



## 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 at least one locally sourced food item per week.
- Start a Farm to School Club, open to all interested students.
- Reestablish a school garden.

### Accomplishments

- Locally sourced items were served at least one time per week during school year 2021-22.
- Introduced the Farm to School Club. Members participated in educational opportunities like a local bee apiarist demonstration and touring a local farm.
- The Pius X garden is thriving. The school hosted a growing competition, providing students with planters and seeds. Participants received gift cards, in addition to the satisfaction of growing plants from seed.



<b>Pius X High School</b>	Pius X High School participated in the inaugural school year 2021-2022 Nebraska Farm to School Institute as a full school district.
<b>Student Population</b>	9th to 12th grade students: 1150
<b>Farm to School Team Members for School Year 2021-2022</b>	Zachary Baehr: Communications Director Leah Bethune: Assistant Principal Gary Fehr: Farmer Owner, Green School Farms Carmen Goeden: Food Service Director Alyssa Havlovic: NE Extension Educator Georgia Miller: Head of Pius X Landscaping Club Pamela Mueri: Community Member Amy Shonka: FCS Teacher
<b>School Year 2021-2022 Coach</b>	Emily Gratopp: EFNEP Extension Educator



## Outcome

Pius X High School may be located in the heart of Lincoln, Nebraska, but its urban geographic location doesn't slow the facilitation of an extremely successful farm to school program. Pius X serves nearly 1,150 high school students. As a member of the Nebraska Farm to School Institute, Pius X incorporated farm to school activity in their school cafeteria, classroom curriculum, and engaged students and community in the creation of their Farm to School Club.

All of this amazing work was made possible with the dedication and passion of the Pius X farm to school team. Carmen Goeden, School Nutrition Director, led the school meals team by sourcing and incorporating local foods into the menu on a weekly basis. She is ambitious, planning to include even more local fruits and protein sources in the coming years. Zachary Baehr, Communications Director at the school, incorporated farm to school in his classroom curriculum and worked with students to create a farm to school webpage to highlight events and information surrounding farm to school. Considerations for colors, design, and marketing to engage students were critical as the site was constructed.

Pius X truly embraces their urban population of students and is committed to empowering students to explore all avenues of future careers and interests, including agriculture. A prime example of this in action is the Farm to School Club. Students practiced their skills in the kitchen creating locally sourced pumpkin bread, pumpkin smoothies, and beet smoothies with the immersion blenders purchased with Institute-provided mini-grant funds.

Pius X has made great strides in farm to school and there are no signs they will slow down! In addition to increasing the type and variety of local foods in school lunches, the school is seeking opportunities to incorporate farm to school concepts and experiences into curriculum and classroom. Pius X is planning a field trip for students, including members of their Farm to School Club, to visit a partnering farm in the coming year. Conversations with this team will also continue exploring potential for a greenhouse on the school grounds. The future is bright for Pius X students engaging in innovative learning, and offered opportunities to grow their respect and understanding of food systems and community!



### Contact Information:

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