

School Nutrition Update

October 3-7, 2022



In this Issue:

Program Operations Information

- Check Out Eligibility and Verification Resources
- Review Newly Released National Strategy on Hunger, Nutrition, and Health

School Nutrition Spotlight

- Engaging Students in Orange County for #NCFarmtoSummer
- MOOving for Milk
- Share Your School and Summer Meal Photos
- Send in Articles for the School Nutrition Update E-letter

Grant Opportunity

- Collaborate for the Community Food Projects Competitive Grant – Due 10/7
- Inspire Students with Budding Botanist Grant – Due 10/14
- Apply for the Whole Kids Foundation Bee Grant – Due 10/15

Farm to School

- Read Along with Superintendent Truitt – Digging for Sweetpotatoes
- Follow Produce from the Field to School Meal
- Is Your County Ready to Crunch?
- Learn about Farm to School

Continuing Education

- Become a Professional Standards Training Tracker Tool Pro – 10/4, 2 pm ET
- Access Virtual Training Resources

Program Operations Information

Check Out Eligibility and Verification Resources

The NCDPI, Office of School Nutrition recently offered webinars on Determining Free & Reduced Price Meal Eligibility and Verification. The *Determining Free & Reduced Price Meal Eligibility for SY 2022-23* webinar was held on August 31, 2022. The presentation has since been re-recorded and is now available for your use. IMPORTANT NOTE: The full presentation was divided into three (3) parts and there is a video for each part. Links to each recording, the PowerPoint handout, and other Eligibility resources are available on the School Nutrition website on the [Determining Eligibility Continuing Education Resources page](#). The webinar, *Verification: Guidance for Conducting the Annual Verification Process for SY 2022-23* (held on September 27, 2022), was recorded and is now available to you. A link to the recording, the PowerPoint handout, and the *Important Dates for the Verification Process* handout have been posted on the School Nutrition [website](#).

If you have any issues or need assistance with accessing these resources on the website, please contact Donna Knight, donna.knight@dpi.nc.gov. For other Determining Eligibility or Verification questions and assistance, please contact your Zone Consultant or Jacquelyn McGowan, jacquelyn.mcgowan@dpi.nc.gov.

Review Newly Released National Strategy on Hunger, Nutrition, and Health

On October 28, 2022, the White House Conference on Hunger, Nutrition and Health brought together Americans from all walks of life to discuss how we can build a healthier and more equitable future for our nation. Learn more about the [conference](#), watch the conference [sessions](#), or read the [National Strategy](#) with actions the federal government will take to drive solutions to end hunger, improve nutrition and physical activity, and decrease diet-related chronic diseases disparities.



The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) released “Leveraging the White House Conference to Promote and Elevate Nutrition Security: The Role of the USDA Food and Nutrition Service” to highlight ways FNS is supporting – and will continue to support – the President’s goal to end hunger, reduce diet-related diseases by improving healthy eating and physical activity, and eliminate disparities surrounding them by 2030. FNS’s work aligns closely with the National Strategy, which outlines steps the government will take, while calling on the public and private sector to address the intersections between food, hunger, nutrition, and health. [Learn more](#).

School Nutrition Spotlight

Engaging Students in Orange County for #NCFarmtoSummer

The NCDPI, Office of School Nutrition in conjunction with the Farm to School Coalition of North Carolina is highlighting success stories from the 2022 #NCFarmtoSummer Challenge. Our fourth success story highlights Orange County Schools.

The Orange County School Nutrition Program had enthusiastic students serving as interns over the summer. The student interns read children's books, offered corresponding food crafts, and planned energizing physical fitness activities with youth who participated in the N.C. Summer Nutrition Program. To celebrate #NCFarmtoSummer Week, the Orange County School Nutrition Team planned special activities to promote farm to summer. They served strawberries, made strawberry pretzel butterfly food crafts to eat, talked with students about how strawberries are grown, shared info about local farms in Orange County with u-pick strawberries, and conducted gardening activities with students at the Efland Community Center Garden. Orange County Schools support #NCFarmtoSummer and #NCFarmtoSchool!

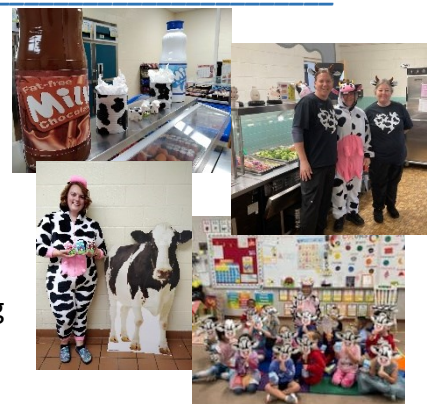
Thanks to all who participated in the #NCFarmtoSummer Challenge! We look forward to next year's challenge.



MOOving for Milk

Schools across the state celebrated World School Milk Day in creative ways on September 28. School Nutrition professionals, educators, and students all joined in the fun! The Dairy Alliance has free resources to celebrate World School Milk Day, offer nutrition education and promotional activities, and support a healthy school environment on their [website](#).

We loved seeing the celebration photos and posts on social media. Please tag @NCSchoolMeals with your posts on social media about nutrition education and promotional activities.



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 to Tracey Bates, NCDPI School Nutrition Promotion Specialist, at tracey.bates@dpi.nc.gov. Make sure to include the school and district info so we can aim to credit the source. Be on the lookout for photos of school meals from across the state on social media.



Cabarrus County Schools

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, 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.

Grant Opportunity

Collaborate for the Community Food Projects Competitive Grant – Due 10/7

The USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture's [Community Food Projects Competitive Grant Program](#) (CFPCGP) has existed since 1996 as a program to fight food insecurity through developing community food projects that help promote the self-sufficiency of low-income communities. Community Food Projects are designed to increase food security in communities by bringing the whole food system together to assess strengths, establish linkages, and create systems that improve the self-reliance of community members over their food needs. [Learn more.](#)

Inspire Students with Budding Botanist Grant – Due 10/14

The Klorane Botanical Foundation is committed to supporting programs that teach respect for the environment and protect nature through the preservation of plant species and biodiversity. Designed to further their mission, the Budding Botanist Grant will help students learn about plants, explore their world, and inspire them to take care of the life they discover in their local ecosystems. In late 2022, twenty high-need schools across the United States will be awarded \$1,000 in grant funding to support their youth garden programs. [Learn more and apply.](#)



Apply for the Whole Kids Foundation Bee Grant – Due 10/15

The Whole Kids Foundation is offering two grants to support establishing or growing bee programs. The Traditional Bee Grant allows for K-12 schools or non-profit organizations that serve any grades K-12 to start a new or enhance an existing bee program hosting live bees on their campus. The traditional track is for new applicants only. The Renewal Bee Grant allows for K-12 schools or non-profit organizations that have previously received a Bee Grant to receive support to grow their programs. The renewal is for previous Bee Grant recipients only. [Learn more and apply.](#)



Farm to School

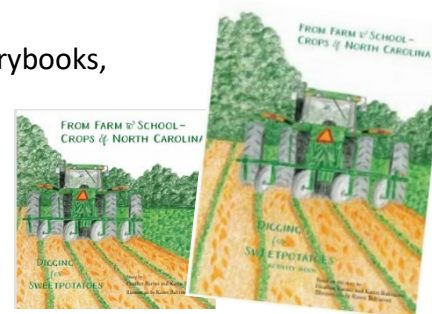
Read Along with Superintendent Truitt – Digging for Sweetpotatoes

October is Farm to School and Early Care and Education Month in North Carolina. To celebrate Farm to School and Early Care and Education Month and encourage literacy among North Carolina students, State Superintendent of Public Instruction Catherine Truitt recently recorded reading the N.C. Farm to School Program *Digging for Sweetpotatoes* storybook. Watch and share the [storybook reading](#) to help you celebrate Farm to School and Early Care and Education Month and the N.C. Crunch.



Follow Produce from the Field to School Meal

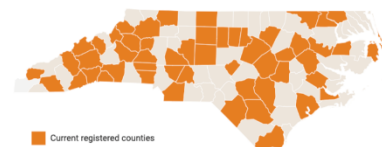
The N.C. Department of Agriculture & Consumer Resources (NCDA&CS) has storybooks, activity guides, and posters available which follow North Carolina-grown produce from the field to school meal. The N.C. Department of Public Instruction collaborated with NCDA&CS to integrate the resources with the state academic standards. Utilize these [free resources](#) to teach about farm to school and School Nutrition for Farm to School and Early Care and Education Month or all year round.



Is Your County Ready to Crunch?

Is your county on the N.C. Crunch map? Help us reach all 100 counties and at least 500,000 participants for the 2022 #NCCrunch!. [Sign up](#) for the #NCCrunch to receive a free guide with tips, templates, and links to resources so that you are ready to crunch.

NC Crunch 2022 Participation



The N.C. Crunch, co-hosted by the Farm to School Coalition of North Carolina and N.C. Farm to Preschool Network, offers youth and adults an opportunity to taste and learn about North Carolina-grown produce with their schools, early care, and education (ECE) centers, community organizations, and/or families. Farm to School and Early Care and Education Month also offers an opportunity to recognize the importance of farm to school/early care and education and honor all those who contribute to feeding our youth and communities and making farm to school activities happen, our #farmtoschoolheroes.

Make this a crunch heard across the state! Share photos of your #NCCrunch activities on social media and tag @NCSchoolMeals, @F2SCoalitionNC and @NCFarmtoPreschool.

Learn about Farm to School

The USDA Farm to School Program has created a “I’m New to Farm to School” resource portal to help you get your farm to school program up and running in your community. The resources range from technical assistance and guidance, fact sheets, toolkits, trainings, and history. [Learn more](#).



Continuing Education

Become a Professional Standards Training Tracker Tool Pro – 10/4, 2 pm ET

Please join USDA Team Nutrition on October 4 at 2 pm ET for an informational webinar exploring the Professional Standards Training Tracker Tool (PSTTT). Whether you are a first-time user or have been using the PSTTT for a while, this webinar is for you. This webinar will review the basic features of the PSTTT including how to manage your employee profiles, log training, and print certificates. Additionally, some of the latest updates to the PSTTT will be highlighted, such as deactivating and reactivating employee profiles, bulk upload of trainings and employee profiles, and the new job title categories. [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 [COVID-19 professional resources](#) for Registered Dietitians/Nutritionists (RDNs) 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, audiotape, 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.

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.