



# Farm to School: A Shared Investment for a Healthier Future



## SDG: Group #54

Lucas Baronello    Saharra Murphy  
 Charles Wheeler    Caila Riggs  
 cwhee@uis.edu    Michelle Check

3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING



11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES



12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION



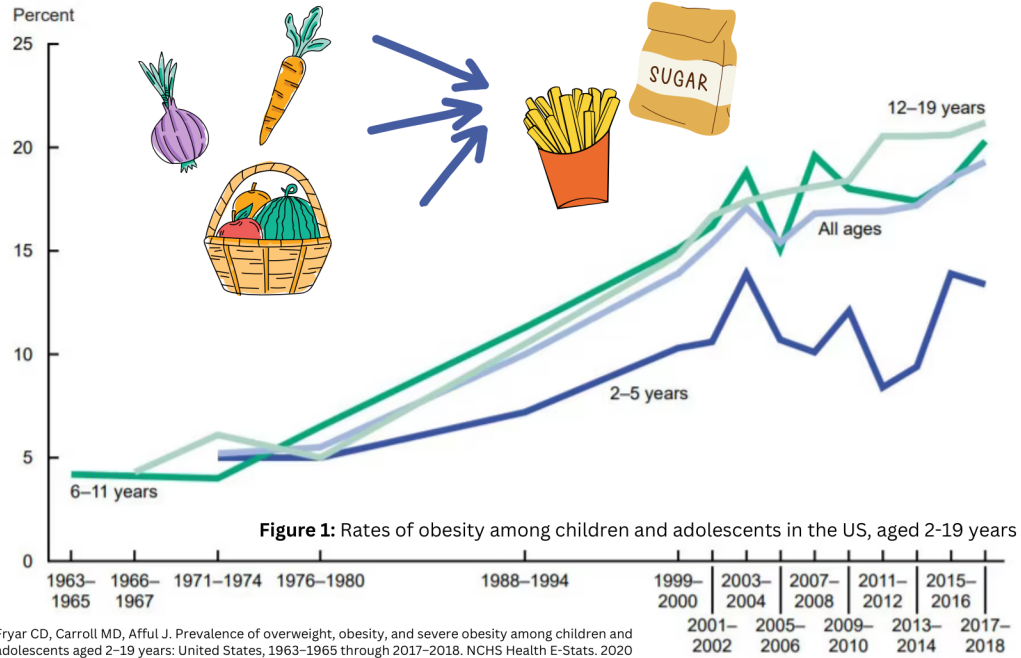
13 CLIMATE ACTION



## Concerns

- Childhood obesity has doubled in children and quadrupled in adolescents in past 30 years
- 15 million pounds of synthetic dyes are used annually in food production
- Large-scale industrial, monoculture farming practices are ultimately unsustainable
- 1 billion pounds of pesticides are used annually
  - roughly 4 lbs. for every American

Figure 1



Fryar CD, Carroll MD, Afful J. Prevalence of overweight, obesity, and severe obesity among children and adolescents aged 2-19 years: United States, 1963-1965 through 2017-2018. NCHS Health E-Stats. 2020

Local Food

School Gardens

Food & Nutrition Education

Carrots

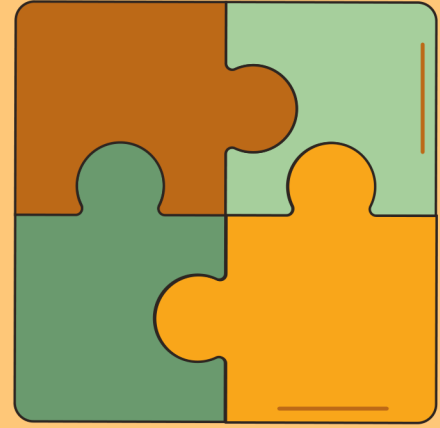
## Encouraging Farm to School is the Answer

1. Moving to local, sustainable food systems increases resiliency against future supply chain disruptions
2. Community investment leads to greater local solidarity
3. School gardens empower children and families to choose healthier foods, simultaneously providing a boost to the local economy

# Farm to School Gardens are Transformative...

## East Aurora IL School District 131

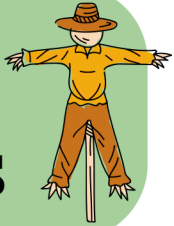
- Started in 2014, and now includes 5 FTS gardens, 2 pollinator gardens, and 38 hydroponic gardens, including an orchard and a pumpkin patch
- Supplies the district food service
- Educators use facilities to actively involve students with hands-on curriculum
- Developed a school food pantry for students and their families



## School Interests



## Farmers' Interests



- Resourced and supported
- Incorporated within school curricula
- Create a positive student experience
- Generate ownership and excitement
- Teaching venue to address environmental health and sustainability

- Appropriate scale of production
- Food service staff supported with sufficient resources necessary to prepare fresh foods
- Benefit from less restrictive contract guidelines
- More competitive pricing would address limited return on investment from foods harvested

## US Farm Bill 2023

- The previous Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (2018 Farm Act) consists of 12 titles governing a wide range of policy areas related to food and agriculture
- Nutrition programs account for about three-fourths of a \$428 billion total
- Generally follows a 5-year legislative cycle, modifying standing legislation across the full range of policy areas that it governs, which can vary from Farm Bill to Farm Bill, depending on policy concerns at the time

### Existing Relevant Components Include:

- **Title 5: Credit** - covers federal loan programs designed to help farmers access the financial credit they need to grow and sustain their farming operations
- **Title 7: Research, Extension, and Related Matters** - covers farm and food research, education, and extension programs designed to support innovation, from federal labs and state university-affiliated research to vital training for the next generation of farmers and ranchers
- **Title 10: Horticulture** - covers farmers market and local food programs, funding for research and infrastructure for fruits, vegetables, and other horticultural crops, and organic farming and certification programs



**Builds** Relationships between schools & local farms

**Supports** Access to local food

**Creates** Opportunities for education & health promotion

**Benefits** The local economy & the environment

**Farmers Win**

Support your community farmers. They're your neighbors!

**Communities Win**

Local farms preserve green spaces & support biodiversity.

**Kids Win**

Local food is nutritious, fresher, and tastes better.

Buying local invests in the community.



## Financial Incentives Are Needed to Encourage Participation:

- **Schools:** Need dedicated grants to cover extra costs for purchasing from organic, local producers.
- **Farmers:** Need tax credit for engaging with, and supplying a percentage of crops to local schools.

## In Conclusion:

Children's intake of fruit and vegetables increases significantly after exposure to gardening

Supporting smaller scale farmers increases future supply-chain resiliency and builds stronger community



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## Learn More About the Farm Bill:



## Contact Your Local Representatives About Supporting the Farm Bill:



### Specialist:

Henry Brockman,  
Henry's Farm,  
owner and operator,  
[henbcarlo@gmail.com](mailto:henbcarlo@gmail.com)