

**Sharon Elementary School - Sharon, VT**  
**2009 Vermont Farm to School Implementation Grantee**

- Increased local food purchasing by 40%
- Reached 90% Local Food of All Food Purchases
- Farm Field Trips for Every Student
- Hosts Year Round School Farmers' Markets

Sharon Elementary of Orange-Windsor Supervisory Union hosts Pre-Kindergarten through 6th grade students in Sharon, Vermont. Sharon Elementary received a Farm to School implementation grant in 2009 and accomplishing several new local food goals. During the grant year, all of their students were able to attend a field trip to a Vermont farm. Students also prepared, carried out, and surveyed monthly local food taste tests. In the cafeteria, Sharon established several new buying contracts with local farmers. Their new farm partnerships led to a 40% increase in local food purchasing, allowing Sharon to attain 90% of all cafeteria food from local sources. Sharon also purchased a mobile salad bar and new industrial kitchen equipment to greatly expand their kitchen's capacity to quickly and efficiently process hundreds of pounds of local food. A student proclaimed his delight to their new menu, exclaiming, "Wow, this meat is so creamy!" Achieving sustainable improvements to their school's food system, Sharon Elementary is an exemplary example of the opportunities Vermont Farm to School Grants provide.

Farm to School is also an excellent way to enrich school curriculum, as noted by Sharon Elementary School teacher, Keenan Haley, "How do I engage ALL students in a way that is meaningful and productive? Educators are always looking for 'the topic' that will spark a student's interest, 'the topic' that will engage the student in reading, writing, math, social studies, science, art, music, PE and other disciplines. I've found that Farm to School education, along with overall health and wellness education, is THE topic."

