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.

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.
| Quarter 2 | 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.

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. |
|---|---|
| Quarter 3 | In Quarter 3 we met with principals of the five Title I schools receiving targeted support to finalize plans for spring activities, including training and workplace wellness opportunities for teachers, final taste tests with students, and family / community events. We did taste tests with all students at 4 of those schools, again using products from the local farmer that we connected the school with. We also provided promotional materials to those schools, including cafeteria banners highlighting WNC farms and classroom connections for our taste tests. We delivered two virtual statewide trainings focusing on our new farm to school toolkit, and two elementary school teachers from Buncombe County attended as guest speakers to talk about their farm to school work. We distributed resources to educators, including mini-grants, hard copies of our new toolkit, and mushroom growing kits.

We continued to provide broad farm to school support across Buncombe County through monthly outreach emails and other communications sharing our free resources available to all schools. Also promoted was ASAP’s CSA Fair, an event where both educators and families could meet farmers and sign up to participate in Community Supported Agriculture. At the district-level, we met with the Healthful Living Curriculum Specialist to discuss farm to school in Health and Physical Education classes, as well as the School Nutrition Director to continue discussions around local food procurement for student meals. |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Quarter 4</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>In Quarter 4 we saw the culmination of partnership-building with the 5 Title I schools receiving targeted support. All 5 schools received a farm-focused workplace wellness offering, in some cases with the farms that we partnered them with. Staff experiences included using provided tokens to shop at their local farmers market, visiting a u-pick flower farm, having a local foods picnic, and participating in a cooking demo. One school invited their partner farm to hold a Sprout Market, a mock farmers market where we provided staff Farm Bucks (play money) to purchase items of their choice. We also helped another school hold a Sprout Market with their partner farm for family night, and observed students’ excitement when “shopping” on their own and engaging with the farmer. In addition, staff from all 5 schools received farm to school training, although this proved to be a challenge with teachers’ schedules. We provided a recording for staff to view on their own, as well as stipends for farm field trips and a variety of resources for them to implement activities. We did final cafeteria taste tests with these schools and found that students became more open to trying the foods over time. One taste test was part of a visit from USDA representatives and other special guests to highlight the great work being done by Buncombe County Schools Nutrition. We continued to support the School Nutrition Director in purchasing from local farms and promoting local foods served in school meals. (1498 characters)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Progress toward annual goals

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Measure</th>
<th>Annual Goal</th>
<th>Quarter 1</th>
<th>Quarter 2</th>
<th>Quarter 3</th>
<th>Quarter 4</th>
<th>Progress</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td># teachers trained/provided with resources to implement Farm to School programming</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>196</td>
<td>213</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td># kids/consumers reached with promotions/activities</td>
<td>26000</td>
<td>26000</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>26000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td># of school staff provided with workplace wellness offerings</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>134</td>
<td>134</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td># Buncombe County farms and market outlets supported/promoted</td>
<td>130 farms &amp; 180 market</td>
<td>136</td>
<td>189</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>136</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Actual Results (Enter Data)**

*Please only include new data for the specific quarter*

**Comments:**

- # of school staff provided with workplace wellness offerings
- # teachers trained/provided with resources to implement Farm to School programming
- # kids/consumers reached with promotions/activities
- # Buncombe County farms and market outlets supported/promoted
**FY2024 Buncombe County Strategic Partnership Grant Report**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Organization Name:</th>
<th>Appalachian Sustainable Agriculture Project (ASAP)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Project Name:</td>
<td>Preserving Farmland through Farm to School Connections</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Use of funds to date and any budget considerations**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Spending Category</th>
<th>Starting</th>
<th>Quarter 1</th>
<th>Quarter 2</th>
<th>Quarter 3</th>
<th>Quarter 4</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Personnel</td>
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<td>$1,813</td>
<td>$4,063</td>
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<td>Client Support</td>
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<td>Building Maintenance</td>
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<td>$304</td>
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<td>$</td>
<td>$</td>
<td>$</td>
<td>$</td>
<td>-</td>
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<tr>
<td>List other cost</td>
<td>$</td>
<td>$</td>
<td>$</td>
<td>$</td>
<td>$</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>List other cost</td>
<td>$</td>
<td>$</td>
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<td>$</td>
<td>$</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>$24,000</td>
<td>$2,135</td>
<td>$5,471</td>
<td>$6,456</td>
<td>$9,938</td>
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**Comments:**

[Blank space for comments]
Growing Minds is the farm to school program within ASAP, Appalachian Sustainable Agriculture Project.

We define farm to school as providing students - as well as educators and families - positive experiences with local food and farms in the classroom, cafeteria, and community.

During the 2023-24 school year, Growing Minds began a partnership with Oakley Elementary to help build its own farm to school program!

**Background**

**Local Farm Connection**
Growing Minds paired Oakley with Flying Cloud Farm, who provided produce for taste tests and participated in other activities. Visit them in Fairview for a wide variety of organically grown vegetables, berries, and u-pick flowers.

**Student Taste Tests**
Growing Minds visited all students during lunch in the fall, winter, and spring. They tried *sweet potato sticks with homemade ranch, sweet potato soup, and strawberry salsa* - all made with produce from Flying Cloud Farm.

**Sprout Market**
At the Oakley Spring Block Party, nearly 500 members of the school community had access to our Sprout Market, a mock farmers market with Flying Cloud Farm where we provided “Farm Bucks” to purchase items of their choice.

**Farm to School Training**
14 teachers and staff attended Growing Minds training and learned all about school gardens, classroom cooking, and farm experiences for students. We provided a variety of resources to help them with their farm to school activities.

**Fun on the Farm**
At the end of the year, Growing Minds hosted 14 teachers and staff at Flying Cloud Farm to *show our appreciation* for all they do! We cut fresh flowers from their fields then had a picnic filled with delicious local snacks.

"We got to learn about fruits and vegetables, meet a farmer, and try new foods.

*Oakley Elementary Teacher*
Growing Minds Farm to School Program: Planting Seeds for Partnership at Oakley Elementary

Impact
Growing Minds shared a survey at the end of the year to collect feedback, and 9 teachers and staff from Oakley completed it.

After doing farm to school activities:
- 78% said they know how to access or grow local fruits and vegetables
- 89% said they plan to eat more local fruits and vegetables

Looking Ahead
Building the capacity of Oakley to implement farm to school is a top goal of our Year 2 partnership.

For the 2024-25 school year, teachers and staff have identified the following goals and activities:
- Create a farm to school team consisting of teachers, other staff, and parents to guide this work.
- Host a farm to school training with all teachers at the beginning of the year, including how to lead classroom taste tests.
- Align school-wide literacy curriculum with farm to school activities.

Access our free resources at growing-minds.org or connect with us by emailing growingminds@asapconnections.org.

“
Our partnership with Growing Minds has been such an easy but magical way to focus on joyful learning. It has been so fun for me as principal to witness the look on students' faces when they try something new and realize that they have discovered something that brings them joy and that they are excited to explore more (and is healthy, too). To me, that is what joyful learning is all about.

Dr. Laurel Stolte, Oakley Principal"
Radish Top Pesto Pasta

Ingredients:
- 1 pound radish tops
- 1 cup pine nuts, toasted
- 3 cloves garlic, minced
- 2 tablespoons lemon juice
- 1 tablespoon Dijon mustard
- 1/4 cup water
- 1/4 cup olive oil
- Salt and pepper
- 1/4 cup grated Parmesan cheese
- Fresh basil leaves, chopped

Instructions:
1. Heat a large pot of salted water. Add radish tops and cook for 3-5 minutes until tender. Drain and set aside.
2. In a food processor or blender, combine pine nuts, garlic, lemon juice, mustard, water, and olive oil. Blend until smooth.
3. Add the radish tops to the blender and blend until the mixture is smooth and creamy.
4. Season with salt and pepper. Add Parmesan cheese and basil leaves.
5. Serve over cooked pasta or as a spread on toast.
Who grows our food?

Flying Cloud Farm

Strawberries

Annie Louise Perkinson
Fairview, NC
FARMERS MARKET TOKENS

ASHEVILLE CITY MARKET
SATURDAYS, 9:00AM - 12:00PM

To show our appreciation for all that you do to create positive learning environments for your students, we are offering Johnston Elementary School teachers $10 in tokens to be used at ASAP’s Asheville City Market.

LOCATION:
North Market Street between Woodfin and Walnut streets in downtown Asheville.

MORE INFORMATION:
asapconnections.org
Sprout Market

Oakley Block Party, Friday, April 19th
with Flying Cloud Farm

Shop at the farm stand!
Families will receive a $5 coupon they can use to buy produce directly from the farmers at Flying Cloud Farm.

Sample local foods!
ASAP’s Growing Minds Farm to School team will do a taste test. Take home easy local food recipes for cooking together as a family.

Learn about your neighborhood farmers market!
East Asheville Tailgate Market takes place each Friday, April to October, from 3 to 6 p.m., just down the street at Tunnel Rd. and Beverly. There are many local farmers, bakers and artisans at this market every week.

Learn more about food access.
Get information about ASAP’s Double SNAP for Fruits and Vegetables, which matches up to $20 in SNAP/EBT spent at farmers markets.

asapconnections.org | growing-minds.org