

# School Nutrition Update

August 7-11, 2023



## *In this Issue:*

### **Program Operations Information**

- Learn How to Purchase, Handle, and Market Locally Grown Foods for N.C. School Nutrition Programs
- Save the Date – SummerPalooza!

### **School Nutrition Spotlight**

- Testing New Recipes at Summer Camp
- Follow/Like Us on Social Media
- Share Your School Nutrition Photos
- Send in Articles or Topics of Interest for the School Nutrition Update E-letter

### **Job Opportunity**

- Work with Durham Public Schools – Dietitian Opening – Deadline 8/24

### **Nutrition Education & Promotion**

- Share Your N.C. Farm to Summer Success Stories
- Turnip the Beet 2023! – Award Deadline 9/8
- Find Team Nutrition Resources for Back to School

### **Continuing Education**

- Learn About School Lunch Practices and Policies that Promote Participation – 8/10, 3 pm ET
- Access Virtual Training Resources

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# Program Operations Information

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## *Learn How to Purchase, Handle, and Market Locally Grown Foods for N.C. School Nutrition Programs*

Locally grown foods can offer the best in quality, nutrition, taste, and cost. School Food Authorities (SFAs) have a variety of sources for purchasing locally grown foods, including farmers, producer cooperatives, food hubs, food processors, distributors, and the N.C. Farm to School Program. Interested in learning how to purchase, handle, and market locally grown foods? Save the date for upcoming Farm to School Boot Camp workshops offered by the N.C. Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services (NCDA&CS) and the N.C. Department of Public Instruction (NCDPI). These interactive workshops will feature information and resources on forecasting, specifications, procurement, marketing, and more for locally grown foods. The boot camp is open to School Nutrition Directors and Supervisors. See below for planned dates and locations. Choose the location and date most convenient for you. Workshops are 9:00 am to 4:00 pm. More information, including a detailed agenda and registration, will follow soon. Stay tuned to the School Nutrition Update.



- 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

## Save the Date – SummerPalooza!

Summer 2023 is still here, but 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.



- Nov 28 – Western - Hickory Metro Convention Center, 1960 13th Ave. Drive SE, Hickory
- Nov 29 – Central - McKimmon Center, 1101 Gorman St., Raleigh
- Nov 30 – Eastern - Location TBD

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## School Nutrition Spotlight

### Testing New Recipes at Summer Camp

The Durham Public Schools (DPS) Nutrition Program partnered with the DPS Hub Farm to offer recipe testing during summer camps. Kids got the opportunity to taste test and share their feedback on a Korean-style Bibimbap Bowl, Garden Nachos, and fresh local berries. What a great way to celebrate #NCFarmtoSummer!



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### 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.

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### 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](mailto: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.



Beaufort County Schools

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### 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](mailto: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.

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## Job Opportunity

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### ***Work with Durham Public Schools – Dietitian Opening – Deadline 8/24***

Durham Public Schools (DPS) is looking for a Dietitian to join their growing Child Nutrition Services team. They are seeking applicants ready to do the work of culture change and systems change and ultimately move DPS toward a School Nutrition Program that is student led, supports thriving jobs and communities, focuses on scratch-cooking and regional sourcing, addresses the climate crisis head on, and more. [Learn more and apply](#). For questions, reach out to Linden Thayer, Assistant Director, Food Systems Planning, DPS Child Nutrition Services, [linden\\_thayer@dpsnc.net](mailto:linden_thayer@dpsnc.net).

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## Nutrition Education & Promotion

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### ***Share Your N.C. Farm to Summer Success Stories***

Share your success stories for celebrating N.C. Farm to Summer with us. We would love to lift up how you served local foods as part of meals and/or snacks and taught about agriculture, nutrition and local food through farm to summer activities. [Learn more and complete the #NCFarmtoSummerChallenge form](#) to share about your farm to summer activities, or send a brief story to Tracey Bates, School Nutrition Promotion Specialist, [tracey.bates@dpi.nc.gov](mailto:tracey.bates@dpi.nc.gov).



### ***Turnip the Beet 2023! – Award Deadline 9/8***

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. 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](mailto:summernutritionprogram@dpi.nc.gov) by **5 pm on September 8**. More details, including the nomination form, scoring rubric, and a one-pager are accessible from the NCDPI, Office of School Nutrition [website](#).



**TURNIP THE BEET**  
with high quality summer meals!

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## ***Find Team Nutrition Resources for Back to School***

USDA, Team Nutrition is excited to announce the release of the new [School Lunch Menu E-Poster](#). This resource is designed for School Nutrition Programs to display daily lunch menu options and remind students to eat a variety of foods while building a reimbursable meal. The fillable PDF file can be used for electronic message boards, webpages, and social media or can be printed and displayed in sign holders. Find additional back to school resources on the USDA Team Nutrition [website](#). Questions about these resources may be sent to [TeamNutrition@USDA.gov](mailto:TeamNutrition@USDA.gov).



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## **Continuing Education**

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### ***Learn About School Lunch Practices and Policies that Promote Participation – 8/10, 3 pm ET***

School lunch is critical to student health and well-being and provides the nutritional foundation needed for academic achievement and lifelong success. However, far too many students, particularly those from low-income households, miss the benefits of a healthy school lunch. Well-designed policies and practices can help engage students and reduce barriers to school lunch participation. Join the Food Research & Action Center (FRAC) on August 10 at 3 pm ET to learn from experts across the nation on how they are promoting participation in their school lunch programs. [Learn more and register](#).

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### ***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).

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## **Questions**

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



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- (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).

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