

# 2019 Illinois Farm to School Impact Summary

## Seven Generations Ahead



### Our Focus in 2019



#### We're Growing Our Network!

We grew to 1350 members from 535 in 2017.

Provided a monthly newsletter to our subscribers and provided a monthly Harvest of the Month Tips update to 208 program participants. We shared weekly Fun Fact Friday social media bursts for programs and gardeners with our followers state-wide. Tabled at events and conferences to build recognition and share farm to school programming for early childhood, boarding facilities, K-12 schools and Illinois producers. Provided assistance through presentations and technical trainings, providing on-site technical visits for program participants and providing individual assistance to feeding sites, producers and partner organizations.

Built partnerships with like-minded organizations, agencies and groups to share farm to school across the state.

Connected participating sites and distributors to local food through regional producers and suppliers.

Further developed programming adding 11 new harvest choices to Harvest of the Month and a Farm to Summer toolkit.



#### Illinois Harvest of the Month by the Numbers

2016: pilot year, 5 participants, 70,213 children participating.

2017/18: inaugural year, 22 participants including 17 K-12 districts, 5 individual school garden programs, 8 partner organizations with 477,605 children participating.

2018/19: year two, 51 participants including 27 K-12 districts, 5 residential programs, and 3 early childcare facilities. 12 garden program sites represented by 1 residential facility and 11 individual schools. 943 individual sites serving 519,035 children in total. Summer Feeding and Camps: 14 participants at 84 sites with 5496 children participating.

2019/20: year three, 41 participants and 13 partner organizations enrolled in programming at 871 sites serving 493,671 children in Illinois as of 1/2020.

### Farm to School Boot Camps



#### Northern Illinois May 2019 & Central Illinois October 2019

These regional education events, pairing an immersive classroom experience with local food and recipe demos and on-farm tours, provided exposure and information on farm to school programs, and building and connecting edible gardens to the community to create a sustainable program.

#### Stats from our Boot Camps

**Boot Camp #1:** Participation: 85 registered attendees: 16 school districts, 12 individual schools, 5 early childcare program sites, 12 garden sites (K-5/ECE), 1 special needs school, 2 child boarding facilities, 1 vocational ag. program, 1 Juvenile Justice Center garden program. 77 individuals, 33 teams, 50 sites represented in total, 3 organizations/agencies in attendance. Sites who attended which signed up for IL Harvest of the Month and Great Apple Crunch programming in 2019: 21

**Boot Camp #2:** Participation: 38 registered attendees: 18 school districts, 2 garden programs, 2 state agencies, 3 area farms. 36 individuals, 9 teams, 10 sites represented. Sites who attended which started or continued building farm to school programs in 2019: 6 State agencies who developed or increased partnerships with IFSN; Illinois State Board of Education, Ag in the Classroom, Illinois Department of Agriculture.



Listen at noon on the 2nd Thursday of October for the **Crunch** heard across the Midwest!

#### The Great Lakes Great Apple Crunch by the Numbers

2015: 35,000 Illinois participants

2016: 339,103 Illinois participants, 900% increase from previous year

2017: 469,848 Illinois participants, 68% increase from previous year

2018: 586,331 Illinois participants, a 24.5% increase from the previous year

2019: 605,530 Illinois participants, a 20% increase from the previous year and a 1,048% increase from 2015.

Great Lakes total Crunches: 1,467,555! (IL, IN, MI, MN, OH, WI)

### Continued Success with Illinois Harvest of the Month and Regional Trainings

*Farm to School Snapshot: Mooseheart Child City & School, Mooseheart IL (Enrollment: 200 students)*

Students at Mooseheart Child City and School, a boarding facility in Mooseheart Illinois, learn first-hand how to grow vegetables and taste those vegetables in a variety of ways. Next steps in 2020: Mooseheart, after completing their second year of IL Harvest of the Month, will begin cooking lessons connecting to their garden and tasting programs. Mooseheart is a proud winner of the SEED level of participation for IL Harvest of the Month programming receiving an award for gardening and cooking equipment.

*Coming in 2020! Illinois Farm to School Institute*

A pilot program for a new Illinois Farm to School Institute training will take place in June 2020 at the Angelic Organics Learning Center in Caledonia, IL. This two-day educational opportunity and farm experience will be fashioned after the New England Institute and is funded by the 2019 USDA Farm to School Grant.