



Farm to School in Washington State

Happy Kids, Healthy Economies, Strong Communities



2008 Local Farms-Healthy Kids Act

Sought to support and strengthen:

- The health of children
- Agricultural economies
- Environmental conservation through preservation of farmland and open spaces
- Access to healthy food for vulnerable residents



Photo courtesy of USDA NRCS

2008 Local Farms-Healthy Kids Act

What made it work?

- A comprehensive bill to address known barriers
- Experienced policy advocates and a coalition with a record of legislative success.
- Addressed possible challenges early
- Built a broad grassroots coalition
- Emphasized crossover appeal



The Local Farms-Healthy Kids Act: *Farm to School*



- Establishes a statewide Farm to School Program
- Creates WA Grown Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Grants
- Eliminates low-cost bidding requirements in school food purchases
- Encourages school gardens to grow food for education and for consumption in school food programs.





WSDA Farm to School

- Develop policies and procedures to increase purchases of WA Grown food
- Assist producers and others to market WA Grown food to schools
- Assist schools in connecting with local producers



- Share education resources on benefits of locally grown foods – nutrition, environment, and economy
- Support efforts such as school gardens and farm visits
- Seek additional funds to leverage state expenditures

Taste Washington Day



Survey responses from first year (2010) indicate \$17,000 was spent on Washington grown products for that day's lunch, and that schools plan to spend **\$90,000** more on Washington products during in the following six months.

Supporting Emerging Markets

Mobile Workshops for Farmers and Foodservice Staff

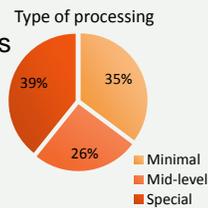


On-Farm Food Safety Training Good Agricultural Practices



Interest and Capacity Surveys

- Farmers
- Schools
- Processors



USDA Specialty Crop Block Grant (2009-2012)
Farm to School \$250,000

Farm to School Tools and Resources

Washington Grown Food Kit

Washington has a fantastic bounty of foods that are a great fit for school meals. Here you can find recipes, sample menus, and nutrition facts. The WGA Grown Food Kit is an evolving and growing resource with contributions and will continuously add foods items and resources over time.

Food Item	Resources Available
Apples	General Information, Recipes & Nutrition Analysis, Menu Examples, Nutrition Facts
Cabbage	General Information, Recipes & Nutrition Analysis, Menu Examples, Nutrition Facts
Corn	General Information, Recipes & Nutrition Analysis, Menu Examples, Nutrition Facts
Garlic	General Information, Recipes & Nutrition Analysis, Menu Examples, Nutrition Facts
Beets	General Information, Recipes & Nutrition Analysis, Menu Examples, Nutrition Facts
Carrots	General Information, Recipes & Nutrition Analysis, Menu Examples, Nutrition Facts
Cucumbers	General Information, Recipes & Nutrition Analysis, Menu Examples, Nutrition Facts
Kale	General Information, Recipes & Nutrition Analysis, Menu Examples, Nutrition Facts

A School's Guide to Purchasing Washington-Grown Food

Pilot Projects

Kent School District Farm to School

>\$150,000 on WA Grown Foods (2011-12 School Year)



Washington Green Vegetable Seasonality Chart
by Heather O'Shaughnessy Vegetable Group

Vegetable	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Asparagus												
Artichoke												
Beet												
Bok choy												
Broccoli												
Brussels sprouts												
Cauliflower												
Celery												
Chard												
Corn												
Cucumber												
Garlic												
Green beans												
Kale												
Kohlrabi												
Leek												
Letuce												
Onion												
Potato												
Radish												
Spinach												
Squash												
Swiss chard												
Tomato												
Turnip												
Winter squash												
Zucchini												



Farm to Table - Senior and Childcare Project
Seattle & King County

Communities Putting Prevention to Work (2010-2012) – \$138,000

Made possible with funding by Department of Health and Human Services and Public Health - Seattle & King County.

Benefits to Washington State

- Supporting emerging agricultural markets
- Reducing regulatory barriers
- Raising awareness of Washington food and farming
- Cost-effective delivery of service through partnerships
- Building healthy eating habits for kids and families
- Ability to leverage state funding (\$150,000/yr) to obtain federal grants and other funds (\$440,000 since 2009)



Current Landscape

strong local food networks

state budget challenges

federal interest in local food systems

new school nutrition standards

health department and other partnerships

Farm Bill specialty crop funding

It's working!

Schools value:

- (1) High quality fresh produce
- (2) Good community relations
- (3) Supporting the local economy and local community



Farmers value:

- (1) positively impacting children's health
- (2) raising public awareness about food & farming
- (3) strengthening community relationships

100% would do it again



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