South Carolina USDA Farm to School Grant Awards

2013

South Carolina Department of Agriculture
Columbia, South Carolina
Implementation: All Others $100,000

SCDA is responsible for administering grants to new schools in eight districts across SC in the 2012-2013 school year to implement the four components of farm to school. Selected school districts outlined their plan for serving at least 2 South Carolina-grown produce items per month as a part of the school meal, promoting South Carolina-grown produce in the school cafeteria, integrating nutrition and agriculture education activities in-and-out of class, and establishing school vegetable gardens. The proposed project will span two years and enable the SCDA to expand the capacity of South Carolina farmers and distributors to supply locally grown produce to schools in an additional 8 school districts, provide networking and educational opportunities for schools, farmers and food distributors interested in increasing the amount of fresh South Carolina produce served in institutions, and test the feasibility of Farm to School “Protein Plus” Pilot Program in a sample of participating schools. As the lead agency committed to implementing farm to school in South Carolina, SCDA recognizes the importance of ensuring that South Carolina farm to school participants have access to technical support, local products, and trainings to successfully implement farm to school.

2014

School District Five Lexington and Richland
Irmo, South Carolina
Grant Type: Implementation; $99,933

School District Five of Lexington and Richland Counties proposes to implement a farm to school program over two years to create new, robust farm to school projects in eight schools in our district. Through this cost-effective initiative, we will implement a sustainable program that expands local food offerings in our schools, engages students in eating more and a greater variety of locally grown products, creates peer mentorship opportunities to launch effective school gardening and experiential learning opportunities, trains school foodservice personnel in effective procurement and preparation of local foods, trains educators in integrating curricula to include food and nutrition-based learning across the school culture, and implements a marketing plan to engage our school and local community in the project. As a result, approximately 4,661 students will gain hands-on learning experiences about the cultivation and consumption of healthy local foods, participating schools will integrate local produce into their menus and into the K-12 curricula and our community will benefit from increased engagement and participation.

2015

Clemson University
Clemson, South Carolina
Grant Type: Conference and Event – State; $20,588

Clemson University will host a farm to school conference focusing on the economic impact of farm to school in South Carolina, based on an evaluation from the 2011 South Carolina farm to school pilot program. The primary goal of the conference is to educate extension agents on the importance and the potential impact of their role as change agents in the farm to school initiative. Presenters will provide an overview of how extension agents can further the farm to school movement from an agricultural perspective and will include region-specific strategies. The conference will provide the first step in establishing a foundation for extension agents to diffuse the economic impact of farm to school in South Carolina. The event will include extension agents working in the areas of fruits, vegetables, dairy, beef, poultry, food safety, and nutrition.

2016
School District Five of Lexington and Richland Counties
Irmo, South Carolina
Grant Type: Implementation; $99,861

School District Five of Lexington and Richland Counties, a FY 2014 USDA Farm to School implementation grantee, will provide a continuum of integrated hands-on experiential learning opportunities for students from elementary to high school. The project will improve the wellness of students, families, and the community by raising and harvesting local produce at four of the district’s schools, serving these foods at the district’s 20 school cafeterias, and preserving surplus produce for later use at district-run Summer Food Service Program sites. The project will also expand relationships with local growers seeking licensed facilities in which to preserve and/or process their produce to market to schools and districts statewide.

South Carolina Department of Agriculture
Columbia, South Carolina
Grant Type: Support Service; $74,938

The South Carolina Department of Agriculture will expand the capacity of farmers and distributors to supply locally grown produce to additional school districts, test the feasibility of a Value-Added Freezer Pilot Program using a local produce distributor and school district in the Lowcountry, and expand a Poultry Pilot Program to two additional school districts.

2017
Spartanburg County School District Six
Roebuck, South Carolina
Grant Type: Implementation; $100,000
Spartanburg School District Six (SD6) will implement a sustainable food production and a student internship program at Cragmoor Farms. SD6 farm produces fruits and vegetables as well as beef cattle. Hydroponic production in the greenhouse will augment farm grown produce and the composting program will teach students about food waste and allow the district to produce its own compost at the farm.

**Dorchester District Two-ARHS**  
*Summerville, South Carolina*  
*Grant Type: Implementation; $74,540*

Using 200 students currently enrolled in agriculture courses at Ashley Ridge High School, Fox Farm will expand its growing area from 3/4 acres to four acres to increase its annual production of fresh fruits and vegetables to serve all twenty-four schools in Dorchester District Two.

**2020**  
**Charleston County School District**  
*Charleston, South Carolina*  
*Grant Type: Implementation; $99,965*

The Charleston County Farm to School project will serve children ages 4-10 who attend five Title I elementary schools in Charleston County, South Carolina. The one-year implementation project includes farm to cafeteria initiatives, school garden education, farm field trips, History, Culture & Farming Field Day, and a community Harvest Dinner.

**School District Five of Lexington and Richland Counties**  
*Irmo, South Carolina*  
*Grant Type: Implementation; $99,957*

Farm to Five: Food Waste Challenge will expand the district’s comprehensive farm to school practices by introducing food waste recycling into the school lunch program. The project will implement pre- and post-consumer food waste recycling at five schools for conversion into compost that will be used in school gardens and farms as part of the district’s Agricultural and Biosystems Sciences Program to boost the production of broccoli currently served in the district’s school lunch program. Surplus compost will be sold with proceeds used to sustain farm to school efforts.

**South Carolina Department of Agriculture**  
*Columbia, South Carolina*  
*Grant Type: State Agency; $82,500*

The procurement pilot project will span two-years. It will enable the SC Farm to School Program to 1) expand the amount of fresh fruit and vegetables being utilized in schools, 2) create a roadmap for districts to use to navigate the procurement process of local specialty crops, and 3) educate school food service staff on the preparation of fresh fruit and vegetables. As the lead
agency committed to implementing Farm to School in South Carolina, SCDA recognizes the importance of ensuring that South Carolina Farm to School Program participants have access to technical support, local products, and trainings which will allow them to successfully implement Farm to School.

2021
RobinHood Group
Union, South Carolina
Grant Type: Turnkey; $50,000

The RobinHood Group was founded in 2001 and works to provide sustainable income generating program training related to agriculture and farming to develop agricultural entrepreneurs. The organization will provide paid internships to Union County, SC's at-risk, disadvantaged youth that work in the existing and planned school and community (library and hospital) gardens, the youth interns will also be trained to make (Farmers Market Flavors) ice creams from the gardens' produce.