Illinois

COWDEN-HERRICK CUSD 3A

2015 Farm to School Census Responses

The responses for this district are shown below. Please note this is self-reported data and may conflict with other data sources.

Participation

Did your district or any schools in your district participate in farm to school activities during the 2013-2014 school year?

- **Yes, doing farm to school in 2013-2014 school year**

All possible answers

- Yes, doing farm to school in 2013-2014 school year
- No, but started farm to school in 2014-2015 school year
- No, but plan to start farm to school in the future
- No farm to school activities currently and no plans for the future.

To the best of your knowledge, approximately how many schools within the district participated in any farm to school activities during the 2013-2014 school year?

- **2**

During the 2013-2014 school year, what age groups participated in farm to school activities?

- **Pre-K participated in farm to school activities.**
- **Grades K-5 participated in farm to school activities.**

All possible answers

- Pre-K participated in farm to school activities.
- Grades K-5 participated in farm to school activities.
- Grades 6-8 participated in farm to school activities.
- Grades 9-12 participated in farm to school activities.

Are you participating in the Child and Adult Care food program (CACFP)?

- **No**

All possible answers

- Yes
- No
- I don't know

Benefits

Which of the following benefits have you enjoyed as result of participating in farm to school activities?

- **Other: N/A**

All possible answers

- Enjoying reduced food waste as a benefit of farm to school
- Enjoying lower school meal program costs as a benefit of farm to school
- Enjoying greater acceptance of the new meal pattern as a benefit of farm to school
- Enjoying increased participation in school meals as a benefit of farm to school
- Enjoying greater community support for school meals as a benefit of farm to school

Local

How does your district define "local" as it relates to your food procurement?

- **Same city/county**

All possible answers

- Same city/county
- Produced within a 50 mile radius
- Produced within a 100 mile radius
- Produced within a 200 mile radius
- Produced within a day's drive
- Produced within the state
- Produced within the region
- Geographic along with other restrictions

Please indicate if your district or any schools in your district purchased any of the following foods - IN ANY FORM - from local growers/producers/processers/manufacturers during the 2013-2014 school year or would like to in the future?

- ***Fruit*: No**
- ***Vegetables*: No**
- ***Fluid milk*: No**
- ***Other dairy*: No**
- ***Meat/poultry*: No**
- ***Eggs*: No**
- ***Seafood*: No**
- ***Plant-based protein items such as beans, seeds, and nuts*: No**
- ***Grains and flour*: No**
- ***Bakery products*: No**
- ***Herbs*: No**
- ***Other food*: No**

All possible answers

- Yes
- No
- Not now, but would like to in the future
- I don't know

On average, about how frequently do your district's meals or snacks include at least one locally sourced food item from the categories below?

- ***Fruit*: Never**
- ***Vegetables*: Never**
- ***Fluid milk*: Never**
- ***Other dairy*: Never**
- ***Meat/poultry*: Never**
- ***Eggs*: Never**
- ***Seafood*: Never**
- ***Plant-based protein items such as beans, seeds, and nuts*: Never**
- ***Grains and flour*: Never**
- ***Bakery products*: Never**
- ***Herbs*: Never**
- ***Other food*: Never**

All possible answers

- Daily
- More than weekly
- Weekly
- More than monthly
- Monthly
- Occasionally
- Never

Are any of the following considered to be problems in procuring local products or reasons why your district does not purchase even more local products?

- **Local producers aren't bidding**
- **Hard to find year-round availability of key items**
- **We don't really have any local producers.**

All possible answers

- Local producers aren't bidding
- GAP or other food safety requirements
- Lack of compliance with your institution's purchasing regulations and policies
- Lack of availability of processed/precut products
- Hard to find new suppliers/growers or distributors
- Hard to get information about product availability
- Hard to place orders with vendors
- Getting on time deliveries
- Getting product delivered that meets your quality requirements & other specs (i.e., size)
- Having quantity delivered equal to quantity ordered
- Resolving problem deliveries
- Hard to find year-round availability of key items
- Inability to pay farmers according to farmers' needs due to school district payment procedures
- Hard to coordinate procurement of local with regular procurement
- Local items not available from primary vendors
- Vendors for local items don't offer a broad range of products
- Higher prices
- Unstable product prices
- Lack of reliability in delivering ordered items
- Lack of kitchen equipment to process/prepare local foods.

For the 2013-2014 school year, please indicate whether your district obtained local foods from any of the following intermediary sources.

- **Obtains local food from distributors**

All possible answers

- Obtains local food from distributors
- Obtains local food from food buying cooperative
- Obtains local food from food hub
- Obtains local food from food service management companies
- Obtains local food from DoD Fresh Program vendors
- Obtains local food from USDA foods
- Obtains local food from State Farm to School program office

Economic Impacts

For the 2013-2014 school year, what were your approximate total food costs (in dollars)?

- **$89,200**

Looking forward do you anticipate your local purchases will increase, decrease or stay the same?

- **Other**

All possible answers

- Increase
- Decrease
- Stay the same
- Other

Can't find your district?

It's because USDA does not have a record for your school district.