



FARM TO EVERYTHING!

A Monthly Newsletter from the NJDA Farm to School Team

May 2017
Volume 1

Welcome!

Welcome to the first **Farm to Everything** newsletter, a monthly, online collection of stories and resources for Farm to School, Farm to Preschool and Farm to Summer programs.

This collection of informative and data-based resources is put together to help find ways to serve more locally grown produce and to highlight best practices around garden and nutrition education.

Each month, we will specifically note the seasonal produce that is becoming available in the

upcoming weeks, linking directly to the New Jersey Department of Agriculture's **Jersey Fresh Availability & Forecast Report**. We will feature items for all three Farm to Everything programs and encourage our readers to share stories of what is going on in their programs around Farm to School, Farm to Preschool and Farm to Summer. Check out our website at www.farmtoschool.nj.gov for more information.

Inside this issue:

Welcome	1
Seasonal Forecast	1
Farm to School	2
Farm to Summer	2
Farm to Preschool	2
Share Your Story	2
Farm to School Award	3
Follow Us	3

Monthly Seasonal Forecast

According to the first 2017 **Jersey Fresh Availability & Forecast Report**, spring vegetables are on their way!

From arugula and asparagus to lettuce, leeks, kale, radishes and spinach, the 2017 season is off and running.

Click [here](#) each week to see an updated report on the season as it progresses. You'll also learn about how recent weather conditions are affecting New Jersey's farms and the effect on current and upcoming crop harvests.

As schools, preschools and summer feeding sites embrace efforts to eat seasonally, this link will help all sponsors develop menus that take advantage of produce at its peak and inspire recipes that children will love.



#jerseyfreshlove

Continued

Growing, Cooking, Serving



FARM TO SCHOOL:

Farm to School is an effort that is roughly ten years old, having started in a few states and now expanded to all 50.

New Jersey's Farm to School activities started in 2008 and each year, more and more schools embrace school

garden education, serving locally grown produce and teaching students about the rich agricultural history of the Garden State.

Whether you are new to Farm to School or a seasoned veteran, click [here](#) to see our Farm to School links for schools.



FARM TO SUMMER:

The procurement method used by schools and sponsoring organizations in the summer months will vary depending on sponsor type, size, and the number of children it serves. Summer participation numbers may also impact what sources of local foods are viable for your program.

To learn more about local procurement in the Summer Food Service Program, click [here](#) and go to page 89.



FARM TO PRESCHOOL:

Find out what grows in your region and allow flexibility in the regular menu cycle to spotlight seasonal items and incorporate them into healthy recipes. When you serve local foods, be sure to highlight them on your menu for parents to see! Reach out to your local produce distributor for help with synching your menu with seasonal availability.

Serving local foods and offering related hands-on activities can increase children's willingness to try new foods.

To check out the USDA Farm to Preschool: Local Food and Learning in Early Child Care and Education Settings fact sheet, click [here](#).

Share Your Story

Let us know your "Farm to" story! Send an email to newjerseyf2s@ag.state.nj.us or call us at 609-292-8747 so we can highlight your local procurement, gardens and nutrition around New Jersey fruits and vegetables!

“Best in New Jersey Farm to School Award”



It's not too late to sign up your school to be included as a **JERSEY FRESH FARM TO SCHOOL RECOGNITION PROGRAM** school. Application deadline is July 1, 2017. Click [here](#) to learn more about the process. Preview the survey questions [here](#) prior to applying. Recognized schools will receive Farm to School promotional materials in Fall 2017, prior to Jersey Fresh Farm to School Week with one school chosen to receive the “Best in New Jersey Farm to School Award” to highlight best practices.

Follow Us!



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