



USDA Farm to School Tactical Team

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Know Your Farmer, Know Your Food Initiative

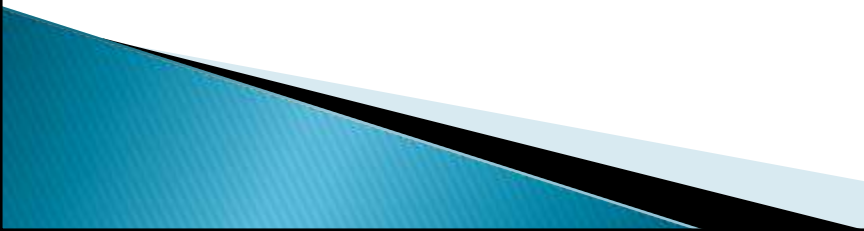


- ▶ Agency-wide effort to create new economic opportunities by connecting consumers with local producers
- ▶ Initiative focuses on the importance of understanding where our food comes from and how it gets to our plate
- ▶ “Farm to School Tactical Team” stemmed from this initiative

Farm To School Tactical Team

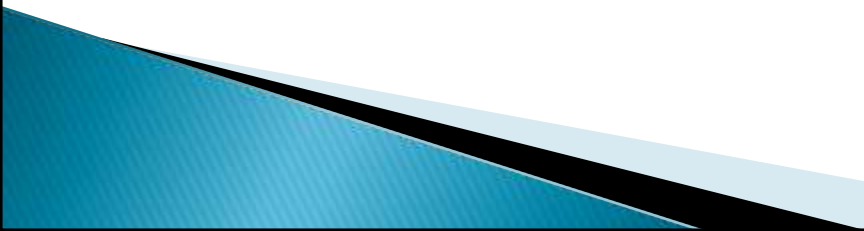
- ▶ Comprised of FNS & AMS employees
- ▶ Supports local and regional food systems via linkages between schools and local food producers
- ▶ Tasked with developing mechanisms to:
 - Assist schools in accessing local markets
 - Enable food producers to effectively service their local schools
 - Facilitate communication between interested stakeholders

F2S Tactical Team will:

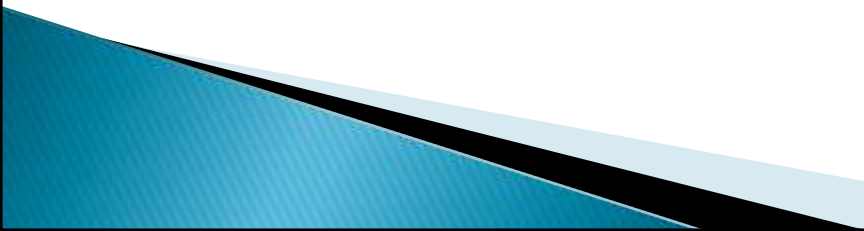
- ▶ Visit 9 school districts of varied demographics and characteristics
 - ▶ Analyze and assess variables that support or deter farm-to-school activities
 - ▶ Identify trends and best practices
 - ▶ Develop a Farm to School website
 - ▶ Engage in webinars with interested parties to allow for information sharing of Farm to School obstacles and successes.
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F2S Tactical Team

Long Term Goals:

- ▶ Provide access to resources and information on beginning and maintaining Farm to School activities for schools, farmers and local community members.
 - ▶ Provide technical assistance to assist schools and farmers in the development, progression, and/or sustainability of a Farm to School activities.
 - ▶ Identify obstacles faced by schools and farmers in implementing and/or sustaining Farm to School activities and provide suggested solutions.
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Request for School Visit:

- ▶ Visit <http://www.fns.usda.gov/cnd/> to express interest
 - ▶ School district submits contact information through website
 - ▶ School district will be contacted (via email) to learn more about the school's farm to school activities.
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Focus of School Visits:

- ▶ Regional representation
 - ▶ Rural, Urban, Suburban, Tribal Schools
 - ▶ Large and Small School Districts
 - ▶ Self-op, Vended and Management Company
 - ▶ Various Distribution Models
 - ▶ Different Stages of F2S Implementation
 - ▶ New or Novel Ideas
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