



Sharing Toolkit - November 2018

Results from the 2018 National Farm to Early Care and Education Survey: Full Report

Conducted by the National Farm to School Network and Michigan State University Center for Regional Food Systems'

Introduction

The National Farm to School Network (NFSN), in partnership with Michigan State University Center for Regional Food Systems (CRFS), launched the 2018 National Farm to Early Care and Education Survey in the spring of 2018. We heard from 2,030 respondents, representing 45 states and Washington D.C. and serving 255,257 young children across the country. Respondents shared their current farm to early care and education (ECE) initiatives, including motivations for participation and challenges to starting or expanding farm to ECE practices. They also shared barriers and needs for support in getting started with farm to ECE. The 2018 survey is based on previous farm to ECE surveys conducted in 2012 and 2015, but used a different, more systematic method in order to reach a more representative sample population.

This report details the results of the survey. It also includes background on the farm to ECE movement, discussion around the implications for the results, and what stakeholders can do to help grow the farm to ECE movement. Visit farmtoschool.org/ece for the full report and other resources to share these important results:

- Results from the 2018 National Farm to Early Care and Education Survey: Full Report (New!)
- State level data (New!)
- Full Report Sharing Toolkit (New!)
- 2018 National Farm to Early Care and Education Survey: Infographic
- 2018 National Farm to Early Care and Education Survey: Fact Sheet
- Webinar: Results of the 2018 National Farm to Early Care and Education Survey

Stay connected with us for more content, information, and opportunities to get involved:

National Farm to School Network:

- Visit our websites: farmtoschool.org
- #farmtoschool - Use these hashtags in your social media messages
- @FarmtoSchool - follow us on Twitter
- Follow us on Facebook by searching for "National Farm to School Network"

Michigan State University Center for Regional Food Systems:

- Visit our websites: foodsystems.msu.edu and mifarmtoschool.msu.edu
- @msucrfs - follow us on Twitter
- Follow us on Facebook by searching for "MSU Center for Regional Food Systems"



Ways to Share

- **Social Media Posts:** Use the suggested content, including graphics, or create your own.
- **Blog and Newsletter Content:** Include the sample content and link to the new resources at farmtoschool.org/ece.
- **Share your story** about farm to ECE in your communications channels and with NFSN [here](#).
- **Grow your network:** Use these results to start the farm to ECE conversation with new and different stakeholders in your state and community.

Social Media

Tweets:

#FarmtoECE supports healthy kids and healthy communities. Learn more about opportunities to grow this movement in the [@farmtoschool](#) & [@msucrfs](#) #farmtoECE survey report at farmtoschool.org/ece

New [@farmtoschool](#) & [@msucrfs](#) survey shows 49% of ECE sites are already doing farm to ECE and 30% are ready to get started. See what's happening in your state and across the country in the full survey results at farmtoschool.org/ece #farmtoECE

Why #farmtoschool in early care and education? Healthy kids and high quality learning! See the full report [@farmtoschool](#) & [@msucrfs](#) #farmtoECE survey at farmtoschool.org/ece

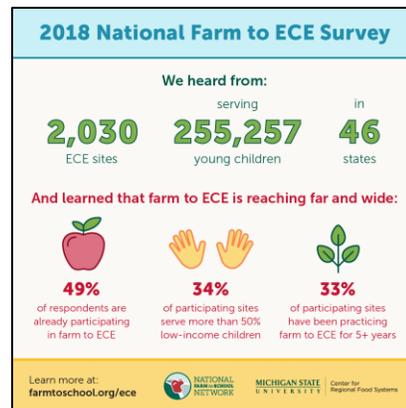
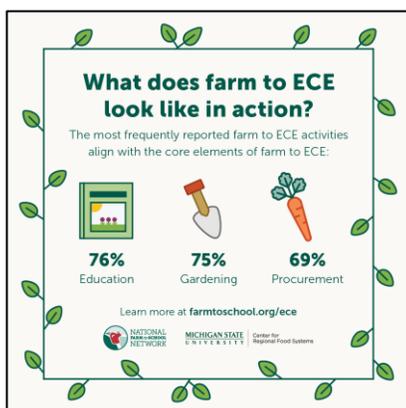
Facebook / Instagram Posts:

[@National Farm to School Network](#) and [@MSU Center for Regional Food Systems](#) survey shows 49% of surveyed sites are already doing farm to ECE activities and another 30% are ready to get started. Find out what's happening in your state and across the country. Visit farmtoschool.org/ece

Early care and education providers agree: farm to ECE supports healthy kids and high-quality education. See the [@National Farm to School Network](#) and [@MSU Center for Regional Food Systems](#) survey results and learn how to grow the farm to ECE movement at farmtoschool.org/ece

Farm to ECE supports healthy kids and communities! Learn about how farm to ECE benefits children, families, and communities in [@National Farm to School Network](#) and [@MSU Center for Regional Food Systems](#) survey. Full survey results and state data now available → farmtoschool.org/ece.

Social media graphics: (right click to save)





Sample text for newsletters and blogs

Short version

2018 National Farm to Early Care and Education Survey: Full Report and State Level Data Now Available

In 2018, the National Farm to School Network (NFSN) and the Michigan State University Center for Regional Food Systems (CRFS) surveyed early care and education (ECE) providers across the country. NFSN and CRFS have just released the **full report** and **state level data** detailing responses from **2,030 providers serving 255,257 young children in 45 states and Washington D.C.**

Respondents shared the benefits and challenges of connecting young children to healthy, local foods, gardening, and food and agriculture education through farm to ECE.

The survey found that farm to ECE is reaching far and wide across the country. **49%** of respondents are already doing farm to ECE activities and another **30%** plan to start in the near future. Explore the full report and other survey resources to learn about the scope and reach of farm to ECE and opportunities to grow the movement. See the **results and resources** at farmtoschool.org/ece.

Long version

2018 National Farm to Early Care and Education Survey: Full Report and State Level Data Now Available

In 2018, the National Farm to School Network (NFSN) and the Michigan State University Center for Regional Food Systems (CRFS) surveyed early care and education (ECE) providers across the country. NFSN and CRFS have just released the **full report** and **state level data** detailing responses from **2,030 providers serving 255,257 young children in 45 states and Washington D.C.**

Respondents shared the benefits and challenges of connecting young children to healthy, local foods, gardening, and food and agriculture education through farm to ECE.

The survey found that farm to ECE is reaching far and wide across the country. **49%** of respondents are already doing farm to ECE activities and another **30%** plan to start in the near future. Providers said they choose farm to ECE to teach children about **where food comes from and how it grows** (96%), support **children's health** (95%), and provide **experiential learning** opportunities (94%). Respondents agree, farm to ECE activities help create high quality learning environments that promote life long health and wellness for children and families.

The newly released full report provides detailed findings from the survey and discusses how we can use these results to expand farm to ECE. Explore the full report, state level data, and other survey resources to learn about the scope and reach of farm to ECE and opportunities to grow the movement. See the **results and resources** at farmtoschool.org/ece. Share these exciting results and show how farm to ECE supports healthy futures for all children.



About NFSN and MSU CRFS

National Farm to School Network

The National Farm to School Network (NFSN) is an information, advocacy, and networking hub for communities working to bring local food sourcing, gardens, and food and agriculture education into schools and early care and education (ECE) settings. NFSN's network model includes Core and Supporting Partner organizations in all 50 states, Washington, D.C., and U.S. Territories, as well as over 20,000 farm to school supporters, an Advisory Board, and staff. This network works together at the local, state, and national levels to expand and sustain the number, quality, and impact of farm to school and farm to ECE initiatives. Learn more at farmtoschool.org.

Michigan State University Center for Regional Food Systems

The Michigan State University Center for Regional Food Systems (MSU CRFS) is an applied research, education, and outreach organization. MSU CRFS brings together the expertise of both MSU faculty and staff to enhance the understanding of as well as to increase engagement with regional food systems. CRFS has worked to advance food systems grounded in local regions since 2012, focusing on food that is healthy, green, fair, and affordable in an effort to build a thriving economy, support equity, and enhance sustainability at the state, national, and global levels. More about CRFS can be found at foodsystems.msu.edu. Find Michigan Farm to School research and resources directly at mifarmtoschool.msu.edu.