

2017 Illinois Farm to School Impact Summary

Seven Generations Ahead



Our Focus in 2017



- Growing our network to 535 members!
- Providing a monthly newsletter to 950 subscribers
- Developing & promoting Bill HR376 recognizing Apple Crunch in Illinois; adopted in May 2017
- Tabling at events and conferences to build recognition & share farm to school programming
- Providing webinars, presentations & technical trainings
- Providing on-site school visits for farm to school events
- Providing individual assistance to schools, producers & partner organizations
- Providing technical visits to participating schools
- Participating in cafeteria and garden food tastings
- Building partnerships with like-minded organizations and groups
- Connecting school districts & distributors to local and regional producers and suppliers
- Developing programming & best practices for schools



Farm to School Day Network Event

March 2017, Geneva IL

This was a day-long educational event paired with an evening community event, the Farmhouse Fete. Our morning began with school foodservice training on Farm to School programming and scratch cooking, including a live recipe demo! The afternoon provided fun learning opportunities for local families focused on gardening and child nutrition. Evening attendees including teachers, nutrition staff, agency staff and local residents munched on delectable local foods and learned practical ways to create a home garden for life-long health from our keynote speaker and local celebrity, Shawna Coronado.



469,848 Crunches
across Illinois!

Participating schools received over 8000 posters plus educational materials through our partnership with Illinois Ag in the Classroom. Local apples from Illinois & Michigan were served at 919 school sites in 30 IL counties. Total Great Lakes Crunches: 1,467,555!



This program, released in May 2017, has a dedicated website with 80 scalable recipes, toolboxes for schools and farmers, and an Extension Kit to reach school communities. By October, 28 school districts & 9 partner organizations registered totaling 518,057 students at 1108 sites. 14 Illinois distributors receive monthly Harvest of the Month program updates.

Early Success with Harvest of the Month

Champaign District Unit 4 in Champaign, IL (Enrollment: 9948 students)

Students of Champaign District Unit 4 gobbled up **1825 pounds** of local sweet corn, bell peppers and potatoes during August, September and October 2017. These HOTM featured vegetables were served at 18 school sites each month utilizing both hot and cold recipes. The HOTM logo and featured veggie, along with fun and nutrition facts were highlighted on menus, digital cafeteria boards and the district's website and phone app. Curriculum ideas and materials were shared with teaching and garden staff. The Carrie Busey Elementary School was gifted the 2017 National Farm to School Month sweepstakes prizes receiving a Captain Planet Learning Garden Kit, Stand2Learn Student Standing Desk, and High Mowing Organic Seeds. This elementary school garden is now planning to *plant veggies* for Harvest of the Month in the spring of 2018!