



## Kentucky Farm to School Network: Taste Testing Mini-Grant Opportunity for 2023-24 School Year

Applications due September 8, 2023 at 11:59pm ET.

With special funding from the Foundation for a Healthy Kentucky, the Kentucky Farm to School Network\*\* is pleased to offer a third round of grant funding for taste testing activities for the 2023-24 school year. This project will provide funding to implement taste testing activities in Kentucky schools that allow students to try Kentucky-grown produce, increase their understanding of where food comes from, and make connections between students and farmers. The grant period will be from September 2023 until the end of May 2024.

At least six (6) mini-grants of \$1,000 each will be awarded through this project. Eligible expenses include Kentucky-grown produce purchased directly from a Kentucky farm, supplies like cups and spoons, promotional and educational materials, and new this year - food ingredients for recipes to sample that feature KY-grown produce (not to be more than \$100 of the \$1,000 budget).

**Eligibility:** Private and Public School personnel (food service staff, teachers, FRYSC staff, etc.), university or public agency personnel\* (extension agents, health department staff), and Kentucky farmers and producers\*. Farmers of color are encouraged to apply. Priority will be given to projects in EKY communities affected by the 2022 summer floods, but all farmers, schools, and community partners in Kentucky are encouraged to apply. Priority will also be given to farms, schools, and community partners who did not receive a taste test mini-grant in the 2022-23 grant cycle. *\*Anyone who is not a school employee must have a letter of support from the school where taste tests will be conducted.*

**An ideal application will:** give Kentucky students a chance to taste Kentucky-grown fruits and vegetables, increase their understanding of where food comes from and how it's grown, and make connections between students and farmers.

**Application Review:** Members of the Farm to School Network will review applications.

**Program Funding:** Funding for this project is provided by the Kentucky Horticulture Council through a sponsorship from the Foundation for a Healthy Kentucky.



**Key Details & Dates:**

- The application period closes on September 8, 2023 at 11:59pm ET.
- Mini-Grant awardees will be selected and notified through email by mid - late September. Once a MOA is signed, the funds will be released immediately to the grantee.
- Awarded grantees will be required to collect taste testing data; a template will be provided, but using the template is not required (ie, grantees can create their own).
- Awarded grantees are strongly encouraged to share their taste testing events/activities on social media.
- Awarded grantees will be required to attend a short virtual orientation in late September.
- Projects must be completed by May 31, 2024 and final reports will be due no later than June 7, 2024.

**To Apply:**

Applications are available at <https://forms.gle/GRi8ckKuTTVhN1ff9> (or

QR code to right) and due September 8, 2023 at 11:59 pm ET.

Questions about the application can be sent to

[kyf2snetwork@gmail.com](mailto:kyf2snetwork@gmail.com).



*\*\*The Kentucky Farm to School Network is a coalition of agencies, organizations, and advocates enthusiastic about farm to school programming in Kentucky.*

## **FAQs**

### **Can I apply if I am a farmer or community partner?**

YES! However, you must have commitment by the school(s) you will work with to participate, demonstrated by a letter of support that must be included in your application.

### **Are private schools invited to apply? What about homeschooling groups?**

Private schools are invited to apply. Homeschooling groups are not eligible for this grant program but we welcome your participation in our KY Farm to School Challenge.

### **Can a school district apply as a whole?**

Individual schools are encouraged to apply, but if a school district is located in one building/campus, the school district can apply as a whole. The \$1,000 grant limit still applies if applying as a school district (i.e., you cannot apply for \$1,000 per school with one application). Farmers or community partners can apply with a school district as their partner with one support letter from the school district, but can also apply with individual school(s) as their partner(s) with the appropriate support letters included.

### **Does the produce have to be grown in Kentucky?**

Yes, all of the produce that you purchase with this grant must be grown in Kentucky.

### **Are any other food items besides produce eligible to be purchased with this grant?**

Yes, you are allowed to purchase ingredients for recipes featuring KY-grown produce. However, the funding spent on ingredients must be kept to 10% or less of the budget.

### **If I am a farmer, can I use the funds to pay myself for fruits and vegetables I will provide through the taste testing?**

Yes! A farmer can apply to this grant program to pay themselves for fruits and vegetables they grow (or purchase directly from another KY farmer), so long as the fruits and vegetables are used for taste testing activities in KY schools.

### **Can I purchase the fruits and vegetables through a distributor?**

No, all of the produce must be purchased directly from a KY farmer.

### **Besides KY-grown produce, what else can I purchase with this grant?**

Supplies needed for the taste testing such as cups/plates, silverware, and napkins; promotional materials such as stickers, posters, and handouts; educational supplies like books about farming; ingredients for recipes featuring local produce.

### **Can I use the grant funds to pay for staff time?**

No, the grant funds cannot be used to pay for staff time.

**Do the taste testing activities have to take place at schools?**

No, but it must be a school-sanctioned event during the regular school day. For many, it will make the most sense to do the taste testing on school grounds during lunch or in the classroom. However, taste testing activities can also take place during a field trip to a farm or farmers market. If you have any questions about this, please feel free to email us at [KYF2SNetwork@gmail.com](mailto:KYF2SNetwork@gmail.com).

**What sort of reporting will be required with this grant?**

Only a final report will be required with standard information about reach and student feedback as well as financials, which will include receipts for produce and supplies. This information will be provided to grantees at the start of the project and will be due no later than June 7, 2024. Reporting was designed to be as minimally cumbersome as possible while still ensuring we have the required data.

**Besides reporting, will there be any other requirements of this grant?**

You (or someone from your school, farm, organization, etc.) must participate in an introductory webinar in September or early October.