

# School Nutrition Update

August 1-5, 2022



## ***In this Issue:***

### **Program Operations Information**

- Utilize Crediting Tip Sheets from USDA
- Spotlight - School Meal Supply Chain Report Problems & Solutions

### **School Nutrition Spotlight**

- Smile for Summer Meals with Brunswick County Schools
- Share your School and Summer Meal Photos
- Send in Articles for the School Nutrition Update E-letter

### **Nutrition Education & Promotion**

- Find #NCFarmtoSummer Resources!
- Check Out School Year 2022-23 Menu Templates

### **Continuing Education**

- Standardize Recipes – 8/4, 3 pm ET
- Track It! How to Make Your Farm to School Efforts Count
- Access Virtual Training Resources

---

# Program Operations Information

---

## **Utilize Crediting Tip Sheets from USDA**

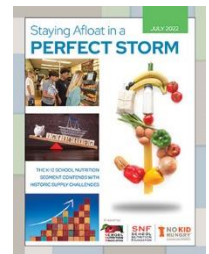
Many products, like fruits and vegetables, are at their peak during the summer. Think fresh berries, peaches, watermelon, tomatoes, cucumbers, zucchini and more! Utilize handy tip sheets on crediting from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) to help you make the most of reimbursable meals for your Summer Nutrition Programs and School Nutrition Programs. [Learn more.](#)



---

## **Spotlight - School Meal Supply Chain Report Problems & Solutions**

As back-to-school season approaches, a new report from the national School Nutrition Association (SNA) chronicles the continued supply chain and labor crisis impacting school meal programs nationwide and the strategies School Nutrition professionals employ to ensure students continue to receive healthy meals. "Staying Afloat in a Perfect Storm" details insights from a series of listening sessions with 274 school meal program operators, K-12 industry representatives and State Agency officials. [Learn more.](#)



---

# School Nutrition Spotlight

---

## **Listen to Good News from Wilson County Schools!**

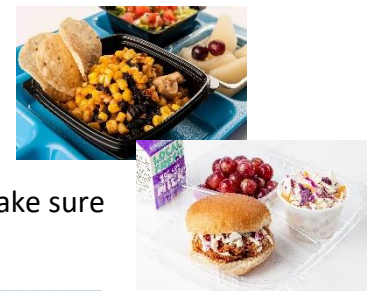
The Good News Awards recently returned to the Wilson County Board of Education's regular monthly meetings. During the July meeting, the Board recognized three cafeteria managers - Natasha McKeel from Rock Ridge Elementary, Emily Bunn from Fike High, and Ginger Crocker from Jones Elementary (pictured left to right) - for their first place finishes in the Culinary Arts Competition at the School Nutrition Association of North Carolina State Conference. Congratulations!



---

## **Share your School and Summer Meal Photos**

The NCDPI, School Nutrition Division wants to highlight the appealing, wholesome, quality meals our School and Summer Nutrition Programs across the state offer to students each day. Share your beautiful photos of serving lines and complete school breakfast or school lunch meals with us. Please send those to Tracey Bates, School Nutrition Promotion Specialist, at [tracey.bates@dpi.nc.gov](mailto:tracey.bates@dpi.nc.gov). Make sure to include the school and district info so we can aim to credit the source.



---

## **Send in Articles 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 SN Update, please send a brief article (250 words or less) to Tracey Bates, [tracey.bates@dpi.nc.gov](mailto:tracey.bates@dpi.nc.gov), by 12 pm on the Wednesday prior to when the SN Update is sent out the following week. Include "SN Update" in the email subject line.

# Nutrition Education & Promotion

## Find #NCFarmtoSummer Resources!

Everyone is encouraged to take the #NCFarmtoSummerChallenge any time during the summer by completing one or more of the following steps: 1) Serve locally grown foods in meals and/or snacks, 2) Teach or learn about local food, agriculture and/or nutrition, 3) Post or share about farm to summer activities, and 4) Sign up for the [#NCCrunch](#) for Farm to School Month. Sign up for the N.C. Farm to Summer Challenge and be entered to win a N.C. Farm to Summer resource kit with storybooks, activity guides, calendars and more.

- Find the #NCFarmtoSummer sign-up, a toolkit with tips and resources, and more on the NCDPI, Office of School Nutrition [website](#). New for this year – social media graphics, a flyer, and bingo activity sheet are available to help you with farm to summer activities.
- Follow produce from the field to school or summer meals in [storybooks, activity guides and posters](#) on fruits and veggies from the N.C. Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services, N.C. Farm to School Program.
- Learn how to grow, choose, store, prepare, and teach about fruits and veggies grown in North Carolina and served in school meals in [40 fact sheets](#) available from the NCDPI, Office of School Nutrition.
- Check out [lesson plans and Ag Mags](#) from the N.C. Farm to Bureau, Ag in the Classroom.
- Learn more about items in season from the N.C. Cooperative Extension 10% Campaign [resources](#).
- Utilize [Harvest of the Month resources](#) from the Carolina Hunger Initiative.
- Take a virtual field trip to the [Lomax Incubator Farm](#), [N.C. State University Dairy Farm](#) or [N.C. State Farmers Market](#).



Purchasing and serving locally grown foods at their peak improves the quality and nutrient value of meals, can increase program participation, be more economical, and support farmers and the local community. Farm to summer activities can be engaging and fun for students, families, and staff! We can't wait to hear about your farm to summer activities. Use #NCFarmtoSummer and tag @Ray4NCKids and @NCSchoolMeals with your social media posts.

## Check Out School Year 2022-23 Menu Templates

Menu templates are now available for the start of the 2022-23 school year – August, September, and October. More menu templates will be available for the remainder of the school year as we have the themes and materials for National School Breakfast Week, National Nutrition Month and more. You can access the menu templates from the NCDPI, Office of School Nutrition [website](#). Please note that the templates are in two formats – one for elementary geared toward families and one for middle and high school geared toward students. We hope these resources will be helpful to you.



---

## Continuing Education

---

### ***Standardize Recipes - 8/4, 3 pm ET***

The USDA, Food and Nutrition Service and the Culinary Institute of Child Nutrition (CICN) just released a new resource for standardizing School Nutrition recipes. Check out the new [Recipe Standardization Guide for School Nutrition Programs](#). Join USDA and CICN for a webinar overview of this new resource, including a discussion on the benefits of standardized recipes and the three-phase approach to the recipe standardization process at 3 pm ET on August 4. [Learn more and register](#).

---

### ***Track It! How to Make Your Farm to School Efforts Count***

This USDA Seeding Success Series webinar discusses the importance of tracking local food purchases. USDA fiscal year 2020 Farm to School State Agency Grant awardee, the Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets, shared their state approach to assessing tracking strategies and implementing new tools and systems for data collection. [Watch this recorded webinar here](#).

---

### ***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 [COVID-19 professional resources](#) for Registered Dietitians/Nutritionists (RDs) and Dietetic Technicians, Registered (DTRs), and [continuing professional education resources](#).

---

## Questions

---

If you have any questions regarding these updates, please reach out to your regional consultants.

### **USDA Nondiscrimination Statement**

In accordance with federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex (including gender identity and sexual orientation), disability, age, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity.

Program information may be made available in languages other than English. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication to obtain program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotope, American Sign Language), should contact the responsible state or local agency that administers the program or USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339.

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](mailto:program.intake@usda.gov).

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.