

# RC&D

RESOURCE

## CONSERVATION & DEVELOPMENT

Partnerships Serving America's Communities



United States Department of Agriculture  
Natural Resources Conservation Service



# CHILD NUTRITION

MAY 2010



Meals for Kids

### West Florida RC&D Florida

This RC&D has developed a child nutrition program that provides meals to over 10,000 kids during the school year and 5,000 lunches in the summer.

By developing partnerships between U.S. farmers and communities, RC&D councils are expanding local markets to deliver fresh, nutritious food to America's children and providing more people with convenient access to safe, healthy food.



Pay It Forward

### River Country RC&D Wisconsin

Since 2006, this RC&D has helped organize 6 community gardens and developed an apprentice program, where over 50 youth are taught farming and gardening skills each summer. The organic produce harvested from the gardens is sold at farmer's markets and grocery stores and donated to local food pantries.

Farm Fresh for Families



Fresh & Healthy

### RC&Ds Statewide Georgia

The statewide RC&D Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT)—Farmer's Market project enables Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) customers to use their EBT card at local farmer's markets, making fresh and healthy food more readily available to low-income families.

"Daddy says we are so lucky to have nice fresh food to make us strong. I am so thankful that we got to go to the farm."

Diego, program participant

### High Sierra RC&D California

Urban families are invited to rural farms to pick fresh produce out of farmers' fields and gain an understanding of how their food is grown.

## Farm to School Guide & Directory



### Hudson Mohawk RC&D New York

“People talk about wanting kids to eat healthier. Here in Greenville we are actually doing it and supporting local agriculture at the same time,” said Paul Venture, food service director for Greenville Central School. This RC&D’s directory connects schools in eastern New York to farmers with fresh, locally grown food. Since its inception in 2008, this farm-to-school directory has resulted in more than \$160,000 in farm sales. This project was made possible with a grant from the New York Farm Viability Institute, with additional financial support from the Hudson River Bank & Trust Co. Foundation.

“I have been working to promote the purchasing of food and products from local family farms for several years. With the vital and professional support and help from Pathfinders [RC&D] we are making amazing strides. They have played an integral role in boosting the local food efforts and the farm-to-school program. I feel they are so important to the economic well being of our community.”

Mary Carter  
Buy Fresh, Buy Local  
Chapter Coordinator  
Fairfield, Iowa

### Look for other fact sheets highlighting RC&D projects in the areas of:

- Self-Sustaining Communities
- Conserving Natural Resources
- Sustainable Agriculture Production
- Renewable Energy
- Job Creation & Retention

### You can make a difference!

Get involved with an RC&D in your area.

To volunteer for projects with your local RC&D council, submit ideas of your own, or find an RC&D council near you, visit <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/rcd> or [www.rcdnet.org](http://www.rcdnet.org), or contact your local USDA Service Center.

## Farm to Fork



### Golden Hills RC&D Iowa

Pottawattamie County has only a small number of farmers, making it essential to increase local food production to address the existing and future demand for local food. This RC&D helped form the Pottawattamie County Local Food Council, with financial support and assistance from the Pottawattamie County Board of Supervisors. Current projects include hiring a full-time local food coordinator, creating a directory of all local food producers, hosting educational field days, and providing funding and support for farmer’s markets.