



FOOD
CONNECTS

FARM TO SCHOOL

IMPACT IN OUR COMMUNITIES

Sponsors

- Barrows & Fisher Oil
- Brattleboro Auto Mall
- Brattleboro Savings & Loan
- Chroma Technology
- Dead River
- Farnum Insulators
- Frisky Cow Gelato
- GS Precision
- Guilford Country Store
- Members 1st Credit Union
- New Chapter
- The Richards Group
- Scott Farm
- Scott's Clean Sweep



Sprouting In Schools

This spring, classrooms across Windham County were overflowing with sprouts as students grew their sunflower and pea shoots. Ellen Nam's Kindergarten class at Academy School joined in the fun, and her students discovered the wonder of gardening!

To help make food, farming, and nutrition education more accessible for teachers, Food Connects sent out over 800 sprouting kits to classrooms throughout the county in March. Growing sprouts is an easy, hands-on way to get students excited about the growing season. Connections to learning standards throughout the grades mean it's easy to tie the activity into existing lessons.

In Ellen's class, each student got to build their kits, adding the right amount of soil, water, and seeds to their growing tray before finding the right environment in the classroom for their sprouts to thrive. Ellen's Kindergarteners can now tell you all about how plants need soil, water, and light to grow through their firsthand experiences with their sprouts.



Students practiced their math skills—dividing orders, measuring out correct weights, and tallying up invoices. The class had to create systems to manage the flow of fresh produce through the classroom and back out to customers. Individuals honed their communication skills via emails to teachers and when delivering orders.

Open For Business: BUHS Farmstand

Brattleboro Union High School (BUHS) students in the F.A.R.M.S program (Foundations of Agriculture, Reading, Math, and Social Engagement), with the help of teachers Alison Kelly, Erica Cross, and Lauren Allembert, managed the BUHS virtual farmstand, which sold over \$2,500 worth of local food to school staff over the past year. School staff would place their orders via a Google Sheet developed by Food Connects, and the Food Connects Food Hub would then deliver the bulk order directly to the school.

"The Farmstand was an anchor for many of our students this past year. Not only did it keep learning hands-on during the pandemic, but it helped our students build community within the school." says BUHS teacher Lauren Allembert.

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SCHOOL
GARDENS
MAINTAINED

\$22,043

GRANT
FUNDING FOR
SCHOOLS

\$139,000

LOCAL FOOD
SOLD TO
SCHOOLS

Keeping Our Families Fed

Families in the Windham Northeast Supervisory Union (WNESU) received free food boxes over the school breaks thanks to the tireless efforts of the Farm to School Cafe staff and farmers throughout the region. The food boxes contained a week's worth of bulk meal ingredients for breakfast and lunch to help stretch families' grocery budgets and keep students nourished over the long break.

The Farm to School Cafe reached out to Food Connects to fill those boxes as much as possible with high-quality foods from local producers, including fresh NH-made bread, VT cheese and produce, and fresh fruit. Food Connects' short supply chain and strong relationships with its producers helped the Farm to School Cafe access source-identified products from VT, NH, and MA on short notice.

The newly-expanded Food Hub team worked with Harley Sterling, School Nutrition Director for the WNESU, to brainstorm and source a variety of food products that:

- inspire fun and new cooking ideas,
- were kid-friendly and easy for parents to cook, and
- were hyper-local

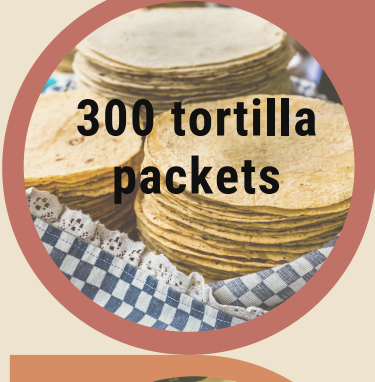
The meal program continues through 2021, be on the lookout for more updates!



FARM TO SCHOOL



The farthest food items traveled only 87 miles while 7 of the 10 farms that provided food are located within 25 miles of Bellows Falls Union High School.



DID YOU KNOW?
Food Connects partners with the **Vermont Food Hub**, the **New Hampshire Food Hub Network**, the **New England Food Hub Network**, and the **Eastern Food Hub Collaborative** to bring healthy, local, and source-identified foods to our communities.

