



Presenter Bio: Connecting Farms to Institutions
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Alyssa Moles. Alyssa M. Moles is the Regional Farm to School Coordinator at The Food Trust in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. She works in six states and Washington, D.C., collaborating with a wide variety of partners and advocates to improve children’s health and strengthen family farms by increasing access to locally grown, healthy food in schools, and providing nutrition and agricultural education. She also works across the country providing training and technical assistance to schools interested in creating healthier and tastier school food options. Prior to joining The Food Trust team, Alyssa worked in Food Acquisition at Philabundance, one of the largest food banks in the Northeast, where she became intimately acquainted with acquisition and distribution systems. A graduate of the Culinary Institute of America, Alyssa has worked in kitchens in both Europe and the United States and has always advocated for strong farm to fork relationships. Alyssa brings a truly international perspective to the importance of local food pathways as a result of her service as a Peace Corps Volunteer in Chad where she focused on girls’ and women’s empowerment projects including maternal and child health and nutrition, diet diversification, food preservation and sustainable cooking methods. In addition to her work at The Food Trust, Alyssa teaches cooking classes at an urban farm in Philadelphia. She serves on the advisory board of the D.C. Farm to School Network and is on the Executive Committee of the National Farm to School Network. She is a member of Slow Food USA, the National Peace Corps Association and is also involved with School Food FOCUS. Alyssa currently lives in Philadelphia with her fiancé, a chef at a local restaurant, and her pug, Heidegger. She spends her free time cooking in a postage stamp-sized kitchen, gardening in window boxes and, as a native Texan, suffering through the Northeast’s long winters.