



FARM TO EVERYTHING!

2019 Fall Newsletter

A Quarterly Newsletter from the New Jersey Department of Agriculture
Farm to School Team

Fall 2019
Volume 13

Farm to School Week & Farm to School Month

The last week in September is when New Jersey celebrates its agricultural past, present and future with schools across the state. Healthy school meals, connecting the classroom to the cafeteria, curriculum that supports nutrition education, and school gardens is what Farm to School is all about. Each year we announce our Farmer of the Year and Best in NJ School for Farm to School during Jersey Fresh Farm to School Week. This year September 23-27, 2019 was Jersey Fresh Farm to School Week.

October is [National Farm to School Month](#) across our nation. The month was set aside by Congress to celebrate the connections between children and local food.

Do anything special for Farm to School Week or have something special coming up for Farm to School Month? Tag us @farmtoschoolnj or email us at newjerseyf2s@ag.nj.gov. We would love to see how YOU are doing Farm to School.

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2019 Farmer Recognition Program

Cecil Creek Farm in Gloucester County is the 2019 Farmer Recognition Program Award Winner. Cecil Creek received this award for their efforts to connect New Jersey students to agriculture through on-farm and in-school field trips, and hands-on environmental education lessons.

Thank you to all [six farms](#) who applied for the 2019 Farmer Recognition Program. We believe it is important to highlight how vital farms are to Farm to School activities across the state. Without farms, there would be no Farm to School!



Students on a farm field trip at Cecil Creek Farm

Photo courtesy of Cecil Creek Farm

Continued

Growing, Cooking, Serving



FARM TO SCHOOL:

Seventeen schools applied for the 2018-2019 Jersey Fresh Farm to School Award but only one could be named Best in New Jersey. Please help us congratulate [Philips Academy Charter School](#) in Newark, NJ as the Best in NJ Farm to School [Award Winner](#) for 2018-2019.



Happy student farmers
Photo courtesy of EcoSpaces



FARM TO SUMMER:

[YMCA Camp Mason in Hardwick, NJ](#) has a beautiful garden. This summer their campers learned about vegetables and tasted some fresh produce straight from the garden. We would love to see more sponsors and sites take advantage of the summer abundance like Camp Mason.



Curious Campers
Photo courtesy of Camp Mason



FARM TO PRESCHOOL:

This September, USDA and NJDA officials participated in a Planting Party at the [Boys and Girls Club of Mercer County in Trenton, NJ](#). Children were able to plant seeds/bulbs, explore garden-fresh herbs using their senses, make a nature inspired craft and water the garden.



Seed Exploration

Farewell Beth & Chris!

Beth Feehan has been a Farm to School advocate since 2008 when she co-founded the New Jersey Farm to School Network. In 2012, Beth joined forces with Chris Cirkus to help expand Farm to School programs throughout the state. In September 2015, Beth and Chris transitioned their roles into Farm to School Coordinator and Assistant Farm to School Coordinator for the New Jersey Department of Agriculture, continuing their work with the Division of Food and Nutrition, reaching across all areas of USDA Child Nutrition Programs. Together, the dynamic duo engaged with countless food service professionals, educators, administrators, and farmers sharing the importance of Farm to School programs throughout the State of New Jersey. Chris worked as Assistant Coordinator until the end of 2018 and Beth transitioned out of the Coordinator role this September 2019. We thank Beth and Chris for their dedication to the Farm to School movement in New Jersey and specifically for their work in the NJDA.



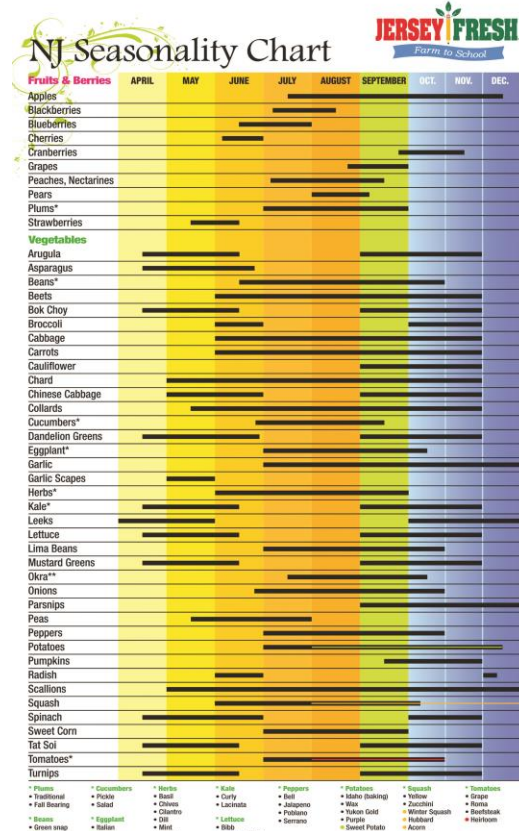
Welcome Erin!

Taking Beth's place as the next Farm to School Coordinator is Erin Maguire. Erin has worked in the food advocacy world for the past five years. She graduated from Rutgers University with a degree in Environmental Policy and a concentration in Food Systems. She has worked for the Greater Newark Conservancy, an environmental non-profit in Newark, NJ, as their Living Lab and School Garden Coordinator; connecting students to delicious produce grown in their own school gardens. Her advocacy and education work continued with City Green, Inc. in Clifton and Paterson, NJ, where she coordinated their community garden and Dig In! Program, and worked with senior citizens doing horticultural therapy lessons. Erin is super excited to continue working with her two passions: food and people at the Department of Agriculture! Erin Maguire can be reached at erin.maguire@ag.nj.gov or 609-292-8662.

Follow Us!



Click the seasonality chart to see what grows in the Garden State!



NEW JERSEY
 DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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