

Farm to School

What is happening (or not happening) in Western Washtenaw County and Why?

Thursday, April 30, 2009

Chelsea District Library, McKune Room at 7:00 pm

Free and Open to the Public

Sponsored by the Western Washtenaw Democrats

"Farm to School" applies to a variety of initiatives in Michigan, including efforts to offer local foods in school cafeterias, school garden programs, fundraisers that take advantage of local products, farmer visits to school classrooms and cafeterias, and field trips to nearby farms. * C.S. Mott Group for Sustainable Food Systems at MSU

The National Farm to School program teaches students about the path from farm to fork, and instills healthy eating habits that can last a lifetime. Use of local produce in school meals and educational activities provide a new direct market for farmers in the area and mitigates environmental impacts of transporting food long distances.

Everyone agrees that Farm to School sounds like a great idea. *Why is it so hard to implement in our schools?* Our panel of voices from the School Food Services, Local Farms and the Food System Economic Partnership will help us make sense of what is happening currently in our community, what barriers exist and what we might be able to do about it.

Featured Panelists

Michelle Rehmann is the Farm to School Program Director for Food System Partnership (FSEP). She helps schools in Southeast Michigan connect with farmers in their communities while providing children with access to local, delicious food in their school lunch programs.

Deb Lentz is a local farmer (Tantre Farm) who participates in FSEP Farm to School Classroom programming at area schools.

Karen Carty is the Food Service Supervisor for the Chelsea School District. Karen was an integral part of the Farm to School Pilot program with FSEP in the 07-08 school year.

Julie Harsh is the Food Service Supervisor for Saline Area Schools.

Sara Simmerman is the Food Service Director for Dexter Community Schools.
