

National Overview:

K-12 local, fresh food guiding policy, key institutions, programming and support networks

Governmental Programming

FoodCorps

FoodCorps is a nationwide team of AmeriCorps leaders who connect kids to real food and help them grow up healthy. Serving alongside educators and community leaders, FoodCorps members partner with schools to put in place a three-ingredient recipe for healthy kids, creating a nourishing environment for all students. Our service members provide:

- Knowledge:* food and nutrition education that gives kids the information they need to make smart choices;
- Engagement:* hands-on activities like gardening and cooking that foster skills and pride around healthy food, and;
- Access:* lunch trays filled with nutritious meals from local farms.

Women Infant & Child

The Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) provides Federal grants to States for supplemental foods, health care referrals, and nutrition education for low-income pregnant, breastfeeding, and non-breastfeeding postpartum women, and to infants and children up to age five who are found to be at nutritional risk.

Women Infant & Child Farm Market Nutrition Program

The Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) Farmers Market Nutrition Program (FMNP) provides low-income young and expecting mothers an incentive to access to fresh, nutritious fruits and vegetables at farmers markets while reinvesting government dollars into local economies and providing crucial revenue to small farmers. **WIC Cash Value Voucher** In 2005, the Institute of Medicine recommended that the WIC food basket be revised with a greater focus on fruits and vegetables in order to better meet the dietary guidelines for Americans. This report led to the creation of the WIC Cash Value Voucher (CVV) program in 2007. The decision of whether CVVs can be accepted at farmers markets is left up to the state. Of the 90 state agencies (including all 50 states; Washington, DC; Puerto Rico; four territories; and 34 Indian Tribal Organizations) 21 (23%) allowed CVV to be used at farmers markets in 2012.

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program

SNAP offers nutrition assistance to millions of eligible, low-income individuals and families and provides economic benefits to communities. SNAP is the largest program in the domestic hunger safety net. The Food and Nutrition Service works with State agencies, nutrition educators, and neighborhood and faith-based organizations to ensure that those eligible for nutrition assistance can make informed decisions about applying for the program and can access benefits. FNS also works with State partners and the retail community to improve program administration and ensure program integrity.

The Emergency Food Assistance Program

TEFAP is a Federal program that helps supplement the diets of low-income Americans, including elderly people, by providing them with emergency food and nutrition assistance at no cost. It provides food and administrative funds to States to supplement the diets of these groups. Community Action Agencies and Food Banks distribute TEFAP foods locally in all counties in Michigan. For a listing of the agencies that serve your county, go to www.michigan.gov/mde-fdp

The Commodity Supplemental Food Program

CSFP works to improve the health of low-income elderly persons at least 60 years of age by supplementing their diets with nutritious USDA Foods. Eligible seniors are offered a range of foods each month that include canned vegetables and fruit, cereal, cheese, shelf-stable milk, juice, pasta, canned protein and peanut butter. Community Action Agencies and local non-profits distribute CSFP in all counties in Michigan. For a listing of the agencies that serve your county, go to www.michigan.gov/mde-fdp

National Coalitions and Networks

Farmers Market Coalition

FMC provides a network of support to market managers, vendors and customers, where ideas and issues are discussed, and best practices are shared. We work closely with regional leaders to build the capacity of state farmers market networks and associations.

National Farm to School Network

The National Farm to School Network is an information, advocacy and networking hub for communities working to bring local food sourcing and food and agriculture education into school systems and preschools.

National Good Food Network

The National Good Food Network brings together people from all parts of the rapidly emerging good food system – producers, buyers, distributors, advocates, investors and funders – to create a community dedicated to scaling up good food sourcing and access.

Food Hub Center

Within the National Food Network, the Food Hub Center works to support the growth and expansion of a regional business or organization that actively manages the aggregation, distribution, and marketing of source-identified food products primarily from local and regional producers to strengthen their ability to satisfy wholesale, retail, and institutional demand.

National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition

The National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition (NSAC) is an alliance of grassroots organizations that advocates for federal policy reform to advance the sustainability of agriculture, food systems, natural resources, and rural communities. NSAC's vision of agriculture is one where a safe, nutritious, ample, and affordable food supply is produced by a legion of family farmers who make a decent living pursuing their trade, while protecting the environment, and contributing to the strength and stability of their communities.

Rooted in Community

Rooted in Community is a diverse movement of youth and adults who are committed to building healthy communities through urban and rural agriculture, environmental justice, community gardening, and food security.

National Organizations

ATTRA Sustainable Agriculture Program

ATTRA is a program developed and managed by the National Center for Appropriate Technology (NCAT). The majority of funding for ATTRA is through a cooperative agreement with the United States Department of Agriculture's Rural Business-Cooperative Service. We are also partially funded through sales and subscriptions of a portion of ATTRA materials and through contributions from friends and supporters. We are committed to providing high value information and technical assistance to farmers, ranchers, Extension agents, educators, and others involved in sustainable agriculture in the United States.

Center for Food Safety

The Center for Food Safety is a non-profit advocacy organization that promotes food systems that are safe, sustainable, and environmentally sound. Using a legal team, original research on agriculture, and grassroots organizing, CFS' mission is to protect human health and the environment, achieved through careful monitoring of the agricultural industry for violations of food safety and environmental laws.

[Cultivating Community](#)

Founded in 2001, Cultivating Community creates and sustains greater access to healthy, local foods; empowers people to play many roles in restoring the local, sustainable food system; and models, teaches, and advocates for ecological food production.

[Ecoagriculture Partners](#)

Ecoagriculture Partners supports agricultural communities in managing their landscapes by using ecoagriculture in order to enhance rural livelihoods, conserve biodiversity, and produce food and fiber in environmentally sustainable ways.

[Food and Water Watch](#)

Founded on the belief that people have a fundamental right to trust the safety of the products they eat and drink, Food and Water Watch is a nonprofit organization that works to make food and water resources accessible and sustainable. They work to monitor food production and clean water systems, track the environmental quality of oceans, keep watch over U.S. corporate influence on public policy, and hold policymakers accountable for policies that pollute.

[Growing Power Inc.](#)

Growing Power, Inc. is an American non-profit organization and land trust that seeks “to grow food, minds, and community” through a network of farms, training sites, and community food systems that provide access to food for all people. Growing Power also runs a number of youth programs and collaborates with various organizations, including Michelle Obama’s “Let’s Move!” campaign. This year, Growing Power celebrates its 20th anniversary.

[Growing Warriors](#)

Raising hope and healing ground to Equip, Assist, and Train our military veterans with the skills they need to produce high quality organically grown produce for their families and communities.

[Local Initiatives Support Corporation](#)

The Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC) uses HFFI financing to expand healthy food options in low-supermarket access areas. LISC has approved four healthy food loans in Michigan. In **Detroit**, LISC helped finance interior improvements at **Seven Mile Foods** so this 18,000-square-foot grocery store could offer more fresh foods. LISC also funded the expansion of **Parkway Foods**, which will expand to 32,000-square-feet and relocate to serve the **Jefferson Village** housing development. This project will create at least 15 new jobs and retain 23 positions. In **Flint**, LISC financed the relocation and expansion of the **Flint Farmers Market**, and in **Kalamazoo**, a LISC loan supports the **Park Street Market**, the only full-service grocery store in the area.

[Rethinking School Lunch, Center for Ecoliteracy](#)

Rethinking School Lunch is a Web guide that supports the business planning process for innovative school lunch programs. Based on a food systems approach, which links student health and well-being with improved performance, it offers a comprehensive overview of 10 key components vital to the success of any school lunch program.

[Slow Food USA](#)

Slow Food USA is part of the global Slow Food network of over 100,000 members in more than 150 countries. Through a vast volunteer network of local chapters, youth and food communities, we link the pleasures of the table with a commitment to protect the community, culture, knowledge and environment that make this pleasure possible.

[WinRock International](#)

WinRock International works with marginalized people all over the world to provide them with the skills and resources they need to bring themselves out of poverty. WinRock’s projects include, among others, empowering women and youth, and teaching environmentally responsible farming methods.

[Wallace Center at WinRock International](#)

The Wallace Center supports entrepreneurs and communities as they build a new, 21st century food system that is healthier for people, the environment, and the economy.

Resources for Teachers

[Agriculture in the Classroom National Resource Directory](#)

The Agriculture in the Classroom website provides a searchable online directory containing hundreds of educational materials about agriculture. Search: “sustainable ag” for a list of resources. The materials have been recommended by educators on the AITC National Review Team. The site also includes teacher resources, a student center, and information about state programs.

[Bullfrog Films](#)

Bullfrog Films provides educational videos and films about the environment. Titles that may be suitable for youth education include Beyond Organic, The Vision of Fairview Gardens; Broken Limbs, Apples, Agriculture, and the New American Farmer; and Deconstructing Supper, Is Your Food Safe.

[Center for Ecoliteracy](#)

The Center for Ecoliteracy promotes green schooling and is known for its work with school gardens, school lunches, and integrating ecological principles and sustainability into school curricula. They offer books, teaching guides, and other resources.

[Center for Integrated Agricultural Systems \(CIAS\), Toward A Sustainable Agriculture, a Curriculum for High School Students](#)

CIAS brings together university faculty, farmers, policy makers, and others to study relationships between farming practices, farm profitability, the environment, and rural vitality. Among the educational materials offered is Toward a Sustainable Agriculture, a curriculum for high school students! The curriculum is available online in six modules. It is an ongoing project developed by the Center for Integrated Agricultural Systems at the University of Wisconsin-Madison College of Agricultural and Life Sciences (CALIS).

[Discovering the Food System](#)

This guided program is about how food gets from the farm to the table. Participants use their own “backyards” – school cafeterias, local food stores, restaurants, nearby farms – to learn about the food system. They gain an understanding of how the food they eat relates to the food system and affects their community. The 186-page program is available for download at the website. (Examples focus on the northeastern U.S. but can be applied to other regions.)

[Feeding Minds, Fighting Hunger program of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations](#)

The mission of Feeding Minds, Fighting Hunger is to help eradicate hunger and malnutrition through education. The group has developed classroom lessons, available through the website, that provide a starting point for teachers who want to introduce the topic of world hunger. Each lesson provides modules suitable for elementary, middle school, or high school students.

[Food, Land & People](#)

Food, Land & People provides educational resources to help educators and students better understand the interrelationships between agriculture, the environment, and people of the world. Many of the resources are available in English or Spanish and all are listed under “Resources for Learning” on the website. Lesson descriptions and ordering information are provided.

[Kids Cook Farm Fresh Foods](#)

This activity guide includes recipes, activities, and farm profiles, and is designed to allow teachers flexibility in using it within their curriculum. It was authored by Sibella Kraus of Sustainable Agriculture Education and published by the California Department of Education.

[Linking Food and the Environment Program \(LiFE\)](#)

LiFE is a two-year, inquiry-based science education and nutrition program for urban children, teachers and parents. It uses the study of food and food systems to teach life sciences and nutrition. The program consists of a student curriculum that addresses many national science education standards and nutrition guidelines, a teacher component that provides education and support to instructors, and a parent component that provides workshops and opportunities to assist in the classroom.

[National Farmers Union](#)

The National Farmers Union has developed a curriculum for grades 1-12 around the areas of environmental stewardship, citizenship, and the value of purchasing food locally from sustainable farms. Overviews and lesson plans are available on the website.

[Organic Valley Youth Resources](#)

Organic Valley™ has become the largest organic farmers' cooperative in North America. Check the "Community" section of the website for youth resources such as Ovie's Underground.

[Screech Owl Farm School – developing curriculum for national use](#)

In addition to afterschool and summer youth programs, Screech Owl Farm School is developing a sustainable agriculture curriculum for prekindergarten through 5th grade students. Lessons are tied to local, state, and national curriculum standards and come with extensions of up to 6 hours on each topic so that they can be used by 4H (www.farmschool.org). More information and the finished lessons can be found on the website.

[Sow What?](#)

This program is part of a Senior leadership journey called, It's Your Planet - Love It! It is a coordinated series of activities grouped around the theme of food. Participants look at local and global food issues and carry out an action project. The content of all Girl Scout journeys have been correlated (by grade level) to the new national Common Core Standards and the 21st Century Skills standards, as well as to the Health & PE, Language Arts, Math, Science, and Social Studies learning objectives for all 50 states and the District of Columbia.

[Sustainable Agriculture Education Association \(SAEA\)](#)

The Sustainable Agriculture Education Association supports innovative educational approaches for sustainable agriculture through the development, application, and research of teaching and learning practices. The organization works to serve and connect educators, teachers, students, staff, and administrators who focus on the teaching and learning of sustainable agriculture at the adult level. They do this by hosting conferences, collecting sustainable agriculture educational program listings, and developing a digital library, among other activities. Under the Resources tab on the website, there is a link that has a listing of K-12 educational resources.

[Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education \(SARE\) Program of USDA, NIFA](#)

Since 1988, SARE has helped advance farming systems that are profitable, environmentally sound, and good for communities through a nationwide research and education grants program. The program, part of USDA's National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA), funds projects and conducts outreach designed to improve agricultural systems. SARE Outreach publishes books, bulletins, and online resources highlighting SARE-funded project results and other innovative research. Most of SARE Outreach's information is available in print and online. They have been evaluated by educators on the Agriculture in the Classroom (AITC) National Review Team and recommended for the grade levels listed. Resources include Youth Renewing the Countryside (a book produced by Renewing the Countryside and published by SARE); the brochure What is Sustainable Agriculture?; and the SARE National Continuing Education Program in

Sustainable Agriculture, a continuing education program designed primarily for Cooperative Extension, Natural Resource Conservation Service personnel, and other agricultural, natural resource and community development professionals. It is appropriate for youth educators. It emphasizes core concepts and a basic understanding of sustainable agriculture. For more information about the Continuing Education program, visit their webpage [here](#).

[Sustainable Table Grace](#)

Sustainable Table is a nonprofit dedicated to educating consumers about issues related to a healthy food supply. With an emphasis on sustainable practices that yield healthy food, the website offers a collection of information and links to resources to help teachers interested in using food- and agriculture-related lessons in their classrooms.

[Teaching the Food System](#)

Within this curriculum created by the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, students are able learn from eleven modules covering topics on the U.S. and global food systems. Students are presented with lessons in the form of slides, handouts, vocabulary builders, and a short film to illustrate essential questions and big ideas surrounding the way we view food from farm to plate.