



Colorado Farm to School Task Force Legislative Report

Submitted to:

The House of Education Committee
The Senate Education Committee
The House Agriculture, Livestock and Natural Resources Committee
The Senate Agriculture, Livestock and Natural Resources Committee

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Executive Summary

Farm to School Task Force

In 2010, the Colorado Legislature created the Colorado Farm to School Task Force, a 15-member body with representatives from schools, parents, producer organizations and state agencies. The task force is charged with increasing the use of local farm and ranch products in school food service programs to improve child nutrition and strengthen local and regional agricultural economies.

Significant Accomplishments

- Farm to School Expansion
- Intensive Technical Assistance Workshops
- Farm to School Producer Mentorship Program
- Farm to School Producer Regional Grant Program
- Farm to School Information Hub and Social Media
- Policy and Regulatory Guidance
- Farm to School Evaluation Toolkit
- Farm to School Marketing Toolkit
- Farm to School Interactive Curriculum Tool
- School Facility Improvement Grant Guidance

Farm to School is Growing across Colorado

The task force engages stakeholders statewide through business meetings, community events and technical assistance workshops and partners with statewide, regional and local groups across Colorado. The task force also presents at several national conferences every year and partners with key national organizations. The work of the task force, along with its partners, has led to an increase in the number of school districts engaged in some type of Farm to School activity. Farm to school in Colorado has grown from 22 public school districts in 2010 to 105 public school districts in 2014; data from the 2015 Farm to School Census indicate 857 schools participate in farm to school activities in Colorado. The continued work of the task force will expand existing farm to school programs and help launch new programs across the state.



Overview

Legislative History

In 2010, the Colorado General Assembly passed Senate Bill 81, the “Farm-to-School Healthy Kids Act.” Once signed into law by the governor, this bill created the interagency Farm to School Task Force, a 13-member body with representatives from schools, parents, producer organizations and state agencies. In 2013, the General Assembly reauthorized the task force and created two additional seats (Senate Bill 153). For a complete list of current members, see Appendix B.

The task force is charged with increasing the use of local farm and ranch products in school food service programs to improve child nutrition and strengthen local and regional agricultural economies. For more information regarding the task force goals and activities, see Appendix A.

Funding

The task force receives no state funds for operation and is supported by generous grants awarded by:

- The Colorado Health Foundation, \$312,666, 2013-2016,
- The Gates Family Foundation, \$150,000, 2013-2016,
- The USDA Farm to School Grant, \$25,000, 2015-current,
- CoBank, \$150,000, 2015-current.

More information regarding current grants is outlined in the projects section of this report.

Statewide Collaboration

The task force collaborates with state, regional, and local stakeholders across Colorado through business meetings, community events and technical assistance workshops. Since 2010, the task force has traveled to Pueblo, North Conejos, Longmont, Yuma, Las Animas, Montrose, Carbondale, Alamosa, Fort Collins, Telluride, Durango, Grand Junction, Oak Creek, Akron, Broomfield, Boulder, Colorado Springs and Denver. The task force also presents at several national conferences every year and collaborates with key national organizations including the National Farm to School Network, USDA Farm to School Program, The Edible School Yard Project, School Food FOCUS, Healthy Farms Healthy People Coalition, Colorado Enterprise Fund and CoBank. The task force has developed strong partnerships that have brought new resources to Colorado’s farm to school efforts. For more information regarding detailed activities and outreach, see Appendix C.



Accomplishments

Farm to School in Colorado

The task force is working hard to support, expand and grow farm to school efforts in Colorado. For more information on current activities with the task force visit: <http://coloradofarmtoschool.org/fts-in-colorado/>

Significant Accomplishments

- **Farm to School Expansion:** The USDA Farm to School Census was implemented in 2013, and shows an almost five-fold increase in the number of schools and/or school districts engaged in farm to school activities in Colorado.
- **Intensive Technical Assistance Workshops:** The task force and Real Food Colorado provide customized, hands-on farm to school training to three Colorado regions each year. Fifteen workshops have been developed and new workshops are created in response to the needs of a given community.
- **Farm to School Producer Mentorship Program:** This peer-to-peer mentorship program pairs producers currently selling produce to schools with producers who want to sell produce to schools, sharing the details of the school food marketplace.
- **Farm to School Producer Regional Grant Program:** Producers receive up to \$10,000 to cover the costs of on-farm food safety investments to allow them to sell produce to school districts.
- **Farm to School Website and Social Media:** The Colorado Farm to School website (www.coloradofarmtoschool.org) is an information hub for farm to school resources including school, producer, student, parent and community webpages. The website contains resources and links aimed at starting and sustaining farm to school efforts. In 2014, the task force began communicating across the state and nationally through Facebook and Twitter.
- **Policy and Regulatory Guidance:** The task force and the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment Prevention Services Division, conduct comprehensive analyses of key policies, rules and practices affecting farm to school programs. Through these analyses, the following have been released:
 - Farm Food Safety Toolkit: A nationwide survey to determine how states are addressing farm food safety gaps.
 - Annual Farm to School Legislative Trends: A 50-state review of farm to school and school food legislation.
 - Frequently Asked Questions on the USDA Geographic Preference Rule, specifically addressing schools' and farmers' questions.
 - Farm to School Food Safety guidance: documents and interactive presentations for schools and producers.
 - Review of the Health and Economic Impact of Locally Sourced Food in School Meals and State Incentive Programs for Local Food Producers: provides research supporting the task force 2015 legislative recommendation.



- **Farm to School Evaluation Toolkit:** Step-by-step guidance and data collection tools for districts to assess their farm to school programming, including students, parents, teachers, food service staff and operations; producers, school leadership and community. Robust evaluations will improve district farm to school programs and identify effective models for different areas of the state.
- **Farm to School Marketing Toolkit:** This toolkit supports the goals of building awareness and support for farm to school programs among school food services, teachers, producers, administrators, students, and community members. It provides examples and templates for marketing Farm to School efforts.
- **Farm to School Interactive Curriculum Tool:** This tool provides access hyperlinks to farm to school curriculum in a spreadsheet that is searchable by grade and/or subject..
- **School Facility Improvement Grant Guidance:** This three-part toolkit guides districts in identifying and applying for appropriate grants for kitchen equipment needed for processing and cooking fresh foods.

Projects

Intensive Technical Assistance Workshops (completed)

The Colorado Farm to School Task Force held three regional Intensive Technical Assistance (ITA) Workshops each year, funded through the Gates Family Foundation. The Intensive Technical Assistance Workshops were designed as mini-conferences, providing critical training to support local food access and procurement by institutional kitchens. See the [2016 ITA Workshop flyer](#) for more detail. For more information, see Appendix D.

Producer Mentorship Program (ongoing)

The mentorship program addresses the gap between the high demand for local produce among Colorado school districts and the low supply of Colorado agricultural producers willing and able to sell to Colorado schools. This unique peer-to-peer mentoring program pairs producers new to the school food institutional marketplace with an experienced farm to school producer. The program's mission is to increase the number of Colorado's fruit and vegetable producers who are willing and able to sell to Colorado schools and bolster the farm to school marketplace, and is funded by a USDA Farm to School grant.

CoBank Regional Competitive Grant Program (ongoing)

After years of meeting with schools, producers and communities around the state, the task force entered into discussions with CoBank, a Colorado-based national farm credit program lender, to develop a pilot program based on 2015 proposed legislation.

A two-year regional competitive grant program was established to test the impact of investing in on-farm food safety improvements to increase the number of producers selling to schools. The goal of the investment strategy is to increase both the number of Colorado produce growers who are able to sell to Colorado schools by meeting food safety requirements and to increase the amount of local produce



procured by the local schools. It is expected that the investment strategy will support expanding farm to school efforts by increasing the purchase of local produce and offering meaningful business support to producers through private and public funding. A total of \$90,000 was awarded to the Tri-Rivers area (Delta, Mesa, Montrose, Ouray, San Miguel and Gunnison counties) and is being distributed as mini grants to vetted farmers and food hubs. Tri Rivers exceeded the minimum number of partnerships required (two school district, five farms and one community organization) that were willing to work together toward the success of farm to school in the region.

Findings

Intensive Technical Assistance Workshop Outcomes

The task force tracks community engagement and success of its Intensive Technical Assistance Workshops through surveys and evaluations. While results are not all inclusive, we learned several important lessons.

Attendees of task force events included a wide variety of stakeholders; such as, school food service staff, teachers, school administrators, school garden leaders, agricultural producers, food distributors, food processors, consultants, parents, community members, funders, public health officials, non-profit organizations, researchers and evaluators. The attendees provided valuable feedback that helped influence the task force's future efforts. Overall, the communities and regions that received the Intensive Technical Assistance Workshops have benefitted by increasing their knowledge and understanding of farm to school operations, regulations and programs. The workshops provided hands-on learning, while connecting participants to valuable tools, resources and networks across Colorado. Post workshop evaluations demonstrate strong support for and significant value of the technical assistance model. For more information, see Appendix D.

Produce Mentorship Program

The mentorship program addresses the gap between the high demand for local produce among Colorado school districts and the low supply of Colorado agricultural producers willing and able to sell to Colorado schools. One-on-one mentoring between a producer who is selling to schools and one who wants to sell to schools addresses the following barriers preventing producers from entering the farm to school marketplace:

- A lack of understanding institutional food procurement processes, how to respond to an institutional bid request and when request for bids are released.
- Unfamiliarity with the geographic preference option and how it helps local producers compete against large national food vendors.
- Not knowing the products schools want to buy (types of products and grades, e.g., A & B).
- Not understanding the economic benefits of selling to large institutional markets like schools.
- Not knowing how to overcome transportation/delivery logistics.
- Not knowing how to meet contractual obligations if there is a crop failure.



- Not knowing how to meet on-farm food safety standards schools require.

CoBank Regional Grant Program

Eight farms associated with the grant have utilized the first round of financial support, with very favorable outcomes. Investments have been utilized to implement various food safety processes that are approved by a food safety expert with Colorado State University Extension.

Investments to date include:

- Costs associated with becoming Good Agriculture Practices certified (GAP certified);
- Costs associated include labor/time involved to develop plan, cost of third party audit;
- Water tests;
- Harvesting bins; and
- Packaging for delivery of produce to schools.

Additional investment requests have included:

- Equipment for cooling (refrigerators, Coolbots, etc.),
- Trucks for transportation. Because trucks would be used for transporting produce to markets other than schools, the grant is limited to 25% of the cost of a truck.

None of the farms associated with the grant had any prior produce sales to schools. To date, two farms have verified sales to schools during 2016:

- Conner Orchard: \$900 of cherries to Montrose School District, during June and July 2016.
- Wags World: \$2,740 of fruit (nectarines, peaches, and apples) to Montrose School District, during September 2016.

Additionally, three farms are now GAP certified as a result of this funding. This project it is expected to find continued success, and will conclude in 2017.

Read more about the grantees here:

- [Western Slope Wins \\$90K to Support Farmers](#)
- [Grant Creates Pilot Farm-to-School Program on Western Slope](#)



Recommendations

Legislative Recommendation

The Colorado Farm to School Task Force has determined, through surveys and programmatic feedback, that awareness and demand for farm to school programming, support and technical assistance among school foodservice directors and producers has grown substantially in the past two years. The task force has been successful in obtaining grants as a funding mechanism to provide staff support and coordination of these efforts. However, finding and securing additional and steady funding has proved a challenge and a barrier to further growth and expansion.

The task force recommends the legislature consider allocating state funds for continued programming, staffing support and operations in support of further growth and expansion to reach all Colorado school districts.

Sustainability Strategy for Farm to School in Colorado

The Colorado Farm to School Task Force is currently working toward collaboration between LiveWell Colorado, the Colorado Department of Agriculture (CDA) and the Colorado Food Systems Advisory Council (COFSAC). The purpose of the collaboration would be to develop a proposed effort in sustaining food system issues, including solidifying a larger portion of dedicated staff time to the efforts of farm to school efforts. Initial actions included working with a facilitator between the Colorado Farm to School Task Force, LiveWell Colorado, CDA and COFSAC to determine if any synergies existed prior to moving forward. With the completion of facilitation meetings, it has been determined to move forward with collaborative efforts. The task force has voted to move forward with a proposed bill in support of additional staff time within CDA dedicated toward Farm to School efforts. A bill is currently being drafted and will be proposed by LiveWell Colorado.

To remain as proactive as possible, it was also determined other actions needed to be implemented simultaneously to help further insure success of a sustainable farm to school efforts. The task force and the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment have implemented a project, in conjunction with Colorado State University law students. Students will perform case studies of five states (Oregon, Texas, Oklahoma, New York and Iowa) to identify economic, programing and political successes within farm to school environments similar to Colorado. It is hoped this project will offer insight to opportunities that have not previously been considered.

Appendices

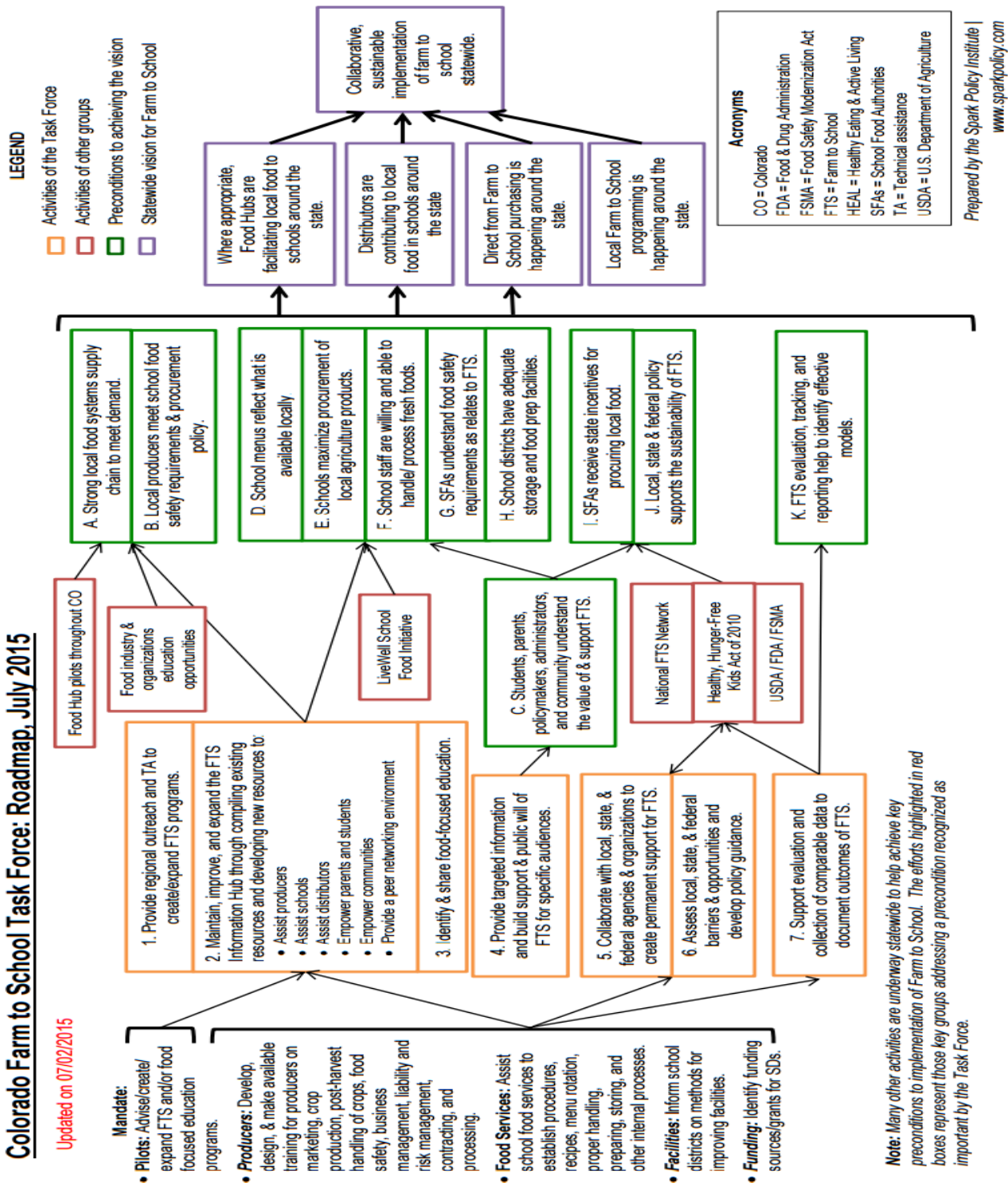
- Appendix A: Farm to School Road Map (Revised July 2015)
- Appendix B: Colorado Farm to School Task Force Roster
- Appendix C: Activities and Outreach
- Appendix D: Intensive Technical Assistance Workshops



Appendix A:

The Colorado Farm to School Task Force Roadmap, 2015

http://coloradofarmtoschool.org/wp-content/uploads/downloads/2015/08/FTSTF_Roadmap_071015.pdf





Appendix B:



2016 Colorado Farm to School Task Force Members

<p>Seat: Colorado Department of Education</p> <p>Sara Rose Foreman, Program Specialist, Office of School Nutrition Colorado Department of Education 1580 Logan St., Suite 760, Denver, CO 80203 303-866-6650 Foreman_S@cde.state.co.us Term expires: December 2017</p>	<p>Seat: Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment</p> <p>Joan Brucha, Healthy Eating Active Living manager Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment 4300 Cherry Creek Dr South, Denver CO 80246 303-692-2578 joan.brucha@state.co.us Term expires: January 2019</p>
<p>Seat: Fruit & Vegetable</p> <p>Seat is currently open due to task force transition</p>	<p>Seat: Non-profit</p> <p>Jennifer Visitacion, Executive Director Guidestone Colorado P.O. Box 1056, Salida, CO 81201 719-239-1594 Jennifer@guidestonecolorado.org Term expires: December 2017</p>
<p>Seat: K-12 FSD</p> <p>Krista Garand, Student Nutrition Director Durango School District 9-R 201 East 12th Street, Durango, CO 81301 970-247-5411, ext. 1436 KGarand@durango.k12.co.us Term expires: December 2016</p>	<p>Seat: Distributor</p> <p>Seat is currently open due to task force transition</p>
<p>Seat: K-12 FSD</p>	<p>Seat: Western Dairy</p>



<p>Shelly Allen, Director, Nutrition & Warehouse Services St. Vrain Valley Schools 2929 Clover Basin Drive, Longmont CO 80503 303-682-7255 allen_shelly@svvdsd.org Term expires: December 2017</p>	<p>Kristin Tucker Western Dairy Association 12000 Washington, Thornton, CO 80241 303-451-7711 KTucker@westerndairyassociation.org Term expires: December 2016</p>
<p>Seat: Cattle Industry</p> <p>Julie Moore Colorado Beef Council 789 Sherman Street, Suite 105, Denver, CO 80203 303-830-7892 Julie@cobeef.com Term expires: December 2016</p>	<p>Seat: K-12 FSD</p> <p>Seat is currently open due to task force transition</p>
<p>Seat: K-12 teacher/principal</p> <p>Seat is currently open due to task force transition</p>	<p>Seat: Colorado Department of Agriculture</p> <p>Shaina Knight, Business Development Specialist Colorado Department of Agriculture 305 Interlocken Parkway, Broomfield, CO 80021 303-869-9176 Shaina.Knight@state.co.us Term expires: December 2016</p>
<p>Seat: Higher Education Food Services</p> <p>Elijah Golden, Housing and Dining Services University of Colorado-Boulder C4C N170K UCB 154, Boulder, CO 80309-0154 303-735-4069 Elijah.Golden@colorado.edu Term expires: December 2017</p>	<p>Seat: Producer</p> <p>Anthony Zamora Leffler Family Farms 37414 CR 29, Eaton, CO 80615 970-689-2355 lefflerfarms@yahoo.com Term expires: December 2016</p>
<p>Seat: Colorado Department of Higher Education</p> <p>Michael Womochil, Program Director Natural Resources & Energy, Colorado Community College System 9101 E. Lowry Blvd. Denver, CO 80230 720-858-2808 Michael.Womochil@cccs.edu Term expires: December 2016</p>	



Ex-Officio Members	
<p>Mark Lara San Luis Valley Health 106 Blanca Ave. Alamosa, CO 81101 719-587-1437 mark.lara@slvrmc.org (Former task force member)</p>	<p>Wendy White Colorado Department of Agriculture 305 Interlocken Parkway Broomfield, CO 80021 303-869-9174 Wendy.White@state.co.us (Former task force member)</p>
<p>Taber Ward Mountain Flower Goat Dairy Long's Gardens 3240 Broadway Street, Boulder, CO 80304 TaberWard@gmail.com</p>	<p>Julia Erlbaum Real Food Colorado 1001 16th Street B180, #342 Denver, CO 80265 720-446-6535 Julia@realfoodcolorado.com</p>
<p>Amy Dyett The Colorado Education Initiative 1660 Lincoln Street, Suite 2000 Denver, CO 80264 720-502-4716 adyett@coloradoedinitiative.org</p>	<p>Kristy Rutledge Pork Producer 7443 County Road 30 Yuma, CO 80759 970-630-6437 fbrutledge@gmail.com</p>
<p>Martha Sullins Colorado State University Extension 1525 Blue Spruce Drive Fort Collins, CO 80524 Martha.Sullins@colostate.edu 970-498-6006</p>	<p>Jane Brand Colorado Department of Education 1580 Logan St., Suite 760, Denver, CO 80203 303-866-6934 Brand_J@cde.state.co.us (Former task force member)</p>
<p>Heather Ridge Boulder Valley School District 805 34th Street Boulder, CO 80303 303-912-0220 Heather.Ridge@bvsd.org</p>	<p>Andrew J. Nowak Slow Food USA 1426 S. Race St., Denver, CO 80210 303-324-4683 Andrew@slowfoodusa.org (Former task force member)</p>
<p>Theresa Hafner Denver Public Schools 2320 West Fourth Ave., Denver, CO 80223 720-423-5611</p>	<p>Jody Brandner 7599 County Road 40 Yuma, CO 80759 970-630-3096</p>



<p>Theresa_Hafner@dpsk12.org (Former task force member)</p>	<p>hstgonzo34@yahoo.com</p>
<p>Lauren Heising 303-513-4063 Lauren.Heising@colorado.edu (Former task force member)</p>	<p>Susan Motika Boulder County Public Health 3450 Broadway, Boulder, CO 80304 303-441-1185 smotika@bouldercounty.org (Former task force member)</p>
<p>Cynthia Torres (303) 449-2386 cynthialtorres@gmail.com</p>	<p>Jeremy West, Food Service Director Weld County School District 6 2508 Fourth Ave., Greeley, CO 80631 970-348-6604 JWest@greeleyschools.org (Former Task force member)</p>



Appendix C:

National Presentations:

1. “Setting Goals and Establishing an Evaluation Baseline,” national webinar for the *USDA Farm to School Growing Roots in Farm to School* series, January 28, 2015. Task force: Lyn Kathlene; Others: Bob Gorman, USDA Farm to School regional lead; Tia Henderson, ChangeLab Solutions on behalf of the National Farm to School Network.
2. “Farm to School Marketing Toolkit Workshop.” The CO Farm to School Task Force created the Farm to School Marketing Toolkit to help schools get the word about their program. The task force was asked to conduct a workshop at the *USDA Annual Grantee Gathering*, Denver, CO, April 24, 2015.
3. National Farm to Cafeteria Conference “Powering Up” Madison, Wisconsin, June 2-4, 2016. The task force and its staff have four upcoming presentations (three were competitive proposals, one was a request from the National Farm to School Network and conference for the task force to conduct a half-day workshop):
 - a. “Aligning Statewide Farm to Cafeteria Efforts: Models of Collaboration and Network Development.” Half day workshop co-presented with the states of Vermont and Wisconsin.
 - b. “Moving from Outputs to Outcomes: Evaluating What Matters.” Two hour workshop designed and lead by the task force with invited partners from the states of Washington and Georgia, and the U.S. Virgin Islands.
 - c. “Growing the Growers: Innovative Programs to Increase the Number of Producers Willing and Able to Sell to Schools.” Poster session highlighting the task force’s two new grants that support agricultural producers: USDA Farm to School Training grant used for a Farm to School Producer Peer-to-Peer Mentorship Program; and a grant from CoBank to support a Farm to School Regional Competitive Grant program that provide \$90,000 to the winning region to support on- farm food safety investments. Sarah Tyree from CoBank is the co-presenter.
 - d. “Grassroots to the State: A Network of Farm to School Supporters.” Poster session reporting on the extensive network of food system partners in Colorado that support Farm to School efforts. Poster shows data from the USDA Farm to School Census, LiveWell Colorado food system survey, and the task force Farm to School network survey. Importantly, there is a strong geographical overlap among food system partners and projects and schools doing Farm to School. Co-presenter is Wendy Peters Moschetti, LiveWell Colorado.
4. “Farm to School Marketing Toolkit.” Hosted by the *USDA FNS Farm to School*. (More information below in the section “webinars.”)
5. “Setting Goals and Establishing an Evaluation Baseline.” Hosted by the USDA FNS Farm to School as part of their grantee webinar training series. January 28, 2016.



Regional, State and Local Outreach Presentations:

1. "Colorado Farm to School Task Force." Display table at the first annual *Colorado Fruit and Vegetable Growers Association* conference, February 25, 2015. Task force: Lyn Kathlene.
2. Local Food Summit, March 2-3, 2015
 - a. "New Development in Colorado Food Policies – from State to Local Efforts." Task force panel presentation with the Colorado Food System Advisory Council, and the Denver Sustainable Food Policy Council
 - b. "Getting the Most out of the Farm to School Evaluation Toolkit." Presentation.
 - c. "Colorado Farm to School Task Force." Presentation & handouts at the Colorado Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics, April 25, 2015. Task force: Julie Moore.
 - d. "Colorado School Districts Struggle to Service Local Foods, the Fall of HB-1088 the Farm to School Bill, and How all this Revolves around Distribution Challenges." LocalFoodsRadio talk show, September 12, 2015. Listen to the Podcast at <http://bit.ly/1TRUPhj>
3. Colorado School Nutrition Association Directors Conference, Sept. 18, 2015
 - a. "Overview and Update of Farm to School in Colorado." Presentation by Jeremy West, task force member, and FSD of Greeley/Evans school district.
 - b. Display table for the CO Farm to School Task Force that included information about Farm to School resources and materials created by the task force.
 - c. "Colorado Farm to School Task force." Presentation to the Board of the *Colorado Fruit & Vegetable Growers Association*, October 20, 2015. Task force: Jennifer Visitacion, Julie Moore, & Sophie Oppenheimer.

Display Tables at Conferences/Meetings

1. Guidestone's Annual Lank Link Forum, March 6-7, 2015. Task force: Jennifer Visitacion.
2. Rocky Mountain Food Safety Conference, June 1, 2015. Task Force: Julie Moore.
3. Colorado School Nutrition Association Summer Conference, June 15-17, 2015. Task force: Jeremy West.
4. Colorado Fruit & Vegetable Growers Association annual meeting, February 17, 2016. Task force: Julia Erlbaum and Lyn Kathlene.
5. Governor's AG Forum, February 18, 2016. Task force: Lyn Kathlene.

News Articles, Blogs, and Radio/TV Coverage of Task Force Events, Sponsored Events and Interviews with Task Force Members

1. "Workshops Aim to Improve Local Farm to School Efforts." *KKCO 11 News*, February 17, 2015. <http://bit.ly/1ABk4vT>
2. "A Healthy Market For FARMERS: School District, Growers Learn Lesson on Better Nutrition for Students." *The Daily Sentinel*, February 23, 2015. <http://bit.ly/1ABjVIJ>



3. "Farm to School Task Force Aims to Connect Local Farmers to Marketplace (Segment 1)." *News Channel 5 Headlines*, February 23, 2015. <http://bit.ly/17DOdzb>
4. "Farm to School Task Force Aims to Connect Local Farmers to Marketplace (Segment 2)." *News Channel 5 Headlines*, February 24, 2015. <http://bit.ly/1Bn3Nv6>
5. "Opinion: Farm to School Efforts Benefit Children, Schools, and the Economy." *Health News Colorado*, March 3, 2015. Blog about HB15-1088, which had 232 Facebook shares. <http://bit.ly/1EmlxsC>
6. "Positions Open on Colorado Farm to School Task Force." *Fowler Tribune*, March 22, 2015. Press release on open seats plus description of the task force. <http://bit.ly/1TROv9A>
7. "Three Spots Open on the Colorado Farm to School Task Force." *Farms.com*, March 30, 2015. Press release on open seats plus description of the task force. <http://bit.ly/1sXpZv5>
8. "The Colorado Bill that would Create Farm-to-School Food Supplies to Improve Children's Diets." *Building Free*, March 24, 2015. Reports on status and content of HB15-1088. <http://buildingfree.com/pages/45814313-fresh-farm-food-and-school-nutrition>
9. Bill for Colorado Farm to School Expansion Takes a Small Step." *KVNF Radio*, April 21, 2015. Reports on status of HB15-1088. <http://bit.ly/1qXN4vR>
10. "The Farm-to-School Movement Finds Fertile Ground in Colorado." *Westword*, May 4, 2015. Article about USDA Farm to School grantee meeting in Denver, where the task force held a workshop. Highlights Boulder Valley School District. <http://bit.ly/1WUWl5q>
11. "Farm to School Program being considered for Northeast Colorado." *The Akron News-Reporter*, June 18, 2015. Reports on the community meeting conducted by the Farm to School Task Force.
12. "Soapbox: Find out Where Your Food Comes From." *The Coloradoan*, July 27, 2015. Reports on task force presentation at Colorado AG in the Classroom – Excerpt from the article: "Relative to young students learning about farming, one of my favorite presentations was Colorado Farm to School with Lyn Kathlene. This program works to help communities to get locally produced foods into Colorado schools. It's also a way for children to understand what healthy local foods are, as well as how they are produced." <http://noconow.co/1TOhMF2>
13. "Greeley/Evans Central Production Kitchen." *Denver Channel 7*, September 2, 2015. Evening news story about Greeley's central kitchen and its process of local food. Task force member Jeremy West interviewed.
14. "PW Students Learn Healthy Eating." *The Pueblo West View*, October 8, 2015. Reports on Cedar Ridge Elementary school's participation in Colorado Proud School Meal Day.
15. "Fun, Educational Time at Colorado Proud Event." *The Yuma Pioneer*, October 19, 2015. Kristy Routledge, task force member, helped coordinate donations from many producers for Colorado Proud School Meal Day. <http://bit.ly/1Ue9CQt>
16. "FY 2016 USDA Farm to School Grant Awards." *USDA FNS website*. CO Farm to School Task Force is listed among the awardees. <http://1.usa.gov/1kCyxU5>
17. "Farm to School Task Force visits South Routt." *Steamboat Today*, November 9, 2015. Reports on quarterly meeting and community meeting conducted by the task force. <http://bit.ly/22umBUo>



18. "116 Organizations to Watch in 2016." *FoodTank*, December 21, 2015. CO Farm to School Task Force is listed as one of Food Tank's organizations to watch in 2016. The task force was included in a list of groups worldwide. From the article: "This year, Food Tank is featuring 116 organizations you may not have heard about, but should look out for over the New Year. These organizations may not be well-known, but are deserving of the spotlight because of their vital contributions to creating a better food system." <http://bit.ly/1NidJBL>
19. "Potluck: Farming Education and Beans." *The Pueblo Chieftain*, January 5, 2016. Reports on the task force being named as one of the 116 food organizations in the world to watch in 2016. <http://bit.ly/1WtUtRv>
20. "Greeley-Evans District 6 Nutrition Services Recognized as Most Innovative in Nation." *The Tribune*, January 19, 2016. Greeley-Evans district awarded "best in nation" by Food Management Magazine. First Lady Michelle Obama tweeted the announcement. <http://bit.ly/22un5tl>
21. "How School Wellness Policies Support Farm to School." USDA webpage on Farm to School Wellness Policy Language where it highlights this Colorado Farm to School Case Study as one of the resources. February 19, 2016. <http://1.usa.gov/24h2FU9>
22. "Childhood Obesity is a Rising Concern for the Military, which is now turning to the Agriculture Industry for Help." *The Greeley Tribune*, March 19, 2016. Farm to School staff is interviewed at the 2016 Colorado Fruit and Vegetable Growers Association annual meeting with respect to how Farm to School addresses childhood obesity. <http://bit.ly/1Sb6pCM>

Three Farm to School Webinars

1. "Developing your Farm to School Proposal." Hosted by the Farm to School Task Force. Grant writing training specific to the USDA Farm to School 2016 grant proposals. Presented by Dawn Thilmany & Martha Sullins, CSU Extension – Food Systems Team. Attended by 70 people. May 5, 2015.
2. "Farm to School Marketing Toolkit." Hosted by the USDA FNS Farm to School. This webinar rolled out statewide and nationally the CO Farm to School Task Force's newly launched marketing toolkit.
3. "Setting Goals and Establishing an Evaluation Baseline." Hosted by the USDA FNS Farm to School as part of their grantee webinar training series. This webinar guided grantees and Farm to School programs in Colorado and nationally on how to collect baseline data for Farm to School evaluation. Created and presented by the task force staff. Attended by 132 people. January 28, 2016.

Social Media

The task force has developed a regular presence on social media. This has been an important way to reach a wide audience that is interested in farm to school but unlikely to attend task force events.



1. **Facebook:** CO Farm to School (As of December 15, 2016, there are 784 “likes.”). The task force launched its Facebook page on June 12, 2014. Every week new people and groups “like” and follow the postings of the task force. Importantly, its postings are being shared widely, reaching thousands of people. Frequently, people post comments demonstrating an engaged audience.
2. **Twitter:** @COFarmToSchool (As of February 27, 2014, there are 78 followers). On July 9, 2014, the task force began “tweeting.” This form of social media is a great way to keep people updated in real time about important information and activities of the task force, such as posting pictures and information from tours of Farm to School activities around the state, and announcements about upcoming meetings and trainings. We have found it easier to build our presence on Facebook but we continue to grow on Twitter, albeit more slowly.
3. **LinkedIn Group:** Colorado Farm to School Task Force (no members yet). The task force launched its LinkedIn group on January 14, 2015. We have not pursued this social media outlet to-date.

Dissemination of Resources:

Website (www.coloradofarmtoschool.org)

1. In 2014, the website averaged 684 page views per month of which an average of 170 are new visitors to the site each month.
2. Task force quarterly meetings and Intensive Technical Assistance Workshops are posted on the website. Materials posted: Agenda, presentation, meeting notes; registration (for Intensive Technical Assistance Workshops) and all Intensive Technical Assistance training materials (n=68; <http://coloradofarmtoschool.org/ita-workshop-materials/>). A calendar also lists the task force events along with related food system events around the state and nationally.
3. The website is very dynamic. It is updated with new materials at least once a week. We have also reorganized the website to highlight new tools and opportunities.
4. There are 466 resources available on the website. The top twenty most popular downloads (the number shown in parentheses) in descending order are:
 - 1) Farm to School Evaluation Toolkit: Attachment 1 – Student Outcomes (n=2011). This attachment provides a list of outcomes related to students and links to data collection tools. These are changes in the students’ attitude, knowledge, behavior, and/or health that can result from farm to school programming. Select those outcomes most relevant to the components of your program. Attachment 1 is to be used with the Farm to School Evaluation Toolkit – Overview & Steps.
 - 2) A Farm Food Safety Toolkit: A Nationwide Survey (n=1811). A report on the findings of a 50-state survey of farm food safety initiatives.
 - 3) TS Just the Facts Please - Producers (n=1524). Easy to understand brief that provides fruit, vegetable and nut producers with guidance on what they need to know about Farm to School and food safety laws and regulations. Includes resources.



- 4) Farm to School Evaluation Toolkit: Overview & Steps (n=1091). The Farm to School Evaluation Toolkit is a resource to help Farm to School programs of all sizes undertake evaluation. Evaluation can serve many purposes for your Farm to School program, including enabling you to demonstrate your program's success or progress. Evaluation information you collect allows you to better communicate your program's impact to funders, parents, school leadership, and other stakeholders. Evaluation can be a tool for you to recruit new funders. It can also be useful for program improvement. The toolkit will walk you through each step of evaluation, providing specific guidance and even the data collection tools.
- 5) Farm to School Evaluation Plan Template (n=1030). This template can be used to develop the specific components of your evaluation plan. To be used with the Farm to School Evaluation Toolkit – Overview & Steps.
- 6) Government Purchasing Preferences that Support Local Farmers: A 50 State Review (n=975). A 50-state scan of enacted, pending and unsuccessful legislative proposals on local procurement statutes. The report describes six nationwide trends and details Colorado's current procurement statute governing local food purchases.
- 7) Farm to School Evaluation Toolkit: Attachment 4 – Food Services Outcomes (n=648). This attachment provides a list of outcomes related to food service staff and operations and links to data collection tools. These are changes in the staff attitude, knowledge, behavior that can result from Farm to School programming. It also includes the changes in food service practices and policies that can result from Farm to School programming.
- 8) Farm to School Food Safety: A Review of Agricultural Policies and Practices (n=632). A comprehensive analysis of food safety in Farm to School programming as it moves through the food chain. The report Farm to School Food Safety: A Review of Agricultural Policies & Practices is for policy makers, state agencies, school food service directors, and universities involved in agricultural food safety as it relates to Farm to School programs.
- 9) Farm to School Just the Facts Please – School Food Services (n=550). Easy to understand brief that provides school foodservice directors with guidance on what they need to know about Farm to School and food safety laws and regulations. Includes resources.
- 10) The Colorado Farm to School Cookbook – Schools (n=550). Fifty delicious recipes created by Colorado school districts using Colorado grown produce. Recipes for 50 servings, full nutrient analysis, and all meet the standards of the New Meal Pattern.
- 11) Farm to School Evaluation Toolkit: Attachment 5 – Producer Outcomes (n=544). This attachment provides a list of outcomes related to producers engaged in Farm to School and links to data collection tools. Outcomes include: awareness and participation in Farm to School, food safety, knowledge of Farm to School regulations, positive relationships with schools and stakeholders, revenue, contractual plantings, accessibility and availability of locally grown produce, diversification of local market, processing and preservation, and grower collaboratives.



- 12) Farm to School Just the Facts Please – State Agencies (n=525). Chart that lays out which food safety issues are the responsibility of which state agencies.
- 13) Farm to School Evaluation Toolkit: Attachment 3 – Outcomes for Teachers (n=516). This attachment provides a list of outcomes related to teachers and links to data collection tools. Outcomes include: awareness, model healthy eating, positive attitudes toward Farm to School in curriculum, positive changes in diets and lifestyles, school meal participation rates, consumption of local food, consumption of fresh fruits and vegetables,
- 14) School Environment Observation Tool (n=492). Farm to School evaluation data collection tool available in the Farm to School Evaluation Toolkit.
- 15) Part III: Farm to School Grant Template (n=459). Grant template provides information, citations, and text that can be used in Farm to School grant proposal applications.
- 16) Farm to School Evaluation Toolkit: Attachment 7 – Outcomes for Community (n=449). This attachment provides a list of outcomes related to the local community and provides links to data collection tools. Outcomes include: interest and awareness about foods served in school, awareness about local food, demand for local food, participation in garden activities, and demand for Farm to School.
- 17) The Colorado Farm to School Cookbook – Families (n=437). Fifty delicious recipes created by Colorado school districts using Colorado grown produce.
- 18) Compendium of Surveys for Fruits & Vegetable Consumption and Physical Activity (n=417). Set of evaluation data collection tools available in the Farm to School Evaluation Toolkit.
- 19) Farm to School Evaluation Toolkit: Attachment 6 – Outcomes for School Leadership. (n=403). This attachment provides a list of outcomes related to school leadership and links to data collection tools. Outcomes include: awareness of Farm to School funding for Farm to School activities, and Farm to School policies.
- 20) CO Farm to School 2013 Legislative Report (n=401). The task force’s 2013 report to the Colorado General Assembly summarizes its first two years of work and sets forth recommendations for (1) changes to its composition and charge; (2) future work; and (3) legal, regulatory and guidance changes.



Appendix D:

Intensive Technical Assistance Workshops

Since the previous legislative report, several Intensive Technical Assistance workshops of the Colorado Farm to School Task Force have been held. In addition, we created six case studies based on interviews with key stakeholders from the entire Farm to School-Intensive Technical Assistance Workshops. Each case study tells an important story of how the Farm to School-Intensive Technical Assistancess Workshops has helped the communities build their farm to school activities. The six case studies are:

1. Larimer County
2. Mesa County
3. Roaring Fork
4. Chaffee County
5. San Luis Valley
6. San Miguel County

Milestones

Assessment of a region's readiness and unique barriers or opportunities

Work over the last two years has been focused on the supply side of farm to school: the agricultural producers. Over two-thirds of Colorado schools want to source local food but finding producers who are both willing and able to sell to schools has been challenging. To address this bottleneck, several projects were undertaken, including reformatting the three Farm to School Intensive Technical Assistance Workshops. Unlike previous workshops, the 2016 Intensive Technical Assistance Workshops were not connected to the task force's quarterly meetings. Rather, the task force held all the Intensive Technical Assistance Workshops during the winter months, when agricultural producers would be available to attend. The Intensive Technical Assistance Workshops were targeted at regions in the state that had strong school district interest in Farm to School but were lacking sufficient agricultural production to create a sustainable, significant Farm to School program. The three regions in 2016 were the (1) Tri-Rivers (Western Slope counties of Delta, Mesa, Montrose, Ouray, San Miguel, and Gunnison); (2) Northern Colorado (counties of Adams, Arapahoe, Denver, Douglas, Jefferson, Broomfield, Weld, Boulder and Larimer); and (3) Southern Colorado (counties of El Paso, Pueblo, Custer, Fremont, Teller, Huerfano, Crowley and Otero).



Regional technical assistance - 2016

Each region had the same set of workshops, focused on producers and leveraged two new task force grants (USDA Farm to School Training grant for a Producer Mentorship program; and a CoBank funded Farm to School Regional Grant competition for supporting on-farm food safety investments of fruit and vegetable growers who want to sell to schools. Evaluation results from the Intensive Technical Assistance Workshops are shared in the data section at the end of the report.

The three regions were:

1. **Tri-River Region** (Delta, Mesa, Montrose, Ouray, San Miguel and Gunnison counties), Montrose County Fairgrounds, January 29, 2016
2. **Northern Front Range** (Adams, Arapahoe, Denver, Douglas, Jefferson, Broomfield, Weld, Boulder and Larimer counties), Adams County Fairgrounds, February 5, 2016
3. **Southern Front Range** (El Paso, Pueblo, Custer, Fremont, Teller, Huerfano, Crowley and Otero counties), Pueblo County Fairgrounds, February 12, 2016

The Intensive Technical Assistance curriculum for each of the regional workshops included:

1. Farm to School Food Safety: An overview of processes, training and knowledge needed to successfully and safely build your Farm to School program.
2. Farm to School Regional Grant Program: A competitive grants program to support regional producers' and food hubs' ability to meet food safety standards in order to sell to school districts. This program is made possible by funding from CoBank.
3. Farm to School Marketplace: A training offering insight into school food procurement and Farm to School purchasing programs supporting access to and use of local food in school meals.
4. Farm to School Marketplace Speed Networking: A forum for agricultural producers and school food buyers to meet and discuss potential purchasing programs.
5. Farm to School Mentor Program: A unique Producer Peer-to-Peer mentoring program that pairs producers new to the school food institutional marketplace with a seasoned Farm to School producer. This program's mission is to increase the number of Colorado's fruit and vegetable producers who are willing and able to sell to Colorado schools and bolster the Farm to School marketplace. This program is funded by a USDA Farm to School grant.

Evaluation Results from the Intensive Technical Assistance Workshop Participants

The task force collected data from Farm to School Intensive Technical Assistance Workshop participants to assess if the workshop was helpful, what other types of trainings were needed, and what was the best venue/format to deliver the trainings. The 54 attendees at the Intensive Technical Assistance Workshop sessions who completed the evaluation represented a wide range of groups: school food services, agricultural producers, teachers, school board, government, food distributors,

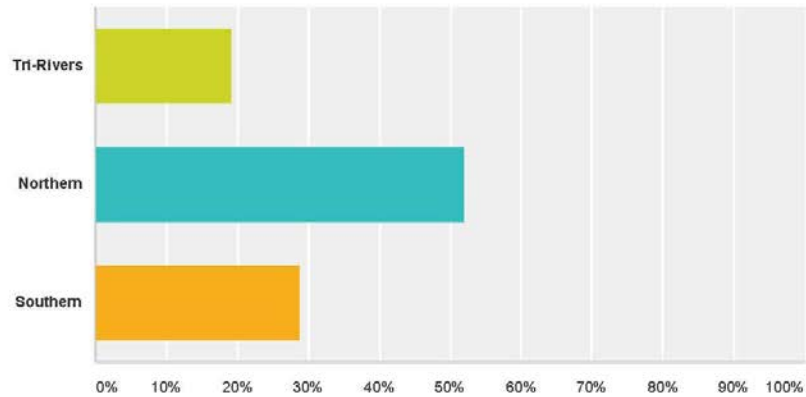


non-profits, cooperative extension, foundations, community gardeners, USDA, food hubs, consultants, and advocates. Results of this survey are displayed below.

Intensive Technical Assistance Workshop: Evaluation

Q1 Location of ITA

Answered: 52 Skipped: 2

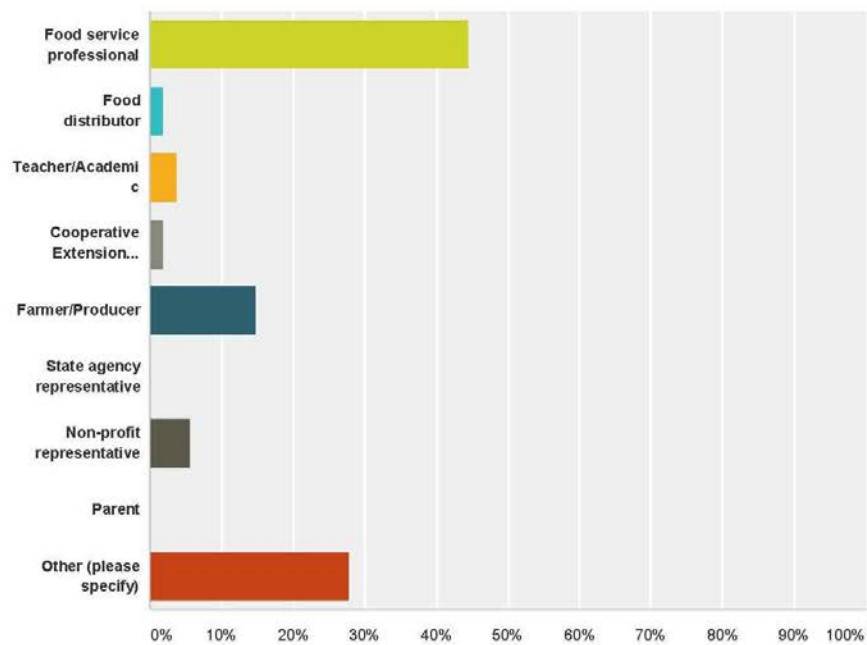


Answer Choices	Responses	
Tri-Rivers	19.23%	10
Northern	51.92%	27
Southern	28.85%	15
Total		52



Q2 Please select the category that best describes your role/potential role in farm to school programs. Please select only one category.

Answered: 54 Skipped: 0



Answer Choices	Responses
Food service professional	44.44% 24
Food distributor	1.85% 1
Teacher/Academic	3.70% 2
Cooperative Extension professional	1.85% 1
Farmer/Producer	14.81% 8
State agency representative	0.00% 0
Non-profit representative	5.56% 3
Parent	0.00% 0
Other (please specify)	27.78% 15
Total	54

#	Other (please specify)	Date
1	Government	2/22/2016 3:11 PM

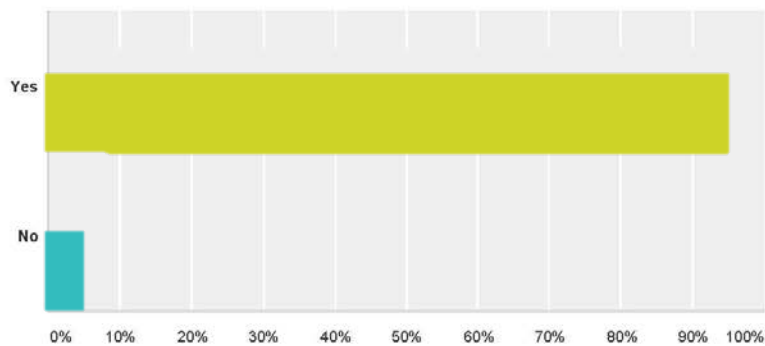


2	School Board - wellness; and non-profit representative	2/22/2016 3:09 PM
3	Local Food Pueblo community coalition and a teacher/academic	2/22/2016 3:08 PM
4	Consultant/Community advocate	2/22/2016 3:01 PM
5	Integrated Community Health Partners, Medicaid Representative, ICHP initiated a program whereby diabetes patients can get a prescription for buying/getting fresh food & food from a Farmers Market.	2/22/2016 2:50 PM
6	Chef consultant, Livewell Colorado	2/10/2016 9:39 AM
7	eager farm & education worker	2/10/2016 9:35 AM
8	School wellness coordinator	2/10/2016 9:33 AM
9	Consultant-Business & food safety	2/10/2016 9:28 AM
10	Community volunteer, CSU Master Gardener volunteer	2/10/2016 9:27 AM
11	Foundation (also a non-profit)	2/10/2016 9:23 AM
12	USDA	2/10/2016 9:22 AM
13	Funder (could be Gates or USDA)	2/10/2016 9:18 AM
14	School procurement (buyer)	2/10/2016 9:08 AM
15	Valley Roots Food Hub (distributor); SLV Local Foods Coalition (non-profit)	2/10/2016 8:58 AM



Q3 As a result of this set of workshops, did you gain any new knowledge about purchasing local foods for school meal programs?

Answered: 54 Skipped: 0



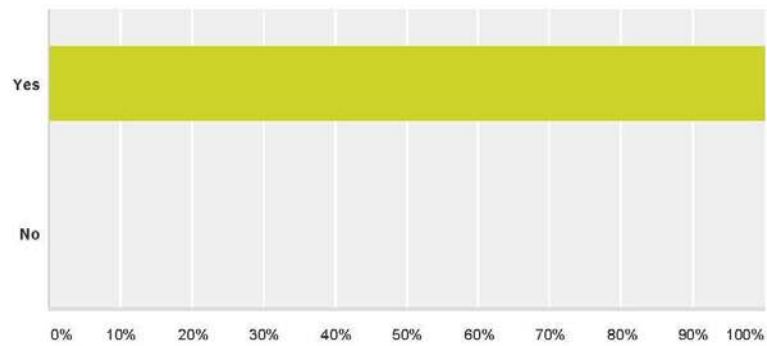
Answer Choices	Responses	
Yes	94.44%	51
No	5.56%	3
Total		54

#	Please share any comments:	Date
1	Availability of grants. USDA FTS Mentor Program.	2/22/2016 3:11 PM
2	Would love to hear more from the actual produce growers as far as what they are looking for to make it worth their while to sell to smaller districts.	2/22/2016 3:05 PM
3	Yes, new procurement rules. Safety S.O.P.s required for school gardens. Co-ops for institutional buying work.	2/22/2016 3:01 PM
4	A lot of info to retain. Thanks for the flash drive of resources to look back on.	2/22/2016 2:58 PM
5	Start small. Band together.	2/22/2016 2:56 PM
6	Learned about the procurement process and how it could be a roadblock to producers.	2/22/2016 2:54 PM
7	Understanding the procurement process from the school's perspective.	2/22/2016 2:53 PM
8	Procurement in's and out's	2/22/2016 2:51 PM
9	The Rawlings Public Library has a very comfortable meeting room with AV equipment that is free. Please use a venue like that the next time.	2/22/2016 2:50 PM
10	I would have appreciated a facilitated discussion based on locality (i.e., I am trying to connect with Poudre School District).	2/10/2016 9:44 AM
11	Importance of farm food safety and having a food safety plan in place.	2/10/2016 9:42 AM
12	Great information. I especially liked the food safety information.	2/10/2016 9:40 AM
13	Great to understand the process better!	2/10/2016 9:39 AM
14	I now understand the process and how important it is to buy local. Also quality of food and community being a fundamental part of a student's educational experience.	2/10/2016 9:36 AM
15	grants available	2/10/2016 9:34 AM



Q4 Would you recommend these workshops to a colleague?

Answered: 54 Skipped: 0



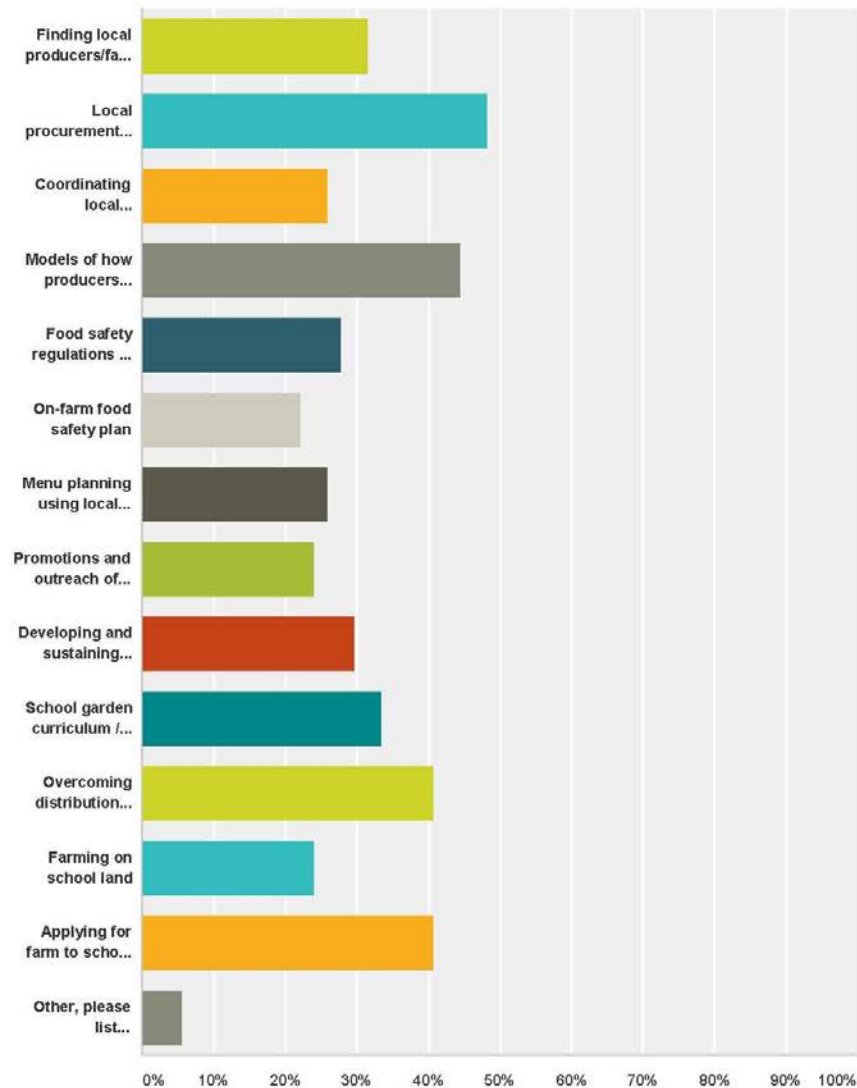
Answer Choices	Responses	Count
Yes	100.00%	54
No	0.00%	0
Total		54

#	Please share any comments:	Date
1	Sharing ideas and progress from others.	2/22/2016 3:11 PM
2	Valuable workshops. Some great ideas and knowledge shared.	2/22/2016 3:07 PM
3	Dynamic and powerful information. Good timing, 8am - 2pm on Friday. Great networking opportunities.	2/22/2016 3:01 PM
4	Many producers don't know about qualifications to be a supplier.	2/22/2016 2:53 PM
5	The networking and hearing about current successful programs are very helpful and encouraging.	2/10/2016 9:36 AM
6	It was good to be able to collaborate and network with others doing farm to school work and gain their perspectives.	2/10/2016 9:29 AM
7	I hope you can bring in more small producers.	2/10/2016 9:28 AM
8	Even as a volunteer, I gained so much USEFUL knowledge.	2/10/2016 9:27 AM
9	If starting farm to school	2/10/2016 9:17 AM
10	If you are new to farm to school it is a good way to get to know how to do it.	2/10/2016 9:11 AM
11	Depends who, focus on safety may not be as important to school administration.	2/10/2016 9:02 AM
12	Good networking and resources.	2/10/2016 8:58 AM
13	Very helpful for a small district like Ridgway to make connections and make contacts.	2/10/2016 8:51 AM



Q5 What topics related to farm to school or purchasing local foods for school meal programs would you like additional training on? Please check ALL that apply.

Answered: 54 Skipped: 0



Answer Choices	Responses
Finding local producers/farmers	31.48% 17
Local procurement rules/regulations	48.15% 26



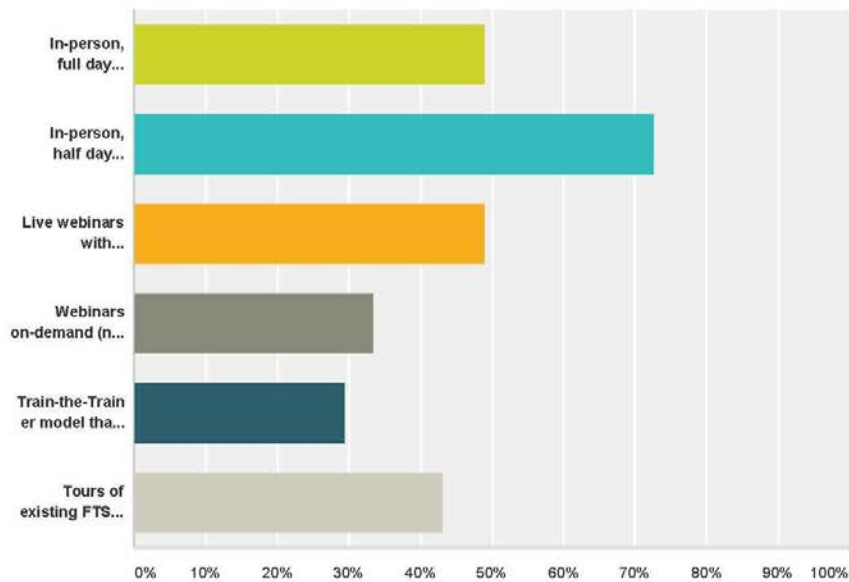
Coordinating local procurement with regular procurement	25.93%	14
Models of how producers receive fair prices and school are able to afford local	44.44%	24
Food safety regulations - handling, cooking, serving fresh foods in cafeteria	27.78%	15
On-farm food safety plan	22.22%	12
Menu planning using local foods	25.93%	14
Promotions and outreach of farm to school programs	24.07%	13
Developing and sustaining school gardens	29.63%	16
School garden curriculum / food systems curriculum	33.33%	18
Overcoming distribution challenges	40.74%	22
Farming on school land	24.07%	13
Applying for farm to school grants	40.74%	22
Other, please list _____	5.56%	3
Total Respondents: 54		

#	Please share any comments:	Date
1	DID not answer this question.	2/22/2016 3:11 PM
2	NOTE: did not answer this Q.	2/22/2016 2:58 PM
3	A breakout group focusing on the actual nuts and bolts of procurement & bidding process.	2/22/2016 2:51 PM
4	More hands on with children	2/22/2016 2:50 PM
5	Applying for FTS grants especially if you're not a school district or K-12. Implement FTS with CACFP. More info on preschool initiatives.	2/10/2016 9:43 AM
6	A grant is needed for equipment to clean and process local food, too.	2/10/2016 9:42 AM
7	Could have had more information on farming on school land.	2/10/2016 9:27 AM
8	Person did not check any boxes so Lyn checked last one.	2/10/2016 9:23 AM
9	Would love to discuss creating child care/summer specific trainings	2/10/2016 9:22 AM
10	Nothing checked but Lyn had to check a category because required in SM	2/10/2016 9:18 AM
11	Food systems curriculum in particular. Also policy change so school food services receive more money per meal.	2/10/2016 8:58 AM



Q6 What formats of training work well for you? Please check ALL that apply.

Answered: 51 Skipped: 3



Answer Choices	Responses
In-person, full day intensive workshops	49.02% 25
In-person, half day workshops	72.55% 37
Live webinars with opportunities to ask questions	49.02% 25
Webinars on-demand (not live, can be watched anytime)	33.33% 17
Train-the-Trainer model that utilizes a few local people who can mentor/train	29.41% 15
Tours of existing FTS programs with post-tour advising	43.14% 22
Total Respondents: 51	

#	Please share any comments:	Date
1	Thank you for a great day.	2/22/2016 3:06 PM
2	Excellent overall.	2/22/2016 3:01 PM
3	Great day. Speakers were great, clear speaking, informative. Thanks!!	2/22/2016 2:58 PM
4	Appreciate the group application completion process. The food was delicious.	2/22/2016 2:56 PM
5	Thank you for the great info!	2/22/2016 2:50 PM
6	Would like to learn about smaller districts using farm to school and their story.	2/10/2016 9:42 AM
7	Great workshop - good job!	2/10/2016 9:28 AM
8	Thanks for a great session!	2/10/2016 9:23 AM



9	Thank you for the opportunity to learn more about Colorado farm to school. Great training today. I really liked how you allowed for the audience to steer the conversation.	2/10/2016 9:22 AM
10	In-person for networking and webinar for time purposes.	2/10/2016 9:11 AM
11	It would have been nice to have more folks from schools represented	2/10/2016 9:06 AM
12	Mostly any platform works. Meeting in-person to build relationships helpful.	2/10/2016 9:02 AM
13	Who was the food safety section aimed at? A plan is now required for most growers. Smaller strictly farmers' market/CSA would not need and may not be big enough to supply schools.	2/10/2016 8:55 AM



REGISTER TODAY!



Farm to School Workshops

Regional Intensive Technical Assistance Series
January – February 2016

Three Regions

The [Colorado Farm to School Task Force](#) (Task Force) and [Real Food Colorado](#) (RFCO) launched the [Intensive Technical Assistance Workshop](#) (ITA) series in 2013 with a generous grant from [The Colorado Health Foundation](#) and the [Gates Family Foundation](#). The Task Force and RFCO brought FTS experts and resources to regions visited in keeping with the Task Force's mission to support and encourage Colorado Farm to School (FTS) programming.



The Colorado Health Foundation



In the final year of its grant funding, the 2016 ITAs are presented as mini-conferences and will visit three regions. The ITAs will offer critical FTS curriculum that supports local food access and procurement by institutional kitchens.



Space is limited, so **REGISTER** today for one of the ITAs!

Questions? Please contact:

RFCO: info@realfoodcolorado.com OR Task Force: lyn@sparkpolicy.com

Save the Date!

Tri-River Region
January 29, 2016
[Montrose Fairgrounds](#)
Friendship Hall
1001 North Second Street
Montrose, CO 81401

North Front Range
February 5, 2016
[Adams Fairgrounds](#)
Al Lesser Building
9755 Henderson Road
Brighton, CO 80601

South Front Range
February 12, 2016
[Pueblo Fairgrounds](#)
Auditorium
1001 Beulah Avenue
Pueblo, CO 81004

Farm to School ITAs are from 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM

The three 2016 regional ITAs cover more than 16 counties:

- **Tri-River:** January 29th
- **North Front Range:** February 5th
- **South Front Range:** February 12th

The ITA Curriculum will include:

- **FTS Food Safety:** an overview of processes, training and knowledge needed to successfully and safely build your FTS program.
- **FTS Regional Grant Program:** a competitive grants program to support regional producers' and food hubs' ability to meet food safety standards in order to sell to school districts. This program is made possible by funding from CoBank.
- **FTS Marketplace:** offering insight into school food procurement and FTS purchasing programs supporting access to and use of local food in school meals.
- **FTS Marketplace Speed Networking:** a forum for Producers and Food Buyers to meet and discuss potential purchasing programs.
- **FTS Mentor Program:** a unique Producer peer-to-peer program that pairs producers new to the school food institutional marketplace with a seasoned FTS producer. This program's mission is to increase the number of Colorado's fruit and vegetable producers who are willing and able to sell to Colorado schools and bolster the FTS marketplace. This program is funded by a USDA FTS grant.



\$90K Farm to School Regional Grant Competition

The Colorado Farm to School Task Force and CoBank are excited to announce a competitive regional grant program to grow farm to school sales. In 2016, three regions will vie for **\$90,000** to support the development and implementation of on-farm food safety plans for Colorado fruit and vegetable producers who want to sell to Colorado schools.

2016 ELIGIBLE REGIONS & CONVENING DATES

- Tri-Rivers area (counties include Delta, Mesa, Montrose, Ouray, San Miguel, and Gunnison), January 29th, 2016.
- Northern Front Range (counties include Adams, Arapahoe, Denver, Douglas, Jefferson, Broomfield, Weld, Boulder, and Larimer), February 5th, 2016.
- Southern Front Range (counties include El Paso, Pueblo, Custer, Fremont, Teller, Huerfano, Crowley, and Otero), February 12th, 2016.

WHO APPLIES

The application is simple; however, to apply a region must demonstrate on its application that they have a minimum of two school districts, five producers, and one community organization (e.g., local health department, local/regional food policy council, non-profit working on local food issues, etc.) willing to work together on FTS.

PROCESS FOR APPLYING

Applications will be available at the [Colorado Farm to School Intensive Technical Assistance \(ITA\) Workshops](#) in each region. At least some of the applicants (school food service directors, agricultural producers, community partner) must attend the ITA workshops in their region. One workshop will be a "meet and greet" between school food services and local agricultural producers as well as offer critical information to encourage effective partnerships. This is an opportunity for schools to learn what producers in the region are selling and for producers to learn what schools are buying. There will also be workshop time devoted to walking through the application and providing guidance on how to craft a compelling application.

WHY A GRANT FOR ON-FARM FOOD SAFETY?

Many small to mid-size producers sell directly to consumers, such as farmers' markets; however, selling to schools and other institutional buyers, including distributors and other wholesale operations requires producers to have formal farm food safety plans. This poses a significant increase in cost and time to the producer. The **\$90K regional grant** will provide "mini-grants" up to \$10K for individual producers and \$15K for food hubs/co-ops.

Register today for the FREE Farm to School ITA Workshop in your region!

Register at <http://bit.ly/1Pc1tcC>