



ARKANSAS
Farm to School

Arkansas Farm to School State Profile

Farm to school enriches the connection communities have with fresh, healthy food, as well as local food producers, by changing food purchasing and education practices at schools and early childhood education sites.

Farm to school empowers children and their families to make informed food choices, while strengthening the local economy and contributing to vibrant communities.

Farm to school implementation differs by location but always includes one or more of the following: school gardens, education, and local procurement.



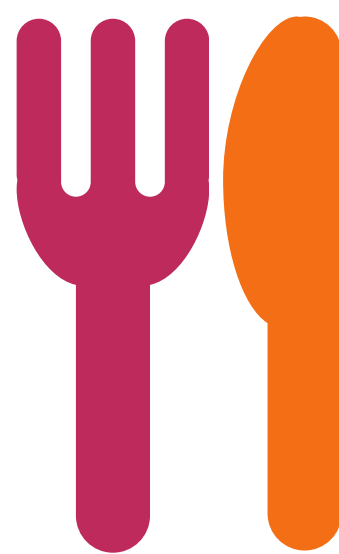
Farm to School by the Numbers

The Arkansas Department of Agriculture's Farm to School and Early Childhood Education Program tracks farm to school activities at the state level and has identified: 310 gardens at schools, early childhood education facilities, and alternative learning environments; 34 school districts procuring local foods; and 44 farmers and local businesses selling to schools. The Arkansas Farm to School State Profile is based on the 2019 and 2020 Local Food, Farms, and Jobs Act Annual Report and the 2020 Arkansas Farm to School Annual Report.



310 school gardens

teach students about gardening, nutrition, and Arkansas Academic Standards.



34 school districts

buy local food from a farmer or local business to serve in the school meals.



44 farms & businesses

sell locally grown or made food products to school districts.

Core and Supporting Partners

The National Farm to School Network recognizes organizations who are leading farm to school efforts in each state. In Arkansas the Core Partner is the Arkansas Department of Agriculture, and the Supporting Partners are the Arkansas Department of Education, Arkansas Department of Human Services, University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences, and University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture Cooperative Extension Service.

State Policies

Many state governors and state legislators support farm to school efforts and in Arkansas the following proclamations, initiatives, and bills have prioritized farm to school:

- **2021 House Bill 1848:** Healthy Active Arkansas Schools Act;
- **2019 House Bill 1853:** Amended Local Food, Farms, and Jobs Act;
- **2019 House Bill 1615:** Farm to School and Early Childhood Education Act;
- **2017 House Bill 1839:** Local Food, Farms, and Jobs Act;
- **2015 Governor's Initiative:** Healthy Active Arkansas; and
- **2014 - Present Governor's Proclamation:** Arkansas Farm to School Month.



Federal Farm to School Grantees

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) administer Farm to School Grant Programs which have awarded funding to the following grantees in Arkansas:

- **2020** Carroll County Resource Council \$50,000 (USDA), Springdale School District \$20,000 (USDA), and the University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture Cooperative Extension Service \$83,688 (CDC);
- **2018** Conway School District \$96,779 (USDA);
- **2017** Arkansas Department of Agriculture \$31,381 (USDA);
- **2016** Conway School District \$44,927 (USDA) and Winrock International \$47,646 (USDA);
- **2015** Arkansas Children's Research Institute \$49,918 (USDA) and Lawrence County School District \$100,000 (USDA);
- **2014** Mansfield School District \$32,721 (USDA); and
- **2013** Fayetteville School District \$99,779 (USDA) and Lawrence County School District \$45,000 (USDA).

Handout adapted from the National Farm to School Network's Farm to School State Profile of Arkansas. For more information and to sign up for the newsletter, visit arfarmtoschool.org.

