

# OMAHA PUBLIC SCHOOLS

A NEBRASKA THURSDAYS STORY



## SCHOOL SPOTLIGHT

**Food service director:**  
Tamara Yarmon

**Number of feeding sites:**  
93

**Regional location:**  
Eastern Nebraska

**Meal participation rate:**  
77%

**Number of students:**  
52,000

**Number of food service staff:** 500

▶ **11 TO 25%** OF FOOD IS MADE FROM SCRATCH

▶ OMAHA PUBLIC SCHOOLS HAS A GOAL OF INCREASING THIS NUMBER TO 26 TO 50% IN THE SECONDARY SCHOOLS

## HOW WE GOT STARTED

“We have a strong belief in providing foods which are produced by local farmers. The food is fresh, colorful, and supports the local economy.”

## SUCCESSSES AND GOALS FOR NEXT YEAR

“A success this year was increasing local meat purchases. My goal for next year is to continue to bring more local products to the menus.”

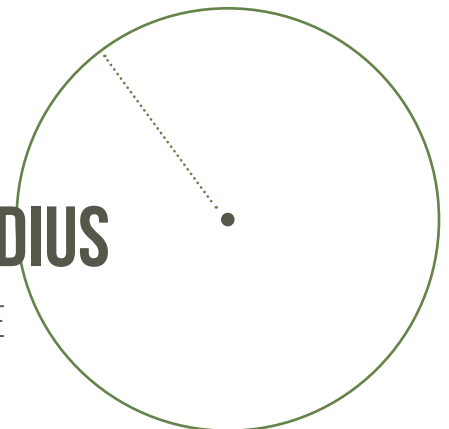
## COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

“The most important community partners are the farm and food businesses we purchase from most often. They are helping us to make it all happen.”

OMAHA PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
DEFINES LOCAL AS  
PRODUCED WITHIN A

**240 MILE RADIUS**

FROM ITS DISTRICT OFFICE



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## ADDITIONAL TIME NEEDED?

“Additional prep time depends on the time of the year. We have been doing this for awhile – it becomes automatic and doesn’t require as much time.”



## WHERE WE PURCHASE

- Smart Chicken (Tecumseh, Nebraska),
- Rotella’s Bakery (La Vista, Nebraska),
- Farm Fresh (O’Neill, Nebraska),
- Pekarak’s Produce (Dwight, Nebraska),
- A&T Farms (Yutan, Nebraska),
- Daniel’s Produce (Columbus, Nebraska),
- Heldt Farms (Ashland, Nebraska),
- International Spices (Fremont, Nebraska),
- Small’s Fruit Farms (Mondamin, Iowa),
- Union Orchard (Union, Nebraska), and
- Various school food distributors.

## FAVORITE LOCAL FOOD TO USE ON THE MENUS

“I don’t have a ‘favorite’ – I love them ALL!”

## FAVORITE LOCAL MEAL

“The favorite is chicken drummies in ranch, spicy, and barbeque.”

## DID YOU DO ANYTHING UNIQUE TO PROMOTE NEBRASKA THURSDAYS?

“Everyone wore red Nebraska shirts on Nebraska Thursday lunch day.”



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