

# **WSDA Farm to School Purchasing Grant** January 2022 - August 2022

**Regional Markets Program** 

The Washington State Legislature provided \$5 million in the 2021-23 state budget to award grants and expand WSDA's Farm to School program. WSDA Farm to School Purchasing Grants provide schools, childcares, and summer meal programs with funds to buy and serve Washington grown foods from local farmers and food producers. This was the first cycle of the grant. The second is from September 1st, 2022-June 30th, 2023. WSDA hopes to continue the grant into the future, pending ongoing funding in the state budget. WSDA partnered with Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) to administer these grants. For more information, please visit our webpage at agr.wa.gov and search for Grant Opportunities, then Farm to School.

## Year 1 Program Overview (Jan-Aug 2022)

New grants help schools serve farm fresh foods to kids across the state, a win-win-win for children, farmers and communities.



Range of awards: \$1,000 to \$200,000

**Total grant funds spent on** Washington-grown foods:

\$920,330

## Grantees sourced foods from over 170 unique local

Washington farms and food producers

## Grantees buy from small and diverse farms.

used grant funds to purchase foods from small farmers or ranchers used grant funds to purchase Washington-grown foods from underrepresented farmers or ranchers developed new purchasing relationships with

Washington farms or food producers because of the increased funding, an average of 4 new farm connections per school or childcare

## **Key Outcomes**

Farm to school purchasing grant funds benefit students and result in more purchases from local Washington farms.

- Over 235,000 students benefiting\*
- 51% of schools and childcares serve populations where at least half of students are eligible for free or reduced price meals

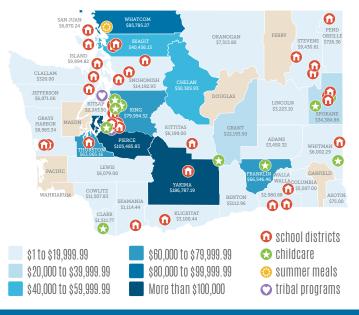
### **Grantees report top 5 benefits** of the program are:

- Better quality foods
- Cooking food from "scratch"
- Increased children's knowledge of local and healthful foods
- Increased consumption of items in meals
- Lower meal program costs

\*OSPI Report Card Enrollment 2021-2022 School Year & WSDA Farm to School Purchasing Grant Final Survey for CACFP Sponsors

## Map of Grantees and Funds Spent by County

Funds used to purchase Washington-grown food from farms and food producers across 33 counties



WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE | REGIONAL MARKETS PROGRAM

AGR.WA.GOV/FARMTOSCHOOL



Grants help schools and child cares serve local foods often.





# **Over 100 unique food** products purchased

Grantees took advantage of the wide variety of Washington-grown foods, introducina students to new and different types of foods.

## **Top 10 Products**

(includes fresh, dried, and frozen)



**Apples** \$321,626

Beef \$116.341



Yogurt \$115.371 Cherries



**Pears** \$44,266

\$87.920



**Strawberries** \$22.871

\$21,873 **Raspberries** 

**Blueberries** 



**Micro Greens** \$12,237



Cheese \$11,464

\$13,754

## **Key Outcomes**

Grants allow schools and childcares to purchase local foods in a variety of ways, creating new opportunities for even small farms to sell to schools.

## By purchasing directly

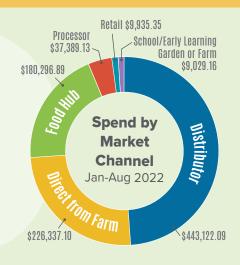
from small farms and food hubs that aggregate, distribute and market for member farms, more of the purchasing dollar goes directly back to the farmer and stays within the local economy.

"Kids love knowing who grew their food ... It makes the food system feel more real!" - Common Threads Farm

"Our culinary class has taken beans harvested by our ag class and cooked a meal commonly eaten in LatinX cultures," - Lopez Island School District

"None of the local purchases would have been made without the grant. This grant helped build relationships with local vendors and access beef from a ranch in the community." - Selkirk School District

"We got to serve fresh cherries during our summer food service program. Kids literally cheered when they saw them!" - Everett Public Schools



Grains Eggs \$5,487 \$5.024 Nuts, seeds & lequmes \$3.555 Bread/Bakerv \$13,586 -Other \$3,255 Fish & Seafood \$14.576 Beveraqes \$126.909 Dairy \$1,991 \$132.749 Spend by Food Category Jan-Aug 2022 Produce (Incl \$598.978

## Schools and childcares serve local foods to kids at all times of day and in all seasons.

Grantees report serving local foods in these meals:

81%	Breakfast/ School Breakfast Program
95%	Lunch/ National School Lunch Program
<b>21%</b>	After School Snack Program
<b>12%</b>	At-Risk Afterschool Meals
<b>20%</b>	Supper (childcare only)
<b>48</b> %	Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) or Seamless Summer Option (SSO) (schools only)

Data Sources: Unless otherwise noted, all data included comes from monthly school and childcare purchasing reports and grant surveys collected by WSDA. \*While this grant allows farm to school purchasing for more districts and farms across Washington state, the grant awards do not reflect all of the farm to school purchasing happening, any institution can participate.

**Statements** from Grantees: