NEW JERSEY'S OFFICIAL STATE VEGETABLE - THE TOMATO

Ms. Hotz, a Family & Consumer Science teacher at Lenape H.S. in Medford, NJ, sought to have her students campaign the Department of Agriculture to change the controversial state vegetable. Isn’t the tomato a fruit? Well, we love our controversial fruit/vegetable, and were not about to replace our beloved tomato. Enter the “Jersey Tastes! Harvest of the Month Contest.” The students of Lenape H.S. lobbied for a new “Jersey Taste!” vegetable of the month. We were so impressed by the results, and we think you will be too. Check out the winning video by Rachel Lawrence [here].
“This is a once in a lifetime experience,” said one student at the Upper Pittsgrove School. How can one educator inspire such enthusiasm? Leevon Cogdill, an educator and creator of the “AG”venture Club has some answers. Create a club where the students will have an opportunity to build their own raised beds, hatch chickens, plant a take home salsa garden, and work on a farm cleaning pens, garden beds, and animals and you, in fact, have a once in a lifetime experience.

Leevon Cogdill’s “AG”venture Club’s impact extends beyond just the students in her club. The club has connected with local farmer, Benny Patten of Patten Farms. The “AG”venture Club students have researched Patten Farms & the asparagus grown on the farm. They have produced a promotional campaign for the farm including informational flyers and morning announcements. Mr. Patten’s asparagus, that he has donated to the school, will be served to the entire school during lunches as part of a taste test. And let’s not forget our math class, where the results will be tallied and graphed.

We know of one math problem that has already been solved, the “AG”venture Club has effected the school and community exponentially.
EXTRA! EXTRA! READ ALL ABOUT IT!

Green Hills School students feast on farm-to-table meal on inaugural ‘Chef Day’ See full article here.

School lunches get a healthy makeover in Camden through a partnership with local farms. See news clip & full article here.

FARM TO PRESCHOOL:

Do you want to start a Farm to Preschool program but don’t know where to start? The National Farm to School Network has you covered. The Roadmap for Farm to Early Childcare Education provides a guide to understanding farm to school opportunities in early care & education settings.

FARM TO SUMMER:

Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) meals are kicking off all over the state while schools are out. Click here to locate a summer meal site near you.

Jersey Tastes! Monthly Activity Center

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