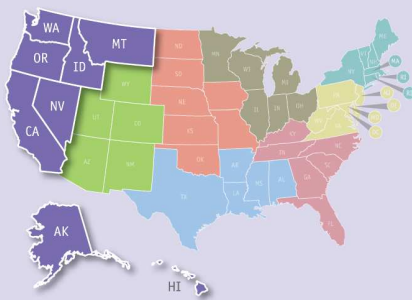


The Western Region of the National Farm to School Network includes 8 states:

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

Our region is expansive and diverse both geographically and climatically: 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

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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. The state is also the home base for the National Farm to School Network with 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 has a strong farm to school program in its Department of Agriculture backed by state legislation. 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. Montana school children are fundraising with Montana agricultural products, digging in school gardens and enjoying Montana grown foods in school meals. 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 and research support from the University of Hawai'i. In Alaska, the state passed legislation, house bill 70, in 2009 creating a farm to school program in the Alaska Department of Natural Resources, Division of Agriculture. Nevada has also begun to come on board, with interested parties from across the state taking the first steps towards working together on farm to school efforts.