

The Pennsylvania Farm to School Network Success Story:

CHIPPING HILL MICRO FARMS

Philadelphia County, PA



Chipping Hill Micro Farms (CHMF) is a nonprofit organization bringing the farm to Philadelphia-region PreK and Head Start classrooms. CHMF uses mobile greenhouse facilities for PreK Counts PA, teaching three classes daily, five days a week.

An average class lesson starts with the reading of an age-appropriate book concerning nature, agriculture or nutrition. Following the story, children taste four fruits and 10 vegetables. In the past, they have offered foods such as apples, oranges,

strawberries, blueberries, pears, kiwi, broccoli, tomatoes, bok choy, microgreens, spinach, green beans, peas, carrots, celery and red onion.

In addition to the classroom mobile greenhouse, CHMF has a 100-square-foot year-round growing greenhouse to meet the needs of those it serves. This facility travels every few days from one PreK to another, fitting the whole PreK Counts program into one greenhouse.





CHMF also aims to build a micro-garden within the classroom. Herbs such as cilantro, parsley, thyme and dill will be grown in these spaces. This will give the children access to these materials as well as provide a classroom green space. CHMF will install a 4-by-16-foot raised garden so that the children can grow their vegetables. These raised gardens will be used from May through June and again in September and October when the school year begins. The raised garden allows for the plants to be transplanted from the greenhouse and offers both the plants and the children outside time.



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