



Nebraska Farm to School Institute

The Nebraska Farm to School Institute was established to strengthen local food purchasing and education practices within interdisciplinary school teams. Eight school teams were competitively selected to participate in the Institute during the 2021-22 school year, engaging in training, technical assistance, and coaching support. The Nebraska Farm to School Institute is modeled after the "3 C's" approach, pioneered by Vermont FEED, which integrates the Classroom, Cafeteria, and Community into the development of farm to school action plans. Nebraska Farm to School Institute teams were granted \$3,000 in funds to assist in advancing their farm to school goals.

Farm to School Goals

- Serve diverse, local, fresh fruits, vegetables, and meats in the cafeteria during the 2021-22 school year.
- Build community awareness and support of farm to school; introduce avenues for community participation.
- Increase student knowledge of how food is grown, where it comes from, and the science of the impact of food on the human body.

Accomplishments

- Incorporated wide variety of local foods in cafeteria, like melons, peaches, cauliflower, and cabbage.
- The FFA class taught farm to school lessons to K-6 students, including nutritional education and taste testing.
- High school students visited Trotter's Learning Center and harvested crops to take back to the school to serve in school meals.



Burwell Public Schools	Burwell Public Schools participated in the inaugural school year 2021-2022 Nebraska Farm to School Institute as a full school district.
Student Population	K to 12th grade students: 318
Farm to School Team Members for School Year 2021-2022	Michele Clements: School Lunch Program Manager Lesa Gideon: School Nurse, USDA Farm to School Grant Coordinator Kayla Hinrichs: Extension Educator Tenise Jarecke: Community Member Darrin Max: Administrator Tammy Pinckney: Health & Wellness Coach Philip Simpson: Agricultural Educator Kelsey Traush: Parent
School Year 2021-2022 Coach	Jordan Rasmussen: Rural Prosperity Nebraska Extension Educator



Outcome

Burwell Public Schools has worked hard to integrate their farm to school program and the results are proof. This school district currently serves over 300 students in grades K-12, and farm to school efforts can be seen across every age group. With the help of the Farm to School Institute, Burwell set some ambitious goals for the 2021-2022 school year.

With a great team of dedicated farm to school supporters, this school district is excelling. Agriculture Teacher, Philip Simpson, along with Extension Educator, Kayla Hinrichs, guided high school students in the FFA class as they led lessons with elementary students on dairy and beef. These lessons included nutritional education as well as a hands-on activity where the younger children were able to shake up ice cream and then finish it all off with a yummy taste test experience.

Burwell High School students also enjoyed a trip to Trotter's Garden Shoppe and Learning Center, where they were able to observe food being harvested and processed. They got to get their hands dirty harvesting cauliflower and cabbage, which were processed and then used in the school meals program. School Lunch Program Manager, Michele Clements, also used locally sourced watermelon and cantaloupe in school recipes from Farm Girl Markets and fresh peaches from Colorado which were donated to the school by the local Lions Club. All of these and more were displayed on the school's new fully refrigerated salad bar which was purchased with Farm to School Institute funding.

Growing the school garden was one of Burwell's goals for the year, and they have recruited many local sources to help. A garden shed from a local garden shop was placed on the school grounds, and the Burwell High School shop class created four 8x4 raised garden beds which will be used to plant crops to harvest for recipes in the school cafeteria in the fall. School biology classes will also be incorporating the raised garden beds into their coursework in the future. Speaking of the future, Burwell was the recipient of a competitive two-year 2022 USDA Farm to School grant that will support all these efforts moving forward. They are committed to even more growth of their farm to school program, including the development of a culinary club, home economics classroom remodels, and a greenhouse.



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