

Tips for Planning a Successful Maine Harvest Lunch:

- Start planning in the late winter/early spring for your fall event, when farmers and food producers are making their business and planting plans. At the very least, start communicating with them about what foods may be available and the quantities they could supply to your event. You can find farmers and local products in your area by visiting the searchable databases on either: www.mainefoods.net or www.getrealmaine.com.
- Recruit a planning team for the event – it is important to have both the Food Service Director and a teacher or someone who can promote the curriculum to other teachers represented on the planning team. Others to invite are administrators, the school nurse, members of the school wellness committee, community organizations such as your local Healthy Maine Partnership, Soil & Water Conservation District, parents and other willing volunteers. These are the people who will help to create excitement around this event, and ensure success.
- Review the Maine Harvest Lunch Resource Toolkit CD, and utilize the many assembled resources and templates – you will find sample press releases, cafeteria signage, parent letters, the K-8 *Maine Foods for Maine Kids* curriculum program, and many other documents that may be helpful. (To obtain a copy of the disc, contact **Amanda Beal** at PROP's Communities Promoting Health Coalition: abeal@propeople.org or (207) 553-5838 or **Sarah Plummer** at the Cumberland County Soil and Water Conservation District: sarah-plummer@cumberlandswcd.org or (207) 892-4700).
- Review compiled resources from other successful farm to school initiatives, found at:

MOFGA's Maine Harvest Lunch Resource Page:
www.mofga.org/Resources/MaineHarvestLunch/tabid/817/Default.aspx

Maine School Food Service Association:
www.mainesfsa.org/maine_harvest.html

Maine's Department of Education:
www.maine.gov/education/sfs/farm.html