

January 2, 2010

Dear school food provider,

We hope you are well this winter. Things have been busy here with the Downeast Farm to School program. We have been working with numerous schools and farms to promote gardens at schools, food curriculum in the classroom, and local food in school lunches. We wanted to share some program updates and information and hear from you.

This year you probably noticed a buzz of activity around school gardens. Elementary schools in Sedgwick, Trenton and Calais constructed new greenhouses to teach students about agriculture and provide fresh foods. For example, Lubec Consolidated School is putting fresh greens on the salad bar from their greenhouse through these cold winter months. Now, Shead High and Eastport Elementary schools are teaming up to create a school garden in Eastport. This spring we will be co-teaching a short course on school gardening with the University of Maine Cooperative Extension. The evening course will be offered in Ellsworth to expand the knowledge of teachers and cooks around gardening and further school garden initiatives.

We want to congratulate you all on a very successful Maine Harvest Lunch. This fall, two dozen schools in the Downeast region participated in the event; over 600 students and parents participated in Washington County alone. School cooks like you purchased local foods, students harvested foods from school gardens, and teachers wove agriculture into their lesson plans. For example, all of the students at Surry Elementary went on a farm tour thanks to their school cook, and at Pembroke Elementary the students helped by harvesting and peeling apples for their harvest meal.

We intend to continue to increase the amount of local foods purchased by you and are trying to find ways to better support your efforts. In 2008, schools that we surveyed spent close to \$4,000. We want to continue to measure the local food purchases that you are making. This information will help us better understand your experiences in the farm to school program and so we can better support your efforts. *Please complete the included survey and return it by **January 20th**, 2010.*

Warm regards and Happy New Year,

Sue DeBlicke
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Healthy Acadia
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Downeast Farm to School Kitchen Spending on Local Food 2009

Sponsored by Healthy Acadia
In partnership with Washington County: One Community

Your Name and Title: _____

School Name: _____

Maine Harvest Lunch (MHL) 2009

1. Did you participate in the Maine Harvest Lunch (Sept. 2009)? Yes No
2. For the Maine Harvest Lunch, how much did you spend on:
Local produce \$ _____
Local protein (meat, fish, eggs, etc...) \$ _____
Other local food \$ _____
3. If you received a donation of local food, approximately how much? \$ _____
4. What support do you need for the MHL event next year?
 Recipe ideas Connections to farmers
 Promotional materials (poster) Other: _____

Maine-grown/Local Foods

5. How interested are you in serving locally-grown foods in your cafeteria?
(not interested) 1 2 3 4 5 (very interested)
6. Which local foods do you purchase throughout the year?
 Produce (fruits and vegetables) Protein (meat, fish, eggs, ...)
 Groceries (flour, grain, snack foods, ...) I do not purchase local foods
7. How much did you spend on local food (spring and fall 2009 including MHL)?
\$ _____

Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program is a national program through the US Dept. of Agriculture that provides funding for fruits and vegetables for school snacks.

8. If you have a FFVP grant, how much did you spend on local fruits and vegetables in 2009? \$ _____ (dollars spent in Spring '09 Fall '09)
9. Are there any other things that you would like us to know about your kitchen?

Thank you!

Please return by Jan. 20th to: Sue DeBlicek, c/o Healthy Acadia, PO Box 962,
Bar Harbor, ME 04609