

NFFC Farm to School Backgrounder

The National Family Farm Coalition, as a member of the Community Food Security Coalition (CFSC), supports current legislation to fund Farm to School programs nationally through the upcoming Child Nutrition Reauthorization (CNR). CNR covers many of the government's nutrition programs including school meals and WIC (the Women, Infant and Children) program.

Farm to School is broadly defined as:

"...a program that connects schools (K-12) and local farms with the objectives of serving healthy meals in school cafeterias, improving student nutrition, providing agriculture, health and nutrition education opportunities, and supporting local and regional farmers."

During the 2004 child nutrition reauthorization, NFFC and CFSC were successful in getting Congress to create a new Farm to Cafeteria program, although no funding was approved for it. In 2009 as the lead policy organization for the National Farm to School Network, CFSC worked diligently with members of Congress to authorize \$50 million in mandatory funding. Due to health care and other debates, CNR was not completed in 2009. Congress will likely take it up in January in hopes of finalizing the legislation package by March.

NFFC encourages everyone to support legislation introduced by Representative Rush Holt (D-NJ). This stand-alone bill will provide \$50 million over 5 years in mandatory funding for Farm to School projects nationwide in a competitive grant program. Funds will help connect farmers to local school districts and rebuild infrastructure for processing, distributing, preparing and serving locally grown food.

Please contact your Representative to ask for support of Rep. Holt's Farm to School legislation in the upcoming Child Nutrition Reauthorization. You may call the House switchboard at 202-224-3121 to reach your representative.

Learn more about Farm to School and its farmer benefits from the resources below:

[Community Food Security Coalition's Farm to School Page](http://foodsecurity.org/farm_to_school.html)

http://foodsecurity.org/farm_to_school.html

[National Farm to School Network](http://farmtoschool.org)

<http://farmtoschool.org>

[Selling Strategies for Local Food Producers](http://extension.missouri.edu/publications/DisplayPub.aspx?P=G6222)

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