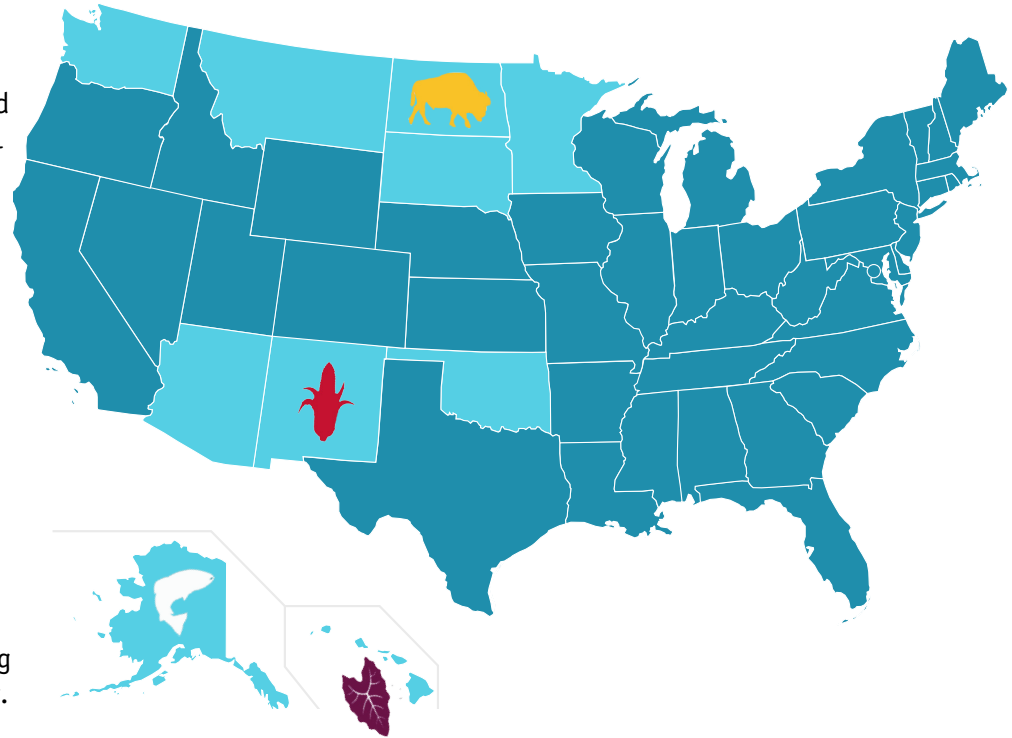


Farm to School Profiles from Native Communities

In partnership with numerous tribal communities, the National Farm to School Network is exploring the unique opportunities and challenges of expanding farm to school in Native communities. We've learned from our partners that with a community-based and multi-generational framework, farm to school can be a nexus of economic development, food sovereignty, health and nutrition, and cultural revitalization.

Farm to school is a new term for an ancient concept that embraces Indigenous knowledge and values in harmony with traditional lifeways. As in other communities, farm to school means procurement of locally produced food in schools, food education throughout the school environment and school gardens. From developing school menus that include traditional foods like blue corn and bison to working with tribal producers, planting heritage orchards and connecting classroom education with tribal seed banks, Native communities across the country are connecting students to local food, culture and community. This fact sheet highlights four Native farm to school programs and the key values that make them successful.



2013-2015 Native Cohort Partner Projects and Organizations

Over two years, the National Farm to School Network worked with the following partners to support shared learning and dialogue as they engaged in a range of farm to school activities. This resulted in the creation of new resources by USDA and the National Farm to School Network, improvements to the USDA Food Buying Guide to include traditional foods, and federal policy efforts that prioritize Native communities and farmers. Thank you to these partners for sharing your stories and inspiring countless individuals, now and into the future.

Alaska Fish to Schools
(Alaska)
www.sitkawild.org
www.anthc.org

Cherokee Nation Healthy Nation
(Oklahoma)
www.cherokeepublichealth.org

Circle of Nations School Intertribal Buffalo Council
(North Dakota)
www.circleofnations.org
www.itbcbuffalo.org

Feast for the Future Foodcorps
The Peoples Farm
Johns Hopkins University Center for American Indian Health
(New Mexico)
www.caih.jhu.edu/programs/feast-for-the-future

Grand Portage Reservation Oshki Ogimaag Community School
(Minnesota)
www.oshkiogimaag.org

Lame Deer Public Schools
(Montana)
www.lamedeer.k12.mt.us

Leech Lake Band Ojibwe
(Minnesota)
www.llojibwe.com

Montezuma School to Farm Ute Mountain Ute Tribe Nuchiu Co-op
(Colorado)
www.montezumaschooltofarm.org

Northwest Indian College
(Washington)
www.nwiclplantsandfoods.com

Ramah Navajo School Board Pine Hill School
(New Mexico)
www.rnsb.k12.nm.us

STAR School (Service to All Relations) Dine Food Sovereignty Alliance
(Arizona)
www.starschool.org

Stilwell Public Schools
(Oklahoma)
www.stilwellk12.org

Sust` inable Molokai
(Hawaii)
www.sustainablemolokai.org

Tohono O'odham Community Action & Desert Rain Foodservice
(Arizona)
www.tocaonline.org

Sustainable Molokai

Began In: 2012

Serves: 3 local schools and the island

Vision: It is our goal that once again Molokai be known as 'Aina Momona (abundant land). We aim to maintain our island's rich culture and historic legacy while embracing modern pathways to a sustainable future.



Practices: Connects Molokai's keiki (children) to real food, healthier eating habits and the land itself through: school learning gardens, experiential nutrition education and helping schools procure locally grown food. A permaculture food forest serves as an education and production site, incorporates terraces to honor ancient farming practices common to the island, and provides youth and community access to traditional foods and plants.

Homegrown solutions work best

As a strong native community, we take kuleana (responsibility) as the architects of our own destiny.

Feast for the Future

Began In: 2012

Serves: 100+ students and families, grades 3-5

Vision: To increase access to healthy and nutritious foods and promote community capacity to reintroduce healthy indigenous foods and agriculture.

Practices: Feast for the Future is an innovative and holistic community health initiative of Johns Hopkins Center for American Indian Health. Programming introduces Edible School Gardens and Traditional Foodways Education to school environments, supports community farming practices and outreach and training programs for Native American farmers, and aims for sustainability by building community leadership initiatives.



Self-sufficiency supports health

Working in partnership with Native American communities raises the health status, self-sufficiency and health leadership of Native people.

Sitka Fish to School

Began In: 2010

Serves: 1500+ students in 6 districts, grades PreK-12



Vision: We believe students should have access to local and traditional foods which drive the economy and embody the interconnectness of our community.

Practices: Deepens youth understanding of local resources and fosters connection to the land by integrating locally-caught seafood into school meals and "stream to plate" curriculum. Salmon and other wild fish are staples of the traditional diet for Tlingit, Haida, Aleut and Tsimshian people of the region. Its presence is ubiquitous on the meal table and also in stories, regalia and history.

Honor local heritage with traditional foods

Traditional foods are more than just nutrition. They are connected to our culture and our way of knowing and encompass mind/body wellness.

Circle of Nations School

Began In: 1904

Serves: 300+ students from 33 Tribes, grades 4-8

Vision: To support self-sufficiency in the school community by revitalizing farms, orchards and traditional foodways and providing education on the significance of Native American food systems.

Practices: The school procures Native-harvested wild rice & locally raised buffalo meat and utilizes produce grown in the school kitchen garden for student meals, traditional food and culinary skill classes, healthy fundraisers, community initiatives and ceremonies. A Green Ribbon school, the grounds feature eco-education & agriculture sites, edible landscaping, an orchard, kitchen garden and medicine wheel.



Empower the school community

Nutrition education teaches the importance of Native agriculture and planetary wealth derived from the North Dakota Earth Lodge tribes.

