



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

What's Sprouting in Rhode Island?



What Variety !!!

As cold and blustery winds chill the Rhode Island air, we are happy to stay busy inside tallying totals of RI grown produce from the 2010 harvest. How exciting to see the expansion of our list to include new items! **spinach, pumpkins, beets** and even **watermelon** hit the charts this year. Also noteworthy is the significant increase in corn, butternut, peaches, cherry tomatoes, green beans, lettuce, and peppers served this season Good for you RI School Food Service! And oh-so-good for our deserving RI school kids, farmers, the environment and the agricultural economy...the benefits of this program are infinite!

A great big thank you on behalf of the entire team at Kids First to all who support the Rhode Island Farm to School project. Your commitment to the program has resulted in unprecedented levels of RI grown purchases and celebrations this season. Community corn shucking, harvest festivals and local lunch days bring awareness of local produce and healthier options in school lunch to our school communities. Even better is the fresh, delicious food it brings to our children's plates. I cant wait to see what next season has to offer!

Winter Stores

As our RI farms are taking a well-deserved rest for the winter, these late harvest items are patiently waiting to be purchased and served to RI school kids. Kids First can help connect you to a source, develop tasty recipes and work with food service staff and students to make them popular in your school district.

Apples

from Steere and Barden Family Orchard
(the last of the season!)

Carrots

from Schartner Farms
in all kinds of shapes and sizes!

Potatoes

from Young Family Farm

Frozen Strawberries

from Schartner Farms



Jim Steere

of Steere Orchard in Greenville
Students in almost every district in Rhode Island have enjoyed Steere Orchard apples!

Farm Fresh Rhode Island 7th Annual Local Food Forum

February 8th, 2011

These year's local food forum, hosted by Farm Fresh RI, will focus on "Fresh Where We Work." Come learn more about incorporating local foods into the work place environment and our expanding local food system. How appropriate that the keynote speaker for the event is Kids First's very own Executive Director, Dorothy Brayley! Along with sharing her food system wisdom and hosting a lively panel discussion, Dorothy will announce the launch of our new venture "REAL FOOD FIRST". Real Food First offers worksites the same technical assistance RI schools enjoy to improve their food service and source local, sustainable foods. Register for RI's premier food networking event now at www.farmfreshri.org

We've Moved!



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

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