



To all Illinois school districts:

October 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2015 is the first Great Apple Crunch! Illinois schools are joining with other Midwestern states to celebrate local apples this fall as a part of Farm to School Month. The Great Apple Crunch 2015 is a pilot program coordinated by the Illinois Farm to School Network, Agriculture in the Classroom and the Illinois Farm Bureau.

Schools are encouraged to participate in the Crunch and have many options for what they can do. The cafeteria can serve local apples during the lunch period, using their regular food service providers. Depending on where you are located, local can mean within a 200-mile radius. Cafeterias are also encouraged to use DOD Fresh funds to buy Illinois apples for the Crunch. This will benefit our local farmers and you'll love the way the fresh, locally grown apples taste. Kids can *crunch* into their apples all at the same time and see how loud it gets!

The Great Apple Crunch is a flexible event with many ways that schools can participate outside of buying local apples. To learn more, please register for the Illinois Farm to School Network's Great Apple Crunch webinar on September 15<sup>th</sup> at 2pm. The webinar will be recorded. Register here: [http://bit.ly/crunch\\_webinar](http://bit.ly/crunch_webinar)

Participants will receive a cafeteria poster and a classroom 'Ag Mag' all about apples, created by Agriculture in the Classroom.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Lydia Mills at the Illinois Farm to School Network: [lydia@sevengenerationsahead.org](mailto:lydia@sevengenerationsahead.org).

Enjoy the Great Apple Crunch!

Sincerely,

Mark R. Haller, S.N.S.  
Division Administrator  
Nutrition & Wellness Programs