

FY2024 Buncombe County Strategic Partnership Grant Report

Organization Name:	Appalachian Sustainable Agriculture Project (ASAP)	
Project Name:	Preserving Farmland through Farm to School Connections	
Reporting Quarter: (Check one)		Quarter 1 (July 1, 2023 - September 30, 2023)
	X	Quarter 2 (October 1, 2023 - December 31, 2023)
		Quarter 3 (January 1, 2024 - March 31, 2024)
		Quarter 4 (April 1, 2024 - June 30, 2024)

Narrative summary of grant related activities

Please provide a brief summary (no more than 1500 characters). You may attach supplemental documents if needed.

Quarter 1	<p>Quarter 1 activities focused on engagement and planning for the year ahead with Buncombe County Schools and Asheville City Schools. We provided all schools access to a variety of our farm to school resources, including seeds, Lending Library (books), Lending Kitchen (cooking equipment and supplies), Meet Your Farmer video series, lesson plans, and other materials on our website. We provided free passes to all staff and discounted passes to all families for ASAP's Farm Tour, which was a great opportunity for making and deepening connections between farmers and consumers. In addition, we have been working with School Nutrition administrative staff from Buncombe County Schools to support farm to school districtwide. This included connecting them to local farmers to procure tomatoes and beef for school meals, and providing farmer promotional materials for social media and cafeterias. We are also supplying recipe cards featuring local crops and "I Tried Local" stickers to be distributed to all cafeterias.</p> <p>We met with administrators and champions at 5 Title I schools to identify needs, assets, and goals, and are in the process of attending school wide staff meetings to introduce our program. We are preparing to provide customized resources and training to help these schools implement farm to school activities and engage their students, families, and local farmers. We are also scheduling quarterly cafeteria promotions beginning in October to celebrate National Farm to School Month. We are providing promotional banners highlighting WNC farms that will be displayed in cafeterias, and are identifying Buncombe County farmers that could attend these events and provide taste tests of their products.</p>
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Quarter 2	<p>In Quarter 2 we continued to provide broad farm to school support across Buncombe County. Through a monthly outreach email, we again provided all schools access to our resources, including seeds, books, cooking supplies, Meet Your Farmer videos, lesson plans, and other materials on our website. We formed a relationship with the Healthful Living Curriculum Specialist at Buncombe County Schools, and are working with her to integrate farm to school into Health & Physical Education courses.</p> <p>Quarter 2 also focused on deepening relationships with the 5 Title I schools we are providing customized support to. We attended staff meetings at 4 schools to introduce ourselves and our program. We visited cafeterias at 3 schools and did a taste test with all students using products from the local farmer that we connected the school with. For example, we paired Claxton Elementary with Flying Cloud Farm, and we served samples of salad made with their kale. We will continue to support these partnerships through coordination of farm field trips, farmer visits to the schools, and Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) boxes for staff and families. Promotional banners highlighting WNC farms were distributed to 4 schools and hung in their cafeterias. We provided mini-grants to 2 schools to support their farm to school efforts. We attended a family carnival event at 1 school where we engaged students and their parents with an interactive activity and ASAP materials promoting local food and farms.</p>
Quarter 3	

Quarter 4	
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Progress toward annual goals

Measure	Annual Goal	Actual Results (Enter Data) Please only include new data for the specific quarter				Progress
		Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4	
# teachers trained/provided with resources to implement Farm to School programming	75	0	3			3
# kids/consumers reached with promotions/activities	26000	26000	0			26000
# of school staff provided with workplace wellness offerings	75	0	0			0
# Buncombe County farms and market outlets supported/promoted	130 farms & 180 market	136 189	0			136189

Comments:

The majority of training, distribution of resources, and workplace wellness offerings will occur from February through May 2024 to coincide with the growing season.

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Use of funds to date and any budget considerations

Spending Category	Starting	Total Spending (Enter Data)				Amount
		Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4	
Personnel	\$ 16,250	\$ 1,813	\$ 4,063			\$ 10,374
Training	\$ 2,125	\$ -	\$ 496			\$ 1,629
Travel	\$ 225	\$ 18	\$ -			\$ 207
Client Support	\$ 1,400	\$ -	\$ -			\$ 1,400
Building Maintenance	\$ 4,000	\$ 304	\$ 912			\$ 2,784
List other cost						\$ -
List other cost						\$ -
List other cost						\$ -
Total	\$ 24,000	\$ 2,135	\$ 5,471	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 16,394

Comments:

Email Subject Line: Happy Holidays from the Growing Minds Team!

Dear Educators,

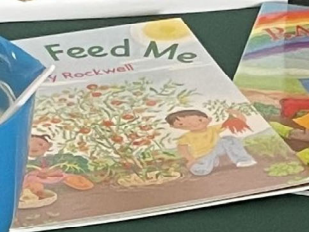
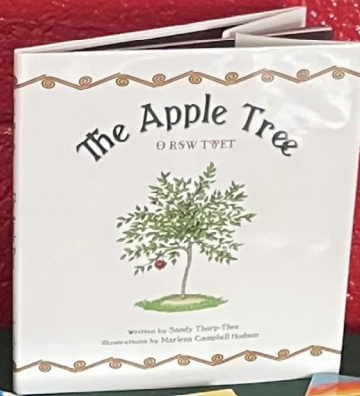
As we reflect on 2023, we are blown away by the amazing farm to school projects that we have supported across Western North Carolina - all of it made possible by YOU! In the spirit of spreading joy this holiday season, we want to offer some farm to school gifts for you and your students. The winter is a great time for activities that can be done in the classroom, like cooking activities or taste tests with local foods, or inviting a farmer to come visit. The following Growing Minds resources are available for you:

- **Mini Grants:** Receive up to \$500 to support your farm to school project! [Learn more and apply here by January 31, 2024.](#)
- **Lending Kitchen:** Visit our office to check out one of our cooking kits filled with everything you need to whip up a [Growing Minds recipe](#) with your students.
- **Cooking Promotional Materials:** We have printed recipe cards for you to share with families, "I Tried Local..." incentive stickers for taste tests, and Kids Cooking Bingo cards.
- **Farmer Connections:** If you're interested in purchasing local food, having a farmer visit your classroom, or setting up a farm field trip, we can connect you with farms in your area.

Please email me or growingminds@asapconnections.org if you'd like any of these resources or have any questions! You can also visit our office - open from 9am-5pm Tuesday through Thursday - located at 306 W. Haywood St. in Asheville, NC. Give us a call at 828-236-1282 to schedule a time to drop by. If you don't already receive our monthly Farm to School newsletter, check out the [December edition](#) and sign up [here](#).

From all of us at Growing Minds and ASAP, we wish you a relaxing and healthy holiday season!





growing minds

farm to school program

