A school lunch tray is the background of the page. It contains a banana, a package of Keebler McHeart crackers, a variety of fresh vegetables including broccoli, cucumbers, tomatoes, and carrots, and a bowl of soup. A silver fork is also visible.

2019-2020 AMERICORPS FARM TO SCHOOL PROGRAM IMPACT REPORT



Report by: Kara Ignasiak, MS, RDN, CD

The AC F2S Program is housed at the WI Dept. of Public Instruction.



THE AMERICORPS F2S PROGRAM BY THE NUMBERS

12

AmeriCorps Farm to School host sites.

2

new AmeriCorps Farm to School host sites added in the 2019-2020 service year.

17

Wisconsin school districts participated in farm to school programming.

16

AmeriCorps Farm to School members.

87

Wisconsin schools were served by AmeriCorps members.

15,400

hours served by AmeriCorps Farm to School members.



The data in this report was compiled by Kara Ignasiak, MS, RDN, CD. The survey analysis was conducted by the Wisconsin Evaluation Collaborative.



NUTRITION EDUCATION

2,913

students received at least 150 minutes of nutrition education.

49%

of our nutrition education goal reached.

820

hours of in-person nutrition education provided by AmeriCorps Farm to School Nutrition Educators.

1,156

nutrition lessons taught by AmeriCorps Farm to School Nutrition Educators in-person.

5,021

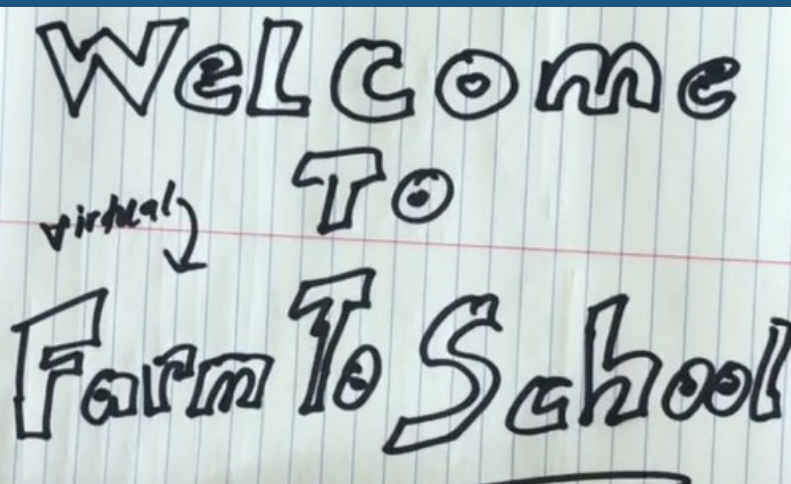
students who received at least one nutrition lesson.

55

Wisconsin Model Academic Standards for Nutrition covered.



The data in this report was compiled by Kara Ignasiak, MS, RDN, CD. The survey analysis was conducted by the Wisconsin Evaluation Collaborative.



NUTRITION EDUCATION DURING COVID-19

9

host sites continued to educate students virtually during the COVID-19 pandemic.

471

nutrition lessons taught by AmeriCorps Farm to School Nutrition Educators virtually.

When COVID hit in March, our members made a quick pivot to virtual nutrition education lessons. A few host sites continued teaching their lessons via Google Classroom and others transitioned their lessons to prerecorded videos that students could watch at home. One host site, Food Right, Inc., got creative by sending home ingredient kits to their students. They then conducted live cooking lessons with them over Facebook and Instagram. Our Oregon School District member conducted live, virtual cooking lessons with students as well. The students really enjoyed it!

Here are a few links to recorded AmeriCorps Farm to School cooking and nutrition lessons:

- [MyPlate lesson](#)
- [Six Plant Parts lesson](#)
- [Dirt Ate My Lunch](#)
- [Who Grew My Soup? lesson](#)





LOCAL FOODS AND WISCONSIN FARMERS

50

local procurement education documents shared with school food service directors.

32

miles was the average distance between the schools and local foods purchased.

18

Wisconsin farmers gave educational presentations to students.

359

local food taste test activities were done with Wisconsin students.

112

Wisconsin farmers sold or donated local foods to schools.

88

local foods were served as part of a school meal.



The data in this report was compiled by Kara Ignasiak, MS, RDN, CD. The survey analysis was conducted by the Wisconsin Evaluation Collaborative.



LOCAL FOODS AND WISCONSIN FARMERS DURING COVID-19

Even though students were not on campus this spring/summer, the AmeriCorps Farm to School member with the Bayfield School District, Katherine Rakowski, kept the school garden thriving with the help of volunteers. During the pandemic she harvested over 200 pounds of produce including carrots, kale, spinach, wild greens, nasturtiums, broccoli, cauliflower, cucumbers, squash, peas, tomatoes, and herbs. The food was distributed through the Bayfield Food Pantry and summer school meals for students through the Red Cliff Food Distribution.

Local basil and popcorn was served to Milwaukee students through Food Right, Inc.'s virtual cooking classes. Their farm to school member, Molly Higgins, helped source and distribute ingredients to students so they could participate in their virtual cooking classes.

Morgan Jessee, the Howard-Suamico School District AmeriCorps Farm to School member, helped grow cucumbers, snap peas, string beans, and cherry tomatoes in their large school garden called Inspiration Acres. The school garden produce was served to students as part of their summer meal program.

One of our members with REAP Food Group, Madison Soukup, helped package local foods for their program called Granjas a Familias (Farm to Families). This program purchased local food items from minority farmers and distributed it to 200 Latinx families struggling with food insecurity during the pandemic.

Additionally, members from the Oregon School District and the Stevens Point YMCA took students on virtual tours of Meadows Honey Homestead, Feltz Dairy Farm, and Bargender Family Farm.



The data in this report was compiled by Kara Ignasiak, MS, RDN, CD.
The survey analysis was conducted by the Wisconsin Evaluation Collaborative.



SCHOOL GARDENS

42

hours were spent with students in school gardens.

Carrots, kale, peppers, and tomatoes

were the most harvested and tasted garden produce items.

15

school gardens were supported by AmeriCorps Farm to School members.

1

new school garden was built.

17

food items were grown, harvested, and tasted by students in school gardens.



The data in this report was compiled by Kara Ignasiak, MS, RDN, CD. The survey analysis was conducted by the Wisconsin Evaluation Collaborative.



SCHOOL GARDENS DURING COVID-19

Emily Butler, the AmeriCorps Farm to School member for Arbor Vitae-Woodruff Elementary School, encouraged families to visit the school garden over the summer one at a time to plant the plants she left there for them. She also handed out home garden kits in honor of Wisconsin School Garden Day.

Bayfield School District member, Katherine Rakowski, conducted a virtual tour of their school garden high tunnel on Facebook and sent home seed start kits with the students' school meals. She also grew over 200 pounds of food in the garden to donate to those in need during the pandemic.

Taylor Hall, AmeriCorps Farm to School member with Fort HealthCare, worked with community members to put together virtual tours of several gardens in their community.

Howard-Suamico School District member, Morgan Jessee, worked with Farmer Donna to fill 22 buckets with soil and seed packets for students. They sent planting instructions as well as a recipe on how to cook with the foods they grew. Morgan also continued to grow food for the summer meal program in the school garden.

Rebecca Herrick, AmeriCorps Farm to School member with the Stevens Point YMCA, partnered with several community organizations to make 80 garden kits and handed them out to students at the Boys and Girls Club as well as a few foster families.

Tomorrow River School District member, Peyton Bloedel, helped Rebecca make the garden kits and tended to the Tomorrow River school garden while students were not allowed on campus. She grew onions, peppers, tomatoes, and mixed greens so students have something to come back to in the fall.



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The survey analysis was conducted by the Wisconsin Evaluation Collaborative.



COMMUNITY EVENTS AND VOLUNTEERS

70

community events were planned or participated in to promote farm to school.

299

volunteers were engaged to support farm to school programming.

Task Force Meetings

were the most common volunteer activities.

51%

of volunteers were episodic, one time volunteers.

2,050

hours were served by volunteers.

49%

of volunteers were ongoing, repeat volunteers.



The data in this report was compiled by Kara Ignasiak, MS, RDN, CD. The survey analysis was conducted by the Wisconsin Evaluation Collaborative.



COMMUNITY EVENTS AND VOLUNTEERS DURING COVID-19

729

hours were served by volunteers during the pandemic.

Due to the Safer At Home order in Wisconsin, our members were not able to host their usual community events in the second half of our program year. However, this did not stop them from getting creative with how they promoted volunteering.

Several host sites continued to use volunteers in school gardens in a socially distanced, safe manner. Volunteers helped with garden prep, planting, watering, harvesting, and weeding. They also helped assemble garden kits to send home with students.

Volunteers also continued to be a part of farm to school task forces through virtual meeting platforms. These groups continued to support the sustainability of farm to school programs around the state.

Some members even engaged volunteers in proof reading and video editing activities. Video creation was new to many of our members so they reached out to others in the community to help create fun and engaging nutrition lessons for students.



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The survey analysis was conducted by the Wisconsin Evaluation Collaborative.



FARM TO SCHOOL COMPONENTS

17

schools received five or more local procurement education documents.

9

schools engaged two or more farmers in educational presentations.

38

schools received one to two farm to school components.

35

schools received five or more local food taste tests.

14

schools spent an hour or more with students in a school garden.

14

schools received three or more farm to school components.

15

schools served four or more local foods for school meals.



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THIRD TO FIFTH GRADE STUDENT SURVEY RESULTS

2,311

students took the pre-survey (pre-pandemic).

3 out of 12

host sites were able to complete both surveys due to the pandemic.

7

food neophobia and experience questions were analyzed using the Bhapkar test.

300

students took the post-survey (participation was significantly less due to the pandemic).

8

knowledge questions were analyzed.

231

students took both surveys and were included in the analysis.



The data in this report was compiled by Kara Ignasiak, MS, RDN, CD.
The survey analysis was conducted by the Wisconsin Evaluation Collaborative.



PROGRAM EVALUATION LIMITATIONS DURING COVID-19

Program evaluation proved to be challenging in the 2019-2020 AmeriCorps Farm to School service year. Schools were shut down at the start of the coronavirus pandemic in March and never reopened before the end of the school year. This is typically the time when AmeriCorps members conduct end-of-the-year program evaluations. With the switch to virtual schooling for students and lack of direct access to parents, most of our members were not able to administer student post-surveys or parent surveys. This caused a loss of much important program evaluation data for our program. Only three host sites were able to collect data before the pandemic hit, which means that our data analysis does not represent our entire program.

Thankfully, we were still able to administer food service director surveys and interviews during the pandemic because we still had a direct line of communication with them. However, during this time food service directors were under a lot of stress trying to continue to feed students under their new restrictive COVID-19 guidelines. They were short staffed, had to come up with new menus, had to figure out new meal delivery systems, and their budgets got even tighter having to buy extra to go meal containers. We believe this may have impacted their survey responses as buying local foods (that tend to cost more) was not a top priority at this time.

Additionally, from March to August, our members had to get creative with how they were offering farm to school programming to their communities. Members started teaching lessons online, handing out home garden kits, and offering virtual farm tours. They did a great job keeping programming going despite all the challenges; however, the new programming models did not fit how we typically collect and categorize data for our program performance measures. Consequently, our program outputs look significantly lower than they have in the past. We are working on adjusting our output measures so we can collect more of the data from our new virtual program models.



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The survey analysis was conducted by the Wisconsin Evaluation Collaborative.



FOOD NEOPHOBIA (FEAR OF TRYING SOMETHING NEW)

21%

of students improved their willingness to try a new fruit.

28%

of students improved their willingness to try a new vegetable.

Unlike previous years, this year we did not find a statistically significant improvement in willingness to try a new fruit or vegetable. There was a significant improvement for fruit in the 2017-2018 program year and in 2018-2019 there was a significant improvement for vegetables. Similar to previous years, this analysis did not include students who already reported the highest likelihood to try a new fruit or vegetable on both pre- and post-surveys (i.e. space to improve).

Our sample size was much smaller this year due to the coronavirus pandemic (n=231 vs. n=1,310 last year). Additionally the data came from only three different host sites (Juneau County Health Department, REAP Food Group, and Tomorrow River School District) when it previously was collected from 12 sites. This may have had an impact on our results. Because of the small pool of data, an analysis of the three individual host sites was not performed.





STUDENT EXPERIENCES AND BEHAVIORS AROUND FRUITS AND VEGETABLES

22%

of students improved their likelihood to choose a fruit or vegetable for snack.

21%

of students improved their likelihood to choose a fruit for lunch at school.

30%

of students improved their likelihood to choose a vegetable for lunch at school.

17%*

of students improved their likelihood to ask their parents/guardians for fruits at home.

24%*

of students improved their likelihood to ask their parents/guardians for vegetables at home.

Of the five experience and behavior questions, two questions resulted in a statistically significant increase in students who improved their likelihood to do something by at least one categorical response. These are noted with an asterisk. This analysis does not include students who already reported the highest likelihood to do something on both pre- and post-surveys (i.e. space to improve).

Overall, 20 percent of students who could improve in willingness to try new experiences with fruits and vegetables did so. More of these students improved in their likelihood to experience vegetables than fruit.



The data in this report was compiled by Kara Ignasiak, MS, RDN, CD. The survey analysis was conducted by the Wisconsin Evaluation Collaborative.



OVERALL IMPROVEMENT IN LIKELIHOOD TO CHOOSE FRUITS AND VEGETABLES

43%

of students improved their likelihood to choose fruits and/or vegetables on at least two questions.

When comparing improvement across all seven neophobic and experience/behavior questions, we decided an improvement in at least one response category on at least two questions was considered a considerable student improvement in likelihood to choose/request fruits and vegetables. This analysis does not include students who already reported the highest likelihood to do something on both pre- and post-surveys (i.e. space to improve).

13%

of students improved their likelihood to choose fruits and/or vegetables on at least four questions.

Due to our small sample size, we did not complete individual host site analyses this year. Overall, a slightly lower percentage of students' improved their likelihood to choose fruits and/or vegetables on at least two questions compared to last year (43 percent versus 53 percent). This may be due to the lack of host site data (three sites surveys versus 12).



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The survey analysis was conducted by the Wisconsin Evaluation Collaborative.



NUTRITION KNOWLEDGE

74%

of knowledge questions answered correctly on the pre-survey.

Overall, there was a statistically significant increase in nutrition knowledge for students who received at least 150 minutes of nutrition education ($p < 0.001$). This is consistent with the past two years of results when it comes to increased nutrition knowledge.

79%

of knowledge questions answered correctly on the post-survey.

Due to our small sample size, we did not complete individual host site analyses this year. Many host sites had to finish up their lesson series virtually due to the pandemic. We were unable to track which students actually watched the virtual lessons and we were not able to administer the student post-survey due to administrative challenges caused by the pandemic. We are working on alternative program evaluation methods going forward in a virtual teaching environment.



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SCHOOL FOOD SERVICE DIRECTOR SURVEY RESULTS

13

school food service directors (FSDs) completed the survey.

31%

of FSDs increased their confidence in knowing how to find and purchase local items for their school meal program.

15%

of FSDs increased their willingness to purchase local items for their school meal program.

100%

of FSDs used local foods on their menus.

69%

of FSDs serve produce from the school garden.

62%

of FSDs work with local farmers to purchase local foods.



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SUPPORTING SCHOOL FOOD SERVICE DIRECTORS

31%

of school food service directors (FSDs) participated in a farm to school task force.

8%

of FSDs spent 11 to 15 hours working with their AmeriCorps member.

15%

of FSDs spent 21+ hours working with their AmeriCorps member.

46%

of FSDs received local procurement education from their AmeriCorps member.

The Food Service Director Survey was sent out to 19 school food service directors in Wisconsin who are associated with the schools our AmeriCorps members serve. We received 13 responses back, which gave us a response rate of 68.4 percent (almost 32 percent higher than the previous year).

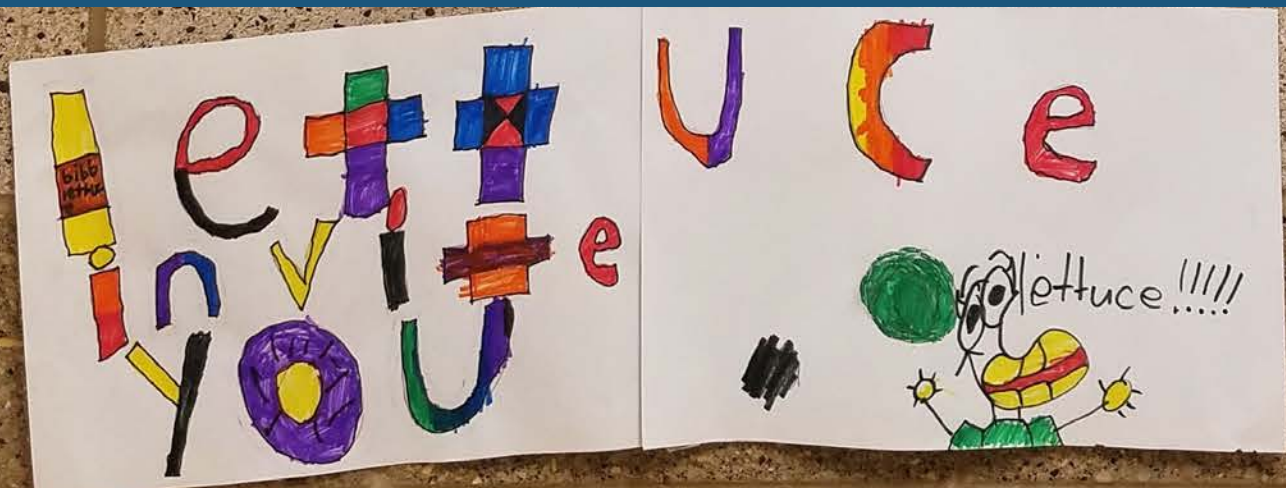
69%

of FSDs spent one to 10 hours working with their AmeriCorps member.

It was really encouraging to see that 100 percent of the survey respondents reported using local foods in their school meal programs and 77 percent of them held local food taste tests. Almost half of the respondents received local procurement education from their AmeriCorps members. Our goal is to continue to serve our school food service directors the best that we can in the pandemic climate. We know they are under a lot of pressure and stress, so we hope to make local purchasing as easy and helpful as possible!



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SCHOOL FOOD SERVICE DIRECTOR INTERVIEW RESULTS

Motivation for Buying Local

- 1) Supporting the local economy and farmers
 - Keeping their money local
 - A better local economy helps support schools
- 2) Quality of the food
 - Local products are higher quality
 - Local products are fresher
- 3) Helping students develop healthy habits
 - Providing local produce is great exposure for kids
 - Gives them an opportunity to learn where their food comes from

Barriers to Buying Local

- 1) Buying local through prime vendors is difficult because you don't know how much is actually local.
- 2) It can be hard for farmers to provide the quantity needed to serve all students in large districts. Farmers may shy away from large districts as a result and they don't seem to know that schools may be willing to buy what they have and supplement the rest to fit their needs.
- 3) Processing local foods can take additional time and staff capacity.
- 4) Farmers may not be familiar with local government rules and regulations when it comes to selling local products to schools.
- 5) Local products tend to cost more than commodity foods (food service directors do not have a lot of flexibility in their budgets).
- 6) It is hard for food service directors to maintain consistent communication with farmers.
- 7) It is hard for farmers to supply the produce needs of a school year round due to the seasonality of our climate.



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The survey analysis was conducted by the Wisconsin Evaluation Collaborative.



SUPPORTING LOCAL FOOD PURCHASING IN SCHOOLS

Food service directors (FSDs) value having support from others to make local purchases. During their interviews, they noted that community organizations and AmeriCorps Farm to School members can provide beneficial support in making local farmer connections. FSDs also noted that having support from their district administration is largely beneficial.

The FSDs interviewed felt that the best way to buy local products was directly from farmers. We can help facilitate this by fostering communication and connections between the two parties. They also said that it is helpful for farmers to know school meal program rules and their needs in terms of quantities and portion sizes. FSDs would like to be told what farmers have available to purchase locally. It may be beneficial for AmeriCorps members or outside community organizations to host "meet and greets" between the two parties to help foster communication.

Another big barrier to increasing local purchases is funding. FSDs reported that an increase in funding would help support more local purchases. This could be done through grants or helping increase their current school meal participation rates. The following are a few ideas FSDs had on how to help increase their student meal participation rates: Creating new recipes, helping create more diverse lunches catered to the diversity of students, training staff on how to interact with students to decrease the stigma of food service workers and create a better lunchroom environment, encouraging parents to let their student participate in school meals, and advertising the local products already being purchased.

The FSD interviewees also mentioned that raising general awareness for farm to school programming and celebrating the good things already happening would be beneficial to them.



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The survey analysis was conducted by the Wisconsin Evaluation Collaborative.



Member:
Joe Liverseed

SIXTEENTH STREET COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER

463

students received at least one nutrition lesson.

4

local foods were served as part of the National School Lunch Program.

55.75

volunteer hours were leveraged.

67.5

hours of nutrition education were taught to students.

4

community events were hosted to promote farm to school.

29

Wisconsin Model Academic Standards for Nutrition were covered.



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SIXTEENTH STREET COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER DURING COVID-19

During the pandemic our Sixteenth Street Community Health Center member, Joe Liverseed, turned his normal lessons into pre-recorded video lessons for his students. He was able to send these lessons to a total of 19 different classrooms so that they could continue the nutrition lessons they started before the pandemic hit. Joe's online lessons are educational, entertaining, and interactive all at the same time! To check them out you can view his [MyPlate lesson here](#) and his [Traffic Light Lesson here](#).

Video creation and editing was something new to Joe, so he was able to engage a volunteer to help him with this task. As you can see in his videos, his volunteer did a great job helping him with the special effects to keep the lesson entertaining for kids.

Joe also volunteered his time to help Feeding America each week during the pandemic at their food pantry distribution warehouse. He helped them with sorting food donations into smaller boxes that could be shipped off to individual pantries. During a time when families were hit hard financially with the shutdown, this was a very beneficial service Joe provided his community.



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The survey analysis was conducted by the Wisconsin Evaluation Collaborative.



ARBOR VITAE- WOODRUFF ELEMENTARY

Member:
Emily Butler

90

students received at least one nutrition lesson.

5

local foods were introduced to students through taste tests.

5

community events were hosted to promote farm to school.

49.6

hours of nutrition education were taught by the AmeriCorps member.

2

farm to school components were implemented.

20

Wisconsin Model Academic Standards for Nutrition were covered.



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ARBOR VITAE-WOODRUFF ELEMENTARY DURING COVID-19

Emily Butler, the AmeriCorps Farm to School member for Arbor Vitae-Woodruff Elementary School, kept nutrition education going for her students by sharing video lessons that were created by our REAP Food Group members. Her students learned about MyPlate, the 6 plant parts, bees, where food comes from, and Wisconsin food traditions.

She also encouraged families to visit the school garden over the summer one at a time to plant the seeds/starter plants she left there for them. Families were also encouraged to bring their own things to plant in the garden. Because the families were not able to be there each week to tend to what they planted, Emily spent her time weeding, watering, and maintaining the garden until the kids came back to school in September. She also handed out to go garden kits in honor of Wisconsin School Garden Day in May so kids could do some gardening at home in the meantime as well. These were a big hit with the students!



The data in this report was compiled by Kara Ignasiak, MS, RDN, CD.
The survey analysis was conducted by the Wisconsin Evaluation Collaborative.



Member:
Kati Rakowski

BAYFIELD SCHOOL DISTRICT

194

students received at least one nutrition lesson.

7

local foods were introduced to students through taste tests.

244

volunteer hours were leveraged.

51

hours of nutrition education were taught by the AmeriCorps member.

4

farmers were engaged in farm field trips and/or classroom presentations.

19

Wisconsin Model Academic Standards for Nutrition were covered.



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The survey analysis was conducted by the Wisconsin Evaluation Collaborative.



BAYFIELD SCHOOL DISTRICT DURING COVID-19

Even though students were not on campus this spring/summer, the AmeriCorps Farm to School member with the Bayfield School District, Katherine Rakowski, kept the school garden thriving with the help of volunteers. During the pandemic she harvested over 200 pounds of produce including carrots, kale, spinach, wild greens, nasturtiums, broccoli, cauliflower, cucumbers, squash, peas, tomatoes, and herbs. The food was distributed through the Bayfield Food Pantry and summer school meals for students through the Red Cliff Food Distribution. The volunteers who helped her keep the garden going donated just over 200 hours of their time!

Katherine also conducted a virtual tour of their school garden high tunnel on Facebook and sent home seed start kits with the students' school meals to keep the students engaged in gardening activities while they were not allowed on school grounds.

When the coronavirus pandemic hit in March, Katherine was almost finished wrapping up her nutrition lessons for the year. Thankfully with the help of Google Classroom technologies, she was able to finish her lesson series with her students virtually.



The data in this report was compiled by Kara Ignasiak, MS, RDN, CD.
The survey analysis was conducted by the Wisconsin Evaluation Collaborative.



FOOD RIGHT, INC.

Members:
Sharnae Ward &
Molly Higgins

510

students received at least one nutrition lesson.

6

local foods were introduced to students through taste tests.

210

volunteer hours were leveraged.

194.8

hours of nutrition education were taught to students.

6

community events were hosted to promote farm to school.

37

Wisconsin Model Academic Standards for Nutrition were covered.



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FOODRIGHT, INC. DURING COVID-19

Molly Higgins, AmeriCorps Farm to School member, worked with a team of people at FoodRight, Inc. to continue educating students in their community during the pandemic. They thought outside of the box and put together lesson/ingredient kits to send to students in their homes. The students were then able to watch live lessons and cook alongside with the FoodRight, Inc. team in real time using the food provided in their kits.

Here are some of the live lessons they did with students:

- [From Seed to Sprout: Learn How to Grow Microgreens](#)
- [Dress to Impress: Homemade Salad Dressings](#)
- [How to Make White Bean Dip and Hummus](#)
- [From India to Italy: Popcorn from Around the World](#)
- [Fluffy Whole Wheat Pancakes with Strawberry Compote](#)
- [Middle Eastern Zucchini Fritters and Garlic Yogurt Sauce Part 1, Part 2](#)
- [Black Bean Burgers and Sweet Potato Hash Part 1, Part 2](#)
- [Minestrone and Italian Chopped Salad Part 1, Part 2](#)
- [Bean and Veggie Fajitas with Pico de Gallo Part 1, Part 2](#)



The data in this report was compiled by Kara Ignasiak, MS, RDN, CD.
The survey analysis was conducted by the Wisconsin Evaluation Collaborative.



Members:
Taylor Hall &
Lat'Anna Davis

FORT HEALTHCARE

319

students received at least one nutrition lesson.

10

local foods were introduced to students through taste tests.

518

volunteer hours were leveraged.

29

hours of nutrition education were taught to students.

5

local foods were served as part of the National School Lunch Program.

27

Wisconsin Model Academic Standards for Nutrition were covered.



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FORT HEALTHCARE DURING COVID-19

Taylor Hall, AmeriCorps Farm to School member with Fort HealthCare, created at-home toolkits for students in Kindergarten through sixth grade and shared them with three different elementary schools in her service area.

Here are some examples of what she shared with them:

- [Gardening and Cooking Songs, Books and Tips for Families](#)
- [Pollinator Fact Fortune Teller](#)
- [Create Your Own MyPlate Menu Activity](#)
- [Nutrient Cycle Diagram](#)

Taylor also worked with members in her community to put together three different garden tour videos for students. This gave them a chance to continue learning about gardens in their community when they were not able to physically be in their own school gardens.

- [University of Wisconsin-Whitewater Garden Tour](#)
- [Lincoln Elementary School Garden Tour](#)
- [Whitewater Community Garden Tour](#)





Member:
Morgan Jessee

HOWARD-SUAMICO SCHOOL DISTRICT

295

students received at least one nutrition lesson.

11

local foods were introduced to students through taste tests.

95

volunteer hours were leveraged.

38.5

hours of nutrition education were taught to students.

12

local foods were served as part of the National School Lunch Program.

20

Wisconsin Model Academic Standards for Nutrition were covered.



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The survey analysis was conducted by the Wisconsin Evaluation Collaborative.



HOWARD-SUAMICO SCHOOL DISTRICT DURING COVID-19

During the pandemic, Morgan Jessee, the Howard-Suamico School District AmeriCorps Farm to School member helped grow a variety of vegetables in the large school garden called Inspiration Acres. The school garden produce was served to students as part of their summer meal program.

School grown items served to Howard-Suamico students include:

- Cucumbers
- Snap peas
- String beans
- Cherry tomatoes

Morgan also worked with Farmer Donna to make Victory Garden kits for students. They filled buckets with soil and seed packets so students could garden at home. They also sent planting instructions and a recipe on how to cook with the foods they grew. Students were able to pick up a Victory Garden kit when they picked up their school meals.



The data in this report was compiled by Kara Ignasiak, MS, RDN, CD.
The survey analysis was conducted by the Wisconsin Evaluation Collaborative.



Member:
Erin Lenninger

JUNEAU COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

483

students received at least one nutrition lesson.

24

local foods were introduced to students through taste tests.

93.5

volunteer hours were leveraged.

63.8

hours of nutrition education were taught to students.

8

Wisconsin farmers gave educational presentations to students.

36

Wisconsin Model Academic Standards for Nutrition were covered.



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JUNEAU COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT DURING COVID-19

Unfortunately, our member serving with the Juneau County Health Department had to exit the program due to COVID-19, so no programming was provided. The Juneau County Health Department was an extremely busy and critical organization in keeping community members safe during the pandemic. They will continue farm to school programming again in the 2020-2021 school year.



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The survey analysis was conducted by the Wisconsin Evaluation Collaborative.



Member:
Sarah Hilby

OREGON SCHOOL DISTRICT

539

students received at least one nutrition lesson.

9

local foods were introduced to students through taste tests.

173.5

volunteer hours were leveraged.

60.9

hours of nutrition education were taught to students.

6

local foods were served as part of the National School Lunch Program.

17

Wisconsin Model Academic Standards for Nutrition were covered.



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OREGON SCHOOL DISTRICT DURING COVID-19

Sarah Hilby, the AmeriCorps Farm to School member for the Oregon School District, hosted eight live, virtual cooking lessons for students during the pandemic. Students had the opportunity to make applesauce, quesadillas, salsa, pasta salad, sweet potato fries, apple cookies, zucchini bread, veggie pizza, vegetable soup, vegetable stir fry, banana chocolate chip pancakes, and strawberry syrup. They were a big hit with students!

She was also able to wrap up the lesson series she started earlier in the year with an online lesson about Native Wisconsin Food ([view here](#)). This allowed her students to complete their entire five lesson series.

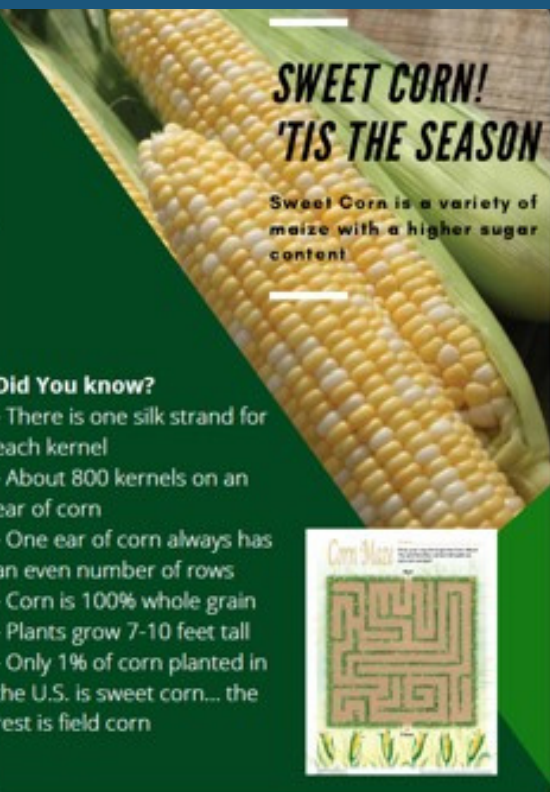
While Sarah as not able to take the students on a farm field trip like she hoped, she was still able to share a virtual farm tour with them using a series of videos she created.

Meadows Honey Homestead Virtual Tour:

- [Beekeeping](#)
- [Chickens](#)
- [Black Walnut Syrup](#)



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PULASKI SCHOOL DISTRICT

Member:
Makalyn Peterson

Makalyn Peterson, the AmeriCorps Farm to School member for the Pulaski School District, joined us late in the service year in the middle of the pandemic so her service experience was quite different from the rest. Because we didn't recruit her until later in the year, this host site does not have as much numerical data to report as the others. Despite her late start, Makalyn still did a phenomenal job serving her community in a variety of ways!

Here are a few of the things she did to serve the Pulaski community:

- Helped serve curbside meals to students at Pulaski Middle School
- Created newsletters with fun nutrition facts and activities for families
- Created farm to school lesson plans for teachers to use with their students
- Created promotional materials for local families highlighting local farms they could buy from over the summer



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REAP FOOD GROUP

Members:
Madison Soukup
& Rachel Leibovich

920

students received at least one nutrition lesson.

15

local foods were introduced to students through taste tests.

159

volunteer hours were leveraged.

148.6

hours of nutrition education were taught to students.

2

local foods were served as part of the National School Lunch Program.

19

Wisconsin Model Academic Standards for Nutrition were covered.



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REAP FOOD GROUP DURING COVID-19

Madison Soukup and Rachel Leibovich, AmeriCorps Farm to School members serving the Madison Metropolitan School District with REAP Food Group, converted their in-person nutrition lessons into five virtual nutrition lesson toolkits for teachers and families. The toolkits included lesson plans, take-home activities, coloring pages, farm to school recipes, posters, and more. They even recorded a video version of each lesson for teachers to share with their students learning at home. The toolkits were sent out to 59 different classrooms in the Madison Metropolitan School District.

REAP Food Group Virtual Toolkits:

- [MyPlate](#)
- [Six Plant Parts](#)
- [Buzz on Bees](#)
- [Dirt Ate My Lunch](#)
- [Wisconsin Food Traditions](#)

REAP was also very busy launching a new local food program called Granjas a Familias (Farm to Families). Madison helped them pack boxes of local food sourced from minority farmers and distribute them to 200 Latinx families struggling with food insecurity during the pandemic.



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STEVENS POINT YMCA

Members:
Kelsey Newman &
Rebecca Herrick

608

students received at least one nutrition lesson.

25

local foods were introduced to students through taste tests.

474.9

volunteer hours were leveraged.

73

hours of nutrition education were taught to students.

16

community events were hosted to promote farm to school.

28

Wisconsin Model Academic Standards for Nutrition were covered.



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STEVENS POINT YMCA DURING COVID-19

Kelsey Newman, AmeriCorps Farm to School member with the Stevens Point YMCA, pivoted her in-person lessons to an online format when the pandemic hit in March. She created 15 different YouTube videos that ranged from cooking lessons, nutrition lessons, and farm to school book readings.

Here are a few examples:

- Cooking video - [How to Make Homemade Hummus](#)
- Nutrition lesson - [MyPlate Activities](#)
- Book reading - [Who Grew My Soup?](#)

Rebecca Herrick, the other AmeriCorps Farm to School member with the Stevens Point YMCA, worked on the gardening and farmer engagement aspect of their programming during the pandemic. She worked with Feltz Dairy Farm and Bargender Family Farm to create virtual farm tour videos for students.

She also partnered with several community organizations to make close to 100 Pop Up Produce (PUP) garden kits. They handed them out to students at the Boys and Girls Club as well as a few foster families.



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Member:
Peyton Bloedel

TOMORROW RIVER SCHOOL DISTRICT

326

students received at least one nutrition lesson.

12

local foods were introduced to students through taste tests.

150

minutes spent with students in the garden.

43.9

hours of nutrition education were taught to students.

5

community events were hosted to promote farm to school.

35

Wisconsin Model Academic Standards for Nutrition were covered.



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TOMORROW RIVER SCHOOL DISTRICT DURING COVID-19

Peyton Bloedel, AmeriCorps Farm to School member with the Tomorrow River School District, spent most of her time during the pandemic working on garden-related activities for her students. She did a lot of work in the school garden so that students would come back to school in the fall to a flourishing garden full of fresh produce. She planted onions, peppers, tomatoes, and mixed greens over the summer for her students since they were not allowed to be in the garden themselves. She also kept up with the weeding and watering of the garden beds.

She also partnered with our Stevens Point YMCA host site during their Pop Up Produce (PUP) garden project. Together they made close to 100 garden kits that they handed out to students in the Boys and Girls Club.



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