



NATIONAL FARM TO SCHOOL NETWORK

2018 ANNUAL REPORT



National Farm to School Network is an information, advocacy and networking hub for communities working to bring local food sourcing, school gardens and food and agriculture education into schools and early care and education settings.



DEAR NATIONAL FARM TO SCHOOL NETWORK COMMUNITY,

I am pleased to share with you the 2018 Annual Report of the National Farm to School Network. 2018 was a successful year for our organization, and I am proud of the work we have accomplished to propel the farm to school movement forward.

Since our founding in 2007, the National Farm to School Network has been the leading voice of the U.S. farm to school movement and the go-to organization for stakeholders who want to find resources, advocate for policy change, and network to learn from their peers. We accomplish this by connecting **people to resources, people to policy** and **people to people**. These three core function areas of our efforts are what make us a unifying hub for communities that are working to bring local food sourcing, school gardens and food and agriculture education into schools and early care and education settings.

Alongside celebrating our successes, we reflect on 2018 with gratitude. After eleven years of leadership, vision and dedication to growing farm to school, Anupama Joshi, co-founder of the National Farm to School Network, stepped down as Executive Director. During her tenure, Anupama played a pivotal role in pioneering and shaping what has become a robust national movement. We are grateful to Anupama for her many contributions to the development and growth of our organization.

Looking ahead, 2019 will be a transformational year for the National Farm to School Network. Learn more about what we are looking forward to on page 6. Our accomplishments in 2018 and plans for the future would not be possible without the contributions and efforts of our entire network – our more than 20,000 members, state Core and Supporting Partners, Advisory Board, staff, partners and supporters. After all, farm to school doesn't happen on its own – it takes people like you championing the movement. Thank you for being part of this work as we continue *growing stronger together*.

With gratitude,

Jessica Gudmundson
Executive Director, Interim

**NATIONAL
FARM TO SCHOOL
NETWORK STAFF**

Scott Bunn
Development Director

Helen Dombalis
Senior Director,
Programs & Policy

Elizabeth Esparza
Communications Intern

Jessica Gudmundson
Executive Director, Interim

Chloe Marshall
Policy Specialist

Anna Mullen
Communications Manager

Alena Paisano
Program Manager

Tracey Starkovich
Operations & Events Manager

Lacy Stephens
Program Manager

**With Thanks To Our Additional
2018 Team Members:**

Anna Defendiefer
Development Intern

Sarah Goldman
Emerson National Hunger Fellow

Anupama Joshi
Executive Director & Co-Founder

Sara Kemerer
Conference Intern

Lea Madry
Development Director

Hannah McCandless
Network and Partnership Fellow

Maximilian Merrill
Policy Director

Molly Schintler
Communications Intern

**2018 NATIONAL FARM TO
SCHOOL NETWORK ADVISORY
BOARD MEMBERS**

Dan Carmody
Laura Edwards-Orr
Vanessa Herald
Diane Harris
Johanna Herron
Caree Jackson Cotwright
Haile Johnston
Betsy Rosenbluth
Ricardo Salvador
Miguel Villarreal
Simone Washington
Betti Wiggins



OUR MISSION:

National Farm to School Network increases access to local food and nutrition education to improve children’s health, strengthen family farms and cultivate vibrant communities.



OUR VISION:

National Farm to School Network envisions a nation in which farm to school programs are an essential component of strong and just local and regional food systems, ensuring the health of all school children, farms, environment, economy and communities.

*National Farm to School Network is a project of Tides.
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CONNECTING PEOPLE TO RESOURCES

Whether just getting started or ready to grow, farm to school stakeholders often seek ideas and advice for making local food procurement, gardens, and food and agriculture education work in their communities. National Farm to School Network connects people to the tools and information they need and builds capacity to overcome barriers and implement practices for sustainable farm to school activities.



35

Non-English and bilingual resources available in our online resource library



1,847

Participants in our 2018 webinars and topical calls



2,030

Respondents to our 2018 National Farm to Early Care and Education Survey, administered in partnership with Michigan State University Center for Regional Food Systems



212

Knowledge products created by NFSN staff and NFSN Core and Supporting Partners; nearly double the number reported in 2017



155,939

total downloads of resources from our online resource library in 2018



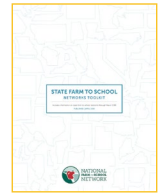
690

Presentations given by NFSN staff and NFSN Core and Supporting Partners

NFSN RESOURCE HIGHLIGHTS

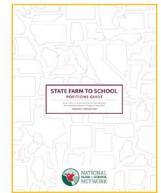
STATE FARM TO SCHOOL NETWORKS TOOLKIT

Shares best practices from existing state farm to school networks and provides users with key strategies and approaches for developing and sustaining farm to school networks.



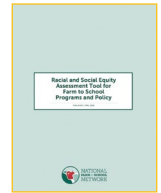
STATE FARM TO SCHOOL POSITIONS GUIDE

Provides key information stakeholders need to strategically advocate for the creation of more farm to school positions in state agencies and university Extension offices.



NFSN PROGRAMS AND POLICY RACIAL AND SOCIAL EQUITY ASSESSMENT TOOL

Assists National Farm to School Network staff and partners in assessing the implications of new programming and policy advocacy opportunities on advancing racial and social equity.



"Our afterschool garden program is called Passamaquoddy OG (Original Gardeners). We are working on t-shirt designs that integrate the medicine wheel, tribal colors and language to reward our students for their hard work and to give them a badge of honor. Our OG membership and enthusiasm continue to rise and I am met daily with 'When are we going to garden Mr. Giles?' My answer will always be, toke (now)."

Brian Giles

Special Education Teacher At Indian Township School
Passamaquoddy Tribe (Maine)
Seed Change Partner School

PROJECT HIGHLIGHT

SEED CHANGE IN NATIVE COMMUNITIES WITH FARM TO SCHOOL

With support from the Aetna Foundation, we continued working with schools in Alaska, Hawaii, Maine, Montana and Oregon to build food security, advance food sovereignty and revitalize the use of traditional foods. 2018 successes included:

- Doubled the total number of gardens at partner schools
- 20% of students in partner schools now participate in weekly garden activities
- Trained partner schools in farm to school planning and evaluation
- Increased local media engagement

CONNECTING PEOPLE TO POLICY

Federal, state and local policies affect a community's ability to implement farm to school practices. National Farm to School Network represents millions of Americans who believe that all students, producers and communities deserve equal access to the benefits of farm to school, and we represent these voices in our policy advocacy efforts.

23

Farm to school-related bills **proposed** in state legislatures nationwide in 2018

18

Farm to school-related bills **passed** in state legislatures nationwide in 2018

\$5M

Discretionary funding for the **USDA Farm to School Grant Program**, doubling available funding for this highly impactful program

\$2M

Federal appropriations for farm to school activities at the **Center for Disease Control**, expanding funding and federal agency engagement in farm to school

POLICY HIGHLIGHTS

FARM BILL ADVOCACY

Participated in the farm bill reauthorization by advocating to advance federal farm to school priorities, including:

- Adopting the **Farm to School Act of 2017**
- Amending the **Geographic Preference provision**
- Continuing and expanding the **Pilot Project for Unprocessed Fruits and Vegetables**

While none were included in the final farm bill due to delayed consideration for the Child Nutrition Act reauthorization, our advocacy efforts were successful in gaining new, bipartisan farm to school cosponsors in both the House and Senate, and educating more policymakers on the benefits and opportunities of farm to school.

LOCAL POLICY FACT SHEETS

Created two new fact sheets to support the development of farm to school policies and programs at the local level:

- **Supporting Farm to School with Non-Profit Hospital Community Benefit Dollars** explores opportunities for farm to school practitioners to partner with non-profit hospitals, and covers how hospitals can provide resources to support farm to school and foster public health.
- **City and School District Farm to School Policy Opportunities** describes how local school wellness policies and city purchasing policies can be leveraged to support farm to school opportunities at the local level.

ADVOCACY TRAININGS

Offered 11 in-person and virtual sessions to help farm to school stakeholders strengthen and refine their advocacy efforts:

At the 9th National Farm to Cafeteria Conference:

- Advocating for Change workshop track
- 5 hands-on policy workshops
- 3 advocacy-oriented short courses

Webinars On:

- Leveraging State Farm to School Networks to Affect Legislation
- State Farm to School Month Proclamations
- Developing NFSN's Next Federal Advocacy Campaign

"We relied extensively on the National Farm to School Network to develop the concept and construction of our state's Local School Food Purchasing Program, a bill that has just passed both our Rural Affairs and Education Committees! The guidance and connections to other states from NFSN staff has provided us with the evidence and stories we needed to help design our own program, and make the case to legislators about the impact we know we will have. Our state policy work truly is a reflection of and is powered by the greater network."

Wendy Peters Moschetti

Director of Food Systems
LiveWell Colorado (NFSN Colorado Core Partner)



CONNECTING PEOPLE TO PEOPLE

National Farm to School Network is truly a network – a connected and collaborative group of passionate people working to build a movement that makes healthy kids, thriving farms and vibrant communities a reality in all places across our country. By connecting people to people, we help farm to school stakeholders from coast to coast leverage shared resources, ideas and strategies, and engage in creative problem solving to grow the farm to school movement.



711,529

Website Views in 2018



20,581

NFSN Members



56,319

Twitter



16,931

Facebook



3,587

Instagram



1,653

LinkedIn

PARTNERSHIPS

210 CORE AND SUPPORTING PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS

Representing non-profits, state agencies, universities, school districts and farms, these partner organizations are recognized leaders in farm to school and farm to ECE activities across all 50 states, Washington, D.C. and the U.S. Territories. These organizations work in collaboration with NFSN to advance the farm to school movement at the local, state and national levels.

NATIONAL PARTNER OF THE YEAR: NATIONAL EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

In 2018, we partnered with the National Education Association to educate our members about each other's work and to increase knowledge of farm to school in the education sector. Together we:

- Cross-promoted resources, events and engagement opportunities
- Presented at each other's events, including NFSN's Annual Meeting and NEA's Education Support Professionals Conference
- Celebrated National Farm to School Month, American Education Week and National Education Support Professionals Day
- Co-hosted a webinar on Farm to School and 21st Century Food System Programs
- Discussed collaboration on policy initiatives and social justice advocacy

REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION & SUPPORT

- 271 Inquiries to info@farmtoschool.org
- 369 Inquiries to state partners via NFSN website

NATIONAL FARM TO SCHOOL MONTH

- 254 organizations partnering
- 8 million+ people reached through partner sharing
- 188,293 people reached through NFSN's channels
- 124+ media stories about Farm to School Month



PROJECT HIGHLIGHT

9TH NATIONAL FARM TO CAFETERIA CONFERENCE

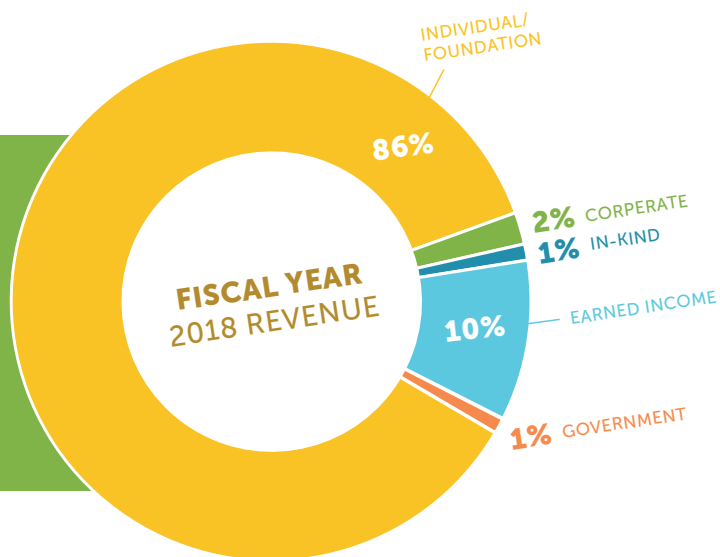
Cincinnati, OH - April 25-27, 2018

- 930 attendees
- 248 presenters
- 81% very satisfied or satisfied with overall conference experience
- 77% increased collaborations and partnerships

"There is no other space that brings together so many different people from different perspectives who are all trying to improve the quality of school/institutional food and create opportunities for farmers in a holistic way."

Attendee
of 9th National Farm to Cafeteria Conference

FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT



While the National Farm to School Network strives to diversify revenue, our financial picture remains strong with **\$1,364,582 total cash** at the end of 2018, an **increase of 47%** from the previous year.

INVESTING IN FARM TO SCHOOL, STATE BY STATE

NFSN has provided a total of \$410,000 to our 2017-2019 Core Partners in all 50 states, D.C. and the U.S. Territories to build capacity and institutionalize farm to school. In 2018, we **regranted a total of \$164,000** to Core Partners in 13 states and Native communities where these funds could make significant impacts in facilitating rapid growth of farm to school.

INVESTING IN RACIAL & SOCIAL EQUITY

Advancing racial and social equity is identified as a priority in our 2017-2019 Strategic Plan and has been elevated in NFSN's work. In 2018, NFSN **invested \$314,109** in racial and social equity work through conference scholarships, an equity consultant, translation of key documents, Native Communities project grants, and more.

THANK YOU!

National Farm to School Network thanks the following funders for making our work possible and helping farm to school come alive for thousands of schools, farms and communities across the country:

Aetna Foundation • Ben and Jerry's • Blue Cross and Blue Shield of North Carolina Foundation • Chef Ann Foundation • CoBank • Duke University World Food Policy Center • Evergreen Packaging • Farm Aid • Farm Credit • FarmLogix • Johnson Family Foundation • Johnson Ohana Foundation • Learning ZoneXpress • Michigan State University Center for Regional Food Systems • National Mushroom Council • Newman's Own Foundation • Ohio State University • Organic Valley • The Scotts Miracle-Gro Foundation • UNFI Foundation • US Highbush Blueberry Council • Vitamix • Whole Kids Foundation • W.K. Kellogg Foundation

The following supporters have provided goods and services as in-kind contributions to enable National Farm to School Network to fulfill our mission, including supporting the 2018 National Farm to Cafeteria Conference, National Farm to School Month and much more:

Almondina • Angie's BOOMCHICKAPOP • Around the World Gourmet • Bauman Orchards • BrewCity Sausage Company • Captain Planet Foundation • ChopChop Magazine • Cincinnati USA • DNO Produce • Edible Ohio Valley • Erie Bone Broth • High Mowing Organic Seeds • Jac's Gingerbread • J.T.M. Food Group • Kroger • Lifeway Foods • Mama Flasch's Gourmet Kitchen • Newman's Own Foundation • Northstar Café • Organic Valley • Peaceful Fruits • Red Bike • Stanley's Market • Symmes Creek Premium Beef • The Organic Farm at Bear Creek • Tiger Mushroom Farms • Truitt Family Foods



NATIONAL FARM to SCHOOL NETWORK

WHAT'S NEXT?

National Farm to School Network has been the leading voice of the U.S. farm to school movement since our founding in 2007. As we wrap up 2018, we are excited to be on the horizon of a new phase of farm to school growth and innovation – both within our organization and the wider movement. In 2019, we look forward to...

- Welcoming a new Executive Director
- Finalizing our 2020-2022 Strategic Plan
- Planning for our 2020 National Farm to Cafeteria Conference
- Developing an Equity Learning Lab
- Launching new federal policy initiatives for the Child Nutrition Act Reauthorization
- Releasing our 2019 State Farm to School Policy Handbook
- Engaging a new Research Committee
- Updating our research-based Benefits of Farm to School fact sheet
- Partnering with Intertribal Agriculture Council as our National Partner of the Year
- Surveying NFSN Members and Stakeholders for feedback on the future of NFSN
- ... and more!

Become a member of the National Farm to School Network and stay up-to-date on all of our 2019 activities! Learn more and get involved at farmtoschool.org.