

School Nutrition Update

September 11-15, 2023



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Program Operations Information

Register for a Farm to School Bootcamp Workshop

There are many ways your School Nutrition Program can participate in farm to school. Make plans now to join the N.C. Department of Public Instruction (NCDPI) and the N.C. Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services (NCDA&CS) for an interactive workshop that will help you start or enhance the participation of your public school unit (PSU) in farm to school. Whether you have been buying local foods for years or are just getting started, this workshop will have something for you. [Register](#) now for one of the workshops listed below. Registration will be limited to three attendees per PSU. The registration deadline is October 13. We look forward to seeing you at this exciting and informative workshop!

- October 19
A & T University Farm Pavilion, 3020 McConnell Rd., Greensboro
- October 25
Union County Public Schools Transportation Center, 3319 Goldmine Rd., Monroe
- October 26
Hoke County Schools Digital Learning Center, 311 North Bethel Rd., Raeford
- November 1
Wilkes County Schools Board of Education, 613 Cherry St., North Wilkesboro
- November 2
Haywood County Public Schools, 3157 Broad St., Clyde
- November 7
University of Mount Olive, 408 Garner Chapel Rd., Mt. Olive
- November 8
Deans Farm, 4231 N.C. HWY 42, Wilson
- November 9
Bob Martin Agriculture Center, 2900 NC-125, Williamston

For questions or more information, contact:

- Heather Eatmon, NCDA&CS, Food Distribution, Field Services, Administrative Assistant, heather.eatmon@ncagr.gov,
- Gary Gay, gary.gay@dpi.nc.gov, NCDPI Farm to School Consultant, or
- Cindy Marion, cindy.marion@dpi.nc.gov, NCDPI Farm to School Consultant.



Save the Date – SummerPalooza! – New Location Added

The N.C. Department of Public Instruction (NCDPI), Summer Nutrition Program team is already planning ahead for Summer 2024. See below for dates and locations for upcoming SummerPalooza! Summits. Plan to attend one of the summits near you. Stay tuned to the School Nutrition Update for more info.



- November 28 – Western - Hickory Metro Convention Center, 1960 13th Ave. Drive SE, Hickory
- November 29 – Central - McKimmon Center, 1101 Gorman St., Raleigh
- November 30 – Eastern – Eastern AHEC, 2600 W Arlington Blvd, Greenville

Check Out the Food Buying Guide for Child Nutrition Programs

The [Food Buying Guide for Child Nutrition Programs](#) (FBG) is the go-to resource for determining the amount of food to purchase and the contribution that foods make toward meal pattern requirements. New food yield data continues to be added, with the latest additions being brown lentils, individually quick-frozen (IQF) red beans, IQF black beans, IQF pinto beans, roasted soybeans, roasted chickpeas, fresh oranges, grape tomatoes, ready-to-use diced and sliced onions, and frozen cubed sweet potatoes. The FBG has also been updated to increase the diversity of foods listed, including traditional Indigenous foods, such as bison, tepary beans, and salmonberries. When a user searches for one of these food items, yield data will display for that similar food. Users may use that data to determine how the food meets meal pattern requirements. Check it out and explore all the features the FBG has to offer!



School Nutrition Spotlight

Recognizing USDA Farm to School Grantees

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) recently announced that it is awarding \$10.7 million in 2023 [Patrick Leahy Farm to School Grants](#) to fund 103 projects across the country. These investments will help 1.2 million children from nearly 3,000 schools in 40 States and the territory of Guam eat tasty, nutritious local foods, while supporting farmers and producers in their communities. This year USDA is celebrating the 10th anniversary of the Farm to School Grant Program! Since the program's inception in 2013, the department has awarded nearly \$85 million in Farm to School Grants, funding more than 1,100 projects across all 50 states, the District of Columbia, U.S. Virgin Islands, Guam, and Puerto Rico. These projects have reached over 28 million students in nearly 65,000 schools.

In North Carolina, the Appalachian Sustainable Agriculture Project (ASAP) and partners across Haywood County received a 2023 Farm to School Grant to adapt existing Farm to School (F2S) curriculum to serve high school students in Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs. Partnerships for this project include the School Nutrition Director and CTE Director of Haywood County Schools, Haywood Cooperative Extension,

Haywood Cooperative Extension, Haywood Community College, and a local farmer supplying Haywood County Schools. As a result of this collaboration, student coursework will be enriched through first-hand local food and farm experiences, increasing consumption of local food, igniting student’s interest in agricultural careers, and building connections across their cafeteria, classroom, and community.

Farm to School Grant projects create opportunities for children to learn about nutrition and agriculture through hands-on experiences, such as planting, watering, and harvesting fruits, vegetables and herbs. Many funded grant projects also provide a pathway for more children to achieve nutrition security, which is the consistent and equitable access to healthy, safe, and affordable foods essential to optimal health and well-being. For more information on how your community can get involved in Farm to School activities, please visit the Farm to School Program [website](#).

Follow/Like Us on Social Media

Did you know you could find the NCDPI, Office of School Nutrition on social media? Follow or like our pages - @NCSchoolMeals and @Ray4NCKids on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

Share Your School Nutrition Photos

The NCDPI, Office of School Nutrition wants to highlight the appealing, wholesome, quality meals our School and Summer Nutrition Programs across the state offer to students. Share your beautiful photos of serving lines and complete school or summer meals with us. Please send to Tracey Bates, NCDPI School Nutrition Promotion Specialist, at tracey.bates@dpi.nc.gov. Make sure to include the school and district or organization info so we can aim to credit the source. Be on the lookout for photos of meals from across the state on social media.



Cabarrus County Schools

Send in Articles or Topics of Interest for the School Nutrition Update E-letter

If you have a resource, grant, job opportunity, continuing education event, award announcement, shout out or other news item for the School Nutrition Update, please send a brief article (250 words or less) to Tracey Bates, tracey.bates@dpi.nc.gov, by **12 pm on the Wednesday** prior to when the SN Update is sent out the following week. Please include “**SN Update**” in the email subject line. If there are topics of interest you would also like to see included, please share as well.

Grant Opportunity

2024 CHS Foundation Classroom Grant Application – Due 9/15

The CHS Foundation provides \$500 grants each year to pre-kindergarten to 12th grade teachers who have classroom projects that use agricultural concepts to teach reading, writing, math, science, social studies, and more. Eligible projects include classroom and schoolyard gardens, embryology projects, aquaculture projects, and agricultural literacy reading programs to name a few. Teachers have until June 1 the following year to

complete the project and submit a final report. Only-state certified classroom teachers employed by a school district or private school teachers are eligible to apply. Share this opportunity with your teachers. [Learn more.](#)

Learn about the Farm to School Technical Assistance Cooperative Agreement – Deadline 10/10

The Patrick Leahy Farm to School Program is proud to announce the release of the FY 2024 Farm to School Technical Assistance Cooperative Agreement Request for Applications (RFA). This RFA supports the Farm to School Program’s ability to provide technical assistance to farm to school stakeholders; expand farm to school activity nationwide; and contribute to the accomplishment of three USDA priorities: Food System Transformation, Improving Child Health Through Nutritious School Meals, and Indigenous Food Sovereignty. USDA will fund up to four total applicants using three tracks: Supporting Community Engagement, Supporting Tribal Engagement, and Supporting Producer Engagement. Eligible applicants include 501(c)3 non-profit organizations and Indian Tribal Organizations (ITOs). USDA will award approximately \$3 million in Farm to School Cooperative Agreement funds. Applications are due October 10, 2023. [Learn more.](#)

Apply for N.C. Farm Bureau Going Local Grants – Deadline 11/15

The N.C. Farm Bureau is happy to provide agricultural outreach grants to North Carolina teachers through their Ag in the Classroom Going Local program. These grants value up to \$500. Going Local Grants help educators provide Pre-K through collegiate-level students with valuable, real-world education and experiences directly related to the agricultural industry and the N.C. Standard Course of Study. Educators practicing in private and public North Carolina schools, colleges, and universities are encouraged to apply. [Learn more.](#)

Nutrition Education & Promotion

Provide Input on Draft N.C. Health and Physical Education Standards – Due 9/18

The N.C. State Board of Education, Standard Course of Study Manual specifies that NCDPI will formally collect feedback from educators, administrators, parents, students, institutions of higher education, business/industry representatives, national organizations, and other education agencies on each draft of the revised N.C. K-12 Health and Physical Education Standards. A survey has been released to gather feedback on the first draft of the proposed 2023 N.C. K-12 Health and Physical Education Standards. The purpose of this survey is to obtain input from all stakeholders regarding the proposed standards and to inform any additional revisions, which may include changes, clarifications, additions, deletions, or replacements to the draft standards. The surveys close on September 18, 2023. Your feedback is extremely valuable to the Healthful Living standards revision process.

For a copy of the Draft 1 Standards, please use the links below and open the Healthful Living tab:

- [Health Education Standards - Draft 1](#)
- [Physical Education Standards - Draft 1](#)

For access to the feedback surveys, please use the links below:

- [2023 Stakeholder K-5 Health Education Draft 1 Standard by Standard Survey](#)

- [2023 Stakeholder 6-9 Health Education Draft 1 Standard by Standard Survey](#)
- [2023 Stakeholder K-9 Physical Education Draft 1 Standard by Standard Survey](#)

Adopt a Cow for Your Class or School

Forget the guinea pig. How about adopting a 1,500-pound dairy cow for your class or school mascot? Do not worry about finding a pen big enough to hold her. The photos and stories you will receive about her life on the farm will make her come alive for your students!



The free Discover Dairy “Adopt a Cow” program is an exciting, year-long experience for students. Throughout the program, you will get an inside look at dairy farming and be paired with a calf from a working dairy farm in the United States. You will find out what her name is, when her birthday is, where she lives, and how the farmer takes care of her. You will also receive progress updates, photos of the cow, live chats from the farm, activity sheets for your students, suggested lessons that follow Common CORE standards, and even opportunities to write letters to your calf! All updates are easily accessible via an online portal and app for Apple and Android.

Registration for this school year ends September 15. Please share this opportunity with your School Nutrition teams and teachers. Join the moo-vement that has impacted 1+ million students across the globe! [Learn more.](#)

Turnip the Beet Award 2023! – Deadline Extended to 9/14

The deadline to submit Turnip the Beet Award applications to NCDPI has been extended to **September 14 at 5 pm**. The Turnip the Beet nomination form must be completed and submitted along with a detailed one-month menu. No more than five (5) supporting documents can be submitted. Submit 2023 Turnip the Beet Award applications to NCDPI at summernutritionprogram@dpi.nc.gov.



TURNIP THE BEET
with high quality summer meals!

The Turnip the Beet Award, from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Food and Nutrition Service (FNS), recognizes outstanding Summer Meal Program sponsors who work hard to offer high quality meals that are appetizing, appealing, and nutritious. All Summer Meal Programs sponsors in good standing, including Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) sponsors and National School Lunch Program Seamless Summer Option (SSO) sponsors, may be eligible for a Turnip the Beet Award. Sponsors may self-nominate or be nominated by another party. More details, including the nomination form, scoring rubric, and a one-pager are accessible from the NCDPI, Office of School Nutrition [website](#).

Continuing Education

Participate in the Food Hub Feasibility Study Webinar Series

The Saratoga Cornell Cooperative Extension (CCE) USDA Food Hub Feasibility Study Webinar Series will be of interest to all who are in any way connected to our food supply – farmers, farmers markets, supermarkets, food banks, etc. The Food Hub Feasibility Study webinar series explores the findings of a study conducted by Saratoga CCE, which was funded by the USDA’s 2021 Local Food Promotion Program grant. Through research, analysis,

and on-the-ground work, this study details available and potential markets for local foods. They offer recommendations to best service the local food system that considers farm to institution, distribution, infrastructure, food access, the emergency food system, and climate change.

- Proof of Concept Food Hub and Farm to School - September 6, 12 pm EST
- Food Access - September 13, 12 pm EST
- Distribution, Markets, and Emissions - September 20, 12 pm EST
- Infrastructure Expansion - September 27, 12 pm EST

Each webinar is designed to stand alone, but the full inter-disciplinary picture of the food system is best seen through the full series. Links will be emailed to registered participants. [Learn more and register.](#)

Access Virtual Training Opportunities

The Institute of Child Nutrition (ICN) has compiled [resources to help prevent the spread of the Coronavirus](#). Online food safety/HACCP training is available on the NCDPI, School Nutrition [website](#) and the ICN [website](#). Additional continuing education resources are available on the School Nutrition [website](#) from NCDPI, ICN, the School Nutrition Association and other agencies and organizations. The Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics offers [continuing professional education resources](#) for Registered Dietitians/Nutritionists (RDNs) and Dietetic Technicians, Registered (DTRs).

Questions

If you have any questions regarding these updates, please reach out to your [regional consultants](#).

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To file a program discrimination complaint, a Complainant should complete a Form AD-3027, USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form which can be obtained [online](#), from any USDA office, by calling (866) 632-9992, or by writing a letter addressed to USDA. The letter must contain the complainant's name, address, telephone number, and a written description of the alleged discriminatory action in sufficient detail to inform the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights (ASCR) about the nature and date of an alleged civil rights violation. The completed AD-3027 form or letter must be submitted to USDA by:

- (1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20250-9410;
- (2) (833) 256-1665 or (202) 690-7442; or
- (3) email: program.intake@usda.gov.

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