



## 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

- Humboldt Table Rock Steinauer (HTRS) food service team will incorporate at least one local food product each month in the cafeteria.
- The HTRS team will expand the amount of land to use as a school garden.
- The HTRS team will communicate program goals and process back into the community.

### Accomplishments

- Local foods were served in the cafeteria almost every month.
- The school board gave HTRS two acres of land to use for their school garden and for planting fruit trees to be used for both the school and community.
- Community members donated produce and allowed students to harvest their produce.



<b>HTRS Public Schools</b>	HTRS Public Schools participated in the inaugural school year 2021-2022 Nebraska Farm to School Institute as a full school district.
<b>Student Population</b>	Pre-K to 12th grade students: 311
<b>Farm to School Team Members for School Year 2021-2022</b>	Sandy Boring: School Food Service Crystal Dunekacke: School Board Member/Parent Dr. George Griffith: Superintendent LuAnn Hunzeker: School Food Service Kaytlyn Kennedy: Nebraska Extension Educator Scott Ogle: School Board Member/Parent Trent Platt: Ag Instructor Tim Schaardt: School Board Member/Parent
<b>School Year 2021-2022 Coach</b>	Skylar Falter: Nebraska Farmer; Farm to School Expert



## Outcome

Serving just over 300 students—preschool through 12th grade—Humboldt Table Rock Steinauer (HTRS) Public Schools dove head first into incorporating farm to school in their classroom, cafeteria, and community. Throughout the 2021-2022 school year, HTRS provided several opportunities for its students to get involved with farm to school work.

Leading these efforts was Ag Instructor, Trent Platt, with tremendous support from the HTRS Superintendent, Dr. George Griffith. It goes without saying that the cafeteria piece of farm to school could not have been successful without the dedicated school food service staff—Sandy Boring and LuAnn Hunzeker.

The 2021-22 school year started off with a bang—HTRS had over a pickup load of apples donated from a local community member. Some of these apples were given to the cafeteria, and the remaining were used to produce apple cider, which students of all ages had a hand in.

Mr. Platt's Plant Science and FFA classes received additional hands-on experience by getting to work with a hydroponics system. This system is used to grow lettuce that goes onto the salad bar in the cafeteria. This system produces 6 gallons of lettuce each month. Mr. Platt says all the students know which lettuce it is and love getting to eat it. Students also used the school's greenhouse to grow cauliflower, broccoli, tomatoes, peppers, and cucumbers for use in the cafeteria. Once plants are transplanted from the greenhouse to the garden, FFA and Agriculture Education students are responsible for taking care of the garden throughout the summer months.

HTRS students also had a hand in processing, preparing, and preserving donated pumpkins and two acres worth of sweet corn. The pumpkins were used for pumpkin pie at their Thanksgiving meal as well as three additional meals.

One big success for HTRS this year was having two acres of land donated to them by the school board. This land will be used for additional garden space, including fruit trees. This new garden spot is right next to school property which will allow students to work on it during class. There was also an irrigation system installed.

HTRS looks forward to continuing their farm to school work through their garden plots and greenhouse and hope to incorporate more local produce and local livestock in the coming years.



### Contact Information:

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