to educate families and their children about the value of healthy, nutritious lifestyles and choices. One of the best places to do that is in our schools, where we know students form the foundations of lifelong eating habits.”

-US Senator Patrick Leahy

“Farm to School Programs are an investment in agricultural literacy, local economies, and community stewardship which can connect us to a valuable understanding and appreciation of where our food comes from, while also influencing healthful eating habits.”

-Vermont Secretary of Agriculture Chuck Ross

“How do I engage ALL students in a way that is meaningful and productive? Educators are always looking for ‘the topic’ that will spark a student’s interest, ‘the topic’ that will engage the student in reading, writing, math, social studies, science, art, music, PE and other disciplines. I’ve found that Farm to School education, along with overall health and wellness education, is THE topic.”

-Sharon Elementary School teacher Keenan Haley

What’s Next? According to 2014 Grantees, Factors Critical to Farm To School Program Success Include:

Involvement
Dedicated
Sustainable

By food service staff, administrators, teachers, farmers, and community volunteers

Farm to school coordination staff

Funding to enable long-term planning/implementation of farm to school & agricultural literacy curricula & local food procurement

