

# Heartland Farm to School Institute Application 2025 - Nebraska

## BACKGROUND:

The Heartland Farm to School Institute is offered in collaboration with Child Nutrition Program partners from Kansas, Missouri, and Nebraska. This initiative is formally led by the Kansas Department of Education, the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, and the Nebraska Department of Education.

The Heartland Farm to School Institute aims to assist schools in incorporating Farm to School programming in the classroom, cafeteria, and community. The year-long Institute kicks off with a retreat where teams will engage in action planning to set programmatic goals with the assistance of a coach and learn through educational sessions. Following the retreat, teams will implement their Farm to School action plans with the support of the Institute network consisting of their coach, organizations across the three states, and the cohort of additional participating teams.

## ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS:

- Complete one application per team. INDIVIDUALS may not apply.
- Teams applying must represent a School or School District from Nebraska (NE), Kansas (KS), or Missouri (MO). Early Care and Education programs are NOT eligible to apply for the 2025-26 Institute.
- Applicants must participate in the National School Lunch Program (NSLP). Additional program participation such as the School Breakfast Program (SBP), the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program (FFVP), or the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) is encouraged but not required.
- Teams chosen to participate must attend the Institute retreat at the [Mill Creek Lodge at Volland Point](#) and the [Volland Foundation](#) May 28th - 30th, 2025. Specific details about team number and in-person participation are provided below.
- Each team chosen commits to participating in Institute activities as a team throughout the 2025-2026 school year.
- Applications must be complete and submitted by December 20th, 2024 at 10:59 PM Mountain Time (MT) / 11:59 PM Central Time (CST).

The Institute will accept a total of nine school teams (three from each state - KS, MO, NE). Evidence shows that participating in this Institute will empower each team to make significant strides towards achieving their Farm to School goals.

The Institute aims to promote the [three tenants of Farm to School](#) (Procurement, School Gardens, and Education) as well as the [Three C's](#) (Classrooms, Cafeterias, and Communities) through school-led Farm to School initiatives.

**TIMELINE:**

December 6th, 2024: 10:59 pm (MT)/11:59 pm (CST): Application Deadline.

January 27th, 2025: Award Announcement. All applicants will be notified whether or not they are accepted into the Institute.

May 28th-30th, 2025: In-Person Retreat at Mill Creek Lodge at Volland Point and the Volland Foundation

**CONTACT THE REPRESENTATIVE FROM YOUR STATE LISTED BELOW WITH QUESTIONS:**

**Nebraska:** Emily Hulse, Farm to School Network Specialist, Nebraska Department of Education, [emily.hulse@nebraska.gov](mailto:emily.hulse@nebraska.gov)

\* Indicates required question

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**TELL US ABOUT YOUR DISTRICT OR SCHOOL.**

1. District or School Name \*

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2. District or School Mailing Address \*

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3. Total Student Enrollment \*

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- 4. What Child Nutrition Program(s) does your district/school offer? Select all that apply. \*

*Check all that apply.*

- National School Lunch Program (NSLP)
- School Breakfast Program (SBP)
- Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP)
- Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program (FFVP)
- Summer Food Service Program (SFSP)
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

- 5. What is the current percentage of your students eligible for **reduced price lunches** in your school/district? \*

\_\_\_\_\_

- 6. What is the current percentage of your students eligible for **free lunches** in your school/district? \*

\_\_\_\_\_

- 7. Describe the demographics, or populations, that your school or district currently serves: \*

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\_\_\_\_\_  
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- 8. Primary Point of Contact Name (First & Last) \*

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9. Primary Point of Contact Title \*

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10. Primary Point of Contact Email Address \*

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11. Primary Point of Contact Phone Number \*

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## ASSEMBLE YOUR FARM TO SCHOOL TEAM

**FARM TO SCHOOL TEAMS:** Composed of 3-6 individuals representing various constituencies in the school and community. **Teams must have representation from the following roles: One (1) nutrition/food service professional, one (1) administrator, and one (1) other representative from the three C's - Classroom, Cafeteria, and Community.**

**Classroom team members** can include and are not limited to: (Licensed) Teachers, Paraeducators, Curriculum specialists, Agriculture/CTE/FFA/4H advisors.

**Cafeteria team members** can include and are not limited to: food service director, cafeteria staff, food service assistants, supervisors, purchasers, nutrition director, and managers.

**Community team members** can include and are not limited to: educational non-profit workers, school board members, local farmers, Extension staff, Afterschool staff, and city/county government workers.

**All team members** must have a vested interest in and authority to contribute to Farm to School efforts.

**The three required team members (nutrition/food service professional, administrator, and an additional representative from one of the three C's) MUST attend the Institute in-person kick-off retreat May 28-30, 2025. The additional/optional team members (up to 3) will not attend the Institute in-person kick-off retreat in May 2025 but will be involved in the action planning and implementation process throughout the year.**

12. **Nutrition/Food Service Team Member Name \***

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13. **Title \***

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14. **Email \***

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15. This person will attend the May 28-30th in-person kickoff retreat for the Institute. \*

*Check all that apply.*

Yes

16. **Administrative Team Member Name \***

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17. **Title \***

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18. **Email \***

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19. This person will attend the May 28-30th in-person kickoff retreat for the Institute. \*

*Check all that apply.*

Yes

20. **Classroom/Cafeteria/Community Team Member Name \***

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21. Title \*

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22. Email \*

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23. This person will attend the May 28-30th in-person kickoff retreat for the Institute. \*

*Check all that apply.*

Yes

24. **Additional Classroom/Cafeteria/Community Team Member #1 Name**

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25. Title

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26. Email

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27. **Additional Classroom/Cafeteria/Community Team Member #2 Name**

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28. Title

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29. Email

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30. **Additional Classroom/Cafeteria/Community Team Member #3 Name**

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31. Title

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32. Email

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### Proposal Narrative

The Institute aims to promote the [three tenants of Farm to School](#) (Procurement, School Gardens, and Education) as well as the [Three C's \(Classrooms, Cafeterias, and Communities\)](#) through school-led Farm to School initiatives.

33. Please describe your current Farm to School activity including local food purchasing, school gardens/greenhouses/farms, curriculum taught on agriculture, food, nutrition, etc. \*

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34. What equity initiatives are in place at your district or school? How might the Heartland Farm to School Institute be an opportunity to support or enhance these initiatives? \*

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35. What is one goal your team hopes to achieve in the **Classroom** as a result of your participation in the Institute? Explain your team's motivators in one to two paragraphs. \*

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36. What is one goal your team hopes to achieve in the **Cafeteria** as a result of \* your participation in the Institute? Explain your team's motivators in one to two paragraphs.

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37. What is one goal your team hopes to achieve in the **Community** as a result \* of your participation in the Institute? Explain your team's motivators in one to two paragraphs.

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