

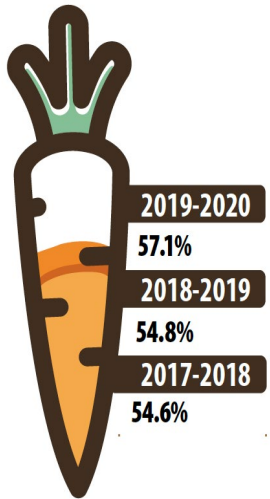


Montana Farm to School Annual Report

Academic Year 2019-2020

WHAT

Farm to School Participation Rates



19.8%
SCHOOL GARDENS
 Creating and tending school gardens



48.7%
PROCUREMENT
 Serving local products in school meals

22.6%
EDUCATION
 Conducting educational activities

Farm to school enriches the connection communities have with fresh, healthy food and local food producers by changing food purchasing and education practices at K-12 schools and afterschool programs, preschools, and daycares. Students gain access to healthy, local foods as well as education opportunities through such avenues as school gardening, cooking lessons, and farm field trips. Through community-driven approaches, farm to school implementation differs by location but always includes one or more of the following core elements: procurement, education, and school gardens.

WHY

Why does it matter?

Farm to school not only connects kids with locally grown food and food and nutrition education, it also helps foster more resilient food systems. COVID-19 has highlighted the need for farm to school as a way to solve food supply issues. Promoting locally grown and raised foods is one way to promote availability of fresh, healthy foods.



The beginning of COVID-19 meant unprecedented shifts in education and school meal service. From grab-and-go meals and classroom meal service to innovative scratch cooking, farm to school efforts continued across the state. During the months of school closures, educators and school nutrition professionals found ways to implement farm to school including Harvest of the Month education.

Montana Farm to School Leadership Team

The Montana Farm to School Leadership Team works through partnerships across the state to build farm to school initiatives that help kids eat healthy, connect with agriculture and nutrition through education, support Montana farmers and food producers, foster economic vitality, and strengthen communities.

The Leadership Team consists of 17 member organizations with statewide focus and influence that are key

to the success of farm to school in Montana. The Leadership Team has 5 working groups: distribution, funding, farm to early childhood education, communication, education, and beef to school. The working groups are open to the public.

The team is partially supported by funds from the United States of Agriculture (USDA) and in collaboration with the Montana Office of Public Instruction.

2019 Member Organizations

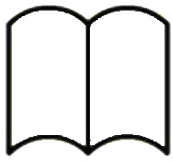
- AERO
- Lake County Community Development Corporation
- Montana Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics
- Montana Department of Agriculture
- Montana Department of Livestock
- Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services
- Montana Farmers Union
- Montana FoodCorps
- Montana No Kid Hungry
- Montana Office of Public Instruction
- Montana School Nutrition Association
- Montana Team Nutrition Program, Montana State University
- Montana State University Extension
- National Center for Appropriate Technology
- National Farm to School Network
- Northern Plains Resource Council
- USDA Office of Community Food Systems, Mountain Plains Region

Montana Harvest of the Month

Each month, participating sites focus on promoting one locally grown item (e.g., lentils) by serving it in at least one meal or snack, offering taste tests, conducting educational activities, and displaying or distributing Harvest of the Month materials.



In school year 2019-2020



123

schools and
afterschool programs

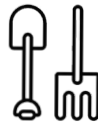
76



early care and education sites

25,062

children reached at
K-12 and ECE sites



144+

local food producers

\$432,200

local foods purchased
(not including fluid milk for K-12)

Montana Crunch Time



Farm to School Month

Montana Crunch Time is a statewide event to celebrate National Farm to School Month and 'buy local' initiatives in Montana by crunching into locally and regionally grown apples on a designated day in October.



people participated in
Montana Crunch Time 2019

Training + Resources

16

Trainings in
2019-2020

There are many ways to learn about farm to school and access resources! We host farm to school webinars and in-person trainings as well as an archive of previous webinars on the Montana Farm to School website.

19.5
Hours

The Montana Farm to School Summit is a statewide biennial convening geared toward farm to school stakeholders such as school administrators, school nutrition professionals, parents, and food producers around Montana. In 2018, 198 people attended the summit in Missoula.

SOCIAL MEDIA OUTREACH



@montanafarmtoschool

1,618 likes during the
2019-20 school year



@mtfarmtoschool

1,011 likes during the
2019-20 school year



MT Team Nutrition and
Montana Harvest of the Month

961 views during the
2019-20 school year

GET INVOLVED + CONTACT

Website

Find resources and information at:
www.montana.edu/mtfarmtoschool

Contact Us

Aubree Roth, Montana Farm to School Coordinator
Montana Team Nutrition Program,
Montana State University

aubree.roth@montana.edu
(406) 994-5996

SOURCES

National School Lunch Program Annual Sponsor Agreement
Form 2019-2020, Montana Office of Public Instruction

2019 Montana Youth Risk Behavior Survey,
Montana Office of Public Instruction

Map the Meal Gap: Child Food Insecurity 2020, Feeding America

2017 Census of Agriculture, USDA National Agriculture
Statistics Service

Montana Farm to School Leadership Team Participation 2019,
Montana Team Nutrition

Montana Harvest of the Month Participation 2019-2020,
Montana Team Nutrition

Montana Crunch Time Participation 2019,
Montana Team Nutrition

Montana Farm to School Professional Development
and Technical Assistance Tracker 2019-2020,
Montana Team Nutrition

Montana Farm to School Summit Participation 2018,
Montana Team Nutrition

The USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

