

USDA Farm to School Team Monthly Report October-November 2010

Site Visits:

The Team has been drafting individual summaries for each of the 15 site visits which will be shared on the USDA Farm to School Website. The summaries will communicate the highlights and broad overview of the Team's visit to the school district.

A full summary report, which is currently begin compiled, will include the overall common threads of lessons learned, best practices, tips, common barriers, and possible solutions from the Team's 15 site visits. The 15 school districts, which were visited in the 2010 fiscal year, represented nine areas across of varied demographics and Farm to School characteristics.

The Team will offer recommendations to the Department based on the site visits, as well as develop and/or reissue appropriate resource materials, guidance, and technical assistance for both schools and farmers. The full summary of observations, challenges, possible solutions, and best practices will be shared on the USDA Farm to School Website.

Policy Development/Technical Assistance:

- Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) agency is developing the final rule on *Geographic Preference Option for Procurement of Unprocessed Agricultural Products in Child Nutrition Programs*, which is scheduled to be issued later this year.
- Team members are editing additional Farm to School webpages that will focus on the operation and support of farm to school activities. The webpages will include information on working with farmers and schools, distribution models, impacts of farm to school, food safety, marketing materials for schools, farmers, and community members, supporting activities (e.g., school gardens), and a full summary of observations from the USDA Farm to School Team's site visits. Information on local procurement, USDA grant opportunities, and school and community resources are currently available on the USDA Farm to School Website.
- Provided comments to UDSA's Economic Research Service regarding language used in the upcoming Farm to School census survey.
- Provided comments to the National Agricultural Library (NAL) on a second draft of the Farm to School bibliography. Comments submitted to NAL included regional and resource member comments.
- On November 29, 2010, "Let's Move Salad Bars to Schools Grants" was included to the USDA Farm to School's "Available USDA Grants" webpage. See <http://www.fns.usda.gov/cnd/F2S/Supporting.htm>.

Meetings/Conferences/Presentations:

- On October 7, 2010, the USDA Farm to School Team and the National Farm to School Network provided a webinar for state agencies, school food service personnel, farmers, and non-profit organizations on available Farm to School resources. The webinar was recorded and will be made available under the "Sights, Sounds, and Stories" section of the USDA Farm to School Website at <http://www.fns.usda.gov/cnd/F2S/sightssoundsstories.htm>.

- On October 19-21, 2010, members of the USDA Farm to School Team attended the USDA Produce Safety University in Fredericksburg, VA.
- On November 16, 2010, the lead for the USDA Farm to School Team met with Regional Program Directors at the Child Nutrition Program Directors Meeting in Boston, MA. Information regarding the USDA Farm to School Team's site visits was shared.
- Members of the Farm to School Team continue to meet regularly with the National Farm to School Network and other Farm to School stakeholders to discuss future collaborations on Farm to School activities.
- Regular meetings/conference calls are scheduled with core and resource team members.

Upcoming Events (Second Quarter FY2011):

1. Release individual narratives of the Farm to School Team's site visits via the USDA Farm to School website.
2. Release a summary of the Team's 15 site visits to include the overall common threads of lessons learned, best practices, tips, common barriers, and possible solutions. The summary will be communicated through the USDA Farm to School Website.