

# MFEI Farm to Early Care & Education Interest form

Thank you for your interest in bringing local foods to your ECE site. This form will help us develop a better understanding of how we can best work together.

Please complete this form by Sunday, December 13

## Instructions

1. Click statements that reflect your early learning site's experience at least 50% / the majority of the time.
2. Tally the score.
3. Discuss the results with your coalition / team / stakeholders.
4. Identify the top strategies you'd like MFEI mentorship support to address during the project from Dec 2020 -- May 2021.

Teams will be notified and matched with an MFEI mentor by Wednesday, Dec 23. Then you can begin to work with your Montana Food Economy Initiative mentor and your team to choose unchecked strategies to implement in your farm to ECE program.

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## \* Required

1. Email \*

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2. Name of person completing this form \*

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3. Name and location of the ECE site and any partners / stakeholders who will participate in the project \*

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4. All teams are asked to share their story through a presentation and / or a digital story (video) at the MFEI Network at a meeting in late May and to allow AERO to post presentations / videos / materials online for other communities to learn. With support from the MFEI team, are you willing to create a digital story and / or presentation to share? \*

Mark only one oval.

Yes

No

Other: \_\_\_\_\_

## Education and Gardening

Keep a count of how many of these items you select. This number will be used on the next page.

## 5. In-Classroom Activities

Check all that apply.

Children are educated about locally grown food, how food grows and/or where it comes from.

Children are continuously exposed to new farm to early care activities and resources that engage them in a variety of Montana's Early Learning Standards.

Students engage in cooking lessons with local or garden-harvested ingredients that meet Montana's Early Learning Standards.

Taste tests are conducted with the children using the Tried it, Liked it, or Loved it.

Other:  \_\_\_\_\_

## 6. Gardening Activities \*

Check all that apply.

Our program manages an edible garden site.

Children are provided with hands-on experiential learning in an edible garden.

Garden harvests are used to supplement program meals.

Other:  \_\_\_\_\_

7. Experiences (field trips, classroom visits, virtual tours) \*

*Check all that apply.*

Children have the opportunity to connect with food system players (i.e. farmers, chefs, processors, etc.) through field trips.

Children have the opportunity to connect with food system players through classroom visits.

Children have the opportunity to connect with food system players through field videos and virtual tours.

Other:  \_\_\_\_\_

Food Procurement and Preparation

Keep a count of how many of these items you select. This number will be used on the next page.

8. Variety and Frequency of Local Food

*Check all that apply.*

Our program purchases locally grown foods once a month.

Our program purchases locally grown foods more than once a month.

Children are served a wide variety of locally grown foods.

Other:  \_\_\_\_\_

9. Our center participates in the Harvest of the Month (HOM) program by: \*

*Check all that apply.*

Teaching one HOM lesson monthly

Preparing one meal with HOM items

Preparing and delivering one HOM Taste Test for students

We do not currently participate in the HOM program

Other:  \_\_\_\_\_

10. Sources of Local Food \*

*Check all that apply.*

Our program purchases local food items directly from a farmer, farmers market, or CSA share.

Our program purchases local food items from a grocery store or broadline distributor (ex. Sysco)

Our program collaborates with community partners to purchase local food items.

Our program does not currently purchase local foods.

Other:  \_\_\_\_\_

11. What local food items do you currently use? Please list all that apply.

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12. Which local food items are hard to find or purchase? Please list all that apply.

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13. What local food items would you like to purchase in the future? Please list all that apply.

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14. Scratch cooking, preservation, and storage capacity

*Check all that apply.*

- Our program has the equipment and knowledge to scratch cook with local food items or garden produce.
- Our program has the equipment and knowledge to preserve and store local food items or garden produce.
- Our program has the equipment and knowledge to involve children in the preparation and cooking of local food items or garden produce.

### Outreach and promotion

15. Parent/Family Engagement \*

*Check all that apply.*

- Family and community members are engaged in our farm to early care efforts through posters, educational materials, and newsletter updates.
- Our program holds family and community engagement events involving farm to early care such as garden days or cooking nights.
- Our program is engaged in community partnerships, enabling us to obtain benefits such as additional funds, volunteer work, mutual aid, etc.
- We don't currently have outreach related to Farm to ECE.

Other:  \_\_\_\_\_

Tally of  
Activities

Add how many activities you selected in each area. Type the numbers in the boxes below.  
Use the back button at the bottom of the form to go back to your selections if needed.

16. # of Education and Gardening Activities \*

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17. # of Food promotion and Preparation activities \*

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18. # of Outreach and Promotion activities \*

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19. What else would be helpful for us to know?

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20. What are the top 3 areas where your team would like support from the MFEI mentors? Tell us about the resources you need: equipment, supplies, training, new systems, funds \*

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# Google Forms