Farm to Plate incorporates the use of fresh, healthy foods from local sources in Child Nutrition Programs including the Child and Adult Care Food Program, National School Lunch Program, School Breakfast Program, Summer Food Service Program and Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program.

How does Farm to Plate benefit producers and Kansas kids?

Producers can diversify their customer base, creating a stable market for products, while increasing financial opportunities by selling to an institutional market. When local foods are offered participants are more likely to consume the menu item, meaning less food waste and an increased consumption of vital nutrients.

What are local foods?

Local foods can be from any food group (meats, eggs, grains, fruits, vegetables or dairy). Each Child Nutrition Program sets its own definition for what counts as “locally grown or raised.”

Can local meats be served in Child Nutrition Programs?

Yes. Livestock and poultry must be processed under federal or state inspection.

Can fresh chicken eggs be used in Child Nutrition Programs?

Yes. Eggs must meet Grade B standards and Kansas State Department of Agriculture inspection requirements.
Can local fruits and vegetables be served in Child Nutrition Programs?

Yes. Produce from a home, school or community garden, Farmer’s Market, or directly purchased from a producer can be served. Unprocessed fruits and vegetables that retain their inherent character are allowed. Minimal processing, such as freezing or cutting and bagging, is permitted.

What other local agricultural products can be on the menu?

- Dairy: milk, cheese and yogurt;
- Grains: flour, tortillas and pizza crust;
- Condiments: BBQ sauce, salsa and more.
- Meat/meat alternates: beef, pork, chicken, eggs, beans and legumes

Do producers need to be GAP certified to sell local produce to Child Nutrition Programs?

No. GAP (Good Agricultural Practices) certification is voluntary. Suppliers are encouraged to follow these food safety practices.

What paperwork is necessary to sell to Child Nutrition Program sponsors?

Information about traceability and price, along with food safety assurances, are necessary to sell to program sponsors.

Can products be donated to a Child Nutrition Program and used as a tax write-off?

Donations are allowed and may be used for tax purposes. See A Farmer’s Guide to the Enhanced Federal Tax Deduction for Food Donation for details.