



**Farm to School Procurement Specialist, Mary Ann Lopez**

In early 2017, Mary Ann joined the Put Local on Your Tray team at UCONN Extension to help school food directors with developing USDA compliant purchasing documents, whether formal or informal, when purchasing local farm products in a fair and competitive manner. Mary Ann has completed several fundamental trainings on USDA procurement requirements. Mary Ann is able to assist in writing bids and requests for quotes, using both formal and informal formats, including micro-purchasing. She is familiar with a variety of models and examples of farm to school procurement. She is also developing several tools and guidance documents to be posted on our website to help school food directors purchase properly.

Mary Ann can be reached by phone or email, and in many cases will be available for one-on-one visits if needed.

Work Experience: Mary Ann has a strong school food service background, having retired in 2016 from her job as Director of Food Services with South Windsor Public Schools after 31 years. She brings to this position experience, a thirst for learning, a commitment to increasing Farm to School opportunities across CT, and a desire to help her fellow directors be effective in their commitment to Farm to School.

Mary Ann can be reached at:

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