



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



TO: Sponsors of the National School Lunch Program and School Breakfast Program

FROM: Cheryl Resha, Education Manager
Bureau of Health/Nutrition, Family Services and Adult Education

DATE: January 23, 2010

SUBJECT: Operational Memorandum # 7-10
Food and Nutrition Service Farm to School Web site, E-mail and Site Visits

Last December, the Child Nutrition Division of the Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) released a Farm to School Web site located at <http://www.fns.usda.gov/cnd/F2S/Default.htm> and a new e-mail address specifically for Farm to School communications: farmtoschool@fns.usda.gov. Currently the Web site contains general information about Farm to School, the *Know Your Food, Know Your Farmer* initiative and the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Farm to School Tactical Team (Tactical Team). In the near future, the Web site will feature information on: 1) how to start Farm to School activities; 2) how to purchase locally; 3) policies related to Farm to School; 4) solutions to overcoming obstacles; 5) food safety; and 6) progress on the Tactical Team Initiative. The Connecticut State Department of Education encourages School Food Authorities to visit the Web site frequently to learn about the latest events regarding Farm to School.

As mentioned above, one feature of this Web site is to provide updates on the Farm to School Tactical Team. The purpose of the Tactical Team is to support local and regional food systems by facilitating linkages between schools and their local food producers. **This Team will be visiting nine school districts of varied demographics and characteristics across the country to analyze and assess variables that support or deter from the success of Farm to School activities.** During the visits, the Tactical Team would like to meet with school administrators (e.g., food service director, principal, superintendent, Agriscience program coordinator, etc.), farmers and community partners to best understand the school's Farm to School activities and identify obstacles, trends and best practices. The Tactical Team has several goals related to the development of mechanisms to assist schools in accessing local markets; enabling food producers to effectively service their local schools; and facilitating communication between interested stakeholders. The FNS expects the varied site visits will assist the Tactical Team in meeting these goals.

Through the above listed Web site, the Tactical Team has provided school districts participating in the Child Nutrition Programs an opportunity to express their interest in being considered for a USDA Farm to School Tactical Team site visit. Once the district has submitted their request for

consideration, the Tactical Team will respond via e-mail as confirmation of the request and seek to learn more about the school's Farm to School efforts through the food service director. The requests are due to the FNS by **January 31, 2010**. Once the Tactical Team has reviewed the requests, nine school districts will be identified for a visit and if a Connecticut school district is selected, the FNS Regional Office in Boston will be notified as well as the State Agency.

Questions may be directed to:

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