

COMMUNITY ROOTS

A Farmer-Focused Education Campaign

How-To Guide



Overview

What is Farm to School?

Farm to School enriches the connection communities have with fresh, nutritious food and local farmers and producers by changing food purchasing and education practices at schools.

What is Community Roots?

Community Roots is a farmer-focused educational campaign that provides resources and educational opportunities to connect those in the students, teachers and staff to fruit and vegetable farmers and farms around Rhode Island.

The goal of Community Roots is to increase awareness of, and access to, the local food system and Rhode Island grown crops. Local food benefits our Rhode Island community in a number of ways, ranging from supporting the local economy and preserving the environment, to nourishing our community with delicious, fresh foods.

Read through this guide for information about the kit materials, how to receive them, and how to use them.

Community Roots was created by Farm Fresh Rhode Island, a nonprofit operating out of Providence, with the mission of growing the local food system to value the environment, health, and quality of life of the farmers and eaters in New England.

Funding for this project was provided by the RI Department of Environmental Management, Division of Agriculture



Materials Overview

The Community Roots Kit includes:

For Classrooms:

1. Three seasonal virtual field trips, which will serve as an entry point for enrichment activities
2. A teacher activity guide to accompany the virtual field trips and provide opportunities for deeper learning and hands-on experiences
3. A RI Farmer Passport, to learn more about the farms and farmers that are supplying schools
4. Farmer contact information, for writing letters, asking questions, or setting up field trips

For Cafeterias:

1. RI farmer Info cards for in-caf education and marketing
2. "We Love RI Farmers" Poster to inform what RI farmers you are purchasing from
3. A Farmer Roster of farms that sell to RI schools, highlight details ideas, and who is willing to do school visits

For Both:

1. Access to Farm Fresh RI staff to help facilitate and enhance learning, taste tests, and connections for collaboration between farms, classrooms, and cafeterias.

How to use this manual and the materials

These materials are made to be customizable to what level of engagement you feel works for your school/classroom. You can use all of these items, and plan ahead with classrooms and cafeterias, or pick and choose which activities to do based on length, content, and grade level.

Symbols to indicate which materials work in the cafeteria and classroom are provided next to each material description.



Classroom



Cafeteria

The "Three C's"

This campaign seeks to connect the "Three C's" of Farm to School: Classroom (learning, like in the passport and activity guide), Cafeteria (local food exposure in the cafeteria), and Community (connecting with and learning about the farmers that grow the food).

In order for students to get a well-rounded view of local food from farm to plate, reinforcing activities in all three areas are ideal.

Check out the Planning Guide for ways to more strongly connect the Three C's using these materials.

Campaign Materials

Virtual Field Trip



What it is

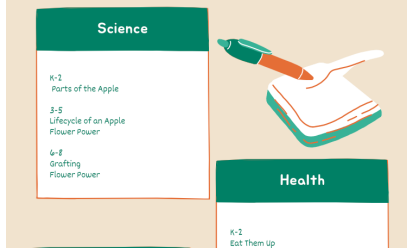
Three virtual field trips, divided by seasons of the school year (fall, winter, spring/summer). Each video features a different crop, and highlights a local farmer who grows it. The cafeteria also has a "cafeteria cut" to use on digital boards throughout the school.

How to use it

After each video is released, click the link provided to experience the virtual field trip with your classroom. Then use the activity guide and passport for suggestions of how to extend learning in the classroom and cafeteria.



Classroom Activity Guide: Autumn



Activity Guide



What it is

The Activity Guide is a collection of ideas of how teachers and students can extend learning from the seasonal video, and connect what they are learning to themselves and their community.

How to use it

After watching the seasonal virtual field trip, engage students in activities related to the farm or the highlighted produce in the video. Choose the level of engagement that meets your classroom needs for length, grade level, and content.

Farmer Contact and Roster



What it is

We've provided contact information for farmers in the videos who have let us know they're happy to be contacted by students and/or teachers. We've also created a Farmer Roster of farms that sell to RI schools and some of the stats that are relevant to cafeterias.

How to use it

Contact farmers listed by having the class write or email them questions about the farm or the produce. You can also call to request a visit, or to talk more with the farmer about ordering food for the cafeteria. Please be mindful to respect the farmers' preferences for how and when they prefer to be contacted, they're very busy a lot of the year making delicious food for us!

Campaign Materials

Farmer trading cards



What it is

Farmer trading cards serve as an overview of individual local farms, and the farmers who help keep them running! These brief snapshots highlight the farm's location, products, and farmer info and provide handy QR codes to link students to more information and resources related to the farm.

How to use it

When cafeterias purchase from a Community Roots farmer, they can hand out farmer cards to students, or can use them on the line or at a taste test table as marketing materials. Students are encouraged to collect as many cards as they can, and classrooms are encouraged to store their cards in the Farmer Passport where they can do quick activities with the class and learn more about the farms that are feeding them!

Cafeterias or schools can host recipe or scavenger hunt contests based on the Farmer Cards to make it more fun and to have school-wide participation.

If you are a food service professional, please [contact us](#) to order cards as needed when you plan to order from a RI farm.



We RI Farmers

Our school is proud to support local farms!



We Love RI Farmers Poster



What it is

A poster for Farmer Info Cards to attach to when the cafeteria purchases from a Community Roots farmer.

How to use it

Place the poster in a visible location where kids, teachers, and others can see it regularly. When you are planning to purchase from a RI farmer, [contact us](#) to order that Farmer Card. When you are done using the cards for marketing/education, tape the card to the approximate farm location on the map. By the end of the year, the school will be able to see all of the RI farmers that you have supported! Send us a picture at the end of the school year to be entered into a contest!

Campaign Materials

Farmer Passport



What it is

The Farmer Passport is an activity booklet for grades K-5 that serves as additional support and scaffolding for the Farmer Cards that students receive in the cafeteria. The passport not only provides short activities to learn more about the farms that supply their schools, but also serves as a place to store newly learned information, to look back on, and share with others.

How to use it

***Classrooms and cafeterias should connect to use the passport effectively!

When a cafeteria purchases from a Community Roots farmer, they will give out Farmer Cards to students. Participating classrooms will affix one of those cards to the classroom Passport, and the class can work on the activities on that farmer page together.

You can choose to do all, or just some of these activities for each farm.

When you receive a Farmer Card for your classroom, go on the campaign website to log it in so we can help keep track of them!

Passport activities can also be sent home with kids to work on with their families!

Cafeterias or schools can host recipe or other contests based on the passports to make it more fun and to encourage school-wide participation.

Locally Grown. Locally Eaten.

Providence County

- Barden Family Orchard
- Confreda Farms and Greenhouses
- Gotham Greens
- Jaswell's Farm
- Pezza Farm
- Steere Orchard

Newport County

- Ferolbink Farm
- Fourtown Farm
- Quonset View
- Young Family Farm

BARDEN FAMILY ORCHARD

56 ELMDALE RD., NORTH SCITUATE, RI 02857

FARMER CARD

SCAVENGER HUNT

Gil and Sandie Barden did what before they became farmers?
Name 2 farmer's market you can find Barden Family Orchard at.
What year was Barden Orchard founded?

BARDEN CLASS RECIPE

As a class create a recipe (or two) that highlights locally grown produce from the farm. Maybe your farmer has a favorite recipe! Share this recipe with your school cafeteria and see if they can make it with Barden apples, peaches or berries

How far is the farm from your school?

SPROUTING CONVERSATION

You won't find the same types of crops in Rhode Island that you find in Arizona. Why do you think that is? How are Rhode Island's growing conditions different from Arizona's?

Don't forget to log in your trading card!

FARM FRESH RI *Farm to School*

Planning Guide for Classrooms and Cafeterias

This campaign seeks to connect the "Three C's" of Farm to School: Classroom, Cafeteria, and Community. In order for students to get a well-rounded view of local food from farm to plate, working together between cafeterias and the classroom to reinforce learning is ideal. See ways below to envision how these materials can work together to enhance student experience.

Getting Started

What to know?

1. Who is participating? Farm Fresh RI will connect you with others in your school that have signed up to use the materials.
2. Find out who in the cafeteria has the authority to plan events and order food.
3. Find out what materials are being used by each party.
4. Plan to try to have at least three (3) cafeteria events throughout the year when videos are released (fall, winter, spring). If you're not using the videos, then plan a couple of times throughout the year that you can highlight local food from a Community Roots Farmer.

Each Season

What to do?

1. Classrooms receive virtual field trip
2. Teachers and food service can meet to see if there is crossover activity you'd like to do that coincides with the video (recipe contest, taste test, etc).
3. Teachers do classroom activity or have class discussion (if they wish).
4. Teachers and/or Cafeteria contacts farmer for class questions, field trip requests, or to order food from them.
5. Cafeteria orders farmer trading cards from Farm Fresh RI.
6. Hand out Farmer Trading Cards at event.
7. Bring Farmer Trading Cards back to class to complete passport activities.

Use the planning example below to coordinate activities between the classroom and cafeteria

Community Roots Planning	Resources to use	<i>Example: Fall</i>
Produce	Farmer roster, seasonal videos	<i>Apples</i>
Event/highlight	Farmer roster for highlight ideas	<i>Apple Crunch</i>
Who (who will use materials to connect learning?)	Who will use materials to connect learning?	<i>Cafeteria & Classrooms</i>
What materials will we use? What activities will we have?	Seasonal video, Activity guide, farmer roster, Farmer cards, Passport	<i>Farmer Cards to give out, Apple Posters created by students, cafeteria video, visit from Steere Orchard or another Community Roots orchard, Passports</i>
When & Where	Talk to cafeteria about when they can get local food, when classroom activities line up or when videos are released	<i>November 2021, Cafeteria</i>

Farm Fresh's F2S team is available to help you with these activities! Contact farmtoschool@farmfreshri.org to reach us.