

# Montana Farm to School Success Story



## Farm to School at Fairview School District

Fairview High School science teacher, Angela Pierce, approached the other high school teachers with an idea--farm to school. Mrs. Pierce wanted to provide a better food source for the students, but needed help getting her idea off the ground. She printed handouts for fellow high school teachers and found the help she needed in Faith Oakland, English teacher, and Jim Hardy, agriculture teacher.

Angie Hopes and Faith Oakland attended the Farm to School Summit in September 2018 and left with an unquenchable desire to make farm to school a reality for Fairview. After attending the Montana Farm to School Summit, Mrs. Hopes created a team and set out to have a school garden within a year.

Faith Oakland, Jim Hardy, and Angie Hopes worked as a team to implement farm to school at Fairview High School. Faith Oakland was appointed as the Farm to School Coordinator by Superintendent Luke Kloker and was tasked with helping the program in any way possible. Mr. Hardy utilized his farming background to create an in-ground garden, while Mrs. Hopes gathered free lumber with which students built six above-ground garden boxes. Along with the produce grown for the school in these two venues, Mr. Hardy planted an acre of sweet corn for the farm to school program to sell.

Fairview Schools harvested and sold locally grown sweet corn. Students enrolled in the farm to school course spent class time picking ears of corn and shucking some for customers. Three local grocers purchased the produce for resale in their stores. Area schools also purchased the freshly picked and shucked corn to serve to their K-12 students. Customers from as far away as Williston, ND and Wolf Point, MT, came to Fairview to purchase the corn. Once sales slowed and the corn was no longer as tender, the farm to school students began removing the kernels and filling quart-sized freezer bags for future sales. At \$3 a quart, customers were anxious to purchase this product for their holiday gatherings.

The profits from these sales will allow the program to grow and purchase much-needed equipment and future seeds. The ultimate goal for Fairview's farm to school program is to build a greenhouse where they can grow vegetables during the long eastern Montana winters.

For more information, contact Faith Oakland at foakland@fschool.org.

## Learn More

### WEB

[www.montana.edu/mtfarmtoschool](http://www.montana.edu/mtfarmtoschool)

### FACEBOOK

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### INSTAGRAM

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### CONTACT

Aubree Roth, Montana  
Farm to School Coordinator

[aubree.roth@montana.edu](mailto:aubree.roth@montana.edu)

(406) 994-5996

324 Reid Hall  
PO Box 173370  
Montana State University  
Bozeman MT 59717-3370

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