



# Farm to School and Early Childhood Education Program



June 2021

The Farm to School and Early Childhood Education Program is committed to providing equitable and just programming, resources, funding, and technical assistance to schools, farmers, and partners in the local food system.

## We're Hiring!



The Farm to School team is growing! **We are hiring a Local Procurement Manager.** This is a part-time grant funded position, available for one year with potential extension based on funding.

The Local Procurement Manager will provide technical assistance to school food service departments and farmers, develop local procurement resources, lead trainings, host regional local procurement events, and lead the Arkansas Taste Test Grant Program.

[Apply Here](#)

## Webinars and Trainings

### **The Basics of Farm to School and Farm to Early Childhood Education**

*June 10, 2021, 12:00 - 1:00 p.m.*

Join the Arkansas Department of Agriculture's Farm to School team to learn about farm to school and farm to early childhood education opportunities related to school gardens, education, and local procurement.

[Register Here](#)



## THE BASICS OF FARM TO SCHOOL AND FARM TO EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

JUNE 10, 2021, ZOOM, 12:00 - 1:00 P.M.



## Summer Professional Development Opportunities

### FARM TO SCHOOL TEACHER PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

SUMMER, 2021



*June and July, 2021*

The Farm to School team is offering eight farm to school professional development opportunities this summer to public school teachers.

Educators will receive professional development credit from the Department of Education for attending. Multiple dates and times will be offered for each session.

[View Schedule and Register Here](#)

## Edible Schoolyard Project Webinar Series



*June 14, 2021 – June 25, 2021*

The Edible Schoolyard Project is hosting virtual professional development sessions that invite participants to create, cook, taste, and share experiences. This series will prepare participants to support youth learning about food.

[Register Here](#)

## Resources

The Arkansas Farm to School Collaborative is pleased to share the Arkansas Farm to School State Profile, a handout that provides a snapshot of farm to school in Arkansas. Currently, Arkansas has 310 school gardens, 34 school

districts purchasing local food from a farmer, and 44 farms and businesses supplying schools with local food, as outlined in the resource.

It also lists state farm to school bills and the school districts who have received either a USDA or a CDC Farm to School grant.



The graphic is titled "ARKANSAS FarmtoSchool" and "Arkansas Farm to School State Profile". It features a small map of Arkansas with a red house icon. Below the title, it says "Farm to School empowers children and their families to make informed food choices, while strengthening the local economy, and improving the environment. The Arkansas Farm to School State Profile is based on the 2019 and 2020 Local Food, Farm, and Jobs Act Annual Report and the 2020 Arkansas Farm to School Annual Report." It includes three icons: a school garden, a school building, and a farm, each with a number: "310 school gardens", "34 school districts", and "44 farms & businesses". At the bottom, it says "Core and Supporting Partners" and lists the Arkansas Department of Agriculture, Arkansas Department of Education, Arkansas Department of Human Services, University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences, and University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture Cooperative Extension Service.

[View Resource](#)

Further, the Farm to School team at the Arkansas Department of Agriculture is excited to share a new report on the Arkansas Farm to Early Childhood Education 2021 Survey that presents the data received from 202 early childhood education facilities, as well as an infographic highlighting the successes of the Arkansas School Garden Grant Program, and a Local Harvest Calendar that was co-developed with the University of Arkansas System Cooperative Extension Service's Local, Regional & Safe Foods team.

### Arkansas Farm to Early Childhood Education 2021 Survey Results



[View Resource](#)

### Arkansas School Garden Grant Program Overview: 2020 - 2021

### Local Harvest Calendar

**ARKANSAS**  
**Farm to School**

### Local Harvest Calendar

Arkansas grows and raises a variety of foods throughout the year. From fruits and vegetables to grains, protein, and dairy - there is always something local available!

Serving local foods in school cafeterias is a great way to teach students about the local food system while supporting nearby farmers. Don't forget, local food can span the whole state!

For additional help and support you may contact:

- Sarah Lane, Arkansas Department of Agriculture, [sarah.lane@agriculture.arkansas.gov](mailto:sarah.lane@agriculture.arkansas.gov), (501) 251-3019
- Julia Fryer, University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture, [jfryer@uada.edu](mailto:jfryer@uada.edu), (501) 671-2181

**How to Use the Harvest Calendar**

The local harvest calendar shows when vegetables, fruits, grains, proteins, and dairy products are harvested and/or available for purchase in Arkansas. The calendar is based on the school year, beginning in July and ending in June. Each chart on the calendar is a different color to indicate the food group it belongs in.

The harvest calendar is considered an average for the whole state, so harvest season will be slightly shorter in the north, and longer in the south. The darker shaded boxes indicate peak harvest, whereas the lightly shaded boxes show when the product might still be available. This could mean the product was processed through freezing, canning, and/or milling to increase storage life.

The phone icon on the vegetable and fruit charts indicates when to contact a local farmer to place an order. Generally, it is recommended to contact farmers at least a month in advance of harvest. Further, if a school is interested in planning with a farmer, early summer and winter is the best time to connect and provide information on the local products they want to purchase.

[View Resource](#)

**ARKANSAS**  
**SCHOOL**  
**GARDEN**  
**GRANT PROGRAM**

2020-2021

**52 SCHOOLS, CHILD CARE  
CENTERS, AND ALTERNATIVE  
LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS**

WERE GRANTED FUNDING TOTALING

**\$26,000**

TO START OR EXPAND THEIR  
SCHOOL GARDEN



**14,698  
STUDENTS**

IMPACTED BY SCHOOL  
GARDEN PROGRAMS

SCHOOLS FUNDED BY THE GRANT  
ARE LOCATED IN

**23 COUNTIES**

THROUGHOUT ARKANSAS



**67 PERCENT**

OF STUDENTS RECEIVE FREE  
OR REDUCED PRICE LUNCH

**ARKANSAS** Farm to School

[Learn More Here](#)

## Upcoming Grant Opportunities

### Arkansas Grown School Garden of the Year Contest

*Deadline: June 6, 2021*

*Funding: \$500 - \$1,000*

The Arkansas Grown School Garden of the Year Contest is sponsored by the Arkansas Department of Agriculture with funding provided by Farm Credit Associations of Arkansas. Applicants may be public or private K-12 schools, early childhood education facilities, or alternative learning environments that had a school garden during the 2020 - 2021 school year, or any schools planning to start a garden in the 2021 - 2022 school year. [Apply here.](#)





## Access to Local Foods Grants

*Deadline: July 1, 2021*

*Funding: \$10,000 - \$15,000*

The Arkansas Community Foundation is seeking proposals for projects that will increase Arkansas's access to locally grown and produced foods and/or strengthen the local food ecosystem. [Apply here.](#)

## Blue & You Foundation Grant

*Deadline: July 15, 2021*

*Funding: \$5,000+*

Blue & You Foundation's mission is to work together with others to create a state of better health for all Arkansans. They strategically focus grant funding on community-based solutions in the hopes it will nurture community health leadership, foster collaboration and innovation, and leverage financial, human, and community resources to produce measurable, positive impacts. Any program or project that positively affects the health of Arkansans can apply to receive funding. [Apply here.](#)



**Blue&You**  
FOUNDATION

FOR A HEALTHIER ARKANSAS

An Independent Licensee of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association

[Visit Our Website](#)

