The Iowa Farm to School Coalition, a collaborative group of state departments, non-profits, and Iowa State Extension and Outreach Local Foods Program, is leading an effort to enhance and celebrate work across Iowa at the 2018 Iowa Farm to School Conference. The conference is scheduled for the evening of Thursday, June 28th and Friday, June 29th at the FFA Enrichment Center in Ankeny, Iowa.

From the National Farm to School Network website: Farm to school enriches the connection communities have with fresh, healthy food and local food producers by changing food purchasing and education practices at schools and early care and education sites. Farm to school empowers children and their families to make informed food choices while strengthening the local economy and contributing to vibrant communities. Farm to school implementation differs by location but always includes one or more of the following three core elements:

- **Procurement**: Local foods are purchased, promoted and served in the cafeteria, as a snack or in classroom taste-tests.
- **Education**: Students participate in education activities related to agriculture, food, health and nutrition.
- **School gardens**: Students engage in hands-on, experiential learning through gardening.

With this coordinated effort to bring together diverse stakeholders and leaders in Iowa's Farm to School movement, we hope to build momentum and facilitate connections between partners. From local farmers, to food service staff, educators, food hub operators, school district employees, and even youth, this event will offer learning and partnership opportunities for everyone in the room.

This letter is a formal invitation to participate as either a sponsor or host of a vendor table at the 2018 Iowa Farm to School Conference. In hosting a vendor table, you would receive space for your organization to promote your work, engage with attendees, offer demonstrations, business information, giveaways, etc. As a sponsor, you would receive these benefits and more depending on the level at which you’re able to give. We are estimating that between 100 and 200 individuals will participate in this event and have the opportunity to visit with you.

If you are interested in participating please complete the attached information form and return no later than Tuesday, May 15th, 2018, to the address listed on the sponsorship flyer. We will confirm your participation in our Conference by May 25th, 2018, including additional information and details at that time. Please feel free to contact us if you have any questions. We look forward to your participation in making the 2018 Iowa Farm to School Conference a success!

Best,
Lynn Heuss
Iowa Farm to School Conference Planning Committee