



## State of New Jersey

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
DIVISION OF FOOD AND NUTRITION  
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To: All public and private School Food Authorities that participate in the National School Lunch Program

From: Erin Maguire, Farm to School Program Coordinator,  
NJ Department of Agriculture, Division of Food & Nutrition

Date: September 17, 2019

Subject: The United States Department of Agriculture  
2019 Farm to School Census

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) has contracted with Abt Associates Inc. to conduct the 2019 Farm to School Census (2019 Census). This Census will survey all public and private school food authorities (SFAs) that participate in the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) in all 50 States. Like the 2013 and 2015 Farm to School Censuses, the 2019 Census will gather information about the use of local foods in schools and other farm to school activities. **NOTE: Even if a district did not conduct any Farm to School activities in SY2018-2019, their completion of the census is still important for the most accurate report of total Nationwide activity.**

**Data collection for the 2019 Census will begin in September 2019.** SFA directors will be asked to complete one short web survey (sent to them via email) in order to provide information about local sourcing and farm to school activities. The Farm to School Census will be completed online and respondents can save progress and complete the survey later. **The last day to report data is November 4.**

If an SFA has lost the email with the link, that individual can email [farmtoschool@abtassoc.com](mailto:farmtoschool@abtassoc.com) to have it re-sent to them. SFAs should also add that email address to their address books to assure that the recruitment emails will not go to their spam (“junk”) folders. In addition to the above email address, respondents can call toll-free at 855-452-5794 (from 9 am to 9 pm ET) with any questions.

**Thank you in advance for your participation in the 2019 Farm to School Census!**

**Questions Please Contact:**

Erin Maguire  
Farm to School Coordinator  
NJ Department of Agriculture  
Division of Food and Nutrition  
Tel: 609-292-8662  
Email: [NewJerseyF2S@ag.nj.gov](mailto:NewJerseyF2S@ag.nj.gov)

Please see **[Frequently Asked Questions](#)** and **[Farm to School Census Preparation Worksheet](#)**

## Frequently Asked Questions:

### What is Farm to School?

Farm to school enriches the connection communities have with fresh, healthy food and local food producers by changing food purchasing and education practices at schools and early care and education sites. Farm to school empowers children and their families to make informed food choices while strengthening the local economy and contributing to vibrant communities.

Farm to school implementation differs by location but always includes one or more of the following three core elements:

1. Procurement: Local foods are purchased, promoted and served in the cafeteria, as a snack or in classroom taste-tests.
2. Education: Students participate in education activities related to agriculture, food, health and nutrition.
3. School gardens: Students engage in hands-on, experiential learning through gardening.

To learn more about farm to school visit:

- <http://www.farmtoschool.org/about/what-is-farm-to-school>
- <https://www.farmtoschool.nj.gov/>

### What information to have ready before completing the 2019 Census?

- The School Food Administrator (SFA)'s definition of local;
  - The amount of money spent on local purchases;
  - the most common products purchased locally;
  - the sources of local products;
  - benefits and challenges of participating in farm to school;
  - the number and use of edible school gardens within the SFA; and,
  - the number of salad bars within an SFA.
- **Please refer to Farm to School Census Preparation Worksheet to better prepare for the 2019 Census**

### How is the Census Used?

- Academic Research
- Policy Making
- Promoting Local Procurement
- Educating families on their school's support for local food
- Schools applying for Farm to School Grants
- USDA and NJDA uses Farm to School Census data for future planning

**Curious about the 2015 Farm to School Census results?** Check out the data here:

<https://farmtoschoolcensus.fns.usda.gov/> where you can explore data at the SFA, State agency, or national level.

**More Questions?** Contact the NJ Department of Agriculture Farm to School Coordinator at:

[NewJerseyF2S@ag.nj.gov](mailto:NewJerseyF2S@ag.nj.gov) or 609-292-8662.

## FARM TO SCHOOL CENSUS PREPARATION WORKSHEET

This optional worksheet is designed to help you gather information you will be asked as part of the Census. It will assist you with being able to more quickly complete the survey. Please use this tool to gather information from schools, other departments, staff, or vendors before filling out the Census. The worksheet can be discarded after the Census is completed.

Census Question	Your response
Q7. How many schools in your SFA had <b>salad bars</b> during the 2018-2019 school year?	
Q8. How many of the salad bars served local products?	
Q22. During the 2018-2019 school year, what grades participated in farm to school activities? [Check all that apply.]	<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-K and younger <input type="checkbox"/> K through 5 <sup>th</sup> grade <input type="checkbox"/> 6 <sup>th</sup> grade to 8 <sup>th</sup> grade <input type="checkbox"/> 9 <sup>th</sup> grade to 12 <sup>th</sup> grade
Q24. How many of the schools participating in farm to school activities during the 2018-2019 school year <u>served local food of any kind</u> ?	
Q25. How many of the schools participating in farm to school activities during the 2018-2019 school year <u>provided food, nutrition and agricultural education</u> ?	
Q29. How many schools in your SFA had <b>edible school gardens</b> during the 2018-2019 school year?	
Q35. Please list the top 5 specific LOCAL FOOD items your SFA purchased in 2018-2019, based on TOTAL DOLLARS spent. Please record each item and how much was spent on that local food item.	1. Food: Amount Spent: 2. Food: Amount Spent: 3. Food: Amount Spent: 4. Food: Amount Spent: 5. Food: Amount Spent:
Q37. For the 2018-2019 school year, what were your SFA's approximate <b>TOTAL</b> food (local and nonlocal) costs (in dollars)? <u>Please give your best approximation and do not include the value of USDA Foods or USDA DoD Fresh.</u>	\$

Census Question	Your response
Q38. For the 2018-2019 school year, about how much of your total food purchases (in dollars) were spent on <b>LOCAL</b> foods INCLUDING fluid milk?	\$
Q39. For the 2018-2019 school year, about how much did you spend on <b>LOCAL fluid milk ONLY</b> (in dollars)?	\$
Q40. For the 2018-2019 school year, what were your SFA's approximate <b>LOCAL</b> food costs (in dollars) for USDA DoD Fresh ONLY? (Do not count USDA Foods)	\$
Q41. For the 2018-2019 school year, what were your SFA's approximate food costs (in dollars) for USDA DoD Fresh ONLY? (Do not count USDA Foods)	\$
Q46a. Number of full time PAID staff dedicated to farm to school efforts in your SFA (Full time is defined as at least 40 hours in one week)	
Q46b. Number of part time PAID staff who use some portion of their time for farm to school in your SFA (Part time is defined as less than 40 hours in one week; this does not include volunteers)	

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