

Nebraska USDA Farm to School Grant Awards

2014

Center for Rural Affairs

Lyons, Nebraska

Grant Type: Support Service; \$99,600

“Growing Markets for Farm to School: Networking and training to bring farmers and schools together” will build connections for farm to school programs in rural eastern Nebraska through face- to- face networking. Additionally, we will train farmers and school food service personnel in farm product safety and usage, provide individual farm to school facilitation for ten pilot schools, and raise awareness of farm to school, laying foundation for future expansion. The Center for Rural Affairs will hold two farm to school summits in eastern Nebraska. These summits build the personal connections between farmers and schools that we have found to be essential, while inspiring and informing participants about farm to school possibilities. We will also hold training sessions in farm food safety and usage for farmers and school food service personnel, in the form of workshops and webinars. We will select ten schools and provide individual farm to school facilitation for those schools. Lastly, we will use our robust media staff to bring statewide and regional attention to our farm to school activities.

2016

Center for Rural Affairs

Lyons, Nebraska

Grant Type: Training – Regional; \$42,300

The Center for Rural Affairs will partner with Missouri Extension and the Iowa Department of Agriculture to host a Tri-State Farm to School Conference. This conference will bring together a wide range of stakeholders, including farmers, school food service personnel and other school staff, food aggregators, food distributors, and community members. The training will include a variety of training sessions, demonstrations, networking opportunities, and other activities that will help stakeholders succeed in operating farm to school programs.

Lincoln Public Schools

Lincoln, Nebraska

Grant Type: Planning; \$45,000

Lincoln Public Schools will identify farmers and producers to provide more locally grown foods through the district’s school meal programs. The district will leverage partnerships to develop food safety standards and implement a pilot in five elementary schools, including preschools, before scaling up to the whole district.

2017

Nebraska Department of Education

Lincoln, Nebraska

Grant Type: Support Service; \$71,860

“Nebraska Thursdays” will support Nebraska schools in serving one meal per month with food that is sourced as much as possible, from within Nebraska. The Nebraska Department of Education will offer resources and opportunities online, and with the help of this state-level support, the “Nebraska Thursdays” program will increase participation in farm to school.

2019

Center for Rural Affairs

Lyons, Nebraska

Grant Type : Implementation; \$98,450

Collaborating with Nebraska State Future Farmers of America (FFA) association and University of Nebraska-Extension, the Center for Rural Affairs will expand its Greenhouse to Cafeteria program to more schools across the State. The Center will select 10 schools that will receive start-up funds and individualized technical support; distribute a Greenhouse to Cafeteria toolkit to all high schools in Nebraska; create a peer network for training, technical support, best practice sharing, and mentoring; as well as create an awards and recognition program.

2020

Burwell Public Schools

Burwell, Nebraska

Grant Type: Planning; \$38,725

Burwell Public Schools will develop a Farm to School Action Plan that will provide the framework for building a culture where locally sourced foods are served in the cafeteria with Farm to School curriculum and hands on activities for students K-12. The plan will explore new relationships with local agricultural producers for food procurement, student garden and greenhouse opportunities, recipe development and taste testing events for students. Students will gain valuable habits in making healthy food choices that will decrease their risks for developing heart disease, diabetes and cancer. Students will explore agricultural careers that will directly affect the future of economic development in Burwell, Nebraska.

Nebraska Department of Education

Lincoln, Nebraska

Grant Type: State Agency; \$99,070

The Nebraska Department of Education (NDE) will collaborate with Nebraska Extension to expand statewide capacity in farm to school implementation and programming. NDE and Extension will collaborate to train Extension professionals on farm to school practices, providing resources, trainings, and technical assistance. These partners will deliver a Nebraska Farm to School Institute for up to eight competitively awarded school or district farm to school teams from across the state. Sub awards will be provided to the teams in order to assist in attending

the Institute, and to support implementation of each teams' farm to school action plans developed at the Institute.

2021

NE Dept of Education

Lincoln, Nebraska

Grant Type: Turnkey; \$24,975

The Nebraska Department of Education (NDE) promotes farm to school programming for Child Nutrition Programs through Harvest of the Month and Nebraska Thursdays programs and encourages participation in the Nebraska Crunch Off during National Farm to School Month. The NDE will work collaboratively with their farm to school partners to provide Bringing the Farm to School state-wide trainings to local producers to increase their knowledge and promote sales of local products to schools in Nebraska.