



## Illinois Farm to School Network Updates

### IFSN Webinar in November: School Wellness Policy Reboot!

Wellness policies are a required part of school food service management. However, wellness policies are also required to encompass the entire district and provide opportunities for community involvement. This policy requirement is intended to be used as a tool to reach out to the school community encouraging activities and behaviors which promote well being, as well as, insure USDA school food regulations are being followed correctly.



The 2016 final rule required local educational agencies (LEAs) to develop a revised local school wellness policy during School Year 2016-2017. LEAs must have fully complied with the requirements of the final rule by June 30, 2017. If you are struggling with next steps to apply your revised wellness policy join us on November 15 to learn best practices and explore opportunities and strategies to communicate and build support for wellness policy goals.

#### **Illinois Farm to School Network Webinar: Putting Wellness Policy into Practice - Implementing, Communicating and Reporting**

Listen in on November 15 to hear about best practices and learn how you can orchestrate your policy to serve as a more efficient and accessible Wellness Plan.

**Mark Your Calendar!** Wed, Nov 15, 2017 9:00-9:45am

**Click here at that time to view the presentation:**

<https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/166671221>

**Did you hear that? Crunch Success!**

# Illinois Great Apple Crunch

**CRUNCH INTO FRESH,  
LOCALLY GROWN APPLES**

OCTOBER 12TH, 2017  
AT PARTICIPATING SCHOOLS



The Illinois Great Apple Crunch, held on October 12th as a part of the Great Lakes Apple Crunch, was a huge success! Schools, businesses and organizations across Illinois crunched into local apples, enjoying crisp, sweet apples at the height of the season. Here are the 2017 Crunch numbers:

- 469,101 Illinois Crunches
- 466,421 Student Crunches
- 2680 Adult Crunches
- Over 8,000 Illinois Apple Crunch posters delivered to schools
- 1,405,710 Crunches across the Great Lakes region!

A big **THANK YOU** to our Crunch partners [Illinois Farm Bureau](#), [Illinois Ag in the Classroom](#) and the [Illinois Department of Agriculture](#)!

Would you like to submit 2017 Crunch pictures? Click on the link below to share your Apple Crunch photos with us: [Submit 2017 Photos Here](#)



## Farm to School News, Grants and Resources

### News: Columbia Public Schools Nutrition Services Takes Wellness Beyond the Lunchline

Columbia Public Schools in Columbia, MO. celebrated the National School Lunch Program Week this year on October 9-



**Columbia**  
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

13. The Nutrition Department promoted contests and nutrition education classes for elementary students. This year's theme was "School Lunch: Recipes for Success".

Farm to School special promotions at elementary schools highlighting Farm to School produce using new "green" tongs on the salad bar, and delicious recipes prepared with farm fresh produce are featured throughout the school year.

[Read more here.](#)

## Article: How gardening can help build healthier, happier kids

Gardening can be tremendously beneficial for kids. Scientific research suggests that getting up close and personal with dirt can improve children's mental and physical health. Gardening can help kids burn off extra energy and control their impulses, develop strong immune systems, and willingly consume more fruits and vegetables.



This Washington Post article reports on a study of 169 girls and boys in a public housing development in Chicago. Researchers found that girls who had greener views from their apartments did better on tests that measured self-discipline. Of the range in test scores, one-fifth of the variation could be explained by the differences in the "greenness" of the kids' surroundings.

[Read more here.](#)

## Grants: 2018 USDA Farm to School Grant RFA just released!



**Who should apply:** K-12 Schools, state and local agencies, Indian tribal organizations, small- and medium-sized agricultural producers or groups of small- and medium-sized agricultural producers, and non-profit entities working with schools or school districts

**Timeline:** Submissions due by 11:59pm ET on December 8, 2017.

The USDA has just released the Farm to School Grant RFA. The purpose of the USDA Farm to School Grant Program is to assist eligible entities in implementing farm to school programs that improve access to local foods in eligible schools. On an annual basis, USDA awards up to \$5 million in competitive grants for training, supporting operations, planning, purchasing equipment, developing school gardens, developing partnerships, and implementing farm to school programs.

[Read more here.](#)

## Grants: Whole Kids Foundation Garden Grant

Application Closes:

**October 31, 2017 at 5pm CST**

Review Period: Winter 2017

Notification to All Applicants:

February 15, 2018



Whole Kids Foundation will be launching the 2017 application for their School Garden Grant program on September 1, 2017. Created in partnership with FoodCorps, the School Garden Grant program provides a \$2,000 monetary grant to a K-12 school, or a non-profit working in partnership with a K-12 school, to support a new or existing edible garden on school grounds.

[Learn more here.](#)

## Resource: October is National Farm to School Month!

October is National Farm to School Month, a time to celebrate the connections happening all over the country between children and local food.



From taste tests in the cafeteria and nutrition education activities in the classroom, to farm visits and school garden harvest parties, school, early care and education sites, farms, communities and organizations in all 50 state and D.C. join in the celebrations. The National Farm to School Network has free resources, planning materials, activity ideas and a new calendar of events for ways you can get involved in October.

[Check out activities here.](#)

## Resource: School Food Institute Online Courses Now Available!

School Food Institute, an initiative of the Chef Ann Foundation, gives school food service professionals and childhood nutrition advocates the in-depth training, operational skills, and strategic vision necessary to make school food fresh, healthy, and sustainable. Eight engaging online courses give you a front row seat in Chef Ann Cooper's classroom, where you can learn directly from a leader in school food change on how to transition school meal programs to scratch-cooked operations that provide real, healthy food to kids at school every day.

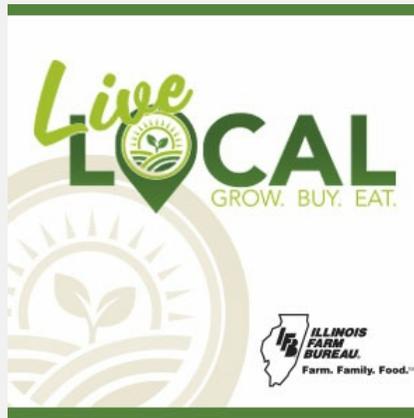


[Learn more here.](#)

## Event: Attend the 2017 Illinois Farm Bureau Live Local, Grow. Buy. Eat. conference

Register for the 2017 IL Farm Bureau Live Local Conference held on November 6 & 7, 2017 in Bloomington, IL.

Are you a local farmer, processor, distributor, or retailer? Do you own a small business? Give back to your community while bringing fresh food and local businesses together. Know your impact and what buying and selling local can bring your local economy.



Attend the Local Regional Food Conference Conference and learn how to grow your business from the best.

[Learn more here.](#)

## Save the Date: 9th National Farm to Cafeteria Conference April 26-27, 2018 // Cincinnati, OH

Save the date for the 9th National Farm to Cafeteria Conference, coming to Cincinnati, Ohio, April 26-27, 2018! Hosted by the National Farm to School Network, this biennial event will convene more than 1,200 movement leaders working to source local food for institutional cafeterias and foster a culture of healthy food and agricultural literacy across America.



Cafeterias in schools, early care and education settings, universities, prisons and hospitals serve more than 40 million Americans every day, placing the farm to cafeteria movement at the forefront of the fight to end obesity and strengthen local food systems and economies. The [National Farm to Cafeteria Conference](#) is the only national gathering of stakeholders from across this movement, making it the premiere opportunity to learn, network and collaborate with likeminded leaders from across the country.

## BECOME A NETWORK MEMBER

Join our growing movement.

[Click here to take the Farm to School pledge](#), and then spread the word. Forward this email and invite anyone you know who cares about Farm to School to join the conversation.

