

# Farm to Migrant and Seasonal Head Start Trainings

With funding from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation and support from the national Migrant and Seasonal Head Start Collaboration Office, the Michigan State University Center for Regional Food Systems (CRFS) offers bilingual farm to preschool trainings for Migrant and Seasonal Head Start (MSHS) Programs.

Designed and delivered by CRFS Farm to School Specialist Julia Smith, the 3½ hour trainings for center directors, teachers and management staff are delivered in both Spanish and English. They provide information on Farm to Preschool and help MSHS programs learn about setting goals and starting up.

The Farm to MSHS training modules include:

- Farm to preschool overview
- Purchasing local foods
- Gardening and growing food at the centers
- Introducing local foods to children
- Nutrition education
- Community connections
- Parent involvement

Participants also spend time brainstorming community resources that could help with their farm to school efforts and developing goals related to farm to preschool for their centers.



## Past Trainings

Community Action Partnership of San Luis Obispo (CAPSLO) hosted the first of these trainings, which were held in September 2014. The CAPSLO trainings were the first in series of three trainings that will be offered at MSHS programs nationally.

The sessions were attended by: center directors, teachers and food service managers from 21 centers, as well as management staff from regional offices. Two California sites participated: Valle Verde MSHS center in the Salinas Valley and Milagros MSHS center in the Central Valley.

100% of CAPSLO Farm to MSHS training participants rated training content and delivery a 4 or 5 out of 5.

CAPSLO is the MSHS grantee for the central California region, and oversees childcare centers for children of migrant farmworkers ages zero through six. Bryan Brown, Food Service Manager of CAPSLO, coordinated arrangements for the trainings and is eager to expand farm to preschool for the program.

## Participants say...

“After the presentation there was excitement to look forward and incorporate it into the center. It was helpful to speak about what was local food and how to be local.”

“Thank you for all the information that you shared with us. I want to implement more with our children.”

“I enjoyed this training. It gave me a better understanding of what Farm to Preschool means. I will definitely incorporate more of this into my classroom and home.”



For more information, contact:

Julia Smith, Farm to School Specialist  
(517) 432-4525  
[smith503@msu.edu](mailto:smith503@msu.edu)

