

Kentucky USDA Farm to School Grant Awards

2013

Jefferson County Board of Education

Louisville, Kentucky

Implementation: Schools \$100,000

Jefferson County Public School (JCPS) intends to expand its current farm to school efforts. In keeping with the objectives of the USDA Farm to School Grant Program, the primary goal of the JCPS project is to improve access to local foods, particularly in schools with high free and reduced price lunch populations. The district plans to incorporate more local foods into the School Breakfast, National School Lunch, and Fresh Fruit and Vegetable programs. JCPS will accomplish this goal through training of vendors, teachers and staff; cooperative planning with community stakeholders; expanding partnerships, and providing experiential nutrition education that gives students access to farm and garden-based activities. Sustainability will be addressed by establishing a local school garden support day with the Louisville Original Chef's group and the local Restaurant Association. Part of one day's proceeds from participating restaurants will go to school garden activities.

Fayette County Public Schools

Lexington, Kentucky

Planning \$45,000

The Fayette County Public Schools (FCPS) district is the second largest school district in Kentucky, with approximately 38,000 students at 53 schools and 15 special programs. The district has one of the state's largest minority student populations (<42% of enrollment). About 50% of the district students are participating in the free/reduced school meals program. In September 2010, representatives from local organizations met to form a farm to school team. This team is committed to helping connect Lexington's schools and communities with locally and regionally produced food, and to the farmers and producers of that food. Joined to that is the commitment to help students understand the connections between local food and science, agriculture, nutrition, and health. While the farm to school team has been ambitious in its scope and success of its activities (11 schools/programs and thousands of students/community members reached), they have reached only 16% of district schools. Successfully scaling a program for a district of about 38,000 students requires careful planning, as well as time and resources.

2014

Greenup County School District

Greenup, Kentucky

Grant Type: Planning; \$42,960

The farm to school program in Greenup County will bring together multiple collaborating entities to support the building of school gardens, opening of farmer's markets, connecting to the local farmers, and incorporating gardening into the curriculum. This multifaceted approach will increase student knowledge of gardening, agriculture, and nutrition. In addition, students will have greater access to fresh fruits and vegetables that are locally grown.

Perry County Schools

Hazard, Kentucky

Grant Type: Planning; \$35,620

Perry County Schools will implement a grant to benefit 4,209 students across 11 schools in a rural school district in the mountains of eastern Kentucky. All students receive free or reduced lunch and breakfast, and according to a BMI assessment by school nurses, at least a third are considered to be overweight. This planning grant will build on modest past efforts of the Perry County Farm to School Task Force, which has hosted several school events and instituted a Farm to School Curriculum for all 8th graders across the district. This grant would assist Perry County Schools in resolving challenges that have so far been insurmountable, including difficulties in procurement of local foods, and in transportation and distribution infrastructure. The main objectives include building relationships with local producers by hosting 10 events; designing a plan for transportation, delivery, processing and storing foods; building a school garden; ensuring sufficient community support; and publishing a comprehensive, public implementation plan.

2015

Kentucky Department of Agriculture

Frankfort, Kentucky

Grant Type: Conference and Event – State; \$16,734

In collaboration with Kentucky Department of Education and Kentucky Department of Agriculture, we will provide statewide training focused on procuring local foods for child nutrition programs in Kentucky. This will be the first collaborative training effort on procurement with a focus on fresh local products furthering our farm to school efforts. We plan to offer full day trainings in eight distribution regions across the state. Upon completion of the training, participants will better understand basic procurement principles; understand the two main procurement methods; identify sources of local food; understand that there are multiple ways to source local products; and understand and feel comfortable using the geographic preference option.

Grant Type: Support Service; \$71, 223

Kentucky Department of Agriculture (KDA) proposes to implement farm to school projects, while expanding statewide reach of the program, resulting in a broader understanding of the benefits, viability and sustainability of farm to school food systems in both targeted school systems and in the state as a whole. KDA will partner with producers, processors, school food service

authorities, educators, food distributors, University of Kentucky Cooperative Extension Service, and other members of the Kentucky Farm to School Task Force to achieve this goal.

The Food Literacy Project at Oxmoor Farm, Inc.

Louisville, Kentucky

Grant Type: Support Service; \$100,000

The Food Literacy Project will utilize a working vegetable farm to unleash the joy and power of discovering real food through experiential education and youth development; family engagement; professional development; and marketing, outreach, and community engagement. The program will increase access to and demand for local foods among Jefferson County Public Schools with high free and reduced lunch populations, and share its program model with other school districts across the Commonwealth of Kentucky. The project will inspire a new generation to build healthy relationships with food, farming, and the land as students, families, teachers and food service personnel actively engage in building a sustainable farm to school initiative by planting, harvesting, tasting, and developing recipes with farm- fresh foods.

Taylor County School District

Campbellsville, Kentucky

Grant Type: Planning; \$45,000

This project will utilize a farm to school coordinator, along with community partnerships, to identify sources of fresh foods for the District Food Services. The project will lay the groundwork for a large school garden which will sell produce, grown by students, back to Food Services for use in the cafeteria. The project will educate students and parents about the health benefits of eating fresh locally grown foods. The planning year will provide the district with a detailed farm to school assessment which will lay the foundation for a large scale implementation of farm to school in later years. The goals of this project are to provide healthy food choices, educate students and parents, implement farm to school into the curriculum, and provide college/career readiness opportunities for students, both through the growing of food (agriculture) and the selling of food to Food Services and the public (business).

Owsley County School District

Booneville, Kentucky

Grant Type: Implementation; \$79,750

Integrating community, education, nutrition, and entrepreneurship, this project will serve students in grades Pre- K- 12 in the Owsley County School District's Headstart, Elementary, and Middle/High Schools. Project funds will be used to purchase equipment needed to expand the number of acreage the district uses to grow fruits, diversify crops, and increase the amount of locally produced foods served in the schools' cafeterias. Funds will also support farm to school educational activities taking place during and after school.

Perry County School District

Hazard, Kentucky

Grant Type: Implementation; \$97,047 A 2014

USDA Farm to School planning grant recipient, Perry County Schools will now develop a full-scale, county-wide farm to school program. The project has three key goals: use a summer processing facility to process large quantities of local food to freeze and store for use in winter months; provide engaging agriculture and nutrition education in all 10 schools; and support the economic development of agricultural businesses in Perry County.

2017

Metcalfe County Schools

Edmonton, Kentucky

Grant Type: Implementation; \$97,601

Metcalfe County Schools (MCS) will expand and strengthen its farm to school program to bring more local, farm-fresh foods to students, their families, and the community. The district is partnering with the UK 4-H Extension Office and local farmers to increase the number of fruits and vegetables served in cafeterias during the school year and summer months by 20 percent. MCS will also integrate farm to school educational activities into current curriculum with greenhouse classes, outdoor classrooms, culinary classes, cannery jobs, farm field trips, and day camps.

2018

Kentucky Department of Agriculture

Frankfort, Kentucky

Grant Type: Implementation; \$99,913

The Kentucky Department of Agriculture will implement “KY Farm to School: Producer Engagement Project” to grow their farm to school program. They will provide training opportunities to farmers and school service authorities as well as ten mini-grants to fund allowable expenses including personnel, equipment, supplies, market development activities, and other eligible expenses determined by the Kentucky Farm to School Task Force.

Louisville/Jefferson County Metro Government

Louisville, Kentucky

Grant Type: Implementation; \$100,000

Louisville Metro Government, through its Louisville Farm to Table Program, and The Food Literacy Project at Oxmoor Farm, will develop and implement activities and programs designed to increase access to local foods among Jefferson County Public School students and their families. The project will focus their efforts on schools with a high percentage of participants in free and reduced-price meal programs.

2020

Fleming County Schools

Flemingsburg, Kentucky

Grant Type: Planning; \$50,000

The Farm to School planning grant will develop an Action Plan for the Fleming County Schools (FCS) Second Generation (2G) Farm to School Program, which will prepare students to become Farm to School farmers, through access to a state of the art Farm to School Lab and access to a strategic Farm to School curriculum. Through these program development efforts, the 2G Farm to School program will offer new and impactful learning opportunities for students while providing hands-on learning opportunities. Targeted professional development workshops for teachers and food service staff will connect the Farm to School learning concepts to CORE curriculum and STEM concepts while simultaneously encouraging students to make healthier food choices through the direct connection to the production process. Meanwhile, the connection with local and regional farmers will increase and improve access to local foods in our schools.

Frankfort Independent Board Of Education

Frankfort, Kentucky

Grant Type: Planning; \$39,343

Frankfort Independent Schools (FIS) is a community-based school district located in downtown Frankfort, Kentucky. FIS is looking to deepen its commitment to collaborating with families and the community through implementing a comprehensive farm to school program. Through this program, FIS aims to regularly incorporate local foods into the school menu; educate the school community about nutrition, food, and agriculture; build community partnerships; and create school gardens that expand learning opportunities, increase student engagement, produce food, and add beauty to the school environment. The farm to school planning grant will bolster community enthusiasm and support for farm to school efforts with the resources and support required to launch a thoughtful, comprehensive farm to school program in Frankfort.

Nelson County School District

Bardstown, Kentucky

Grant Type: Implementation; \$100,000

The Nelson County Schools NPOWERED Farm to School Program uses experiential learning in hydroponics, greenhouse, and school garden activities to provide fresh, local foods for school cafes. Students also participate in apprenticeships with local farm entities to create gateways to agricultural learning and horticulture. Taste testing and sampling of foods grown in the schoolbased programs and with Guthrie Opportunity Center provide nutritional education for students and families.

The Kentucky Horticulture Council

Lexington, Kentucky

Grant Type: Implementation; \$99,898

Saved by the Bell: Cultivating Farm to School Activities in Southeastern Kentucky will train and connect schools and farmers within the project area to improve access to local foods, through a farm to school program, with local procurement and agricultural education efforts. Program partners will achieve this objective by: 1) Promoting understanding of local food, farmers, and production practices by food service personnel and students in 6 school districts resulting in increased interest in, demand for, and receptivity to consuming locally-produced items; 2) Providing technical assistance to at least 12 new and experienced local produce growers to increase farmer comfort in navigating school food market procurement and bid processes and strategies to ensure products satisfy school purchasing requirements; and 3) Developing, conducting market research, and establishing a supply chain that introduces at least one cost effective, convenient, locally-grown product to the school food market.

2021

Metcalfe County Board of Education

Edmonton, Kentucky

Grant Type: Implementation; \$81,894

The Metcalfe County Farm to School project will improve access to local foods for all of its students and their families through comprehensive programming that includes local procurement and agricultural education efforts. The district will expand and strengthen its already thriving program on school grounds by producing more fruits and vegetables in their revamped greenhouses, new gardens, new orchard, on-campus cornfield, three school chicken coops, and a newly fenced pasture. The district is partnering with Metcalfe County Schools Food Services department, local farmers, and the local extension office to buy and sell these locally grown products. The food will be served in all school cafeterias and at many school-related events. In addition, teachers within the district are excited to add new agricultural educational activities into their current curriculum by putting students in charge of greenhouse upkeep, chicken coop maintenance, gardening, livestock tending, and culinary classes.

Need More Acres Farm LLC

Scottsville, Kentucky

Grant Type: Implementation; \$93,929

Need More Acres Farm (NMAF) is committed to ensuring that their farm to school efforts carry long term benefits and habit changes for the students they serve. Together with two Kentucky school systems and multiple community partners, NMAF will develop the "Farming, Culinary Arts, and Community Organizing Co-op for High Schoolers" in order to build on established Farm to School procurement and educational opportunities.