

# Farm to school network helps Acadiana High develop School Farm

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LAFAYETTE - Acadiana High School is setting an example for schools across the state when it comes to agriculture and nutrition education.

For years Acadiana High had a garden initiative, but recently was able to expand their resources with the Farm To School Network.



A \$27,000 grant was awarded to the school through Seed Change, a project funded by the Walmart Foundation.

The initiative's main goal is to expand farm to school activities in Kentucky, Louisiana and Pennsylvania to support better health outcomes for children and economic opportunities for small farmers.

"We come in on the weekends even if it's over a break, Christmas break, it doesn't matter, it's our responsibility," Acadiana High School student Adam Meaux said.

Friday, the high school was used as a demonstration site for their produce and agriculture.

The site was used for other school districts to learn more about the program and encourage them to take the initiative.

"There's lots of different ways that we can try to do nutrition education and involve students, but research has shown that it's most successful when it's involved in the curriculum," said Celeste Hay, nutrition program coordinator for the Lafayette Parish School System.

Now with the grant, the program itself will continue to sprout.

The school has bought new equipment like aquaponics to grow vegetables, and even fish.

"It shows us responsibility and how to operate on our own and help us get started in life by getting some experience," student Cody Simon said.

He, along with the school, are now encouraging other schools to take the initiative, by showing how beneficial the program is.

The farm to school movement has increased over the past decade, reaching millions of students across the nation by helping students learn where food comes from and make healthier choices, while also creating new markets for local and regional farmers.

"I might start to eat more organic food. The chickens we raise, they're laying eggs, so that is going to be used in the cafeteria along with the vegetables and fruits," Simon said.

To learn more about Seed Change in Louisiana visit [farmtoschool.org/seedchange](http://farmtoschool.org/seedchange)