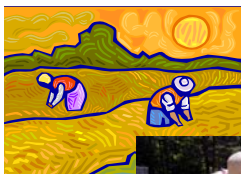


**USDA
Food and Nutrition Service
Farm To School**



Websites of Interest:

USDA, FNS Website:

<http://www.fns.usda.gov/fns/>

FNS, Farm to School Website:

<http://www.fns.usda.gov/cnd/F2S/Default.htm>

FNS, Farm to School Team website: [http://](http://www.fns.usda.gov/cnd/F2S/f2stacticalteam.htm)

www.fns.usda.gov/cnd/F2S/f2stacticalteam.htm

USDA, Know Your Farmer, Know Your Food Website:

<http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal/knowyourfarmer?navid=KNOWYOURFARMER>

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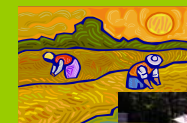
**USDA Food and Nutrition Service
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**USDA Food and Nutrition Service
Mid-Atlantic Region**



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Farm to School

What is the Farm to School Initiative?

The Farm to School initiative is an effort to



connect schools (K - 12) with regional or local farms in order to serve healthy meals using locally produced foods. Farm to School activities may vary from community to community depending upon demographics;

however, the basic goals remain the same:

- To meet the diverse needs of school nutrition programs in an efficient manner.
- To support regional and local farmers and thereby strengthen local food systems.
- To provide support for health and nutrition education.

The USDA's Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) is focusing on Farm to School efforts that incorporate regional and local farm products into school meal programs. Schools and communities may initiate and support a variety of Farm to School activities, including nutrition education, agriculture-related lessons and curriculum, school or community gardens, farm tours, taste testing, and parent/community educational sessions.

Farm to School

What is USDA's Involvement in Farm to School?

USDA recognizes the growing interest among school districts and communities to incorporate regionally and locally produced farm foods into the school nutrition programs. USDA is supporting Farm to School efforts through a number of initiatives, and continues to look for ways to help facilitate this important connection.

Recently, the USDA established "**Know Your Farmer, Know Your Food**," an initiative which focuses on the importance of understanding where our food comes from and how it gets to our plate. In response to the growing demand for Farm to School activities, the "USDA Farm to School Team" was developed out of the "Know Your Farmer, Know Your Food" Initiative.



Farm to School Team

The USDA Farm to School Team is comprised of both Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) and Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) staff members, and was created to support local and regional food systems by facilitating alliances between schools and their local food producers.

Working with local and state authorities, school districts, farmers, and community partners, the Team provides guidance to and develops mechanisms for:

Farm to School

- Assisting schools in accessing local markets.
- Enabling food producers to effectively service their local schools.
- Facilitating communication between interested stakeholders.

Long-term goals of the Team include:

- Providing access to resources and information on beginning and maintaining Farm to School activities for schools, farmers, and local community members.
- Providing technical assistance to assist schools and farmers in the development, progression, and/or sustainability of Farm to School activities.
- Identifying obstacles faced by schools and farmers in implementing and/or sustaining Farm to School activities and suggesting solutions.



USDA, FNS, MidAtlantic Region States:

District Of Columbia, Delaware, Maryland, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Puerto Rico, Virgin Islands, Virginia, West Virginia