



NH Farm to School Case Studies

Loudon Elementary School Garden
Loudon, NH

Minery family and Vegetable Garden Committee start garden

The Loudon Elementary School (LES) has started a garden. Melissa Minery, a parent of an LES student, approached the principal with the idea of the garden after seeing the outpouring of support for the **Farm Feast**, a local foods community dinner that took place in the fall of 2010 at which ninety percent of the food served was grown or raised in Loudon.

Melissa Minery and the school Vegetable Garden Committee developed plans for

the garden over the winter. Supplies for the three raised beds were donated by Loudon businesses, and the beds were built by the Minery family. Students in the kindergarten classes planted radish seeds in one bed, and third-grade students planted lettuce seeds in another bed. The third bed will be used for vegetables to be grown over the summer and maintained by volunteers. Donated blueberry bushes were also planted. The radish and lettuce will be harvested before the end of the school year to be enjoyed by the students. The produce grown this summer will be donated to the Loudon Food Pantry. The school has a compost bin, purchased by

the environmental club, where food scraps will be composted and the finished product used in the garden beds.

The LES vegetable garden committee plans to apply for grants to secure funds to expand the garden by adding raised beds. The principle and food service director have been very supportive of the garden. The goal of the garden is for it to become part of the school curriculum and that students will be more likely to try new vegetables as they are active participants in the food-raising process.

--By Melissa Minery

NH Farm to School (NHFTS) is a statewide program working to connect NH farms and schools. Farm to school connections enable schools to serve healthy, locally grown foods in their cafeterias, integrate farms, food, and nutrition into their curriculum, and explore food and agriculture-based learning opportunities. NHFTS is a program of the University of New Hampshire's Sustainability Academy, and is grateful for the generous support of Share Our Strength and the New Hampshire Charitable Foundation.

