



Mother Lode Farm to School Network (MLFSN)

Vision

A Mother Lode Region where all schools teach about and provide access to healthy, locally grown food, creating future generations of healthy children and economically vibrant farms

Goals for 2014/2015

- **Needs Assessment** - *Map/compile current activities, successes, interest and needs in the region.*
 - What schools/farmers/distributors/Community Organizations etc are already participating in Farm to School Activities (Local procurement, scratch cooking, school gardens, nutrition education, culinary arts, access to healthy food, food systems education etc)
 - What are successful models (what's working)
 - Who else has interest in participating
 - What are the barriers and challenges
- **Awareness Campaign**
 - Presentations to school boards/food service/farmers/stakeholder etc.
 - Share successful models
 - Importance of F2S to overall educational/economic/social/environmental benefits
- **Provide trainings for food service on local procurement**
- **Annual Gathering**
 - Bring together stakeholders once per year in a regional celebration/gathering
 - Education opportunities, Best Practices (geared towards our region), Presentations, Information gathering/sharing, Networking Opportunities – Social
- **Create and Manage Database/Newsletter/Website**
 - Contact info for all stakeholders and disseminate relevant info as applicable
- **Target some of the smaller districts to create models**
- **Secure a USDA Farm to School Planning Grant**

MLFSN Structure

- A partnership between CFSN, UCCECS, Gardens to Grow In, FoCuS and Sierra Harvest
- Partner organizations - any other groups supporting F2S activities in the region.
- **Regional Co-Leads** - Have a rep. on the California Farm to School (CFSN) leadership team
 - Kevin Hesser - kevhesser@gmail.com, Wendy West - wkwest@ucanr.org, Malaika Bishop - malaika@sierraharvest.org Val Dambacher - valdambacher@yahoo.com
 - Communicate regularly and provide support/guidance to stakeholders as needed
 - Disseminate information from CFSN to county leads and stakeholders
- **County Co-Leads/Contacts**
 - Contact point to disseminate info and assemble stakeholders in their county
 - **El Dorado** - Wendy West - wkwest@ucanr.edu, Bill Jensen - west9slope@gmail.com
 - **Amador** - Kelsi Himmel - khimmel@amadorcoe.k12.ca.us, Gail Von Wald - gvonwald@amadorcoe.k12.ca.us, Daniel D'Agostini - daniel@dagostini.com
 - **Calaveras** - Kevin Hesser - kevhesser@gmail.com, Tim Smith happytimmy55@gmail.com and Zerrall McDaniel zerrall@yahoo.com
 - **Tuolumne** - Val Dambacher - valdambacher@yahoo.com .Katryn Weston - blueoakfarmsonora@gmail.com, Mike McCoy - mmccoy@sonorahs.k12.ca.us, Sheri Kessel - sherik@mlode.com
 - **Nevada County** - Malaika Bishop - malaika@sierraharvest.org
- **Advisory Committee (Co-Leads and County Leads)**
 - Meet 2-3 times per year to discuss needs, direction, action steps for MLFSN



Mother Lode Farm to School Network (MLFSN)

- **Planning Committee for Annual Gathering (4-8 people)**
 - Organize and plan annual MLFSN regional gathering
 - Choose format, site, activities and agenda
 - Recruit presenters, sponsors and volunteers
- **Awareness Campaign Advisory Committee (4-6 people)**
 - Develop F2S message and presentation/information to be shared out
 - Target specific stakeholder groups to present information to
 - Organize and give presentations to stakeholder groups as applicable
- **Stakeholders – Who are they?**
 - **Anyone interested in moving Farm to School Forward - includes, but not limited to:**
 - Food Service Staff
 - Farmers/Farm Organizations/Distributors
 - School Staff/Teachers/Admin/Parents/Garden Coordinators etc.
 - Nutrition/Culinary/Garden Educators
 - Non-Profit Support Organizations
 - Government Officials
 - Resource Conservation Districts
 - CalFresh Educators
 - Farm Advisors
 - Master Gardeners/ Coordinators
 - FoodCorps Service Member
 - Anyone with interest in Farm to School activities in any capacity

California Farm to School Network



The California Farm to School Network is a “one-stop shop” for everything related to Farm to School in the state of California. **As a communications hub and a convener across many organizations and regions in the state, the CFSN will align Farm to School efforts, share resources, and bring farmers, schools, distributors, and practitioners together, continuing California’s leadership in linking specialty crop farmers to K-12 schools.** The CFSN is comprised of 10 regional leads that will serve as liaisons between the statewide network and the great Farm to School work on the ground in their respective regions.

- Website-** Website (cafarmtoschool.org)
- Listserv/Monthly Newsletter-** ([Signup link here!](#))
- Twitter-** [@cafarmtoschool](https://twitter.com/cafarmtoschool)
- Blog, Monthly Activities/Competitions-**
- Regional gatherings-** Regional gatherings open to the public that will bring together stakeholders in order to align regional Farm to School efforts and facilitate stronger buyer and grower relationships (schedule to come soon)
- Quarterly webinars**
- Statewide conference-** A statewide conference to be held in 2015, with opportunities to participate in all areas of planning.