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# Farm-to-School Best Practices

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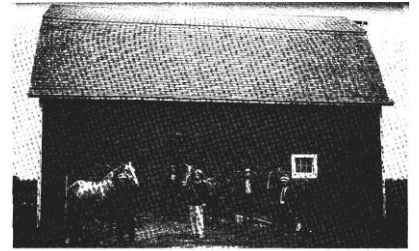
Jesse Padron  
Oneida Nation Turtle School (WI)

# Oneida History

- Oneida's have always been farmers. It's ingrained in our history & our culture.
  - American Revolution
  - Seven generation philosophy
  - Three Sisters
  - Ceremonies



# Ag History



THE FAMILY BABY AND HORSES of Oneida Tribal Chairman Puncil R. Powles, whose father, Mark, and grandfather appear here with other Oneida holding their fine horses in front of the barn on their Oneida farm.

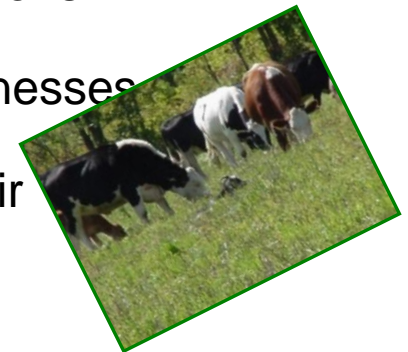
- In 1844 there were 722 Oneida's living here. They had 2,200 acres of land under cultivation, over one hundred horses, five hundred head of cattle, five hundred hogs, chickens and a few sheep.
- Today's Oneida Nation Farms began in 1978 as the Iroquois Farm. It started as 150 acre farm that primarily grew vegetables and enough crops to feed 25 head of cattle.
- By 1989, the operation had grown to 350 acres and 35 cows.
- Today the Oneida Farm manages 6,329 acres and is one of the largest cash crop operations in NE Wisconsin. With over 400 Point of Origin Black Angus Beef and 100 Bison.

# Why is local food important?

## Pay the doctor or pay the farmer



- o The Center for Disease Control and Prevention estimates that **33% of all American children, and 50% of minority children, born in the year 2000 will develop diabetes as a result of poor diet and lack of exercise.**
- o Local foods are fresher, tastier and more nutritious.
- o No culture in the world pays less for food, per capita, and more on medicine.
- o By buying locally you get competitive prices while helping to create new jobs, which creates a \$4 multiplier for a \$1 investment.
- o Less petroleum used for shipping and reduced CO2 emissions.
- o 5,200 deaths each year in America are due to food born illnesses.
- o The last 30 years the average American has increased their sugar intake by 30% and most of this is in beverages.



# Benefits of Farm to School

Farm to school projects have the potential to provide multiple benefits to students, farmers, and communities.

- Improve diets for students in the Oneida community
- Increase access to farm fresh foods
- Market development for small and mid-sized farms in Oneida
- Positive economic and social impacts in the Oneida community
- Decreased reliance on fossil fuel for transporting food
- Reestablish and strengthen local, sustainable food systems
- Increase agriculture literacy and food systems awareness



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# OUR PROGRAM HISTORY AND DESIGN

# History of Oneida Farm to School

- 2001 - Oneida Falling Leaves 4-H club
  - Oneida Farmers' Market
- 2006 - Removed sodas out of Oneida schools
  - Oneida meats into school lunch program
- 2007 - Youth Day on the Farm
- 2009 - OCIFS Cultural Activity books
  - Educational food film series viewings
- 2010 - Oneida 4-H Food Buyers Group started
- 2012 - Collaborations with LIVE54218
- 2013 - Establish a Youth Summer Entrepreneur Food Program



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# **LESSONS WE LEARNED ALONG THE WAY**



# Educating our youth

We realized early on that just providing healthy foods to the school youth would be no guarantee that they would eat them, so **education** became a key component to our project.

**Youth Day on the Farm.** We take the Oneida 6th grade class to the Apple Orchard, buffalo herd and Oneida Nation Farm to learn about food, health and agricultural opportunities.

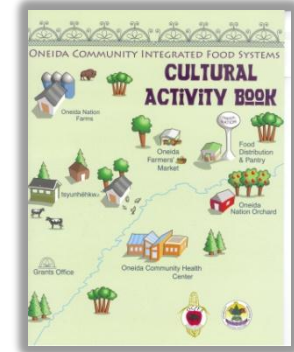


**Oneida Falling Leaves 4-H projects.** We have gardening projects, pick your own sweet corn projects and now a Food Buyers Group project.

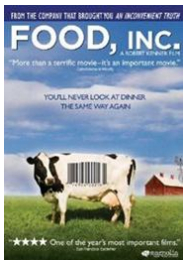


# Educating our youth

**OCIFS Cultural Activity Book.** This Activity book was created in a fun format that allows K-6 grade youth learn about: food, agriculture, health, exercise and cultural significance of food.



**Education through Food Film series** - assist the teachers to get more educational food films into the classrooms by providing films and create surveys for talking points for them to use. We have had five different films shown in the Oneida High School this year.



*New thinking about what we're eating.*  
A film by ana sofia joanes



# Establishing Collaborations

**Farm to School Initiative** - Partnering with LIVE54218 on a grant that is providing a part time Farm to School Coordinator for Oneida, Green Bay and Ashwaubenon school districts.



**Farm to School Evaluation Tool** - With the assistance of LIVE54218 Oneida was one of the schools in the state to be selected to participate in their 2 year Farm to School Evaluation tool.



# Establishing Collaborations

**Establish a Youth Summer Entrepreneur Food Program.** With a grant from First Nations Development Institute we will establish a program where youth harvest, process and market various nutritious food items.





# Oneida food self-sustainability / production

- Black Angus Beef
- Free range chickens
- Apples
- Strawberries
- Raspberries
- Blackberries
- Rhubarb
- Cantalope
- Squash
- Watermelon
- Pumpkins



- Buffalo
- Eggs
- Pears
- Onions
- Asparagus
- Potatoes
- Radishes
- Cucumbers
- Peas
- Gourds
- Herbs



**Pay the doctor or pay the farmer**

# Thank you for your time

- Presentation brought to you by Jesse Padron, Oneida Nation Food Service Director.



- For additional information about the Oneida Food systems please see [www.oneidation.org/ocifs](http://www.oneidation.org/ocifs)