

March, 2010

# National Farm to School Network

## Southeast

### Policy Edition



#### Show Your Support for Farm to School Legislation

With the Child Nutrition Act (CNA) up before Congress, it is vital that Farm to School supporters encourage their representatives to have mandatory Farm to School funding included in the bill. Here in the Southeast, we have many examples of successful Farm to School programs that have improved the livelihoods of farmers and the lives of children. The six states within our region have been working on the following:

- Creating a new statewide Farm to School position
- Creating a Farm to School handbook for school food service
- Training future teachers and dietitians to incorporate Farm to School in their teaching and dietetic practice
- Building a statewide alliance for Farm to School
- Creating new bid specifications that favor foods grown within a 50-150 mile radius of the purchasing school system
- And more!

While we have much to be proud of, in order for every child to have access to fresh local food, it is essential that the federal government provide the necessary funding.

This [letter](#) encourages members of the Senate Agriculture Committee (the first group to work out provisions of the bill) to provide \$50 million in mandatory funding for a Farm to School competitive grant program. The more organizations that sign the letter, the greater the influence it will have on elected officials. **If your organization would like to sign it,**

#### In This Issue

[Join Our Mailing List!](#)

#### Calendar

[Blue Grass Food Security Summit](#)

Lexington, KY  
March 18-19

[Farm to Cafeteria Conference](#)

Detroit, MI  
May 17-19

[Florida Small Farms Conference](#)

Kissimmee, FL  
July 31-August 1

[National Farm to School Events Calendar](#)

\*\*\* [Please send your upcoming events to Brook Thompson](#) \*\*\*

#### National Farm to School Network Southeast Regional Steering Committee

#### Regional Lead Agency

Appalachian Sustainable Agriculture Project (ASAP)  
*Emily Jackson, Molly Nicholie, and Brook Thompson*

please send your name, organization name, and contact information to [megan@foodsecurity.org](mailto:megan@foodsecurity.org).

You can also contact your members of Congress and encourage them to cosponsor the Farm to School bills working through the House of Representatives and the Senate. If passed, these bills will be incorporated into the Child Nutrition Act. To read more, click [here](#).

### Contact Your Representatives During Congressional Recess

Congress is on spring recess until April 9. Members of Congress usually use this time to go back to their home district and meet with their constituents. This is a great opportunity to promote Farm to School and give your representatives a firsthand Farm to School experience. You can invite them to have lunch at your school, attend a farm field trip, or check out the school garden. Click [here](#) for tips on scheduling a site visit.



Sincerely,

Brook Thompson  
Appalachian Sustainable Agriculture Project's Growing Minds Program

#### Florida

Melissa DeSa, *Florida Organic Growers*

Beverly Girard, RD, *Director of Food and Nutrition Services for Sarasota County*

Rachael Terrin, SNS, *FL Department of Education*

Mary Whitesell, *Florida Healthy Communities Healthy People*

#### Georgia

Erin Croom, *Georgia Organics*

Amanda Manning, *GA Department of Education*

#### South Carolina

Todd Bedenbaugh, *SC Department of Education*

Allison Schaum, *Palmetto Agriculture Consultants*  
Susan Frost, *DHEC Bureau of Community Health and Chronic Disease Prevention*

#### North Carolina

Lynn Harvey, *NC Department of Public Instruction*

Michelle Futrell, MS, RD, LDN, *Children and Youth Branch, NC DHHS Division of Public Health*

Diane Beth, *Division of Public Health, NC Fruits and Veggies Nutrition Coalition*

#### Tennessee

Elizabeth Malayter, *Jubilee Project*

#### Kentucky

Kaycie Len Carter, *Community Farm Alliance*

Mark Swanson, *University of Kentucky Lexington*

Wendy Carlin, *Coalition for a Fit Kentucky*