

Economic impact of the Oregon Farm to School Grant Program

Farm to school can serve as a significant financial opportunity for farmers, fishers, ranchers, food processors and food manufacturers by opening the doors to an institutional market.

When the state makes a relatively small investment, schools can purchase foods from Oregon vendors, keeping the entire amount of their purchases, a portion of which are paid with federal funds, circulating within the Oregon economy, rather than going out of state. For every \$1 schools spend on local food, nearly \$2 are returned to the economy.

With the state investment of **\$1.6 million** in farm to school funding, schools boosted the agricultural economy by purchasing **\$15 million** in Oregon products during the 15-16 school year.

Oregon's smaller and larger businesses alike, benefit from the Farm to School Program, especially produce farmers and processors.

- Schools purchased produce (fruits and vegetables) from 74 Oregon companies, spending about **\$2,400,000** in total.
- Schools purchased meat, seafood, or poultry from 27 Oregon businesses, spending about **\$500,000** in total.
- Schools purchased dairy products like yogurts and cheeses from 15 Oregon dairy companies, spending about **\$500,000** in total.

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