



2019 – 2020 NYS Farm to School Institute Frequently Asked Questions

What is the NYS Farm to School Institute?

Given the momentum of the 2018 No Student Goes Hungry Initiative and increased interest in local foods, Farm to School has the potential to grow exponentially across New York State. To realize the full potential of these new programs, schools need more assistance creating successful Farm to School programs and connecting with farmers. The NYS Farm to School Institute offers a comprehensive learning opportunity for food service staff, educators, administrators, and community partners in New York schools to develop and refine their Farm to School programs, and to help bring more New York grown food into the cafeteria and the classroom.



Who Will Benefit from the NYS Farm to School Institute?

Farm to school programs will offer a direct opportunity to improve the health of students while strengthening the local agricultural economy by bringing farm fresh local foods into school cafeterias statewide. Currently, a knowledge gap exists in how to get food from the farm to the student plate. The Institute fills this need by offering school teams enhanced technical knowledge and support on how to procure and prepare local foods, tools for community engagement, and classroom and culinary education. Participating schools will also become alumni of a 'NYS Farm to School Institute Network', continuing to share best practices and resources with others championing farm to school for years to come.

Why does NYS need an Institute for Farm to School?

The NYS Farm to School Institute is modeled after the longstanding Northeast Farm to School Institute but adapted for New York's unique school landscape. New York is home to the largest school district in the country, as well as large urban and suburban districts, and smaller rural schools. Hosting a state-specific Institute provides tailored support to schools in creating FTS programs. Furthermore, with the introduction of the Governor's reimbursement program this year, the need for training is timely and necessary to help schools find ways to source, procure, and serve more NY grown foods students across the State.

When will the Institute be held and what will it include?

The 2019 - 2020 NYS Farm to School Institute is an annual year-long training and continuing education program. Six New York school teams will participate in a three-day Summer Retreat to kickoff the year. The Summer Retreat will be held at the Omega Institute in Rhinebeck, NY from August 12 – 14, 2019, followed by a one-day Fall gathering in the Hudson Valley. Schools will receive Farm to School Implementation Awards to encourage early progress in their Farm to School Action Plans with marketing resources or assistance with farm-based activities connecting class to cafeteria. Schools will track impacts made on students, the school community, and on procurement from local farms within the 2019-2020 academic year.



2019 – 2020 NYS Farm to School Institute

Frequently Asked Questions

What will take place at the Summer Retreat?

Participants will stay at the Omega Institute in Rhinebeck, New York, for three immersive days of all things Farm to School! School teams will identify areas of opportunity and improvement in their own schools and develop individualized Action Plans specific to their school communities. Workshops, team meetings, and activities will be held at the Omega Center for Sustainable Living, where participants will be inspired by the Institute's Eco-Machine water reclamation system and the building's status certified as both LEED Platinum and the nation's first Living Building (<https://www.eomega.org/omega-center-for-sustainable-living-0>). School teams will be able to connect with one another along with Farm to School experts, receiving coaching and best practices for their Farm to School programs.

What does the Institute cover?

School teams will receive two nights of lodging, meals, and travel to attend the Summer Retreat, along with one night of lodging and meals at the Fall Meeting. Schools will receive peer mentoring and coaching throughout the year, along with Implementation Grants of \$5000 to use towards their Farm to School Action Plans. Graduates will join a growing group of NYS Farm to School Institute Alumni

What is the 3-C Approach (Classroom, Cafeteria, Community)?

The 3-C Approach is a comprehensive Farm to School method created by Vermont FEED (Food Education Every Day) in 2000. This sustainable approach is the key to affecting long-lasting change in schools through incorporation of people "who are the web of the school". Visit Vermont FEED's website to find out more: <https://vtfeed.org/what-farm-school>

Who should I select on my School Team?

Realizing that successful Farm to School programs require "all hands-on deck", your School Team should encompass people involved in multiple farm to school touch points in your community. Past teams have included school food directors and staff, administrators, educators, and community partners. Consider who you would need on board in the classroom, cafeteria, and community. How will your team members contribute to strengthening your Farm to School program?

What will I need to do throughout the year if my school is selected?

Accepted schools will attend the Summer Kickoff Retreat in August 2019 and Fall Meeting in November 2019. There is no application fee for Institute participation, however, accepted schools will need to complete a Memorandum of Understanding to receive an Implementation Award. Institute schools are expected to commit to achieving their Farm to School Action Plan, and establish systems to track progress throughout the year. Teams will establish regular meetings with their peers and coach, and report on successes and challenges at the Fall Meeting and at the close of the Institute.

Who do I contact if I have questions?

Contact Stephanie Hsu or Ashlea Raemer at finys@farmland.org for additional information or further questions about FINYS or the NYS Farm to School Institute.

