



**2015-2016 School Year
Request for Information – Farm to School Produce**

Responses must be submitted to Minneapolis Public Schools by Thursday January 22, 2015 at noon CST.
To be considered, one copy of completed RFI (Part 3) must be submitted by:

1. **Email to Andrea Northup at andrea.northup@mpls.k12.mn.us OR**
2. **Fax to Andrea Northup's attention at 612-668-2830 OR**
3. **Mail – must arrive by noon on January 22, 2015 to:**

Andrea Northup
MPS Nutrition Center
812 Plymouth Avenue North
Minneapolis, MN 55411

An optional Question and Answer Phone Call will take place on Wednesday Jan. 14th from noon-1pm.
Conference Dial-in Number: (712) 775-7031 Meeting ID: 545-938-784

Notes from the Q&A conference call will be posted on MPS' Farm to School website.

Responses must be received by Thursday January 22, 2015 by noon CST

This RFI is for individual farms and organizations representing multiple farms interested in participating in MPS' Farm to School Program. Organizations representing multiple unique farms may want to fill out more than one Response Form (page 6 & 7). Please contact Andrea Northup with any questions about this RFI at andrea.northup@mpls.k12.mn.us or 612-668-2854.



Part 1: General Information

Minneapolis Public Schools (MPS) is gathering information about farmers interested in supplying MPS with certain produce items during the 2015-2016 school year through our processing and distribution partner, Russ Davis Wholesale (RDW). MPS' Farm to School program aims to provide fresh, high-quality produce to our students and to educate them about food and agriculture. MPS is particularly looking to partner with small, beginning, family, minority and/or immigrant-owned farms in the Twin Cities region. For the purposes of this solicitation "local" is defined as within roughly 200 miles of Minneapolis.

This Farm to School Request for Information (RFI) will solicit information from farmers in the region interested in selling to MPS during the 2015-2016 growing season. Part 2 (Partner Expectations) describes MPS' Farm to School program in detail. Interested farmers are invited to fill out and submit an RFI Response Form (Part 3 below). The RFI Response Form asks for information about farm practices, product availability, and pricing regarding certain produce items that will be featured regularly on our menus during the fall and winter of the 2015-2016 school year.

MPS will determine which farmers provide the most responsive and cost-effective responses and select Farm to School partner farmers for the 2015-2016 school year. As long as Partner Expectations (outlined below) are met and supply is available, MPS intends to have RDW purchase exclusively from awarded farmer for specific products as needed throughout the duration of the growing/storage season. Farmers may be awarded one or more items, and items may be split between farmers (if farmers indicate that they can provide a portion of the estimated volume).

Learn more about MPS' Farm to School program and Nutrition Services Department at http://nutritionservices.mpls.k12.mn.us/f2s_program

Selection Process

MPS aims to work with a variety of small, beginning, family, minority and/or immigrant-owned farms in the Twin Cities region. The following are some of the criteria MPS is looking for in farmer partners:

- Proven record of respectful, professional business relationships
- Ability to provide a main "point of contact" who can provide consistent, timely phone and email communication with MPS & RDW staff
- Ability to grow and provide high-quality produce
- Demonstrate good stewardship of the land (sustainable growing practices preferred)
- Safe on-farm production and post-harvest handling food safety practices
- Willingness and ability to meet MPS' product specifications and pack sizes
- Ability to provide thorough product traceability
- Ability to make reliable, timely, and accurate deliveries
- At least \$1 million in liability insurance
- Competitive pricing

Part 2: Partner Expectations

This section describes the expectations of farmers who participate in MPS' Farm to School program. MPS reserves the right to discontinue purchasing from farmers who fall out of compliance with the Partner Expectations after one written warning.

Onboarding

Farmers must complete the MPS Farm to School onboarding process prior to initial order/delivery.

For farmers who have never sold produce to MPS:

- Provide documentation to MPS (email, mail, or fax):
 - Food Safety Plan
 - Proof of Liability Insurance (at least \$1 million)
 - Current water test results
 - *Proof of GAP certification (if applicable, not required)*
- Attend one-day MPS Institutional Sales Workshop – March 2015
 - Review product specifications, pack sizes, delivery & invoicing logistics
- Attend one-day MPS Food Safety Workshop – April 2015
 - Review on-farm food safety and post-harvest handling requirements (for farms that are not GAP-certified)
- Site Visit (1 hour) – June-July 2015 (for farms that are not GAP-certified)
 - If needed, take corrective action based on Site Assessment report – July-August 2015

For farmers who have sold produce to MPS in the past:

- Provide documentation to MPS (email, mail, or fax):
 - Food Safety Plan
 - Proof of Liability Insurance (at least \$1 million)
 - Current water test results
 - *Proof of GAP certification (if applicable, not required)*
- Food Safety & Institutional Sales workshops are optional – March/April 2015
- Food Safety & Institutional Sales refresher one-on-one call (1 hour, for those who choose not to attend Workshops) – Feb-April 2015
- Site Visit (1 hour) – June-July 2015 (for farms that are not GAP-certified)
 - If needed, take corrective action based on Site Assessment report – July-August 2015

Funding is available through a grant from the University of Minnesota to compensate growers for travel to workshops and some additional costs of participation in MPS' Farm to School program.

Food Safety

In order to provide food that is safe for MPS students and staff, farmers are expected to follow good on-farm food safety and post-harvest handling practices. This includes safe planting, use of nutrients (compost), pest-control mechanisms, harvesting procedures, cooling, washing, packing, delivery, etc. As part of the Onboarding process described above, farmers must provide a food safety plan that describes how the farm minimizes on-farm and post-harvest food safety risks.

Food safety policies and practices that must be addressed in the food safety plan will be explained in the Food Safety Workshop. This workshop will review requirements and provide tools to assure that farms follow good food safety practices. Additionally, UMN and RDW staff will be available to provide ongoing

food safety technical assistance.

Site Visit

MPS & UMN will conduct a Site Visit to meet the farm staff, observe farm practices, and assure that good food safety practices are being followed. Farmer will receive a report within 7 business days of visit outlining any corrective actions that must be taken before MPS begins purchasing from the farm. UMN partners will be available to assist farmers with corrective actions and provide technical assistance. If applicable, a follow-up conversation or site visit will assure that corrective actions have been taken.

Unannounced Visits

In addition to a scheduled Site Visit, MPS reserves the right to conduct unannounced site visits to participating farms.

Insurance

Farmer must carry product liability insurance of no less than \$1 million. A proof of insurance, such as a Liability Insurance Certificate, must be sent (email, fax or mail) to MPS before purchasing begins.

Product Specifications and Pack Sizes

All products must be packed and stored under sanitary conditions, kept at proper temperature, and handled in accordance with good commercial practices. Products delivered must match the specifications and standard pack sizes specified for each product, described in the Produce Availability and Pricing Form below and in further detail at the Institutional Sales Workshop. Farmers will have the option to bulk purchase packaging (boxes, bags, etc.) from RDW at discounted prices. MPS and RDW will communicate appropriate deviations from specified pack sizes and specifications, such as bulk bins, if applicable. Any deviations not previously agreed upon may result in one written or verbal warning followed by discontinuation of service.

The Institutional Sales Workshop will allow farmers the chance to learn about product specifications and required pack sizes. The Workshop will take place at RDW's facility and will walk farmers through pictures and real-life examples of appropriate and inappropriate products/packs, as well as other requirements for ordering, delivery and invoicing.

Traceability

Each case delivered must be labeled with farm name, product, date harvested, and date packed.

Ordering

The product quantities described in the application below are estimates of the quantities that MPS will use during the growing season. RDW will send farmers exact Purchase Orders (PO's) by email with product need dates and quantities no less than 7 days prior to delivery to RDW. Farmers must designate a primary contact person to work with MPS & RDW in a timely manner to communicate availability and order logistics, as well as a secondary contact (for instances when primary contact is unavailable).

Delivery

Farmers must deliver products in clean, new boxes/bags using clean, sanitary delivery vehicles. Bulk boxes will be available for purchase at discounted rates from RDW. While refrigerated trucks are not required, product temperatures will be checked upon delivery at RDW for appropriate ranges. Appropriate temperature ranges will be communicated to farmers during the Institutional Sales Workshop.

Farmers are expected to bring copies of PO's with each delivery and deliveries must match PO quantities and pack sizes exactly. Deliveries must be made Monday through Friday between 8am – 11am to RDW's facility at 2805 Service Road West Eagan, MN, 55121. RDW has the right to refuse products that do not match agreed upon product specifications, pack sizes, quantities, temperatures or delivery times, and after one warning, discontinue orders from that farmer. Farmers will be able to aggregate deliveries when possible to reduce delivery costs, depending on product perishability.

Invoicing

Farmers must email or fax invoices to RDW no more than 7 days after delivery.

Payment

Farmers will receive payment by mail within 30 business days of receipt of invoice.

Promotion/Education

MPS believes it's important for students to know where their food comes from – especially when it comes from local farmers. The primary way MPS highlights local produce is through our “Minnesota Thursdays” promotion, where lunch on the first Thursday of every month features an entirely locally-sourced meal. Minnesota Thursdays and the Farm to School program are promoted on MPS' website, local media channels, print marketing materials, and more.

MPS aims to provide chances for farmers to interact with the students who enjoy their food, and vice versa. Participants in MPS' Farm to School program will have the chance to visit schools and talk with both students and school staff about growing food for school meals. As feasible, MPS hopes to coordinate staff and student visits to farms. MPS understands the busy nature of farm life, so educational opportunities can be tailored to the interest level and capacity of each farm/farmer.

Learn more about MPS' Farm to School education and promotion at http://nutritionservices.mpls.k12.mn.us/f2s_program.



Part 3: RFI Response Form

Response Form Instructions

Farmers must fill out the Response Form Questions, References, and Produce Availability and Pricing Form below in order to be considered to provide produce for MPS' Farm to School program. **Responses are due Thursday January 22, 2015 at noon CST. Incomplete or late responses will not be considered.**

An optional Question and Answer Phone Call will take place on Wednesday Jan. 14th from noon-1pm.

Conference Dial-in Number: (712) 775-7031 Meeting ID: 545-938-784

Notes from the Q&A conference call will be posted on MPS' Farm to School website - http://nutritionservices.mpls.k12.mn.us/f2s_program

NOTE: An organization filling out this form on behalf of multiple unique farms may want to fill out separate RFI Response Forms (pages 6 & 7) for each farm they represent. Contact Andrea Northup at andrea.northup@mpls.k12.mn.us or 612-668-2854 with questions.

Response Form Questions

Farm/Organization Name: _____

Website (if you have one): _____

Primary Contact Name: _____

Primary Contact is expected to communicate by phone and email in a timely manner.

Primary Contact Title: _____

Work Phone: _____ Cell Phone (if different): _____

Email: _____

Secondary Contact Name: _____

Secondary Contact is expected to communicate by phone and email in a timely manner when primary contact is unavailable or unreachable.

Secondary Contact Title: _____

Work Phone: _____ Cell Phone (if different): _____

Email: _____

Name of Farm Manager: _____

Physical Farm Address:

Mailing Address (if different):



Type of organization (circle one): LLC 501c3 Other: _____

Projected acreage of fruit/vegetable production for 2015 growing season: _____

What is the farm/organization's mission and/or growing philosophy? _____

What type(s) of capacity/facilities does farm have? Check all that apply.

- Greenhouse(s) Hoophouse(s) Cold storage Cool storage (i.e. root cellar)
- Indoor wash/pack facility Outdoor wash/pack capacity Mechanized harvest equipment

Does farm fall under any of the following categories? Check all that apply.

- Farm owned/operated by beginning farmer(s) (within the past 5 years)
- Farm is family operation (more than one family member owns and/or works on farm)
- Farm is within 200 miles of Minneapolis
- Farm owner(s)/operator(s) are first or second generation immigrants
- Farm owned and/or operated by racial/ethnic minority farmer(s)

Does farm have a written food safety plan? Yes No

Does farm keep logs or documentation (like a journal) of food safety related information? Yes No

Does farm have any of the following? Check all that apply.

- GAP Audit Food safety training (but no official GAP audit) Certified Naturally Grown
- Certified Organic Sustainable growing practices (but no certification)

Other: (please describe) _____

Does farm have at least \$1 million product liability insurance? Yes No

Is a farmer or farm representative interested in partnering with MPS to educate students about farming and local food? Check all that apply.

- Pen pals with a classroom Visits to classrooms/cafeterias
- Farm field trips Special educational events

Has farm sold produce to a school/school district (excluding MPS) in the past 2 years? If so, please fill out the following:

| Name of School/District | What year(s) did you sell to them? | Which item(s) did you provide? | Approximate quantity of each order? |
|-------------------------|------------------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| | | | |
| | | | |

Has farm sold produce to any other large institutional or wholesale buyers, such as colleges, hospitals or produce distributors/wholesalers in the past 2 years? If so, please fill out the following:

| Name of Buyer | When did you sell to them? | Which item(s) did you provide? | Approximate quantity of each order? |
|---------------|----------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| | | | |
| | | | |

References

Please list contact information for two references who represent customers farm sold to during the 2014 growing season. School, institutional or wholesale buyers are preferred.

1. Organization Name: _____

Name of Contact: _____

Contact's Position: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

2. Organization Name: _____

Name of Contact: _____

Contact's Position: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Produce Availability and Pricing Form

The table on page 10 describes approximate produce varieties and quantities that MPS intends to procure from farm to school partners during the 2015/2016 school year. We understand that unexpected weather-related or other events may lead to reduced supply. Similarly, MPS may face unexpected changes in demand or last-minute menu changes. Therefore we want to stress that **the quantities below are approximate**. Exact produce orders will be communicated via Purchase Order from RDW as previously described.

Additional notes for filling out the Form:

- For each item the farm wishes to be considered for, **farm must fill out ALL information in cells indicated by red column headings**.
- Farm may fill out information for one, some or all of the produce items listed below.
- Farm may be considered for none, one or multiple produce items listed below.
- If farm can only provide some of the approximate quantity, indicate that in the “Quantity Farm Can Supply” column.
- “Price” column should indicate the price farm proposes to charge for the product for the duration of 2015/2016 school year.
- Bulk packs and larger drops (primarily for storage items) can be negotiated.
- Farmer partners who provide certain items may be asked to grow smaller quantities of one-time specialty items, like purple carrots, chioggia beets, or purple potatoes.
- Farmers may indicate the availability of additional items in the table below the form.
- Apples and other orchard fruits will be bid in a separate request for information.
- Pricing provided should include delivery to Russ Davis (there will be no additional delivery fees).

Approximate case size/weight conversions:

- Butternut squash = 45-50# per bushel+1/9 box
- Cantaloupe/Honeydew = 700-800# per 2/3 bin
- Cauliflower = 20# per 12ct flat
- Cucumber = 50-55# per bushel+1/9 box
- Green onions = 13# per 48-bunch case
- Green pepper = 25-30# per bushel+1/9 box
- Jalapeño pepper = 35-40# per bushel+1/9 box
- Watermelon = 675# per 2/3 bin
- Romaine = 40# per 24-ct case

Please contact Andrea Northup at andrea.northup@mpls.k12.mn.us or 612-668-2854 with any questions about this RFI or Response Form.

CONTINUOUS HARVEST: The following produce items are harvested on an ongoing basis, and therefore MPS will do our best to source them in smaller, regular quantities each week (rather than large, one-time purchases).

| Produce Item | Product Description | Pack Size/ Description | Approx. Delivery Periods | Approximate Quantity Needed | Total Quantity needed for 2015-2016 | Quantity Farm Can Supply | Total Quantity for 2015-2016 | GMO seed/ start? (Y/N) | Price | Notes |
|------------------------|--|---|---|--------------------------------|---------------------------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------|------------------------------|-------|
| Cucumber | Used sliced or diced. Large size or cosmetic issues are okay (but not hard or over-ripe). | Bushel+1/9 box. Fully washed | September, later if season allows (approx. 5 weeks) | 10 bushel+1/9 boxes every week | 50 bushel+ 1/9 boxes (approx. 2,400#) | _____ bushel+ 1/9 boxes per week | _____ bushel+ 1/9 boxes total | | \$_____ per bushel + 1/9 box | |
| Green Pepper | Used diced or strips. Large size (but not woody) and slightly misshapen is okay. Cosmetic issues or some red coloring okay. | Bushel + 1/9 box. Fully washed. | September, later if season allows (approx. 5 weeks) | 16 bushel+1/9 boxes every week | 80 bushel+ 1/9 boxes (approx. 2,200#) | _____ bushel+ 1/9 boxes per week | _____ bushel+ 1/9 boxes total | | \$_____ per bushel 1/9 box | |
| Jalapeño Pepper | Used diced. Large size (but not woody) is okay. Cosmetic issues, turning red or misshapen is okay. | 10# box. Fully washed. | September, later if season allows (approx. 5 weeks) | 10 – 10# boxes every 2 weeks | 30 – 10# boxes (approx. 300#) | _____ 10# boxes every 2 weeks | _____ 10# boxes total | | \$_____ per 10# box | |
| Yellow Squash | Used sliced, diced, or spears. Straight yellow zucchini variety preferred over crook-neck. Large size or cosmetic issues are okay (but not hard or over-ripe). | 20# box. Rinsed, free of debris and soil. | September, later if season allows (approx. 5 weeks) | 5 – 20# boxes every 2 weeks | 15 – 20# boxes (approx. 300#) | _____ 20# boxes every 2 weeks | _____ 20# boxes total | | \$_____ per 20# box | |
| Zucchini | Used sliced, diced, or spears. Mostly straight. Large size or cosmetic issues are okay (but not hard or over-ripe). | 20# box. Rinsed, free of debris and soil. | September, later if season allows (approx. 5 weeks) | 5 – 20# boxes every 2 weeks | 15 – 20# boxes (approx. 300#) | _____ 20# boxes every 2 weeks | _____ 20# boxes total | | \$_____ per 20# box | |

GREENS:

| Produce Item | Product Description | Pack Size/Description | Approx. Delivery Periods | Approximate Quantity Needed | Total Quantity needed for 2015-2016 | Quantity Farm Can Supply | Total Quantity for 2015-2016 | GMO seed/start? (Y/N) | Price | Notes |
|----------------|---|--|--|--|---|---------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-------|
| Kale | Shredded, served raw. Curly leaf green and/or red variety preferred. | 24-bunch/case (Lettuce box). Free of dirt or debris. | September – end of season (approx. 6 weeks) | 5 – 24ct cs per week + a few larger drops (approx. 2 larger drops of up to 50 cs each) | 120 – 24ct cs (approx. 2,800 bunches) | _____ 24ct cases per week | _____ 24ct cases total | | \$_____ per 24ct case | |
| Romaine | Served chopped in salads. The bigger the heads, the better. Cut off at base (no roots). | 24-heads/case (Lettuce box). Free of dirt or debris. | September – end of season (ideally the whole school year if greenhouse grown!) | 90 – 24ct cs per week | We can take up to 90 cs/week all year Sep-May | _____ 24ct cases per week | _____ 24ct cases total | | \$_____ per 24ct case | |

ONE-TIME HARVEST ITEMS (with little to no storage capacity): The following items are harvested once and don't store for long, so MPS will do our best to feature these items early in the school year (September and into October if we're lucky with the weather/depending on the item).

| Produce Item | Product Description | Pack Size/Description | Approx. Delivery Periods | Approximate Quantity Needed | Total Quantity needed for 2015-2016 | Quantity Farm Can Supply | Total Quantity for 2015-2016 | GMO seed/start? (Y/N) | Price | Notes |
|-----------------|---|--|---|----------------------------------|--|---|--------------------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------------------|-------|
| Broccoli | For florets. The bigger the crowns, the better. | 20# case of just crowns. Dirt knocked off, free of debris, not too much dirt in box. | September – end of season (approx. 8 weeks) | 28 - 20# case of crowns per week | 225 – 20# cases just crowns (approx. 4,500#) | _____ 20# cases of just crowns per week | _____ 20# cases of just crowns total | | \$_____ per 20# case of just crowns | |

| Produce Item | Product Description | Pack Size/ Description | Approx. Delivery Periods | Approximate Quantity Needed | Total Quantity needed for 2015-2016 | Quantity Farm Can Supply | Total Quantity for 2015-2016 | GMO seed/ start? (Y/N) | Price | Notes |
|---------------------|---|--|---|-----------------------------|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|-------|
| Cantaloupe | For cubes, wedges. | 2/3 Bin, Free of dirt or debris. | Early September (approx. 3 weeks) | 5 - 2/3 bins every 2 weeks | 10 – 2/3 bins (about 7,000#) | _____ 2/3 bins every 2 weeks | _____ 2/3 bins total | | \$_____ per 2/3 bin. | |
| Cauliflower | For florets. The bigger the crowns, the better. | 12ct flat. Dirt knocked off, free of debris, not too much dirt in box. Leave on some wrapper leaves. | September – end of season (approx. 8 weeks) | 29 –12ct flats per week | 230 –12ct flats (about 4,600#) | _____ 12ct flats per week | _____ 12ct flats total | | \$_____ per 12ct flat | |
| Corn | Ears that will be husked, halved and served as hot side. | 48 ears/case | Early September (approx. 2 weeks) | 150 – 48ct cases per week | 300 – 48ct cases total | _____ 48-ct cases per week | _____ 48-ct cases total | | \$_____ per 48ct case | |
| Green Onions | For chopping. | 48-bunch/ case. Fully washed in banded bunches. | Early September (approx. 2 weeks) | 4 – 48ct cases per week | 8 – 48ct cases total | _____ 48ct cases per week | _____ 48-ct cases total | | \$_____ per 48ct case | |
| Honeydew | For cubes, wedges. | 2/3 Bin, Free of dirt or debris. | Early September (approx. 3 weeks) | 5 - 2/3 bins every 2 weeks | 10 – 2/3 bins (about 7,000#) | _____ 2/3 bins every 2 weeks | _____ 2/3 bins total | | \$_____ per 2/3 bin. | |
| Watermelon | For cubes, wedges, and/or spears. Large, <u>seedless</u> variety. | 2/3 bin, Free of dirt or debris. | Early September (approx. 3 weeks) | 5 – 2/3 bins per week | 14 – 2/3 bins total (about 9,500#) | _____ 2/3 bins per week | _____ 2/3 bins total | | \$_____ Per 2/3 bin | |

STORAGE CROPS: The following items store well so MPS aims to feature these items on our menus long into the winter months (until February or March, depending on the item).

| Produce Item | Product Description | Pack | Approx. Delivery Periods | Approx. Quantity Needed | Total Quantity for 2015-2016 School Year | Quantity Farm Can Supply | Total Quantity for 2015-2016 School Year | GMO seed/start? (Y/N) | Price | Notes |
|-----------------------|--|---|--|--------------------------|--|---------------------------|--|-----------------------|--------------------------|-------|
| Beets | For cubes & matchstick cut. The bigger the better – at least baseball size. | 25# Bag. Trim off almost all of greens. Leave tip of root as-is. Rinsed, free of debris and soil. | One-time delivery in October or November | 40 - 25# bags one time | 40 – 25# bags (approx. 1,000#) | _____ 25# bags | N/A (same!) | | \$_____ per 25# bag | |
| Kohlrabi | For sticks, raw. The bigger bulbs the better. | 24-bunches/ case bunched w/ leaves. Standard bunch (approx. 3 bulbs/bunch) Rinsed, free of debris and soil. | One big delivery in October or November | 200 – 24bunch cases | 200 – 24bunch cases | _____ 24bunch cases | N/A (same!) | | \$_____ per 24bunch case | |
| Red Potato | Large (Grade A) red-skinned potato for dicing and roasting. The bigger the better. | 50# Sacks. Rinsed, free of debris and soil | September – stored as long as possible (approx. through Feb) | 43-50# sacks every month | 260 – 50# sacks (approx. 13,000# total) | _____ 50# sacks per month | _____ 50# sacks total | | \$_____ per 50# sack | |
| Wedging Potato | Large (Grade A) potatoes to cut in 6 wedges and roast with skin-on. For example, Russet or Salem White. Relatively consistent, uniform sizing (so wedges are similar). | 50# Sacks. Rinsed, free of debris and soil | September – stored as long as possible (approx. through Feb) | 15-50# sacks every month | 88 – 50# sacks (approx. 4,400# total) | _____ 50# sacks per month | _____ 50# sacks total | | \$_____ per 50# sack | |

| Produce Item | Product Description | Pack Size/ Description | Approx. Delivery Periods | Approximate Quantity Needed | Total Quantity needed for 2015-2016 | Quantity Farm Can Supply | Total Quantity for 2015-2016 | GMO seed/ start? (Y/N) | Price | Notes |
|-----------------------------------|---|--|--|----------------------------------|--|----------------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------|----------------------------|-------|
| Butternut Squash | For cubes. Large, misshapen, or cosmetic imperfections are okay. | Bushel+1/9 bin. Dirt knocked off, free of debris, not too much dirt in boxes | October – stored as long as possible (through Feb) | 30 bushel+ 1/9 boxes every month | 178 bushel+ 1/9 boxes total (approx. 8,000#) | _____ bushel+1/9 boxes per month | _____ bushel+ 1/9 boxes total | | \$_____ per bushel+1/9 box | |
| Carrot | For coins, matchstick cut, or sticks. Large, long, uniform diameter of >1" preferred. | 50# Sack. Rinsed, free of debris and soil | September – stored as long as possible (through Feb) | 90 – 50# sacks every month | 540 – 50# sacks total (approx. 27,000#) | _____ 50# sacks per month | _____ 50# sacks total | | \$_____ per 50# sack | |
| Green & Purple Cabbage | Used shredded. Tight, firm heads. Large heads are okay. Ratio: 90% Green Cabbage, 10% red (for coleslaw) – breakdown will be specified with each order. | 45# Cabbage bin. Outside 1-2 wrapper leaves removed, not too much dirt in bin. | September – stored as long as possible (through Feb) | 8 – 45# bins every month | 50 – 45# bins (2,300# total) | _____ 45# bins per month | _____ 45# bins total | | \$_____ per 45# bin | |

Please describe any additional items you think MPS should consider below for our menus September 2015 – May 2016. Provide estimated quantities available and pricing if possible. Items in this section will require further conversation.

Reference Pricing: The following chart shows September 2014 pricing information for the produce items in this RFI from a variety sources. The pricing is for the units in the “unit” column unless otherwise specified. Note that pricing is for a mix of local and non-local products.

| Produce Item | Unit | MPS Farm to School 2014, all local, mix of organic and not | RDW Organic, mix of local and not local | Organic Valley, mix of local and not local | Coop Partners, all certified organic, mix of local and not | USDA Chicago Terminal Market averages – Organic, not local |
|------------------------|-----------------|--|---|--|--|--|
| Beets | 25# bag | N/A | \$18.00 | \$20.00 | \$32.85 | \$21.00 |
| Broccoli | 20# just crowns | \$30.00 | N/A | N/A | \$30/18# | \$23.25/14-18ct |
| Butternut Squash | Bushel+1/9 | \$22.80 | \$20.00 | \$22.00 | \$29.00/35# | \$28.00 |
| Cantaloupe | 2/3 bin | N/A | \$200.00 | N/A | \$27.45/35# | \$30/40# |
| Carrot | 50# sack | \$45.00 | N/A | N/A | \$31.25/25# | \$17/25# |
| Cauliflower | 12ct flat | N/A | N/A | N/A | \$32.00 | \$44/25# |
| Corn | | | | | | |
| Cucumber | Bushel+1/9 | \$24.50 | \$22.00 | N/A | \$34.75/24# | \$26.50 |
| Green & Purple Cabbage | 45# bin | \$27.00 | \$20.00 | \$24.00 | \$29.60 | \$20.00 |
| Green Onion | 48-ct | N/A | N/A | N/A | \$35.30 | N/A |
| Green Pepper | Bushel+1/9 | \$12.25 | \$22.00 | \$28.50 | \$36.65 | \$32.50 |
| Honeydew | 2/3 bin | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | \$22/30# |
| Jalapeño Pepper | 10# Box | \$20.00 | \$25.00 | N/A | \$30.40 | N/A |
| Kale | 24-ct | \$23.00 | \$23.00 | N/A | \$32.00 | \$28.00 |
| Kohlrabi | 24-ct | N/A | N/A | N/A | \$62.00 | N/A |
| Mashing Potato | 50# sack | \$35.00 | \$26.00 (A size) | N/A | \$42.15 | \$49.00 (10-5# baled) |
| Red Potato | 50# sack | \$45.00 | \$21.00 (A size) | N/A | \$21.85 | N/A |
| Red/Yellow Pepper | Bushel+1/9 | N/A | N/A | N/A | \$69.00 | \$34.50 |
| Romaine | 24-ct | N/A | N/A | N/A | \$49.85 | \$40.50 |
| Watermelon | 2/3 bin | N/A | \$200.00 | N/A | \$25/40# | \$285.00 |
| Wedging Potato | 50# sack | \$35.00 | N/A | N/A | \$29.90 | \$42.00 |
| Yellow Squash | 20# | N/A | \$22.00 | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| Zucchini | 20# | N/A | \$24.00 | N/A | \$46.45/22# | N/A |

Respondents should note that this pricing is for reference only, and farmers are encouraged provide responses even if proposed pricing is higher or lower than benchmarks.

