

FARM TO SCHOOL

Implementation for farm to school can include procurement from local farmers, education on agriculture, food, health and nutrition, and school gardening where kids have an opportunity to learn through hands-on experiences. The goal for farm to school is for children, producers and communities to be vibrant.

Dubuque determined a priority project to assist Farm to School programming to highlight education opportunities for growing food at schools and at home.

Public Input Sessions:

MAJOR INSTITUTIONS NEED A STATE-WIDE GOAL FOR PROCUREMENT

Economy:

Significant financial opportunity for producers and processors by opening door for institutional market; average 5 percent increase in income from farm to school sales for individual farmers
CLARK UNIVERSITY: Contact- Andrew Mettert

UNIVERSITY OF DUBUQUE: Contact- Andrew Mettert

IOWA FOOD HUB: CONNECTS WITH SCHOOL FOR LOCALLY-GROWN FOOD

Education

Provides kids access to nutritious, high quality local food so they are ready to learn- also enhances classroom education through hands on learning (Farm to School)

NORTHEAST IOWA FARM TO SCHOOL CHAPTER RESOURCES: (NORTHEAST IOWA FARM TO SCHOOL CHAPTER RESOURCES)

Farm to School Programs: (Scherf)

- WRAP YOUR OWN IOWA GROWN (2010)
- SCHOOL GARDENS 101 (2015)
 - Hempstead High School Garden: part of Dubuque schools
 - Irving Elementary School Garden: part of Dubuque schools

Equity

FREE AND REDUCED LUNCH (IOWA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION)

District	Percent Free and Reduced Lunch
DUBUQUE	37.1%
WESTERN DUBUQUE	27.4%
STATE AVERAGE	41.0%

Health:

Buying local reduces carbon footprint- school gardens and composting also create a healthier environment around the school community

LOCAL FOOD COORDINATORS AND COALITIONS:

Many groups and organizations can play a role in initiating a local food system. However, experience suggests the most efficient way to build a sustainable and effective local food system is to have a person serve in a leadership role to orchestrate and coordinate its evolution. The creation of a resilient local food system requires the participation of many different community stakeholders: producers, consumers, institutions, businesses, and government agencies. Because of the number of participants with varied agendas, different geographic areas need to employ their own local food coordinators. Among the coordinators main responsibilities are to:

- bring participants together
- connect and create efficient working groups that succeed in reaching common goals, and
- raise community awareness, providing the foundation for a stable local food system. (Iowa State University Extension and Outreach)

DRIFTLESS FOOD SYSTEMS ALLIANCE- RFSWG FOR DUBUQUE COUNTY

Regional Food Systems Working Group: (Dubuque Eats Well)

Identify the key elements found in specific geographic areas that create a vibrant and sustainable regional food system.

Work with leaders and food businesses in specific geographic areas and/or communities to identify and support the key elements that are not yet well developed.

Help identify and measure key indicators that determine whether there is positive change in the regional food system as a result of projects or programs.

Develop and implement a process for continuous learning across Iowa about what it takes to make a regional food system more vibrant and sustainable.

Focuses on six areas:

- Production
 - Profitability for farmers
 - Reducing environmental impact of farms
- Distribution & Marketing
 - Expanding options for healthy, local food (ex: CSAs)
- Processing
- Purchasing & Consumption
 - Encourage buying healthy, local food for nutrition, environmental impact, and food security
- Preparation
 - Increase citizens' cooking skills through classes
- Minimization of Wasting
 - Increase portion control
 - Get excess food to hungry, low-income residents

DUBUQUE WELLNESS COALITION (SUSTAINABLE DUBUQUE)

Supports local organizations working in public wellness

Identifies gaps and duplication of work by organizations

Analyzes data to promote public health

CATFISH CREEK WATERSHED (CATFISH CREEK WATERSHED)

Reduce risk of flooding in watershed area
Improve watershed water quality
Promote health for all living things in watershed area

Economy

RIVER BEND BUY FRESH BUY LOCAL: (RIVER BEND BUY FRESH BUY LOCAL)

Connects consumers to locally-produced foods
Creates directory of local producers: River Bend Buy Fresh Buy Local Directory

GREATER DUBUQUE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION: ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COALITION

Education:

PROGRAMMING THROUGH DUBUQUE EATS WELL ; CATFISH CREEK WATERSHED;
LOCAL ADVOCACY- COMMUNITY GREEN DUBUQUE
NICC- COMMUNITY EDUCATION CREDITS
FARM AND FOOD WEEKEND

CHNA & HIP PRIORITY GOALS:

(Dubuque County Health), (Iowa Department of Public Health)

PROMOTE HEALTHY ENVIRONMENTS:

Increase Environmental Health Community Education for general public.

Health

DUBUQUE COUNTY COMMUNITY HEALTH IMPROVEMENT PLAN PROMOTE HEALTHY BEHAVIORS:
(DUBUQUE COUNTY HEALTH), (IOWA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH)
BY 2016 THE OBESITY RATE IN DUBUQUE COUNTY WILL DECREASE FROM 28% TO 24%.

- 27% of the county is obese
- 80% do not eat adequate fruits/vegetables
- 19% of county residents do not exercise
- 29% of residents have high blood pressure
- 6.1% of residents have diabetes

Need for increased education on healthy lifestyle behaviors (including regular exercise and healthy diet/nutrition habits) among young children