



The United States Department of Agriculture

# BRINGING THE FARM TO SCHOOL

## *Growing healthy children & communities*

**\$385,771,134**

in school food dollars was invested in local communities in the 2011-2012 school year.

**40,328 schools**

are buying local foods for the school cafeteria.

Money invested in agriculture has a positive economic impact on rural *and* urban communities.

That's a lot of lunch money!

We love local farmers!

**56% of schools**

Say they will buy more local food in the future.

Expect growth in these product categories in the future: **plant-based proteins, herbs, meat or poultry, eggs, and grains/flour.**

**78%**  
Fruit

**75%**  
Veggies

**37%**  
Fluid Milk

**22%**  
Baked Goods

**18%**  
Other Dairy

Local foods span the school meal tray

Start your tractors!

## Healthy habits take root

Beyond serving local foods at mealtime, schools are planting gardens, visiting farms and turning the cafeteria into a classroom.

**23,513,237 students**

are learning to make lifelong healthy eating choices.

With farm to school programs, kids are more likely to eat their fruits and vegetables and try new, healthy foods.

Local farmers make the grade, A+!

THE  
FARM to SCHOOL  
CENSUS

To determine the prevalence of farm to school programs, USDA surveyed an estimated 13,133 public school districts across the country. Approximately 9,887 districts responded for a total response rate of over 75%.

## HUNGRY FOR MORE?

[www.fns.usda.gov/farmtoschool/census/](http://www.fns.usda.gov/farmtoschool/census/)

