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Changes Come, Changes Go,

Regulations
Training
Staffing
Development

**Don't Be Left
at the Gate!**

New York School Nutrition Association
67th Annual Conference
October 26-28, 2018 • Saratoga, New York

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Farm to School

Julie M. Raway, MPH, RDN, CDN, SNS • Chair

Farm to School Grows: New York Farm to School Teams Attend the Northeast Farm to School Institute

Shelburne Farms and Vermont FEED hosted its 8th Northeast Farm to School Institute Summer Retreat at Shelburne Farms this past June. The institute is a unique year-long professional learning opportunity for twelve school teams from New England and New York. With funding from American Farmland Trust, thanks to support from the NoVo Foundation and the Joyce and Irving Goldman Family Foundation, four teams from across New York State were invited to participate this year. Farm to school leaders from Beacon City School District, Hamburg Central School District, Schoharie Central School District, and Sidney Central School District traveled up to the beautiful Shelburne Farm in Vermont for a 3-day educational summer retreat.



Sidney Central School District planning their Farm to School Action Plan at the beautiful Shelburne Farms. (Photo provided by American Farmland Trust/FINYS)

The teams from New York State applied for this opportunity to further Farm to School efforts with in their schools and community. Team members included school nutrition directors or managers, classroom teachers, school administrators or curriculum coordinators, school nurses, parents, school board, or community members. During the retreat, the school teams developed comprehensive school-wide Farm to School Action Plans that included curriculum, local procurement, utilizing outdoor learning spaces, and cultivating family and community connections. They also teamed up with a coach for guidance with their action plans throughout the institute and for the upcoming school year. Each New York State team will receive an implementation grant from American

Farmland Trust to put their action plans into motion furthering farm to school. Teams will also be convening this fall to check-in on progress with their action plans.



Hamburg Central Schools develop their Farm to School Action Plan in the Coach Barn at Shelburne Farms. (Photo provided by American Farmland Trust/FINYS)

Preceding the institute, the Northeast Farm to School Collaborative gathered to learn from their peers and to discuss developing farm to school professional development programs in their own regions. Several farm to school leaders from New York were in attendance including NYSNA Farm to School Chair/Committee member, Julie Raway and Kate Dorr. Farm to Institution

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“Mohawk Valley Farm to School” Officially Launches!

Kate Dorr, RDN, MBA

Assistant Food Service Director, Oneida Herkimer Madison BOCES

Partners in Oneida, Herkimer and Madison Counties have been working together for several years to introduce Farm to School programming and to increase local and New York State procurement in the National School Lunch and Breakfast Programs within our region. Lead by Cornell Cooperative Extension of Oneida County, Oneida Herkimer Madison BOCES, Waterville Central School and Vernon Verona Sherrill Central School, an established initiative with a new name has been launched; “Mohawk Valley Farm to School” will act as a regional committee leading the community in the 3 C’s (Classroom, Cafeteria and Community) of Farm to School.

This group has been instrumental in advocating and outreach and has been successful in the creation of a BOCES Cooperative Service Agreement for a shared Farm to School Coordinator. They have also worked together on many New York State Food Days and other Farm to School events in the past. One of their primary focuses moving forward will be to help schools in the Mohawk Valley identify New York State grown and raised products that will help qualify them for the additional \$0.19 reimbursement available in the 2019-2020 school year for schools who can demonstrate that 30% of their lunch food budget is sourced from New York State products. 🇺🇸



New Logo for Mohawk Valley Farm to School



Members of Mohawk Valley Farm to School pose with New York State Commissioner of Agriculture, Richard Ball, County Executive, Anthony Picente, and other key community supporters in the school garden of Memorial Park Elementary (Waterville) during the Spring 2018 New York Food Day.

Hamburg CSD Farm to School Team goes to Vermont!

Anne Rich

Hamburg's Farm 2 School team spent an amazing three days during the last week in June at Shelburne Farms, Vermont, for the NE Farm to School Institute retreat. Four of the twelve teams that participated were from NYS! Along with Coach Cheryl Thayer, Agricultural Economic Development Specialist – Cornell Cooperative Extension, we created an action plan for 18-19 around our value statement, "Hamburg Central Schools Farm to School (F2S) initiative strives to create lasting health and wellness in our community through exposure to hands-on learning, accessibility to healthy foods, and collaboration between cafeterias, classrooms and the greater community. It is our goal to continuously grow mutually beneficial partnerships with local farms and businesses, supporting the local economy and establishing life-long healthy habits for families in our district." Starting with staff training in August, our year is full of activities and events to really get our F2S pro-



View from workshop location at Shelburne Farms



HCSDF2S Team photo (left to right) Anita Trautwein, ECSNA F2S Chair; Shannon Gilmartin, Asst. Food Service Director; Anne Rich, Food Service Director, Pres. ECSNA; Tricia Miller, Giving Garden Coordinator, Cheryl Thayer, CCE Coach; Kaitlin Sylvester, Admin; Nicole Lauer, Principal. (not pictured – Wendy Heslink, Asst. to Supt.)



Nearly 100 educators, school nutrition staff, administrators, and regional organizations that participated in 2018 NE Farm to School Institute at Shelburne Farms, Vermon

gram out to our schools and community. We will share our journey with you throughout the year here in Focus and feel free to follow us on twitter@HCSDF2S and Instagram HCSDF2S. Connecting kids to food and farms..... trying to make a healthier, more sustainable world....what's better than that! #LoveWhatWeDo. 🇺🇸

Farm to School Partnership Awards

Due on or before December 31st each year

Did you know that NYSNA has a partnership with the NY Department of Agriculture and Markets? One of the exciting programs is the annual Farm to School Partnership Awards.

These awards are presented to the winning districts during the NYSNA Legislative Action Conference held each January in Albany. This joint award is given each year for exceptional work completed by schools around the state. Working with local farms has become a great way for Farm to School to flourish in New York State. Many of these creative projects and programs are celebrated during "Farm to You Fest" each Fall and throughout the year.

Here are the 4 categories:

- Merchandising/ Promoting Local Foods
- Working with Local Farms
- Building partnerships and Integrating Farm to School into Wellness Activities
- Distribution: finding creative ways to get or receive local farm products

The award criteria for judging are:

- Transferability: should be able to be replicated in other districts or areas
- Impact/Measurability: who and how did the submission impact the children, schools, farms and/or communities
- Innovation: shows improved and creative ways to use local farm products
- Sustainability: activity should be something that can be completed every year or demonstrate growth from one year to the next

There are so many great events and programs already in place at many districts, but we don't always hear about them. It's not hard at all to submit something for consideration – just fill out an application! Why not let your peers around the state know what fantastic things you are doing in your district? We would love to help celebrate your successes and give you the kudos and recognition you deserve! So now is the time to think about it. You can also nominate another district that you know is doing an awesome program but is a little shy to "toot their own horn"! Take a look at what you have planned in your District as it relates to Farm to School and send the application and a few pictures – we would love to present you with an award and get your picture taken with a representative from NY Dept. Ag & Markets!

Applications can be found on our website – Awards & Scholarships section. 