



WYOMING
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WDE RECEIVES USDA FARM TO SCHOOL GRANT

CHEYENNE - More Wyoming schools will be able to serve Wyoming food to students thanks to a \$65,000 U.S. Department of Agriculture grant received by the Wyoming Department of Education (WDE). The Farm to School Support Service Grant will provide funding for school districts just starting to incorporate Farm to School program elements into their operations.

Superintendent of Public Instruction Jillian Balow said the grant strengthens the connection between education and agriculture: “Too often, kids in America think that food comes from the store. It’s important for all kids to know where food comes from, and in Wyoming we have a unique opportunity to not only teach, but to let our kids experience farm to table, and what that means. Opportunities like this enhance agriculture in our state and forge stronger partnerships between families, schools and producers across Wyoming.”

The WDE Child Nutrition Programs will work with schools, producers and other entities (including the Wyoming Department of Agriculture, Wyoming Business Council, University of Wyoming Agriculture Extension Office, Ag in the Classroom, Cent\$ible Nutrition, and more) to improve access to local foods in eligible schools.

“The demand for local products is a common goal throughout the great state of Wyoming,” said Rep. Tyler Lindholm of Sundance, a member of the House Agriculture Committee. “This goal also has many facets to include providing fresh and local products in the public school system. This grant is another step towards making that goal a reality in Wyoming! Make no mistake this will be a long road, but it has been shortened immensely with the help of this grant and the willingness of the Wyoming Department of Education to advocate for agriculture. Lettuce turnip the beet!”

For questions, contact Kari Eakins at (307)777-2053 or kari.eakins@wyo.gov.