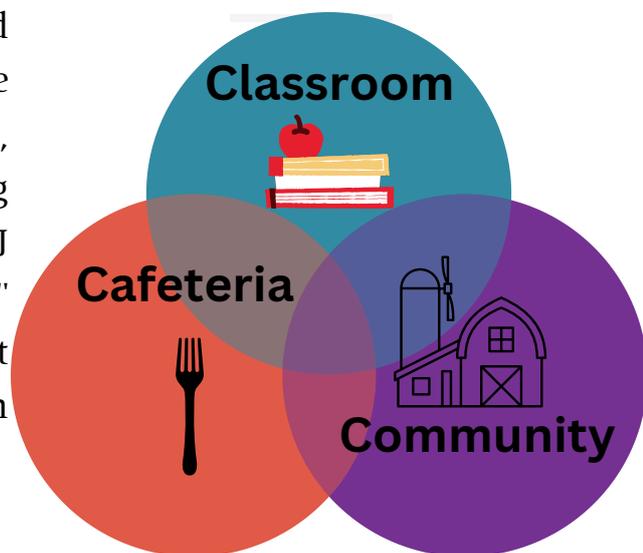




A Quarterly Newsletter from the NJ Department of Agriculture  
Farm to Everything Program

## APPLICATIONS NOW OPEN FOR "BEST IN NJ" AWARD

In schools across NJ, Jersey Fresh is being served in the Cafeteria. In the Classroom students are learning the science behind growing food, experimenting in the garden outside, and learning from their Community farmers. Each year the NJ Department of Agriculture awards the "Best in NJ" Farm to School to the school that most exemplifies the partnership and collaboration within the Cafeteria, Classroom, and Community.



To apply for the "Best of NJ:"

[CLICK HERE](#)



### Jersey Fresh Farm to School Spirit Week



Sept 23rd - 27th, 2024

#### Muddy Monday

- ✓ Plant seeds and watch them grow!



#### Tasting Tuesday

- ✓ Feature Jersey Fresh produce in a tasting or on the menu



#### Wellness Wednesday

- ✓ Become a "Farm to School" chef - use MyPlate and NJ Seasonality Chart & show us the menu you created



Tag us on Facebook and Instagram  
@farmtoschoolnj  
#f2sweek #jerseytastes  
or email your photos & stories to  
newjerseyf2s@ag.nj.gov



#### Traveling Thursday

- ✓ Map out how far your lunch food has traveled or plan a Farm to Table lunch using a NJ map

#### Farmer Friday

- ✓ Dress up as a farmer or tell us about your favorite NJ Farm or Farm Market



## JERSEY FRESH FARM TO SCHOOL WEEK SEPT. 23rd - 27th, 2024

It's not too early to start planning for back to school. September is Jersey Fresh Farm to School Spirit Week. Show us your Farm to School spirit! For more information:

[CLICK HERE](#)



# TOP TOMATO SUMMER 2024

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

**Toni Bowman**  
Director of Nutrition Services

Toni Bowman, Director of Nutrition Services for Pomptonian, is spearheading the Farm to School movement, setting a standard for others in the field. Her commitment to promoting NJ produce in schools goes beyond just serving meals - it's about fostering a deeper connection between students and their local food system. Some initiatives implemented by Toni and her team at Pomptonian include:



- **Nutrition News Video Series:** The series spotlights farms across New Jersey. Through engaging interviews with farmers, Toni aims to showcase the diversity and quality of produce available within NJ while educating students about the benefits of locally sourced.

Check out one of the Nutrition News videos hosted by Toni: [Blueberries](#).

- **Farm to Tray Program:** The Farm to Tray program incorporates NJ produce into school menus. Each month, they feature at least one local fruit and vegetable, giving students the opportunity to taste the produce our state has to offer.
- **Healthy School Lunch Challenge:** Students are encouraged to submit a healthy recipe that includes the fruit or vegetable of the month. This year the top three high school students competed at Kitchen 71, the Driscoll Kitchen.



Check out the video: [Healthy School Lunch Challenge Cook-Off](#)

- **Special Events:** Events like Earth Day celebrations further reinforce the commitment to promoting local produce and sustainable eating practices. Students were offered a plant-based meal that included local hummus on Earth Day. The celebration continued throughout the week with various applications of apples from Phillips Farm and spinach from Landisville Farm.





## New Jersey to Launch Farm to School Academy, Adapting Vermont's Successful Model

New Jersey is set to implement its own version of the acclaimed Farm to School Institute, drawing inspiration from Vermont's proven model. Come June 2025, the Garden State will inaugurate a NJ Farm to School Academy, aiming to cultivate robust farm to school programs statewide.

The decision to adapt Vermont FEED's successful approach stems from its track record of building sustainable initiatives within the school and community. By involving entire school teams, the model ensures a comprehensive integration of Farm to School practices across classrooms, cafeterias, and neighborhoods

The NJ Farm to School Academy will not only provide resources and training but also emphasize the importance of collaboration among participating schools. By fostering a shared sense of responsibility and a network of support, the program aims to create a lasting impact on school food systems and student well-being.

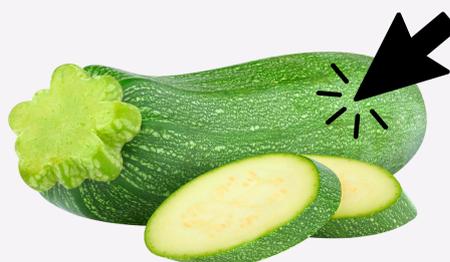
[Vermont FEED's Farm to School Institute](#)

## Jersey Tastes! Monthly Activity Center

**June**



**July**



**August**



NJ DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
 DIVISION OF FOOD & NUTRITION  
 JERSEY FRESH FARM TO SCHOOL PROGRAM  
 P.O. BOX 334  
 TRENTON, NJ 08625  
 PHONE: 609.292.8662



**NEW JERSEY**  
 DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE



TAG US ON  
 FACEBOOK AND INSTAGRAM  
 @FARMTOSCHOOLNJ



#F2SWEEK #JERSEYTASTES  
 OR EMAIL YOUR PHOTOS & STORIES TO  
 NEWJERSEYF2S@AG.NJ.GOV