

# VERMONT'S FARM<sup>TO</sup>SCHOOL PROGRAM

## OUR PROGRESS & IMPACT ▶

- Since 2007, **Vermont's Farm to School Grant Program** has supported **96 schools** (30% of Vermont public schools) and reached more than **27,000 students**. Schools use grants to integrate healthy, local food and food/farm/nutrition education into cafeterias, classrooms, and communities.
- Vermont school districts spent **\$1,380,280 on local products** in the 2011–12 school year.
- 95% of schools with Farm to School programs report serving local food: Vermont vegetables, fruit, eggs, beef/poultry, dairy products, cider, maple syrup.
- Vermont schools with Farm to School programs report twice the national average in vegetable consumption and better ability to provide a variety of vegetables in school lunch by addressing training and equipment needs.

SOURCES: UVM Center for Rural Studies; USDA Farm to School Census; Vermont FEED

## OUR OPPORTUNITY ▶

### Farm to School is good for the Vermont economy

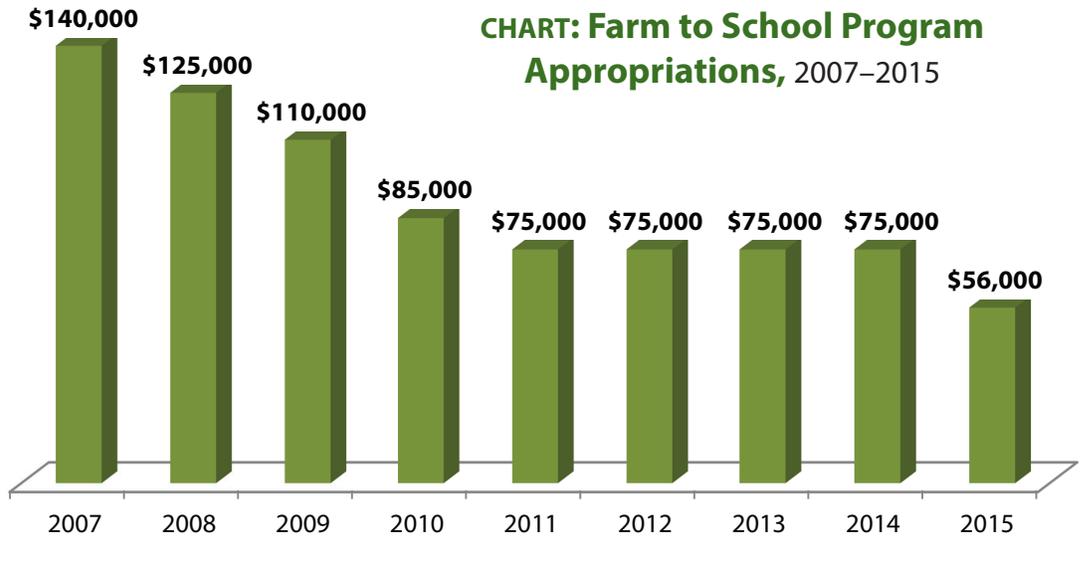
- The Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets estimates that state institutions (schools, hospitals, higher ed) are a potential **\$11 million market** for local foods. At the same time, Vermont's Farm2Plate initiative has set a state-wide goal of 10% local food purchases by 2020. Farm to School programs can help the state meet this goal.
- Farm to School works directly with Vermont producers and institutional buyers to improve the supply chain and develop new market opportunities.
- A statewide grant program of \$75,000 leverages many times more in federal and private grants, as well as school and business investments.
- Vermont spends \$320 million annually on chronic disease. \$75,000 on farm to school programs can build lifelong healthy behaviors.
- It costs about \$6,000 to feed one child a daily school lunch from kindergarten through high school. It can cost \$175,000 to treat one adult for illness related to poor nutrition over their lifetime.

SOURCE: Ann Cooper, Director of Nutrition Services, Berkeley Unified School District



**THE CHALLENGE** ▶

**State funding for Farm to School has dropped 60% while demand continues to rise!**



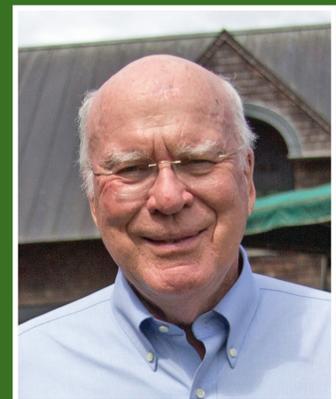
**YOU CAN HELP!** ▶

**Restore funding for Vermont's Farm to School Program. For a small investment of \$75,000, there's a high return: more dollars back to Vermont farmers and producers and more Vermont students experiencing the value of healthy, local food.**

**Let's continue to expand access to healthy, local food for all and help strengthen Vermont's economy!**

*"Vermont has long been a pace-setter in the farm to school movement. By bringing local food to the cafeteria table and into the classroom, we improve nutrition, promote healthy eating choices, and help all children understand where their food comes from. It's a winning strategy for our farmers and our students, and Vermont is proving how well this program works."*

— U.S. SENATOR PATRICK LEAHY (D-VT)



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