

**Notes from Farm to School Session 9/18/2012 — Le Adams  
Southwest Marketing Networking Conference, Rio Rico, AZ  
Farm to School Networking Session  
42 participants**

Challenges:

1. Sustainability.
2. Knowing rules and what is needed at each school.
3. Meeting state education benchmarks and standards.
4. Infrastructure.
5. Resources.
6. Outreach and building support – special events.
7. Evaluation.

What is working? Ideas and resources:

1. Partnering with local farmers' markets.
2. Having a farmers' market at school sites.
3. Mentorship programs – having older students become leaders, work with younger students.
4. Social sustainability – form school garden committees, including members such as city officials, teachers, school staff, university, food banks, principals, master gardeners, students, etc.
5. Parent involvement.
6. Social Media.
7. Americorps and FoodCorps volunteers.
8. Charging for garden produce.
9. Explore aquaponics.
10. Have a health day that connects to the school garden and/or local farms.
11. Seed saving events – also reduces cost of programming.
12. Sell seedlings.
13. Healthy snacks using produce.
14. Look at Wellness Policies at school sites (each school district should have these!)
15. Work with the school to develop garden-based priorities.
16. Start small. One item locally sourced, small garden planting, etc.
17. Include sustainability of local meats (Colorado examples).
18. Libraries – work with them to put out books on food and farming during the month of October especially, and also during pollinator month.
19. Farm to School Network has many resources:
  - a. Bearing Fruit – for evaluation
  - b. State resources and national - [farmtoschool.org](http://farmtoschool.org)
  - c. F to S month = October ([farmtoschoolmonth.org](http://farmtoschoolmonth.org))
  - d. National Food Day – October 24

Online resources:

1. Farm to Table – [www.farmtotablenm.org](http://www.farmtotablenm.org)
2. La Semilla Food Center – [www.lasemillafoodcenter.org](http://www.lasemillafoodcenter.org)
3. National Farm to School network – [www.farmtoschool.org](http://www.farmtoschool.org), [www.farmtoschoolmonth.org](http://www.farmtoschoolmonth.org)
4. Southwest Marketing Network – [www.swmarketingnetwork.org](http://www.swmarketingnetwork.org)

Contacts:

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Priorities Moving Forward:

1. Sustainability of Farm to School Programming
2. How to use school garden produce in school cafeterias? What are the rules/myths?
3. Continuing the network (regional/state-wide)?
4. Please post lessons, templates, etc. at [www.farmtoschool.org](http://www.farmtoschool.org). Bilingual materials needed!
5. Farm to Table is working on all the New Mexico pages that are on farmtoschool.org. Contact Le if you have any input to that. Also, if you wish to be listed, or your program highlighted (from NM, AZ or elsewhere) please contact Le.