



NATIONAL
FARM to SCHOOL
NETWORK

MICHIGAN STATE
UNIVERSITY

Center for
Regional Food Systems

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

2018 National Farm to Early Care and Education Survey

Sharing Toolkit
September 2018
www.farmentoschool.org/ece

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Introduction

The National Farm to School Network (NFSN), in partnership with Michigan State University Center for Regional Food Systems (MSU CRFS), launched the 2018 National Farm to Early Care and Education Survey in the spring of 2018. We heard from 2,030 respondents, representing 46 states 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.

To lift up and celebrate these results and build awareness of farm to ECE, NFSN and MSU CRFS has developed an infographic and fact sheet - available at farmtoschool.org/ece - that partners and supporters can use to start the conversation in their networks. These resources highlight the reach and scope of farm to ECE and the many reasons ECE providers choose to implement farm to ECE initiatives.

To accompany these exciting new resources, NFSN and MSU CRFS also created this sharing toolkit to make it easy to share the survey results and the benefits of farm to ECE. In this toolkit, you'll find suggested social media posts and graphics along with sample text for newsletters and blogs.

Be sure to stay connected with us for more great content, information about our work, and additional 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

Twitter is a great place to entice your network with survey results, graphics and farm to ECE information. Be sure to use #farmtoECE to let us know that you are spreading the word!

Suggested Tweets:

The results are in! New **@farmtoschool** & **@msucrfs** survey shows farm to early care and education is reaching far and wide and ready to grow. Learn more at farmtoschool.org/ece #farmtoECE

Early care and education goes local! New **@farmtoschool** & **@msucrfs** survey shows 54% of ECE sites anticipate increasing local food purchasing. Learn more → farmtoschool.org/ece #farmtoECE

Room to grow with farm to ECE! New **@farmtoschool** & **@msucrfs** survey shows 49% of ECE sites are already doing farm to ECE and 30% are ready to get started. See full survey results at farmtoschool.org/ece #farmtoECE

Why #farmtoschool in early care and education? Healthy kids and high quality learning! See the results of **@farmtoschool** & **@msucrfs** new #farmtoECE survey at farmtoschool.org/ece

#Farmtoschool is a perfect fit for early care and education! Gardening, local foods, and food and farm education can help grow healthy futures for all children. Learn more at farmtoschool.org/ece #farmtoECE

Suggested Facebook / Instagram Posts:

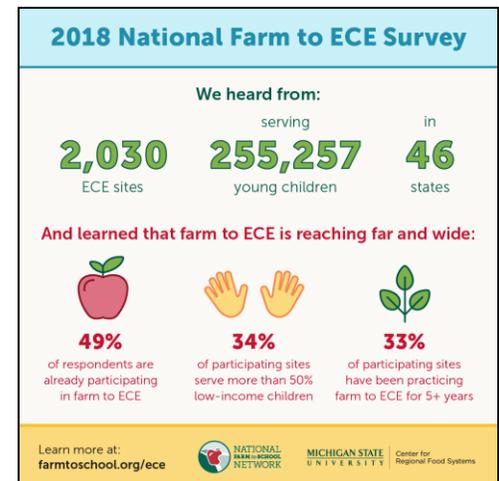
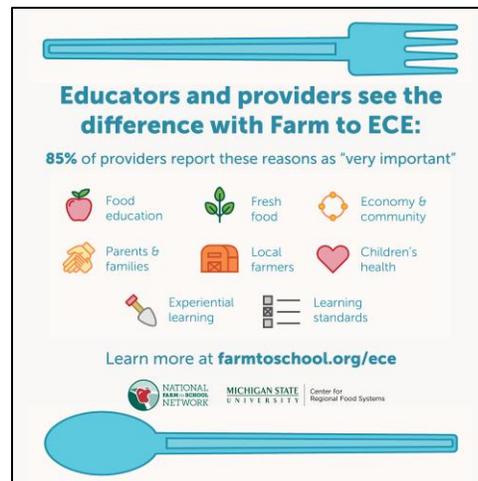
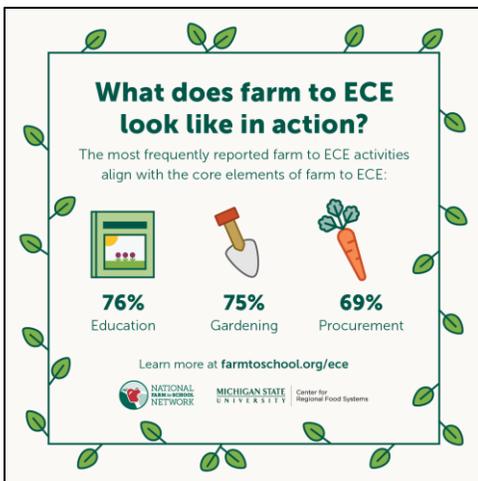
The results are in: farm to early care and education supports healthy futures for all children! Find out why ECE providers choose farm to ECE in new **@National Farm to School Network** and **MSU Center for Regional Food Systems** survey: farmtoschool.org/ece.

Farm to ECE is reaching far and ready to grow! New **@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. Want to know more about how to get started with farm to ECE? Visit farmtoschool.org/ece

Early care and education providers agree: farm to ECE supports healthy kids and high-quality education. Healthy, local foods, gardening and food-based education set young children up for success! Learn more at farmtoschool.org/ece

Children, parents, and ECE staff all see the benefits! Learn about how farm to ECE benefits children, families, and communities in new **@National Farm to School Network** and **@MSU Center for Regional Food Systems** survey → farmtoschool.org/ece.

Social media graphics: (right click to save)



Sample text for newsletters and blogs

Short version

New survey shows farm to early care and education supports healthy futures for all children

In 2018, the National Farm to School Network (NFSN) and the Michigan State University Center for Regional Food Systems (MSU CRFS) surveyed early care and education (ECE) providers across the country. Nearly **2,030 providers serving 255,257 young children in 46 states** responded and shared with us 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 from **46 states** are already doing farm to ECE activities and another **30%** plan to start in the near future. To see more survey results and learn how NFSN and MSU CRFS are working to expand farm to ECE, explore the **new infographic and fact sheet** at farmtoschool.org/ece.

Long version

New survey shows farm to early care and education supports healthy futures for all children

In 2018, the National Farm to School Network (NFSN) and the Michigan State University Center for Regional Food Systems (MSU CRFS) surveyed early care and education (ECE) providers across the country. Nearly **2,030 providers serving 255,257 young children in 46 states** responded and shared with us 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 from **46 states** are already doing farm to ECE activities and another **30%** plan to start in the near future. There's a reason farm to ECE is ready to grow. 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.

To see more survey results and learn how NFSN and MSU CRFS are working to expand farm to ECE, explore the **new infographic and fact sheet** at farmtoschool.org/ece. Share these exciting results and show how farm to ECE supports healthy futures for all children. Join us in supporting good health and great education for young 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.