

CELEBRATE Farm to School Month

Ideas and resources for celebrating National Farm to School Month in October

OCTOBER IS NATIONAL FARM TO SCHOOL MONTH, a time to celebrate the connections happening all over the country between children and local food!

From taste tests in the cafeteria and nutrition education activities in the classroom, to farm visits and school garden harvest parties, schools, farms, communities and organizations in all 50 states and D.C. take part in the celebrations.

The **National Farm to School Network** advocated for the creation of National Farm to School Month by Congress in 2010 and now organizes the annual celebration with dozens of partners across the country.

GET STARTED

National Farm to School Month is a great opportunity to plan a new farm to school activity, organize a special celebration of your current efforts, or initiate a new partnership.

The second page of this fact sheet contains ideas for how teachers, food service professionals, farmers and families can get involved. Visit farmtoschool.org for more resources and activities to get started.

LEARN MORE ABOUT THE MOVEMENT

Throughout October, we'll share stories and information on our **blog** about how farm to school contributes to vibrant communities and empowers children and their families to make informed food choices. Our **resource database** is home to even more information on the benefits of farm to school and includes searchable tags for National Farm to School Month as well as topics like school gardens, procurement and farm to early care and education.



Visit farmtoschool.org for a complete list of National Farm to School Month resources and activities.

PLEDGE TO TAKE ONE SMALL STEP

The 2016 National Farm to School Month theme, **One Small Step**, will highlight the simple ways anyone - from students, parents and food enthusiasts to food producers and nutrition professionals - can take small steps to get informed, get involved and take action to advance farm to school in their own communities and across the country.

Join us by signing the **One Small Step** Pledge when it launches in September 2016, and you'll be entered to win funding and technical assistance for a farm to school project at the school of your choice!

Sign up for the National Farm to School Network e-newsletter to receive updates about National Farm to School Month, new resources, advocacy opportunities and more. Sign up at farmtoschool.org

NATIONAL
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Celebrate

Many farm to school programs begin with a small activity that generates interest and engages the whole community. Use these ideas for celebrating National Farm to School Month as a small step toward establish a new farm to school project or strengthen an existing program.

Teachers

- Plan nutrition education activities, such as Harvest of the Month, and feature a local food product that is in season.
- Connect instructional school gardens and garden-based learning activities to curriculum.
- Organize a farm tour or trip to the local farmers' market.

School food service professionals

- Promote National Farm to School Month on the school menu and in the cafeteria. Find logos, posters and more at farmtoschool.org.
- Do a taste test of local products or feature a special local item for lunch, breakfast or snacks.
- Create a farm to school salad bar using local produce.

Families

- Visit your local farmers' market. Buy something you've never tried before, cook it and share with your family and friends.
- Cook with seasonal products as much as possible. Most state departments of agriculture or Buy Fresh Buy Local chapters offer a regional crop calendar.
- Volunteer at your local school to support a school garden or classroom educational activity.

Farmers

- Connect with your local school and offer to conduct a classroom session during October or offer to host a visit to your farm.
- Become a classroom pen pal. Farm field trips are great, but stories and photos from the farm are the next best thing.
- Promote National Farm to School Month on your farm or at your farmers' market booth with posters and other materials, which can be downloaded at farmtoschool.org.

Organizations and businesses

- Show your support for National Farm to School Month by becoming an official sponsor! Contact: info@farmtoschool.org
- Become an official National Farm to School Month partner! Partners commit to spreading the word about National Farm to School Month. Suggested messaging and weekly updates will be provided. Sign up at info@farmtoschool.org.



Spread the Word

- Highlight your farm to school activities in your newsletters, on your website or blog, and in materials that go home to parents like school lunch menus
- Download National Farm to School Month posters at farmtoschool.org to hang in your cafeteria, classroom, farm or other site.
- Invite local media and policymakers to visit your school, farm or other farm to school sites and participate in National Farm to School Month events.
- Share our campaign content on your social media channels using the hashtags **#F2SMonth** and **#farmtoschool**. Sign up to be an official National Farm to School Month partner and receive weekly social media toolkits at farmtoschool.org.

The National Farm to School Network is an information, advocacy and networking hub for communities working to bring local food sourcing and food and agriculture education into schools and early care and education settings.

