

Lawrence County School District Receives Farm to School Implementation Grant

The Arkansas Department of Education's Child Nutrition Unit congratulates the Lawrence County School District in Walnut Ridge for its recent Farm to School grant!

The Lawrence County Farm to School Initiative is one of 82 funded projects spanning 42 states and the U.S. Virgin Islands. The projects support the U.S. Department of Agriculture's efforts to connect school cafeterias with local farmers and ranchers through its Farm to School program. The school district was awarded \$100,000 to implement its comprehensive plan developed with support from a 2013 USDA Farm to School planning grant.

Hoxie and Sloan-Hendrix school districts will participate with Lawrence County. Activities will allow the three districts to concentrate on the development of the local/regional food procurement, school gardening, and integrated curriculum modules that were central to the vision developed in the three-year Farm to School plan.

Many schools across Arkansas and the United States are participating in the Farm to School program, as the 2014 Farm to School Census demonstrates. School districts participating in Farm to School programs purchased and served more than \$385 million in local food in school year 2011-2012, with more than half of participating schools planning to purchase more local food in the future.

ADE's Child Nutrition Unit is excited to see school districts like Lawrence County take initiative with Farm to School projects and encourages other school districts to become involved as well. For more information about Farm to School, contact Vicki Hill or Stephanie Alsbrook at the Child Nutrition Unit, (501) 324-9502.