

## **Conference Evaluation Summary**

More than 100 individuals participated in the conference. A total of 60 evaluation surveys were completed.

### **1. What pieces/components of this conference were most helpful?**

- All – regulation, nutrition, purchase, education
- All of the information was very helpful! Enjoyed the session on curriculum
- All workshops were extremely helpful as well as hearing from peers what they were doing in their communities. The conference sparked lots of ideas to brainstorm
- Breakout session/incubator tour
- Cooking, gardening
- Cost share program; supply consolidation strategy
- Enjoyed the school garden component and understanding the food safety rules and regulations
- Enthusiasm for a very important subject. Also, the logistic approach of Farm to School
- Everything
- Excellent sessions/good nuts and bolts
- Farm to School field trip workshop
- Hearing more about Farm to School infrastructure already in place
- Hearing tips and lessons learned. Having various partners share perspectives.
- How Farm to School works on a state level and the role nutrition directors play. Sparked ideas about how Extension can play a role in Farm to School
- How school food service is funded
- I appreciate the notebook and CD. Great info! Thanks
- I participated in Models for Local Food Procurement
- I was unaware of NCDA's History with their statewide Farm to School program. Also, it was neat to hear from reps from Farmers Co-op and school nutritionist (GA)
- Ideas of programs that were already successful in other counties. Great notebook!
- Ideas! Great collaboration among attendees. Good resources shared from presenters and attendees
- It was very interesting to hear perspectives from various levels (farmer, extension agents, extension specialists) and their take on the program
- It was wonderful hearing what other districts are doing
- Learning how school nutrition programs work. The cooking component
- Learning more about school nutrition program requirements – hearing new ideas about gardening and kids cooking classes
- Listening to experiences from farmers involved in farm to school
- Meeting others from across the state and other states, and hearing their stories from the field. The 3 break out sessions were the best part and resources, too
- Models for Procurement
- Networking with others. Seeing what resources are available
- Networking within states and across regions; excellent meals
- Networking. Food was great

- Notebook and CD very helpful. Hearing about other working F2S models. The case studies will encourage kids to taste new things.
- Opportunity to hear from growers and school nutrition folks who are actually making this happen
- Resource info and notebook
- Resource/curriculum ideas
- Resources to use
- School garden ideas, technical help. Tour of kitchen – networked with people with tech expertise and \$
- School garden talk
- School gardening
- School gardens, Farm to School cooking
- School gardens, how school nutrition programs work, Farm to School
- Speakers were knowledgeable and diverse in jobs and background. Exhibits were engaging
- The break-out sessions were great
- The notebook and disc. I need to go back and absorb all the information
- The presenters that had actual, on-the-ground experiences with this information
- The resources that were given
- The speaker of USDA on procurement and NSLP
- The variety of classes related to Farm to School was most helpful (case studies, evaluations, cooking, etc.)
- Training on the school nutrition info and USDA
- Workshops – getting a big picture of all the components
- Workshops were great. Having all the “players” in the Farm 2 School arena was great because it helped me to understand the whole picture

## 2. What pieces/components of this workshop were least helpful?

- Blue Ridge Tour only because I have seen it before – don’t take this wrong, the whole day was great!
- Could have used more nutrition focus and time to find out more from others and their initiatives. So great to learn from those who have been through it instead of reinventing the wheel.
- Directions were not real clear to conference
- Evaluation
- Evaluation and documentation
- Having all of this great information in one day. Could have easily stretched into two days and I could have attended more classes
- I found that all of the classes were informative
- I will be able to use something from all the sessions
- It was all helpful
- It was all informative
- More 4-H, FCS focused, need more AS components of workshop
- N/A – other than the distance to drive from South GA
- None
- See notes on #3
- Some presenters did not leave enough to get questions that we had answered
- There wasn’t anything not helpful

- Too many speakers in Cross Program Collaboration, no time for questions. State meeting, needed separate locations, could not hear/concentrate, and was tired after so much good stuff during the day
- Topics covered are a tip of the iceberg
- Wrap-up tends to get bogged!

**3. For each breakout session you attended, please rate the following.**

<b>Session</b>	<b>Questions</b>	<b>Average Rating</b>	<b># Responses</b>
<b>Case Studies</b>	Workshop content provided useful information	4.23	13
	Speakers were prepared and knowledgeable	4.54	13
	Material will be useful	4.08	13
<b>Connecting With Curriculum</b>	Workshop content provided useful information	4.56	16
	Speakers were prepared and knowledgeable	4.79	14
	Material will be useful	4.80	15
<b>Cross-Program Collaboration</b>	Workshop content provided useful information	3.98	20
	Speakers were prepared and knowledgeable	4.39	18
	Material will be useful	4.18	17
<b>Evaluation and Documentation</b>	Workshop content provided useful information	3.20	10
	Speakers were prepared and knowledgeable	3.78	9
	Material will be useful	3.13	8
<b>Farm to School Cooking</b>	Workshop content provided useful information	4.67	21
	Speakers were prepared and knowledgeable	4.85	20
	Material will be useful	4.50	20
<b>Farm-to-School Field Trips</b>	Workshop content provided useful information	4.50	8
	Speakers were prepared and knowledgeable	4.86	7
	Material will be useful	4.29	7
<b>How School Nutrition Programs Work</b>	Workshop content provided useful information	4.41	22
	Speakers were prepared and knowledgeable	4.64	22
	Material will be useful	4.43	21
<b>Models for Local Food Procurement</b>	Workshop content provided useful information	4.41	29
	Speakers were prepared and knowledgeable	4.52	29
	Material will be useful	4.34	29
<b>School Gardens</b>	Workshop content provided useful information	4.74	23
	Speakers were prepared and knowledgeable	4.78	23
	Material will be useful	4.78	23

**Any comments?**

- (Food Procurement): Differentiate between State's Farm to School programs and regulations. Disjointed information, too many interruptions from panel
- (School Nutrition): The USDA part was a bit overwhelming, although good info

- A LOT of speakers in cross-collaboration session – some more relevant than others. No time for questions. Cooking session was excellent. I loved the hands-on cooking activity
- Everything was very rushed, if held again, consider splitting conference over two days
- Great variety of presenters/workshops – thanks!
- Melanie Hollingsworth was awesome. I felt programs were useful
- More time for questions, discussion
- Session #3 (Cooking) speaker was awesome, very passionate, interesting, and great ideas
- Session 2 (Cross Program Collaboration): Great points on teaming with others but wasn't really geared towards F2S. Maybe a little more defined on how partners can be integrated with F2S
- Session 2 (How School Nutrition Programs Work) was a bit overwhelming – USDA requirements and buying process unclear

**4. Please rate the conference overall.**

Questions	Average Rating	# Responses
The effectiveness of the conference	4.58	55
Overall value	4.55	56
Facilities	4.59	56

**5. How would you define your role in the implementation of Farm to School programming? Check all that apply.**

Options	# Responses	% of Respondents
Local food coordination.	17	28%
School Garden/Community Garden Program.	28	47%
Farm Field Trips.	21	35%
Cooking/tastings with local food in schools	27	45%
Procurement for schools.	10	17%
Market opportunities for farmers.	18	30%
Training and technical assistance for farmers.	14	23%
Training and technical assistance for schools.	18	30%
Economic resource development.	8	13%
Other? (Listed below.)	5	8%

**Other:**

- Graduate student working on the evaluation of the Farm to School program
- Promoting 10% campaign
- Teacher
- Advocate – organizational
- Collaboration

**6. Did this conference help you feel more prepared to work towards implementing Farm to School in your job? Please check one of the following options.**

<b>Options</b>	<b># Responses</b>	<b>% of Respondents</b>
Yes, I am much more prepared.	31	52%
Yes, I am somewhat more prepared.	23	38%
My preparedness is about the same.	5	8%
No, it has not helped my preparedness.	0	0%

**Any comments?**

- I found the conference totally inspiring and have a number of new ideas about how to get inspired more
- I have more information and resources to enable me to take additional steps in networking with the schools and farmers
- Breaking down School Gardens – all aspects – was so helpful. We received specific details and great info!
- Cindy Marion was terrific. She reminded everyone of the funky standards that food service directors must follow. The procurement speakers were all good.
- I was a presenter at this conference
- I feel that it would have been more beneficial if it had been less rushed
- Gave me some great ideas of how to get involved
- Still a lot of hurdles to overcome, but a better idea of the relationships that need to be in place
- I will have to determine logistics and willingness of community to collaborate
- There is still a lot I need to learn, but I think it was a great start
- There is still a lot to work and think through, but this workshop has provided a great foundation and knowledge base

**7. What are the barriers to your involvement in Farm to School? Check all that apply.**

<b>Options</b>	<b># Responses</b>	<b>% of Respondents</b>
Not a priority of my organization.	5	8%
No interest from farmers.	3	5%
No interest from schools.	4	7%
Do not have time.	14	23%
Not part of my job description.	5	8%
Lack of funding.	21	35%
Need for training/technical assistance.	13	22%
Other? (Listed below.)	13	22%

**Other:**

- Overwhelming response from schools to have school gardens. Need a full time staff totally dedicated to school gardens in our office
- None at this time
- No barriers
- Small farms limited by GOP requirements

- Too many hurdles e.g. lack of GAP certified farmers, interest from some of the schools, federal regulations also overworked and overwhelmed ext agents
- Restrictions and regulations
- Not enough hours in the day to do all that needs doing!
- GAP certification
- Limited time – what can I drop so I can work on this. Will work it into my regular programming
- GAP certification and size of farms
- No barriers, outside available funding and time
- State leadership needed
- Don't have any barriers
- Getting other on board and interested and seeing that this is a doable worthwhile initiative
- Have not tried – think it is a possibility
- Fear of economic infeasibility
- Trying to find partners
- Not sure where our community is with this issue
- Other job responsibilities
- Need training for Extension Horticulture agents to teach farmers how to deal with schools
- Just met coordinators from my state at the meeting

**8. What other resources/training/technical assistance would help you implement Farm to School components?**

- Full time staff
- Information to help work with school district level boards/consultants, etc
- Evaluation not only of the economic stuff but changes in behaviors and skills of teachers, students, food services staff, parents, etc since one of the goals is to prevent obesity
- Multi state collaboration on grant proposals
- Curriculum, gardening tools
- Understanding bidding process, how farmers get into Farm to School Program
- Website with success stories from both Ext. agents and Child Nut Director
- Cost estimates for farmers: equipment
- More training with school officials with procurement/bidding process and possibilities
- Examples of integrated program successes with FCS, Ag and 4H. Curriculum ideas related to nutrition for all grade levels
- More info/details on engaging school nutrition directors, farmers, state laws, teachers, etc. I did not get to take the procurement session; longer conference with more time!
- Perhaps a draft budget of what one might spend on a school garden. A list of "iron-clad" must have vegetables for a school garden (i.e., cabbage, broccoli, cherry tomatoes)
- EFNEP involvement would be beneficial

- Great day! Thanks so much! Need more information on grants and applying
- 1. Training of child nutrition directors 2. Training/awareness for EFNEP and 4H 3. Training for school staff
- GAP training
- Someone designated (paid) in the state as F2S rep
- Feeling like my school/program was a priority to the local agent, especially due to the fact that I teach and implement most/all of whatever programs by myself (I do receive help from the local **eogs**, but with all the personnel changes it's been sporadic – and I don't want to be a burden)
- Distribution to School Relationship with Food Service groups
- Additional training opportunities
- Include extension at base level in USDA/Dept of Ag projects
- Follow up conference after we've had a chance to work on projects related to this
- Promotion materials to garner initial support for partners
- Grant funding sources; computer training – maybe video of how it has been done or classes conducted in classroom
- Reports showing positive economic impact of programs for Farmers. Reports showing the economic feasibility of program for schools
- Webinars periodically on various topics, more trainings like this one – rotating states
- Marketing tools in GA; grant funding opportunities
- Training for farmers in how to deal with schools (or for Ext. agents to teach them)
- Further establishment and continuance of networks to rely on for information and resources. More trainings next time that allow conversations between school nutrition, extension, farmers, distributors, etc.
- Financial assistance in implementing some of the program efforts
- A resource team would be great
- Potential grants for Farm to School/community gardens/school gardens
- A person available to go to a local school nutrition director to meet with me about Farm to School

#### **9. Other comments or suggestions?**

- The processing plant was very interesting
- Great conference!
- Thanks for great food!
- Great food as always!
- Great job Molly! Good luck with the boys!
- Please remember what a valuable resource Cooperative Extension is in the community; many agents already do lots of work with schools, have great connections with lots of people

- Great job on the variety of speakers (and their experiences!). Food was delicious.
- Innovative ways to prepare vegetables for kids (12 and under) to eat. Like to have a copy of school food service directors bidding calendar
- Information was good – but I don't think it was worth all the travel and time away from my other work for 6 hr training. A lot of money was spent to do this workshop!
- If conference hadn't felt so rushed, it would have been much more beneficial. Food was GREAT!
- Thanks for serving local food!
- Great food – I'm excited, great conference
- Loved the local foods used @ breakfast and lunch. In Evaluation/Documentations I thought we would be discussing impact questions to plan for
- In rural counties it is still easier for farmers to market their products traditionally without going to the schools
- Really appreciate the opportunity. Great job! It was nice to see themes and info that spoke to all program areas (FACS, ANR, 4-H)
- Please stretch the conference over two days rather than one full day. This one full day was extremely exhausting, then have to drive home 4 ½ hours
- Awesome conference and location. Thank you!

**10. Demographic information (to help our learning across 3 states):**

<b>State</b>	<b># Responses</b>	<b>% of Respondents</b>
GA	20	33%
NC	21	35%
SC	13	22%
Other (FL)	1	2%