Growing Healthy Communities: School-based Community Food Security and Food Recovery Partnerships

Melissa Terry: University of Arkansas
The Faces of Hunger: The Facts About Child Hunger in Arkansas:

- According to the most recent national report, more than 200,000 children in Arkansas are at risk of hunger and not getting the food they need to lead healthy, active lives. *Feeding America, Map The Meal Gap; 2015*

- More than 200,000 Arkansas children (29%) live in poverty. *Kids Count Data Center, 2013*

- More than 28% of families in Arkansas with children struggled to afford enough food for themselves and their families in 2012, the most recent year for which data is available. *FRAC Food Hardship Report—Children*

Source: feedingamerica.org/mapthegap
Food Waste Prevention

- **Source Reduction/Prevention:** Preventing food waste before it is created
- **Feeding People:** Donating fresh, wholesome food to those in need
- **Feeding Animals:** Feeding safe, fresh food scraps to animals like pig farms
- **Industrial Uses:** Rendering fats, oils, and grease and turning it into products or biofuel
- **Composting:** Turning food waste into a valuable soil amendment
Conducting a K12 Post Consumer Food Waste Audit
Reducing Milk Waste through Behavioral Economics

- Milk is optional, not mandatory in Offer vs. Serve schools

- Milk waste is easy to reduce by simply offering a reusable/washable 8oz cup for students to fill at the water fountain

- At Washington Elementary, we introduced water cups and reduced our milk waste by approximately 21%.

- High milk waste in NSLP schools indicates dehydrated students. A quick literature review of the connections between a hydrated students and learning outcomes confirms the high priority of offering water.
Food Recovery K-12 environment

- Food Recovery from Surplus Food Items:
  - Unopened Milks / Packaged Items
  - Unopened/Unpeeled Fruits
Share Tables benefit everyone

What are the rules?

- Resource guidance: Further With Food
  - [https://furtherwithfood.org/](https://furtherwithfood.org/)
  - Click on search
  - Type in Share Tables
Food Recovery K-12 environment

- Food Recovery of surplus produce from local grocers
  - Partnership with Natural Grocers
  - ~1500 #'s in 9 months
K-12 schools have a special role in not only reducing, recovering, and recycling food waste on their premises but also in educating the next generation about recovering wholesome excess food for donation and about reducing food waste to conserve natural resources.

-- USDA, Office of the Chief Economist
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Step</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Organize your team</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Set a date</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Decide which food items to collect and measure</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Set up audit station on day of audit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Interview each student to learn why they did not finish particular food items</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Separate discarded food into buckets to measure</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Collect and use data to implement new strategies to reduce food waste!</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Read more from: The Power of Postconsumer School Food Waste Audits
A National Academy of Medicine Perspective

Learn more: nam.edu/Perspectives
Barriers to Food Conservation in the K12 Environment


- Confusion regarding the impact of behavioral economics on choice: http://ben.cornell.edu/

- Confusion about the recognition that the school cafeteria is a learning environment: http://www.letsmove.gov/blog/2014/09/24/cafeteria-biggest-classroom-school
Tools for Food Recovery Donations


- EPA Food Recovery Challenge: Feed People First https://www.epa.gov/sustainable-management-food/food-recovery-hierarchy

Contact Information:

- Melissa Terry
  Food Policy Research
  University of Arkansas

- K12 Food Conservation
  Project Manager
  World Wildlife Fund

- K12 Student Food Waste Audit Guide
  Principle Investigator
  EPA | USDA

- LinkedIn: Melissa A. Terry
  Twitter: @melissaAterry
  479.582.1445