

Albany School receives Farm-to-School Grant

ALBANY — The Albany Community School was awarded a grant of \$13,500 from the State of Vermont to develop a farm-to-school program and increase the use of locally grown foods in the school. Enacted by the 2005-2006 Vermont General Assembly, ACT 145 provides \$85,000 in competitive grants to help Vermont schools increase the use of local foods in Vermont school food programs. Albany was one of seven schools to receive an implementation grant.

The grant will support the school's effort to work with Green Mountain Farm-to-School, a nonprofit organization, to establish a farm-to-school program to provide more school-aged children with fresh, nutritious foods and support more farms in the Northeast Kingdom of Vermont. The program will taste test new recipes made with products purchased from local farms and give students the knowledge and skills they need to make healthy food choices.

The Albany school joins a growing move-

ment across the state to establish farm-to-school programs that will improve children nutrition and promote healthy eating habits while simultaneously increasing the size and stability of local farmers' direct sales markets. Purchasing local products not only reduces transportation costs, excess packaging and other negative environmental impacts but also supports our local farmers and preserves the working landscape and open land crucial to Vermont's quality of life. Building relationships with local farms, Albany can highlight the connection between our food, our health and our community and empower students and their families to make educated food choices.

The grant will provide funds to purchase locally grown foods, take field trips to local farms and host a fall harvest festival.

For more information about the Albany Farm-to-School Program, contact Green Mountain Farm-to-School at www.greenmountainfarmtoschool.org.