



## OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Pat Quinn

JRTC, 100 WEST RANDOLPH, SUITE 16-100  
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60601

April 1, 2010

Dear School Community and Local Farmers,

A movement has started across our state, a movement to fight childhood obesity, to create local jobs and to stimulate the economy. This movement will connect Illinois farmers directly to Illinois consumers. It is a movement that at its heart aims to serve locally grown, fresh food to our school children.

*The Illinois Food, Farms, and Jobs Act was passed in May 2009 to help schools and other institutions purchase more locally grown food, with the goal to source 10% of the food served to our children from local sources by 2020.*

A new state-wide organization has formed called *Illinois Farm to School*. This group is poised to help make this vision a reality. Their goal is to connect schools (K-12) and local farms to achieve these key objectives:

- serving healthy meals in school cafeterias
- improving student nutrition
- providing agriculture, nutrition, and health education opportunities
- supporting local and regional farmers

*Illinois Farm to School* (in partnership with graduate students from Northwestern University's Learning and Organizational Change Program) has developed a survey that will serve as a vital first step of gathering information from our local farmers, parents, school superintendents, principals, teachers and food service directors. **Please take a few minutes to share your opinions and insights about this important issue.** The survey results will be shared with all survey participants so that you can see how your district compares to others in the state. These results will be available in the Summer of 2010.

We know there are great initiatives happening around the state and we want to learn from them. We also know that a lot of our school communities want to be a part of this fresh food movement, but may be experiencing barriers. This survey will help us to understand the current environment so appropriate support can be put in place. The fresh food movement in the State of Illinois is gathering momentum, and now is your chance to be a part of it!

If you have any questions regarding *Illinois Farm to School* or this survey, please contact [ilfarmtoschool@gmail.com](mailto:ilfarmtoschool@gmail.com).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Pat Quinn". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Pat Quinn  
Governor