



*Farm to School*

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



# NEW JERSEY'S OFFICIAL STATE VEGETABLE - THE TOMATO

Ms. Hotz, a Family & Consumer Science teacher at Lenape H.S. in Medford, NJ, sought to have her students campaign the Department of Agriculture to change the controversial state vegetable. Isn't the tomato a fruit? Well, we love our controversial fruit/vegetable, and were not about to replace our beloved tomato. Enter the "Jersey Tastes! Harvest of the Month Contest." The students of Lenape H.S. lobbied for a new "Jersey Taste!" vegetable of the month. We were so impressed by the results, and we think you will be too. Check out the winning video by Rachel Lawrence [here](#).



## Jersey Tastes!

A Year-Round Celebration of the Garden State's Fruits and Vegetables



# SCALLIONS

MADE IN COLLABORATION WITH:  
Rachel Lawrence  
of Lenape H.S.



## Jersey Fresh Farm to School Spirit Week

Sept 26th - 30th, 2022



<p><b>Muddy Monday</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Plant seeds and watch them grow!</li> </ul>	<p><b>Tasting Tuesday</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Feature Jersey Fresh produce in a tasting or on the menu</li> </ul>	<p><b>Wellness Wednesday</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Become a "Farm to School" chef - use <a href="#">MyPlate</a> and NJ <a href="#">Seasonality Chart</a> &amp; show us the menu you created</li> </ul>
<p>Tag us on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter: @farmtoschoolnj #f2sweek #jerseytastes or email your photos &amp; stories to newjerseyf2s@ag.nj.gov</p>	<p><b>Traveling Thursday</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Map out how far your lunch food has traveled or plan a Farm to Table lunch using a NJ map</li> </ul>	<p><b>Farmer Friday</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dress up as a farmer or tell us about your favorite NJ Farm or Farm Market</li> </ul>

# JERSEY FRESH FARM TO SCHOOL WEEK

## SEPT. 26TH - 30TH, 2022

It's not too early to start planning for back to school. September is Jersey Fresh Farm to School Spirit Week. Show us your Farm to School spirit! For more information:



# TOP TOMATO SUMMER 2022

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

“This is a once in a lifetime experience,” said one student at the Upper Pittsgrove School. How can one educator inspire such enthusiasm? Leevon Cogdill, an educator and creator of the “AG”venture Club has some answers. Create a club where the students will have an opportunity to build their own raised beds, hatch chickens, plant a take home salsa garden, and work on a farm cleaning pens, garden beds, and animals and you, in fact, have a once in a lifetime experience.

Leevon Cogdill’s “AG”venture Club’s impact extends beyond just the students in her club. The club has connected with local farmer, Benny Patten of Patten Farms. The “AG”venture Club students have researched Patten Farms & the asparagus grown on the farm. They have produced a promotional campaign for the farm including informational flyers and morning announcements. Mr. Patten’s asparagus, that he has donated to the school, will be served to the entire school during lunches as part of a taste test. And let’s not forget our math class, where the results will be tallied and graphed.

We know of one math problem that has already been solved, the “AG”venture Club has effected the school and community exponentially.





## EXTRA! EXTRA! READ ALL ABOUT IT!

**Green Hills School** students feast on farm-to-table meal on inaugural 'Chef Day' See full article [here](#)

School lunches get a healthy makeover in **Camden** through a partnership with local farms. See news clip & full article [here](#)



## FARM TO PRESCHOOL:

Do you want to start a Farm to Preschool program but don't know where to start? The National Farm to School Network has you covered. The Roadmap for Farm to Early Childcare Education provides a guide to understanding farm to school opportunities in early care & education settings.



## FARM TO SUMMER:

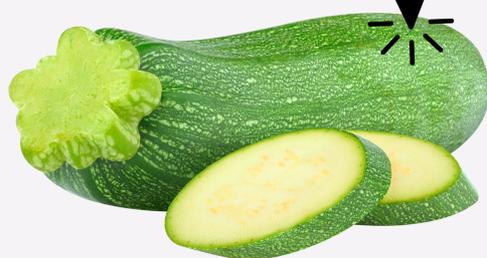
Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) meals are kicking off all over the state while schools are out. [Click here](#) to locate a summer meal site near you

# Jersey Tastes! Monthly Activity Center

June



July



August



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  
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