

The National Farm to School Network sprouted from the desire to support community-based food systems, strengthen family farms, and improve student health by reducing childhood obesity. The Network is a collaborative of the UEPI Center for Food and Justice, Occidental College and the Community Food Security Coalition (CFSC). With funding from the WK Kellogg Foundation, the Network coordinates, promotes and expands the farm to school movement at the state, regional and national levels. Eight regional lead agencies and national staff provide free training and technical assistance, information services, networking, and support for policy, media and marketing activities. The Farm to School approach helps children understand where their food comes from and how their food choices impact their bodies, the environment and their communities at large.



Students Broadcast Videos for **REAL FOOD**



Students were challenged to define what real food means to them through a nationwide YouTube video contest. Created by the National Farm to School Network and sponsored by Action for Healthy Kids, the *Real Food Is* YouTube Contest challenged students kindergarten to college to consider:

1. What does real food mean to you?
2. How does what we eat affect our culture, health, economy, or environment?
3. Why should your cafeteria start or continue buying local food?



Forty videos were submitted that answered the call to produce a 30 second to 3 minute video that informs, inspires, and encourages student advocacy to restore connections to community, food, land, and place through farm to cafeteria programs. The prize includes \$1,000 to be expended on a cafeteria food project in the winners' schools.

After a panel of judges consisting of distinguished farm to school experts, filmmakers, and youth reviewed and scored all of the videos, the top five from each category, k-12 and college, were up for public vote.

THE WINNERS ARE:

K-12 CATEGORY: *Who Put that Burger On Your Plate?* by the fifth graders from Elysian Charter School, Hoboken, New Jersey.

COLLEGE CATEGORY: *Real Food Is...* by Colorado College Farm Club, Colorado Springs, Colorado.

Who Put that Burger On Your Plate? from the fifth graders at Elysian Charter School, Hoboken, New Jersey received the most votes in the K-12 Category. The video is fun, inspiring, and educational; this catchy song extends an appropriate "thank you to mother nature and the workers, the reapers and the threshers, the seedlings and the raindrops, the bakers and the truckers, the ranchers and the farmers, the butchers and inspectors, the cows and special cheffers."

Real Food Is... from Colorado College Farm Club, Colorado Springs, Colorado received the most votes in the college category. With skilled animation this video does a great job of demonstrating the value in "Going the Distance and Shortening It," which is the theme of the fourth National Farm to Cafeteria Conference being held March 19-21, 2009 in Portland, Oregon.

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STAY TUNED FOR NEXT YEAR'S CONTEST

Go to www.youtube.com/group/FarmToSchool to view all the submissions.