



Seven
Generations
Ahead

www.illinoisfarmtoschool.org
www.sevengenerationsahead.org

Overview

- What is Farm to School?
- Illinois Farm to School Network
- Key Programs
 - Harvest of the Month
 - Apple Crunch
- Training and Implementation





Farm to School

Farm to School's Core Components

Strengthening the connections that communities have with fresh, healthy food and local producers

- Procurement
 - Local food in taste tests, snacks, and school meals
- Education
 - Learning about agriculture, food, health, & nutrition
- School Gardens
 - Hands-on engagement





Illinois Farm to School Network

Managed by Seven Generations Ahead (Oak Park, IL)

- Non-profit promoting the development of ecologically sustainable and healthy communities across the region



NATIONAL
FARM to SCHOOL
NETWORK

ILLINOIS

IL Core Partner, National Farm to School Network

- Information, advocacy and networking hub for communities working to bring local food sourcing, school gardens and food and agriculture education into schools and early care and education settings across the country.





Illinois Farm to School Network



Over 500 IL Farm to School Network Members!

- Teachers
- Early care providers
- Foodservice staff
- Farmers
- Students
- Public health promoters



<http://illinoisfarmtoschool.org/>



Network Support & Resources



- Website & Toolboxes
- Mighty Mini Video series
- Monthly newsletters
- Webinars and “The 411” program calls
- In-person trainings





Key IL Farm to School Programs



Illinois Great Apple Crunch



Harvest of the Month





Illinois Great Apple Crunch

- Part of Great Lakes Great Apple Crunch (6 states)
- Annual event every 2nd Thursday of October
- 467,096 Crunches at 919 sites in 2017
- 566,068 Crunches at 1187 sites and climbing in 2018
- Annual poster and Crunch stickers
- Crunch Guide, resources, social media tags, and full website

Join us at noon on
October 11, 2018

GREAT LAKES
GREAT APPLE
CRUNCH

illinoisgreatapplecrunch.org





Illinois Harvest of the Month



- Program highlights one local fruit or vegetable every month
- Registered schools receive classroom activities, recipes for food service, families, and recipe cards for local stores, fun and nutrition facts, a community extension kit, and one-on-one technical assistance
- Teaches kids about seasonal eating and healthy food while teaching program staff how to buy and celebrate local food
- 2017: 23 sites with 431,044 registered kids
- 2018: 50 sites with 510,529 registered kids



HarvestIllinois.org





IFSN Training and Education



Phase One

Phase Two

Education

Bootcamp
Training

Kitchen & Menu Audits

Equipment Grants & Implementation



Training Phase One

Targeted Group Education:

1. Feeding Site Personnel Training

- a. Healthy eating core concepts, local foods procurement, recipe demos, identifying and connecting to resources, IFSN programs

2. Advanced Training for Core Group: Bootcamp

- a. Scratch/healthy fresh foods cooking concepts.
- b. Training and elevating staff to use fresh foods.
- c. Cooking demo & hands-on culinary practice with advanced, hotline recipes.
- d. Menu-building exercises to incorporate scratch recipes into the menu.
- e. Food education in the cafeteria and beyond.
- f. Sharing promotional materials, including Illinois Harvest of the Month window clings and posters for foodservice lines.



Training Phase Two

Targeted Group Education:

1. On-site audit walk-through and consultation
 - a. Individual site kitchen audits and equipment funding
 - b. Audit of existing processes and current menu cycles
2. Written recommendations for equipment needs and site organization.
Grants to selected pilot schools for small-scale scratch cooking kitchen equipment.
3. Technical assistance provided as sites develop menus and recipes.
4. Dissemination of program materials: resource support for teachers, broad promotions utilized throughout site group area, communications and messaging in the cafeteria, classrooms, and online promotions.



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Diane Chapeta | IL Farm to School Program Manager
diane@sevengenerationsahead.org

Marlie Wilson | IL Farm to School Network Coordinator
marlie@sevengenerationsahead.org

General Inquiries: farmtoschool@sevengenerationsahead.org
708.660.9909



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