



FARM2SCHOOL

2019 EVALUATION RESULTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS AITKIN, MN

Heidi Klingelhofer, MS4, MPH '19, Aitkin County Public Health Intern
Hannah Colby, RDN, LD, CLS, Aitkin County Health Educator & SHIP Coordinator

Students who eat well learn better. Farm to School encompasses changes within the classroom, curriculum, and community. Children have increased access to minimally processed, local food and an environment conducive to learning about how food is grown and nutrition created.

The intent of this evaluation study was to assess the impact Farm2School has had at Rippleside Elementary School and to determine what changes, if any, should be made for the program moving forward.

35.1

AVERAGE NUMBER OF VISITORS ON FARM2SCHOOL DAYS*

1.4

AVERAGE NUMBER OF VISITORS ON NON-FARM2SCHOOL DAYS*

\$1,248.20

EARNED FROM VISITORS ON FARM2SCHOOL DAYS ALONE*

38

AVERAGE NUMBER OF STAFF CHOOSING HOT LUNCH ON FARM2SCHOOL DAYS*

21.6

AVERAGE NUMBER OF STAFF CHOOSING HOT LUNCH ON NON-FARM2SCHOOL DAYS*

75%

OF TEACHERS

THINK OF RIPPLESIDE AS A HEALTHIER SCHOOL

73%

OF PARENTS

80%

OF PARENTS

FEEL THAT THEIR CHILD HAS LEARNED MORE ABOUT HEALTHY EATING

67%

OF TEACHERS

HAVE SEEN A CHANGE IN HOW STUDENTS VIEW FRUITS & VEGGIES

WHY STAFF ARE CHOOSING HOT LUNCH ON FARM2SCHOOL DAYS

THE FOOD OFFERED APPEALS TO ME	82%
I LIKE THE TASTE/FLAVORS OF THE FOODS	71%
THE MEALS SEEM MORE NUTRITIOUS	65%
I LIKE KNOWING IT IS FROM LOCAL FARMERS	82%
I KNOW I AM GIVING BACK TO THE LOCAL ECONOMY	65%

\$9,940.45

SPENT ON LOCAL PRODUCTS FOR THE 2018-2019 FSY**

\$25,365.70

SPENT ON LOCAL PRODUCTS FROM 2016-2019**

THAT'S MONEY GOING RIGHT BACK INTO THE LOCAL ECONOMY!!

*These numbers are from the 2017-2018 FSY

**These are preliminary numbers based on awarded contracts with farmers



WHAT 5TH GRADE STUDENTS ARE SAYING ABOUT FARM2SCHOOL

"I think this is a great program because we can try new foods, and learn new things. I also think it is a great program because family, and friends can come join their children for a very healthy and local fresh lunch."

"Farm to school is healthy and you can learn a lot and try new things!!!"

"I love your food. Its so organic and fresh and I love the program. I think it tastes great and I appreciate the food you bring us. I love that it's fresh from a farm"

34%

OF STUDENTS



REPORTED GETTING 3+ SERVINGS OF FRUIT DAILY



14%

OF STUDENTS

REPORTED GETTING 3+ SERVINGS OF VEGGIES DAILY

80%

OF STUDENTS

REPORTED THAT THEY LIKE TRYING NEW FOODS

WHAT NEW FOODS HAVE STUDENTS TRIED?

carrot hummus

butternutty mac & cheese

harvest butter (pumpkin)

pumpkin spice yogurt

roasted brussel sprouts with honey & dill

MEET THE FARMERS

BICKFORDS' FARM

Michelle Bickford, Cohasset

MIGHTY MINI FARM

Michelle Pagan, Palisade

GILBY'S NURSERY AND ORCHARD

David Gilbertson, Aitkin

OLES ACRES FARM

Jodi Olson, Aitkin

GRIMSBRO FARM

Tanya Grimsbro, Palisade

RIGHTEOUS OAKS FARM

Mathew & Katie Nix, Aitkin

HOLLISTER FAMILY FARM

Abe & Brea Hollister, Brainerd

WELLSPRING FARM

Sarah Gans, Aitkin

GRIMSBRO FARM

Tanya Grimsbro, Palisade

WILLOWEDGE FARM

Jane Grimsbo Jewett, Palisade

MAPLE RIDGE FARM

Erik Heimark & Jay Meagher, Aitkin



WHAT STAFF AND PARENTS ARE SAYING ABOUT FARM2SCHOOL

"Farm to School Day stirs up excitement in students. Many students are willing to step out of their comfort zone and try something new."

- Rippleside staff member

"I recommend continued growth of garden program. Kids will be excited to eat what they grow. More discussion with kids about the food and how it effects their body and makes them feel. After school cooking classes for kids."

- Rippleside parent

"Farm to school has helped me move toward more of a year-round business. I'm a farmers' market vendor, so the majority of my sales happen in the spring, summer, and fall. Having the school sales has meant regular farm income in the winter months, and as an additional benefit has caused me to maintain inventory throughout the winter. Maintaining inventory is important: it means I can start out the next farmers' market season with a good selection of meats, and it also has enables me to do a monthly meet-up with farmers' market customers throughout the winter months. That has also improved winter income and kept me in touch with those customers."

- Jane Grimsbo Jewett, WillowSedge Farm

MOVING FORWARD

FOOD EDUCATION

slide show running during lunch with "fun facts" about the foods being featured that day

GET STUDENTS MORE INVOLVED

recipe development, prepping foods, school garden/farm

SCHOOL FARM

students can see the whole process from planting, to tending, to harvesting, to preparing

lower costs over time, ability to incorporate more farm-fresh foods

FARMER PROFILES

slide show running during lunch with pictures and "fun facts" about featured farmers

MN FARM TO SCHOOL BILL (state-level)

reimbursement for schools for purchasing MN-grown foods, based on number of meals served



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

