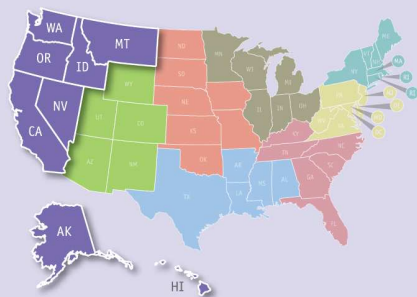


The Western Region of the National Farm to School Network includes 8 states:

- Alaska
- California
- Hawai'i
- Idaho
- Montana
- Nevada
- Oregon
- Washington

Our region is expansive and diverse both geographically and climactically: ranging from arctic Alaska and the mild wet tropics of Hawai'i to the deserts and semi-arid climes of Nevada and the widely varied expanse of California. Additionally, each state differs greatly in the ways that its districts purchase and serve food -- e.g., Hawai'i has just one giant school district that buys food for the entire state, while Montana is divided into more than 400 purchasing entities!



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NATIONAL FARM TO SCHOOL NETWORK

WEST Regional Lead Agency

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FARM TO SCHOOL IN THE WEST

The western region of the National Farm to School Network encompasses a wide range of farm to school programs, policies, and organizations. Our states are at various stages of progress with farm to school, but all enjoy support from committed and enthusiastic individuals and organizations:

- Farm to school programs blossomed in **California** more than a decade ago. California was the birthplace of the National Farm to School Network, and has programs in hundreds of schools.
- **Oregon** was the first state in the nation to boast farm to school positions in both its state Departments of Education and Agriculture.
- **Washington** State Department of Agriculture provides farm to school outreach, education and resources throughout the state.
- Within the geographically vast, largely rural state of **Montana**, farm to school programs and activities are steadily increasing among the state's approximately 430 school districts.
- **Idaho** has produced a Farm to School Manual and conducted a pilot program to determine best practices for serving local foods in the cafeteria.
- **Hawai'i** has strong leadership helping to grow farm to school and school garden programming in the state, with research support from the University of Hawai'i.
- In **Alaska**, farm to school is organized on a statewide level and is housed in the Department of Natural Resources, Division of Agriculture, with a variety of resources and activities being launched since the program was established in 2010.
- **Nevada** now has two state leads for the national network, who work with interested parties from across the state to build the farm to school movement.