

FARM TO SCHOOL WORKSHOP

INFORMATIONAL FLYER

WHAT

A workshop covering farm to school concepts, food safety, culinary skills, schoolyard garden best practices, Grand Rapids Area Farmers Market aggregation program, education on innovative resources and models available in Minnesota.

WHEN & WHERE

DATE: February 13, 2020

TIME: 9am - 3pm

COST: Free

LOCATION: Blandin Foundation

100 N Pokegama Ave

Grand Rapids, MN 55744

WORKSHOP SUMMARY

The Farmers' Market Aggregation Project (FMAP) started in 2018 with nine MN farmers' markets, including Grand Rapids, becoming licensed wholesale food handlers and establishing aggregation and distribution hubs for local products. The 2020 season will be the third year of the project funded by Specialty Crop Block Grants. The project team has now secured a USDA Farm to School grant to help the markets and their local schools forge better connections, and increase the amount of locally sourced food going into school food service.

This farm to school workshop is part of a series of six regional workshops that will take place in Lake City, Cannon Falls, Chisago City, Rochester, Aitkin & Grand Rapids during the 2019-2020 fall and winter months. The workshops will include content on farm to school concepts, food safety, culinary skills, schoolyard garden best practices, and innovative farm to school resources and models available in the state.

Partners in this project include The Good Acre, MN Schoolyard Garden Coalition, Aitkin County Public Health, Minnesota Farmers' Market Association, Minnesota Institute for Sustainable Agriculture, Renewing the Countryside, and U of M Extension.

WHO SHOULD ATTEND

- Area farmers & producers
- Pre K-12 school staff and administration, including food & nutrition staff
- Community institutions that may be interested in purchasing local food
- Others working on community health & wellness with whom relationship-building is important and will move efforts forward well into the future (ex. SHIP, local government, public health)

OBJECTIVE

- Offer education to increase capacity for local food purchases by institutions, with a focus on K-12 schools and school-based early care sites
- Learn from those working in current farm to school programs
- Cultivate strong partnerships between producers and buyers
- Increase culinary skills for kitchen staff, and an understanding of schoolyard garden best practices

LUNCH

The workshop will include a catered lunch prepared with locally grown food purchased from the Grand Rapids Area Farmers Market Aggregation Project.

RSVP

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Workshop Sponsors:

