



Seacoast Farmers Invited To Learn About Farm To School

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DURHAM, N.H. – Do you grow fruits and vegetables in Rockingham or Strafford County? Are you interested in learning about a potential new market for your products? The Get Smart Eat Local 8 District project, launched by the New Hampshire Farm to School Program, is making direct connections between farms and eight school districts—27 schools with over 15,000 students—in Rockingham and Strafford counties to add fresh New Hampshire-grown products to school menus.

Interested farmers can learn more on Thursday, December 7, 2:00-4:00 p.m. at the Rockingham County Complex, Cooperative Extension Building in Brentwood; and on Monday, December 11, 4:00-6:00 p.m. at the Roberge Community Community Center (behind the Rochester District Court) in Rochester. Topics include a discussion of items wanted by local schools, post-harvest handling, and packaging and delivery issues; as well as possibilities for pre-season contracting and working cooperatively to meet school needs.

Harlene Batchelder, food service director for the Oyster River Cooperative School District, has been involved with Farm to School since the start of the program. "As one of the charter schools working on the Farm to School program I am excited to be able to order New Hampshire apples and cider for my cafeterias. Now, with the new project they have started, I hope to be able to acquire a greater variety of local, healthy foods from my neighborhood farms."

The New Hampshire Farm to School Program connects local farms and farm products to New Hampshire classrooms and cafeterias by integrating agricultural production, school food procurement, and school curriculum. Funding for this project of the NH Farm to School program was provided by the New Hampshire Charitable Foundation's Josephine A. Lamprey, Otto, and Thanksgiving funds and is a collaboration of the University of New Hampshire's Office of Sustainability and NH Cooperative Extension.

For more information, contact Nathan Duclos, program coordinator, 603-862-2542 or nduclos@unh.edu.