Weld D6 Farm to School Program

How it began
Weld County School District 6 FTS

School Year 2008-2009

- Purchased one crop of cherry tomatoes for $239
- Small grant received to begin hosting FTS meetings.
- Harvest of the Month implemented.
- Menus rely on highly processed foods.

School Years 2009-2011

- Farm to School program expands in D6 focused only on produce and school garden implementation.
- Jeremy appointed to CO FTS Taskforce
- Grants Galore!
  - School Gardens  FTS Marketing
  - Salad Bars    Fresh Fruit & Veg Program
  - Central Production Kitchen
Weld County School District 6 FTS

School Year 2011-2012

• Central Production Facility/Food Hub opens in late 2011
• Increased focus on producing food with local ingredients.
• 75% of entrees prepared from scratch
• Collective Bid process with NoCo districts begins.

School Years 2012-Present

• Farm to School program expands in D6 adding protein items. Now accounts for 22% of all food purchases
• Food Hub work ramps up
• Grants-
  • USDA FTS Implementation Grant
  • Local Health Department Grant
  • CDA Enrich Colorado Grant
Greeley-Evans Weld 6
Central Kitchen/Food Hub Facilities

Diagram showing:
- Offices
- Bakery
- Cooking
- Catering & Veg Prep
- Storage
- Break Area
- Dish Room

Note: The diagram includes equipment and space layout for the central kitchen/food hub facilities.
Greeley-Evans D6
Produce Purchasing History

2008-2009: $239
2009-2010: $11,643
2010-2011: $50,849
2011-2012: $28,297
2012-2013: $40,094
2013-2014: $66,534
District 6 Local Purchases 2013-14

- Produce: 8% ($66,534)
- Grains: 4% ($39,417)
- Beef: 2% ($17,226)
- Dairy Products: 86% ($750,899)

Total: $874,076
Types of Products Purchased

- Apples
- Peaches
- Pears
- Corn on the Cob
- Pinto Beans
- Melons
- Onions
- Bell Peppers

- Carrots
- Summer Squash
- Tomatoes
- Romaine Lettuce
- Potatoes
- Beef Patties
- Cinnamon Rolls
- Milk
Partnerships For Success
Colorado FTS Taskforce
Other School Districts
Real Food Colorado
Weld County Dept of Public Heath
USDA
National Farm to School Network
Farmers/Producers
Traditional Vendors
Successes

FTS program is growing

Improved Menus
  • Taste
  • Nutritional Value

Community Perception

Grants
Challenges

Locating/Keeping Growers & Producers

Finding “Seconds”

Where’s the Beef?/Beef costs

 Systems Development

 Systems and Equipment for Processing

 Labor Costs

 Food Cost

 Student Acceptance
Weld D6 Farm to School Program

What’s Next?

22% 50%
Partnerships For Success

**Supply Chain Stability**
- Develop additional long-term relationships with local producers
- Provide systems support to producers
- Provide technical assistance to producers
- Steady supply of “seconds” and “extras”.
- User-friendly, timely bid process

**Food Hub Expansion**
- Develop Food Hub Staffing Plan
- Expand Processing capabilities
- Develop pricing structure for services.
- Invest in infrastructure
- Continue to develop systems to guide our work.

**Marketing & Outreach**
- Determine Market opportunities
- Develop D6 Food Hub brand
- Continue to seek funding opportunities
- Website/Social Media
- Advertise to target markets
- Provide regular FTS events
- Market FTS to students
Colorado FTS has Grown Four-Fold since 2010

www.coloradofarmtoschool.org
jwest@greeleyschools.org