



What's Growing On... Rhode Island Farm to School



August 2011

What's Sprouting in Rhode Island?

Back to School Bounty!

Capt. Elisha Steere Farm

Cherry Tomatoes

Cucumbers

Schartner Farm

Tomatoes

Eggplant

Confreda Farm

Green Beans

Corn

Peppers

Summer Squash

Zucchini

Pippen Orchard

Peaches



Jeff Booker

of Captain Elisha Steere Farm
has grown plenty of sweet and delicious
cherry tomatoes for RI school kids

"Planting" Ahead

Kids First is looking forward to supporting celebrations of Rhode Island Grown foods and National Food Day this autumn. Please let us know what your plans are and we will be happy to help you source product, plan events and educate your community on the benefits of supporting local growers. Whenever possible, Kids First will coordinate a farmer visit, chef demonstration, and even an RI Grown costumed character appearance. We have plenty of farmer trading cards and stickers to hand out too!

RI Food Service Professionals Take to the Farm

General Manager Barbara Cohen enjoys lunch with members of her Chartwells team at Schartner Farm



Kids First staff had the pleasure of joining both Chartwells and ARAMARK team members this month as they visited the RI farmers growing produce for RI schools. The Chartwells team visited Schartner Farm to meet Rich Schartner and learn about his history in growing the Farm to School program. Team ARAMARK gathered at Pezza Farm to meet the Pezza family and tour the fields of colored cauliflower and broccoli planted specifically to serve in school meals. From Pezza, we went next door to Salisbury Farm to meet Wayne Salisbury. Everyone was excited to taste the sweet and delicious cherry tomatoes he is growing especially for RI school kids. Many thanks to our RI Farmers for hosting us at their beautiful farms!

For Farm to School programs and technical assistance, contact
Farm to School Specialist Kimberly Clark at Kids First 401 475-9696

Whole Kids Foundation and FoodCorps Announce School Garden Grant Project

Whole Kids Foundation and FoodCorps recently announced a \$2000 garden grant offer to schools, districts or school-affiliated nonprofit organizations. This unique opportunity includes support and mentoring from FoodCorps, access to a resource center providing curriculum, coaching, materials and ideas as well as participation in gardening discussions and forums with expert assistance. The application period runs through December 31, 2011, with grants being awarded in February 2012. Read more about it and apply online at www.wholekidsfoundation.org

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