



Wisconsin Grows with Farm to School

Wisconsin Farm to School grows healthy kids, viable farms, and strong communities in our state. There are three main pillars of farm to school: purchasing and serving local foods, experiential learning at youth farms and gardens, and classroom lessons about food and nutrition.

October is Farm to School Month! Across Wisconsin, students, farmers, families, teachers, and everyone who supports Wisconsin Farm to School will celebrate by eating a locally grown apple in the Great Lakes Great Apple Crunch. Show your support by Crunching with us on Thursday, October 14!

F2S Grows Strong Kids

- **KIDS EAT MORE VEGGIES!**
Farm to school programs increase consumption of fruits and vegetables, especially among those with the lowest intake.
- **SCHOOL GARDENS ARE GREAT!**
School gardens are the perfect setting for safe hands-on learning and gardens are a proven strategy to improve students' learning outcomes.
- **F2S SUPPORTS STEM LEARNING!**
Farm to school programs increase student understanding of science and STEM concepts in fields such as agriculture, food systems, and environmental science.

F2S Benefits Farms & Communities

- **INCREASED MEAL PARTICIPATION!**
Farm to school increases student and staff participation in school meal programs by up to 16%, increasing revenue for school food operations.
- **GROWING FARMER INCOME!**
Sales to schools can increase farm incomes, diversify market opportunities, and establish long-term revenue stream for individual farmers.
- **IMPROVED FOOD SECURITY!**
Farm to school and early care & education improve household food security and food access by increasing the availability of fresh, local produce.

For more information and peer-reviewed resources, please see:
["The Benefits of Farm to School" from the National Farm to School Network](#)

How Can You Support Wisconsin Farm to School?

Show your support for Wisconsin Farm to School and Farm to Early Care and Education by "Crunching" with your community on October 14!

This document was produced by the Farm to School program at [Rooted](#), a 501c(3) nonprofit organization, and UW-Madison Center for Integrated Agricultural Systems.

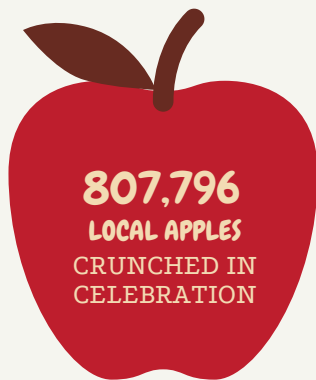


Great Lakes Great Apple Crunch

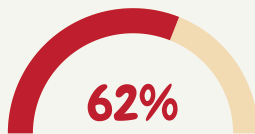
The Great Lakes Great Apple Crunch encourages schools and early care sites to purchase and enjoy local apples—together, as a Farm to School community—each October, in celebration of National Farm to School Month. The Crunch supports nutritious food in cafeterias, highlights foods purchased directly from farms, and promotes farm to classroom connections.

Great Apple Crunch 2020 was limited due to COVID-19, but the extraordinary turnout despite unforeseen challenges demonstrated the commitment of child nutrition professionals to support local farmers and serve wholesome food to students. This year, we again have an opportunity to give students an anticipated annual event amidst a chaotic pandemic year.

2020 Crunch by the Numbers:



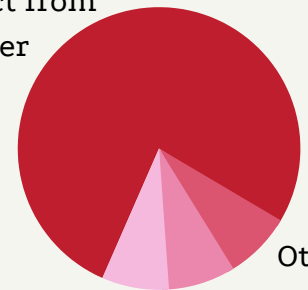
participants knew which orchard grew their apples



participants Crunched for the first time

Apple Sources

Direct from farmer



Other

Distributor or vendor

Donation



Apple Crunch Grows Strong Communities!



Teaches young eaters about **fresh, local foods and nutrition**



Provides a **fun** community activity that is safe during the COVID-19 pandemic



Grows relationships with **local farmers**



Promotes long-term **local food purchasing**



@GreatAppleCrunch



@GreatLakesGreatAppleCrunch



@Gr8AppleCrunch