

Research into existing farm-to-school programs is confirming that students choose significantly more servings of fruits and vegetables when given the choice of high quality, farm-fresh produce.

One response of a student to fresh Oklahoma grown watermelons served at lunch:

*"You would have thought we were passing out dollar bills! They thanked me and some gave me hugs."* – Mustang Elementary staff member, Mustang, Okla.



Let's make it cool to eat in school.

Buy Oklahoma Grown. It's Fresh. It's Local!



### For More Information about the Oklahoma Farm to School Program, Contact:



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The success of this program will only be limited by our imagination.

### Services Provided:

- ✦ Link growers with schools and link schools with growers
- ✦ Help decide on crops to grow, quantities, packing, shipping, etc.
- ✦ Workshops for growers, food service personnel, teachers, etc.
- ✦ School gardening ideas and resources
- ✦ Presentations
- ✦ Nutritional and educational curriculum
- ✦ Promotional materials



Photo courtesy of Tulsa World



Growing healthy students and a healthy rural economy

## Good Food for Good Health

For students, Farm to School can provide increased access to fresh Oklahoma grown food, and combined with hands-on experiential learning opportunities, can help build a strong foundation for life-long dietary choices.

For independent family farms, Farm to School can provide a new market and an additional source of income, a meaningful way to be part of the local community and an outlet to educate future consumers and potential farmers about agriculture.



James Cooper, Nuyaka Natural Farms, Bristow, OK

## Farm to School Activities

- Locally grown produce served in school cafeterias
- School gardens
- Farm and Farmers Market visits
- Indoor gardening labs
- Nutritional and educational curriculum
- Cooking and tasting demonstrations
- Workshops for growers, food service personnel and teachers

This publication, printed by QuikPrint, Oklahoma City, is produced by the Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food & Forestry, as authorized by Terry Peach, Commissioner. 2,000 copies have been prepared at a cost of \$553.60. Twenty-five copies have been deposited with the Oklahoma Department of Libraries. 6.07

## Legislation

HB 2655 — The Oklahoma Farm to School Program Act was created by the legislature and signed into law by Governor Brad Henry on June 7, 2006. It encourages Oklahoma schools to purchase from Oklahoma producers and supports the program's additional activities.



Bob Ramming, Sugar Creek Brand, Hinton, OK

## Farm to School Partners

- Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food & Forestry
- Kerr Center for Sustainable Agriculture
- Oklahoma Food Policy Council
- Oklahoma State Department of Education
- Oklahoma Department of Human Services
- Oklahoma State Department of Health
- USDA – United States Department of Agriculture
- DoD – Department of Defense
- Oklahoma Producers
- Ag in the Classroom
- Oklahoma State University
- OSU Cooperative Extension Service
- Oklahoma Food Distributors
- Oklahoma Institute for Child Advocacy
- OK Fit Kids Coalition
- Noble Foundation

## Pilot Program

2004 – seedless watermelons were sold to four school districts/52 schools  
2005 – seedless watermelons were sold to six school districts/148 schools  
2006 – seedless watermelons and honeydew melons were sold to 35 school districts/370 schools  
2007 – seedless watermelons were sold to 42 school districts/400 schools and 1 university. Relentless floods statewide caused crop failures of honeydew melons and cantaloupe. Tomatoes, lettuce, spinach, broccoli, sweet corn and okra were distributed to a few school districts.

## School Districts that Participated in 2007

Arnett-Ellis, Beggs, Bethel, Binger-Oney, Bishop, Bristow, Broken Arrow, Chandler, Comanche, Cordell, Davenport, Dewey, Edmond, El Reno, Fairview, Hinton, Kingfisher, Liberty, Lookeba-Sickles, Luther, Medford, Midwest City-Del City, Moore, Mooreland, Morrison, Moss, Mustang, Norman, Noble, Oklahoma City, Pauls Valley, Ponca City, Pond Creek-Hunter, Sallisaw, Shawnee, Sperry, Stillwater, Terrel, Tulsa, Washita Heights, Velma-Alma, Wellston and University of Oklahoma.



Ricky & Claudia Crow, Crow Farms, Shawnee, OK

## Farm to School Priorities

The goal of the Farm to School program is to link schools to growers and growers to schools with priority being given to the fruit and vegetable connection. This gives schools access to high quality, garden fresh, flavorful fruits and vegetables as a tool to add more nutrition options to the school breakfast, lunch and snack program. Whole wheat flour and products made with local whole wheat are being tested in a few schools and other healthy farm products will be considered for implementation in the future.