



*Farm to School*

*A Quarterly Newsletter from the NJ Department of Agriculture  
Farm to Everything Program*

## We Our Jersey Farmers

We want to celebrate our NJ farmers working long hours to bring us local food, agriculture education, and joy. Are you an NJ farmer that is connecting with schools in the following areas – food served in school meals, field trips, and/or school visits? Do you know of farmers that are doing all the above?

Applications for our NJ Farm to School Farmer Recognition Award 2023 are now open. [Click Here](#) to apply.



### NJ SCHOOLS SUPPORTING LOCAL

The NJ Dept. of Agriculture, Division of Food & Nutrition has been awarded \$4,983,590 for the purchase of NJ grown/produced unprocessed or minimally processed food.

Find the [list of participating schools](#) here.

### FARMER TRADING CARDS

Attention farmers - have you ever wanted to see your face on a trading card? Babe Ruth has nothing on our Jersey Farmers!

[Click Here](#) to complete the form and be part of our league.



# TOP TOMATO SPRING 2023

SHINING A SPOTLIGHT ON THOSE MAKING A  
DIFFERENCE IN FARM TO SCHOOL

This spring's Top Tomato, Karyn Moskowitz, exemplifies COMMUNITY in so many ways!

When the NJ Farm to School team first met Karyn, she was an attendee at a Farm to School workshop. Throughout the day's activities, with her phone upheld, Karyn live-streamed the workshop to a colleague who had been unable to attend due to illness. We were stunned by this act of generosity and by the clear dedication each of them held for the work they do.

A “veggie obsessed leader” (as her team lovingly calls her), Karyn is the coordinator of Interfaith Neighbors and is one of the founders and organizers of the Community Food Connection - the Asbury Park areas's first food pantry and community space coalition. The collaboration aims to end nutritional insecurity in their community and their central effort, the Farm to Food Pantry Initiative, brings together fellow stakeholders such as Fernbrook Farms, Asbury Park Food Collective, and others in a shared vision of connecting thousands of residents to naturally raised, farm fresh produce. At any of their 13 sites, every week June through November, the Community Food Connection not only provides farm fresh, local produce to residents, but they centralize food education, recipe sharing, produce handling/best practices, and story sharing about their amazing contributing farmers and community partners. It is not uncommon for volunteers and residents to make trips to the farm to experience the incredible resource of a working growing space! Did we say “veggie obsessed?” This is Veggie-Advocacy in action!

Currently, Karyn and her team are partnering with Sodexo leader, Yvonne Paradiso, and others from the Asbury Park and Ocean Township School Districts on the new Farm to School Grant. They are bridging schools and local non-profits like C.R.O.P.S. in Atlantic County in a grassroots community effort to integrate Fernbrook Farm produce into school meals, supporting the well-being of local youth and the overall community. We congratulate Karyn and the many people beside her, and we celebrate Karyn as our Spring 2023 Top Tomato! We love to cheer for our “veggie obsessed” leaders!



TO FIND OUT MORE VISIT: [COMMUNITY FOOD CONNECTION](#)

# NJDA Farm to School Workshops



## BRINGING THE FARM TO SCHOOL PRODUCER TRAINING

The NJDA will host an introductory session "Bringing the Farm to School Producer Training" at The New Jersey State Agricultural Convention in Atlantic City on February 7th. Educational Sessions are open to all in convention attendees.



## FARM TO SCHOOL

Farm to School & Sustainable Pathways Professional Development workshop registration is now open!  
 May 3, 2023 [Click Here](#) to register in Central Jersey  
 May 11, 2023 [Click Here](#) to register in North Jersey

# Jersey Tastes! Monthly Activity Center

March



April



May



NJ DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
 DIVISION OF FOOD & NUTRITION  
 JERSEY FRESH FARM TO SCHOOL PROGRAM

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TAG US ON FACEBOOK, INSTAGRAM AND TWITTER: @FARMTOSCHOOLNJ  
 #F2SWEEK #JERSEYTASTES  
 OR EMAIL YOUR PHOTOS & STORIES TO  
 NEWJERSEYF2S@AG.NJ.GOV