



## Hmong, beginning agricultural growers can learn how to access K-12 institutional markets at workshops

**Release Date: February 10, 2017**

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The Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection is co-hosting a series of workshops designed to help Hmong and beginning agricultural growers access “institutional” markets in Wisconsin such as K-12 schools. The Institutional Buying Workshops will be held Feb. 25 in Milwaukee, March 25 in Wausau, and April 1 in La Crosse.

The goal of the workshops is to provide information to Hmong growers and beginning agricultural growers interested in learning about accessing institutional markets and connecting with local supply chain partners like processors and distributors. The workshops will introduce growers to market avenues beyond farmers markets, including institutional markets such as K-12 schools, early childhood programs, and hospitals.

Presenting the workshops will be Kymm Mutch, vice president of products and services for Food Service Management Solutions, a national consulting firm. Mutch also is a registered dietitian who brings a wealth of experience in child nutrition, food service management, school food procurement and systems change. A Hmong interpreter will provide interpretation services at the morning workshop sessions. Participants fluent in English are encouraged to attend the afternoon sessions.

The workshop schedule is as follows:

**Milwaukee:** Saturday, Feb. 25, Hmong growers, 8 a.m.-noon (with Hmong interpreter); beginning growers, 1 p.m.-4 p.m.; Hmong American Friendship Association, Inc., 3824 W. Vliet St., Milwaukee.

**Wausau:** Saturday, March 25, Hmong growers, 8 a.m.-noon (with Hmong interpreter); beginning growers, 1 p.m.-4 p.m.; Hmong American Center, 1109 N. 6<sup>th</sup> St., Wausau.

**La Crosse:** Saturday, April 1, 8 a.m.-noon (with Hmong interpreter); beginning growers, 1 p.m.-4 p.m.; Hmong Cultural & Community Center, 1815 Ward Ave., La Crosse.

The workshops are free, but registration is required. To register, contact DATCP staff consultants Jack Chang, 608-224-5050, [jackchang@wisconsin.gov](mailto:jackchang@wisconsin.gov); or Angie Sullivan, 608-224-5095, [angie.sullivan@wisconsin.gov](mailto:angie.sullivan@wisconsin.gov).

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