

JERSEY FRESH™

Farm to School

A Quarterly Newsletter from the NJ Department of Agriculture

We ❤️ New Jersey Farmers

We want to celebrate NJ farmers working long hours to bring us local food, agricultural education, and joy. Are you an NJ farmer who is connecting with schools in the following areas – food served in school meals, field trips, and/or school visits? Do you know of farmers that are doing all of the above?

Applications for our NJ Farm to School Farmer Recognition Award 2024 are now open. [Click Here](#) to apply.

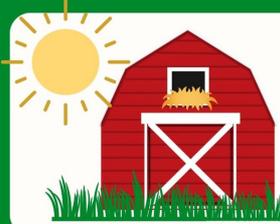


NJ SCHOOLS SUPPORTING LOCAL

The NJ Dept. of Agriculture, Division of Food & Nutrition has been awarded \$4,983,590 for the purchase of NJ grown/produced unprocessed or minimally processed food. [Click Here](#) to find out where schools have been purchasing from.

FARMER TRADING CARDS

Attention farmers - have you ever wanted to see your face on a trading card? Babe Ruth has nothing on our Jersey Farmers! Complete the [form](#) and be part of the league.



Farmer Trading Card

CLICK HERE



Tell us about yourself

Farm _____

Owner Name _____

Contact Info _____

Location _____ town _____ county _____

Crop Production _____

Favorite Crop _____

Favorite fruit or vegetable to eat _____

	Y / N
Does your farm sell to schools?	<input type="checkbox"/> Y <input type="checkbox"/> N
Offer school tours/field trips?	<input type="checkbox"/> Y <input type="checkbox"/> N
Farmer open to visiting schools?	<input type="checkbox"/> Y <input type="checkbox"/> N
Offer farm camps?	<input type="checkbox"/> Y <input type="checkbox"/> N
Host special events?	<input type="checkbox"/> Y <input type="checkbox"/> N

Please email form & picture to newjerseyf2s@ag.nj.gov

INFORMATION WILL BE DISPLAYED ON THE NJ FARM TO SCHOOL WEBSITE AND OTHER PROMOTIONAL MATERIALS

TOP TOMATO SPRING 2024

SHINING A SPOTLIGHT ON THOSE MAKING
A DIFFERENCE IN FARM TO SCHOOL

Cindy Sue Schaller
Food Service Director



In an interview with our Spring Top Tomato, Cindy Sue Schaller, Cindy Sue widened the spotlight to credit the amazing team she works alongside: Helen Calvello, Linda Edwards, Stephanie Pecorino, and Donald McNulty. Cindy also spoke of the grants and programs that have elevated their district food service program.

“The **Local Food for School Grant** has allowed us to introduce more fresh NJ farm fruits, veggies, eggs, and even meats from local farms. Our HS now features a few new popular entrées that include local products and are a huge hit on our lunch menu rotation.

- **Local Heirloom Tomato topped Pizza**
- **Griggstown Farm fresh Chicken Sausage with Mozzarella, Basil, and Roasted Tomatoes over Penne**
- **Zoodle Zucchini Pasta w/ Roasted Tomatoes and Chicken**

We receive student feedback. Students are enjoying varieties of fresh fruit and veggie sides with their meals too, including cucumbers, peppers, tomatoes, and lettuce, NJ fresh strawberries and blueberries

(part of the fruit and yogurt parfaits), NJ Fresh heirloom tomatoes, bib lettuce and cucumbers all included in the salads. Local cherry tomatoes, sliced tomatoes are part of our High School toppings bar and a recent Zoodle (local Zucchini) pesto pasta tasting for students.

‘Local Food for Schools is easy! We call it a triple win. It’s a win for kids. It’s a win for farmers, it’s a win for school and the community.’

Local Farm to school activities so far included:

- Applegarth Elementary celebrated National Nutrition Month with their own Wellness Week and featured local Jersey grown pea shoots as a school-wide tasting event during lunch!
- School garden/greenhouse education that ties to what’s being taught in the middle school classrooms
- Meals serving locally sourced products from NJ Farms = very popular all around”



NJDA Farm to School Workshops



FARM TO SCHOOL PD WORKSHOP

Farm to School & Sustainable Pathways Professional Development workshop registration is now open!

May 17, 2023 [Click Here](#) to register in North Jersey

May 22, 2023 [Click Here](#) to register in South Jersey

Join us for a day of project-based learning, where you will be designing a farm to school program to implement in your school/community.

Attendees will create actionable Farm to School programming, reflective of school/community culture and resources. Hands-on activities and small group collaboration will emphasize the incorporation of NJ Climate Change Learning Standards in all focal areas of Farm to School. Discussions and program planning will introduce climate-conscious recipe building, taste tests, school gardening, food and nutrition curriculum building, effective program marketing and communication, local partnerships, and more.

Jersey Tastes! Monthly Activity Center

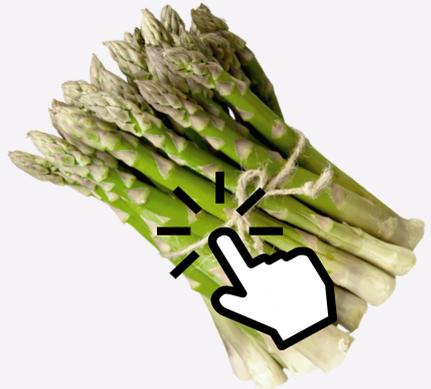
March



April



May



NJ DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
DIVISION OF FOOD & NUTRITION
JERSEY FRESH FARM TO SCHOOL PROGRAM

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