Everything is Better Together!
Partnering for Success

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Welcome!
The surprising number of American adults who think chocolate milk comes from brown cows

By Caitlin Dewey  June 15

Seven percent of American adults believe chocolate milk comes from brown cows, according to a recent online survey commissioned by the Innovation Center of U.S. Dairy. Here are a few other things Americans get wrong. (Elyse Samuels/The Washington Post)
Agenda

• What is a local food system?
• Three ways to make change
  » Procurement
  » Education
  » Partnerships
• Four actions to take
What is a local food system?
What is a Community Food System?

A food system in which food production, processing, distribution and consumption are integrated to enhance the environmental, economic, social and nutritional health of a particular place. In other words, the goal of the food system is the health (broadly defined) of the community it’s situated in.

Four values typically characterize community food systems – food security, sustainability, proximity, and self-reliance.
School settings
Local in Summer
2015 Farm to School Census tell us...

76% of respondents (3,002 out of 3,954 districts) experienced at least one of the following benefits:

- reduced food waste (18%)
- lower school meal program costs (21%)
- greater acceptance of the new meal pattern (28%)
- increased participation (17%)
- greater community support (39%)
Procurement
Schools spend more than $12 billion on food
USDA's Farm to School Census shows schools invest $790 MILLION in local communities.

That’s a 105% increase over previous results!

https://farmtoschoolcensus.fns.usda.gov
Purchasing with values

Animal Welfare
Nutrition
Valued Workforce
Environmental Sustainability
Local Economies
Education
Partnerships
Themed Menu – Minnesota Thursday
Oct 2, 2014

MN Thursdays

Menu
Roasted Turkey Breast
Mashed Potatoes & Gravy
Butternut Squash Bake
Apple Kale Salad
Local Apple, French Bread

Food Map!

#MNThurs

@MPS_TRUEFOOD

Lunch on the first Thursday of every month will feature seasonal Minnesota-grown ingredients. It's just another way we support local food and offer you fresh, delicious options!
Take Four Actions
1) Explore the Local Food Compass Map.

The map below shows USDA and other federal investments in local and regional food systems since 2009, along with data such as farmers markets, food hubs, and meat processors. Scroll down to explore the map to see what’s happening in your own community or learn how others are using federal support to build local food systems.
2) Visit the USDA Farm to School Census
www.farmtoschoolcensus.fns.usda.gov

44% of Pennsylvania school districts surveyed by USDA say they participate in farm to school activities.

That's 268 districts with 1,116 schools and 612,687 students.

Another 18% of districts surveyed plan to start farm to school activities in the future.
(Note: of the 940 school districts in Pennsylvania, 64% completed the USDA Farm to School Census.)
$18,059,700 Investiged in Local Food in Pennsylvania

With the average school district spending 16% of their budget on local products.

See National Results
3) Subscribe to our E-letter, The Dirt!

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4) Share a success + a challenge.