

## Vermont USDA F2S Grant Awards

2013

### **Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets**

*Montpelier, Vermont*

*Grant Type: Implementation; \$100,000*

The Vermont Agency of Agriculture will work with four regional food hubs (servicing 56 schools), VT FEED partner Northeast Organic Farming Association of VT (NOFA-VT), University of Vermont (UVM) Extension, and UVM Center for Rural Studies over 18 months starting in November 2012 to: strengthen the regional support structure for farmers and food service staff, create a community of practice among regional food hubs focused on school food procurement, and better demonstrate models of how regional food hubs support farm to school programs and increase purchasing of local foods by schools.

2014

### **Milton Town School District**

*Milton, Vermont*

*Grant Type: Implementation; \$91,712*

In August of 2011, the Milton Town School District provided its food service director with a mandate that the district needed to improve its food service program to guarantee that healthy, nutritious and locally sourced foods were used within the district whenever possible. The district's Wellness Committee formed a farm to school subcommittee, tasked with reviewing and developing a means by which the district could implement a sustainable program that incorporated greater use of local food items. Milton stands ready to implement such a program with financial assistance through this grant. During the initial phase of this program, a farm to school coordinator will be hired to manage curriculum development and delivery methods, as well as improved access and integration of local food purchases into the district's menus. The program will improve selection and participation in the school's lunch program, increase options for sourcing fresh foods locally, better educate students and the community about local food sources, and support local farms in the region.

2015

### **Shelburne Farms (Vermont FEED)**

*Shelburne, Vermont*

*Grant Type: Support Service; \$99,999*

The grant to Vermont FEED will provide training and professional development services to school teams (including administrators, teachers, parents and food service), farm to school practitioners, and school food staff from across the Northeast to remove barriers to serving local food in school cafeterias and to incorporate hands on food, farm, and nutrition activities into school curriculum and nutrition programs. The components of this grant are: establish a farm to school institute that provides professional development for 10 school teams from among the

Northeast states; develop a peer- to- peer learning community of farm to school practitioners from the Northeast focused on farm to school best practices; and provide training to 200 Vermont school food service staff to support serving local and healthy foods to students. Vermont FEED will offer a series of school food service workshops in partnership with the New England Culinary Institute and the School Nutrition Association- VT that will provide professional instruction in knife use, scratch- cooking techniques, and nutrition and procurement guidelines.

2016

**Burlington School District (The Burlington School Food Project)**

*Burlington, Vermont*

*Grant Type: Implementation; \$100,000*

The Burlington School Food Project will expand the availability of local beef in all Vermont schools; expand hands-on food and garden-based education for all Burlington schools; and provide better oversight and training to food service professionals in the district.

**Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets**

*Montpelier, Vermont*

*Grant Type: Training – State; \$25,000*

The Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets will conduct a two-day statewide farm to school training for Vermont supply chain partners to engage in agriculture development learning. Attendees will participate in network development around the five levers of farm to school system change: educational value, economic value, ease of use, policy demand, and innovation in production, processing and distribution.

2018

**Northeast Organic Farming Association of Vermont**

*Richmond, Vermont*

*Grant Type: Implementation; \$85,565*

The Northeast Organic Farming Association of Vermont will expand on their successes by building relationships, skills, and capacity between educators and farmers. Through a program between classrooms and a farm, they will provide life-skill learning opportunities for students to learn about where their food comes from, how it is grown, how sustainability plays a role in the greater health of student life and the environment. The farm relationships will be expanded into the school food program to increase local food purchasing and marketing.

2019

**Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food, and Markets**

*Montpelier, Vermont*

*Grant Type: Implementation; \$98,918*

The Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food, and Markets will develop a coordinated, supported, and sustainable FTS programs in three rural districts serving 20 Vermont schools with a high percentage of low-income students. The Vermont Agency of Agriculture will use a team approach working with statewide and regional partners to provide farm to school technical assistance and training at the district-level that embeds best practices in food, farm, garden, and nutrition education in schools in Franklin and Grand Isle Counties in Vermont. Programming will improve school meal program participation, engage students in authentic learning with local farmers, and enhance educational outcomes by linking activities in the cafeteria, classroom, and community for desired impact and sustainability.

2020

### **Food Connects**

*Brattleboro, Vermont*

*Grant Type: Implementation; \$99,900*

Food Connects will increase local food purchasing, throughout Vermont and western New Hampshire. The project plan to 1) increase sales, 2) marketing and education efforts to schools in Food Connects' expanding delivery service range, 3) provide professional development for School Nutrition Professionals, with a focus on local food procurement and using the cafeteria as a classroom, and 4) develop a more robust regional supply chain in partnership with the Vermont Food Hub Collaborative and others. Food Connects will collaborate with VT FEED, Vital Communities, and Green Mountain Farm-to-School to accomplish the project.

### **Shelburne Farms**

*Shelburne, VT*

*Grant Type: Regional Institute; \$98,686*

Shelburne Farms will provide schools and districts in the six New England states and New York with professional development to create robust farm to school programs. Priorities will be given to schools with a high proportion of free and reduced lunch participation. The project will expand and enhance the ability of schools and Farm to School leaders to conduct successful programs. The 12-month program will start with a three-day action planning retreat where participants will be matched with a trained coach, to design and implement a plan to integrate the "3Cs" – classroom, community and cafeteria. The project will support lasting changes by incorporating team skills, relationship building and creating clear roadmap for action and support to succeed.

### **Vermont Agency of Agriculture Food & Markets**

*Montpelier, Vermont*

*Grant Type: State Agency; \$53,867*

The Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets (VAAFAM) will develop coordinated and robust systems for tracking local food purchases by Vermont schools. In the first stage of the project, VAAFAM and partners will assess the feasibility of four key tracking strategies identified

by VAAF, VT Agency of Education, and regional subject matter experts. The second stage of the project will involve implementing the most promising of these strategies. The decision to pursue certain strategies will be based on the relationship between their potential impact, the time and resources needed to fully implement them and the capacity of VAAF and grant partners.

2021

**Kidsgardening.org**

*Burlington, Vermont*

*Grant Type: Implementation; \$87,863*

Kidsgardening.org will support a 12-month “Seeding and Strengthening Edible School Gardens Nationwide” (ESG Nationwide) program. ESG Nationwide will enable K-12 educators to form vibrant networks and access best practices, to dramatically increase the number and quality of school-based edible garden programs in the United States, particularly in historically disadvantaged communities. Key partners include School Garden Support Organization Network (SGSO Network), the Northeast Farm to School Collaborative (NFSC), and the Office of U.S. Senator Patrick Leahy.