



*A Quarterly Newsletter from the NJ Department of Agriculture*

## BEST OF FARM TO SCHOOL AWARD 2024- 2025

### “The Cranbury School”

The New Jersey Department of Agriculture has honored Cranbury School in Middlesex County with the “Best of Farm to School Award,” presented during the 15th annual Jersey Fresh Farm to School Week and Third Annual Ag Literacy Week, held September 22–26, 2025.

NJDA Secretary Ed Wengryn praised Cranbury School for its commitment to teaching students where their food comes from and for investing in innovative hydroponic and aquaponic systems. He also recognized Pomptonian Foodservice for its role in providing fresh, locally sourced meals that support the school’s farm-to-school mission.



Cranbury School received the award for its strong use of New Jersey-grown products in school meals and for offering hands-on agricultural learning opportunities. Through aquaponic and hydroponic gardens on campus, students gain firsthand experience with food production, reinforcing the health and environmental benefits of eating locally sourced, farm-fresh foods.

“Here in Cranbury, we have made agricultural education part of the student experience,” said Dr. Jennifer Diszler, Superintendent and Principal. “This connection brings the classroom to the lunchroom, making farm-to-school education truly come to life.”

# JERSEY FRESH FARM TO SCHOOL FARMER RECOGNITION AWARD



## “Norz Hill Farm & Market”

The New Jersey Department of Agriculture recognized Norz Hill Farm and Market in Hillsborough with the Farmer Recognition Farm to School Award during the 15th annual Jersey Fresh Farm to School Week. The award highlights the farm’s leadership in supplying local produce to schools and advancing agricultural education.

NJDA Secretary Ed Wengryn praised owner Debbie Norz for her dedication to bringing Jersey Fresh products to students. Norz Hill Farm has helped increase student awareness of farming, improved the quality of school meals, and expanded outreach on the nutritional value of fresh produce through innovative, consistent partnerships.



A 1,200-acre, multi-generational family farm, Norz Hill offers a wide range of products and seasonal activities while emphasizing sustainability and hands-on learning. The farm partners with local districts, including Hillsborough High School and the Manville School District, strengthening New Jersey’s Farm to School Program.

“We are grateful to be recognized for our efforts in sourcing local food for our schools and for our school education tours,” said Debbie Norz.

Jersey Fresh Farm to School Week, held each year in late September, celebrates collaborations that bring New Jersey-grown fruits and vegetables into school meals and promote healthier eating habits.





# NJ Farm to School Academy Pilot

The New Jersey Department of Agriculture has awarded a Farm to School Academy Pilot scholarship to four dedicated school teams, recognizing their commitment to building a comprehensive Farm to School strategic plan.

The Academy brings together educators, nutrition staff, administrators, and community partners to create lasting, school-based change that strengthens student nutrition, learning, and engagement with local food systems. This scholarship highlights the Department's ongoing commitment to empowering teams to lead innovative, community-rooted Farm to School efforts across the state. To learn more about the [NJ Farm to School Academy Pilot](https://www.nj.gov/agriculture) visit our website.



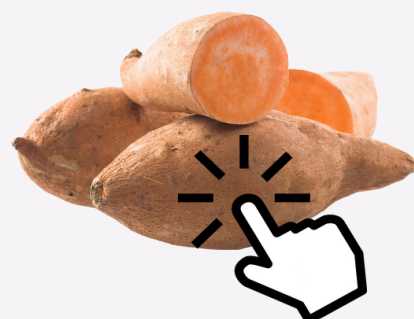


# Jersey Tastes! Monthly Activity Center

December

January

February



## Coming This Spring: Jersey Fresh Taste Kitchen - A Farm to School Workshop

Farm to School will be hosting hands-on professional development workshops focused on bringing more Jersey Fresh ingredients into your school menus. Jersey Fresh Taste Kitchen will guide participants through four interactive stations featuring FFVP educational connections, Farm to School event planning, recipe development using USDA Foods, and sustainable, plant-forward cooking.

If you're already subscribed to our newsletter, you'll automatically receive full details and registration information as the event approaches.

Know someone who would benefit from this training? Encourage them to sign up for our newsletter so they don't miss updates, dates, and registration opportunities. Sign up here: [Farm to School Newsletter](#)



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