



NEW JERSEY
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

farmtoschool.nj.gov

[f](#) [t](#) [i](#) #JerseyTastes

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1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20250-9410;
- (2) Fax: (202) 690-7442; or
- (3) Email: program.intake@usda.gov.

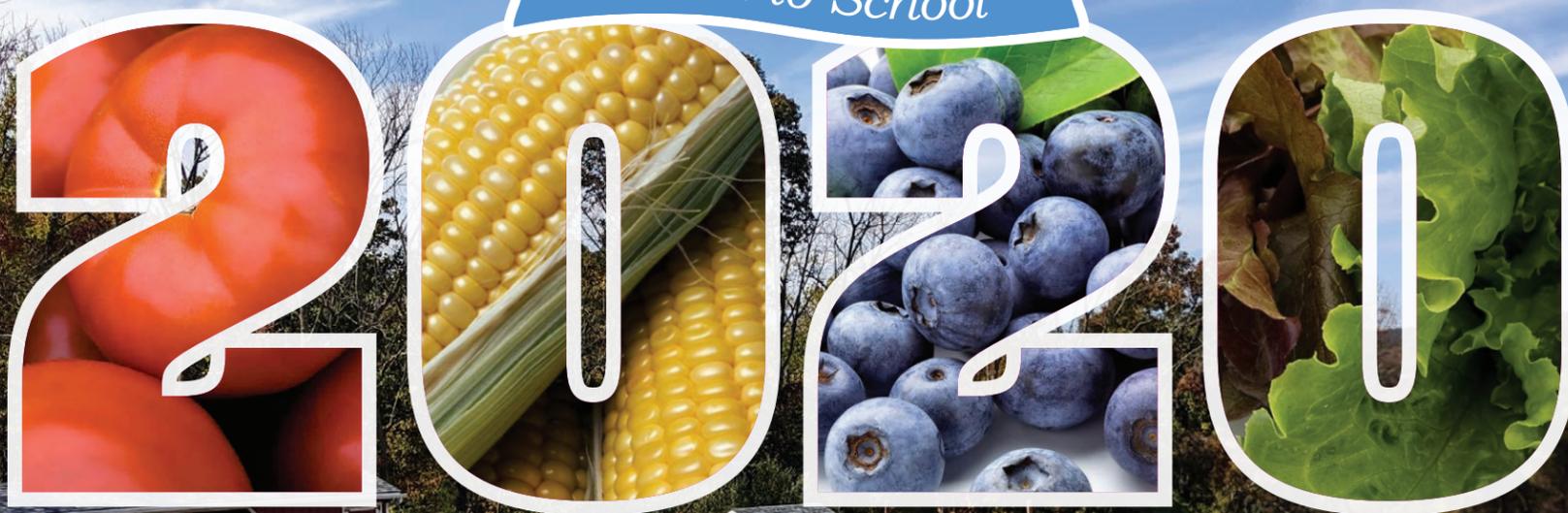
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Who Are You In Farm To School?

School Administration	Educator	Food Service	Non-Profit	Produce Distributor
Higher Education	Farmer	Government Agency	FoodCorps	Community Partner

Farm to School contributes to vibrant communities.

Farm to school enriches the connection communities have with fresh, healthy food and local food producers by changing food purchasing and education practices at schools and early care and education sites. Farm to school empowers children and their families to make informed food choices while strengthening the local economy and contributing to vibrant communities.



calendar



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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

The NJ Department of Agriculture 2020

The New Jersey Department of Agriculture (NJDA), headed by the Secretary of Agriculture, is an agency that oversees programs that serve virtually all New Jersey citizens. New Jersey's agriculture industry produces an amazing amount of products with their supporting industries: specialty crops like tomatoes, peppers, cranberries and apples which the Department promotes through the Jersey Fresh Program; nursery and landscaping plants promoted through the Jersey Grown Program; equine farming and horse racing; seafood and aquaculture along our State's shores; dairy, poultry, eggs and meat products; fiber producers raising alpaca and llama; apiary industry products that include honey and beeswax and community farmers markets and farm stands where direct to consumer sales are made possible.

In addition to the programs that support agriculture, NJDA also manages programs that:

- Feed school children
- Distribute surplus Federal foods to soup kitchens and pantries that serve citizens in need
- Conserve precious soil and water resources
- Protect farmland from development and preserve it for future agricultural use
- Expand export markets for fresh and processed agricultural products, and promote the commercial fishing industry
- Administer the complete program of agriculture, food, and natural resource education

3RD LARGEST

Food and Agriculture is New Jersey's third largest industry, bringing billions of dollars in revenue to the state economy.

9,900 FARMS

In 2018, 9,900 farms generated cash receipts totaling over \$1.1 billion. Fruits and vegetables were the leading commodity group, followed by nursery/greenhouse/sod industry, field crops, poultry and eggs, equine and dairy.

735,000 ACRES

Retaining productive, taxpaying farmland is critically important to all New Jersey residents. Our farmlands cover 735,000 acres.

100+

Farmers in the Garden State produce more than 100 different kinds of fruits and vegetables for consumers to enjoy, either fresh or processed, here in New Jersey and elsewhere in the Northeast, in Canada, and in many countries around the world.

TOP 10

Nationally, New Jersey is one of the top 10 producers of blueberries, cranberries, peaches, tomatoes, bell peppers, eggplant, cucumbers, apples, spinach, squash, and asparagus.

SEAFOOD

Fish and seafood also are a valuable commodity with our commercial fishermen landing scallops, bluefish, tilefish, flounder, hake, shellfish, and other species. Their catch is sold here at home and to foreign markets around the world.



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Jersey Tastes!

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



Happy New Year!

In this year's Farm to School calendar we are celebrating

Jersey Tastes! The New Jersey Department of Agriculture developed a Harvest of the Month program in connection with New Jersey's seasonality chart to assist you in highlighting some of the Garden State's best fruits and vegetables in your menus each month.

Kicking off the school year with tomatoes in September, to having squash in November, spinach in April and strawberries in June, our *Jersey Tastes!* materials take you through the seasons, one delicious bite at a time. Please make use of our downloadable and printable *Jersey Tastes!* resources on our Farm to School website at farmtoschool.nj.gov under the *Schools* tab.

Do you have pictures or a story about your *Jersey Tastes!* experience? Share them with our Farm to School Coordinator at newjerseyf2s@ag.nj.gov or tag us on social media: [#jerseytastes](https://twitter.com/jerseytastes) and/or [#farmtoschoolnj](https://twitter.com/farmtoschoolnj). Whether you feature items on the salad bar, taste tests from the school garden, or classroom lessons featuring local produce, we want YOU to join in this gratifying experience for your students.

The New Jersey Department of Agriculture has consistently supported the connection between farmers and the schools around New Jersey.

The New Jersey Farm to School Program has resulted in more than 250 schools purchasing local produce from their main distributor and over 200 districts buying local produce directly from farms. Additionally, students from over 100 districts are experiencing field trips to farms.

We encourage you to connect with Farm to School and celebrate *Jersey Tastes!* all year long. Your efforts provide nutritious meals to children and strengthen Agriculture throughout the Garden State.

Sincerely,

Douglas H. Fisher

New Jersey Secretary of Agriculture

Farm to School activities can include, but are not exclusive to:

- Nutrition education, including taste tests with produce purchased from local farms;
- Harvest meals serving locally-sourced products from New Jersey farms;
- Farm to School curricular tie-ins that connect the cafeteria to the classroom or school garden;
- Visits to or from local farms that teach students how food is grown; and
- School garden education that ties directly into what is already being taught in the classroom.



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www.farmtoschool.nj.gov

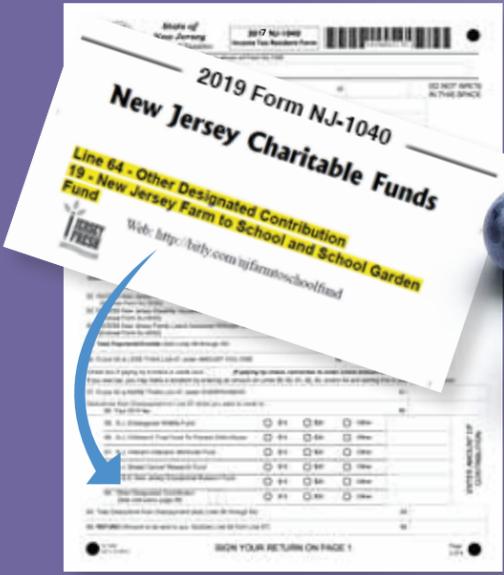
Tax Check-Off: NJ Farm to School & School Garden Fund

In August of 2014, one of five Farm to School focused bills signed into law in New Jersey established the “New Jersey Farm to School and School Garden Fund,” allowing New Jersey taxpayers the option to designate a portion of their refund to be deposited in the special fund.

Look for the “New Jersey Charitable Funds” section on the 2019 State of New Jersey tax form to donate. These donations will provide grants to schools for gardens, salad bars, and Farm to School related field trips.



Jersey Tastes! BLUEBERRIES



JANUARY 2020

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
December 2019 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	NATIONAL Soup MONTH	NATIONAL Oatmeal MONTH	1 New Year's Day Kwanzaa Ends	2	3	4 Spaghetti Day
5	6 Bean Day	7	8	9 Apricot Day	10 National Houseplant Appreciation Day	11 Milk Day
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19 Popcorn Day	20 Martin Luther King Jr. Day	21	22	23	24	25 Chinese New Year
26	27	28	29	30	31	February 2020 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29

Important Dates

January - Jet's Eat Right, Move More Application Released

See March for CACFP key dates

See June for FFVP key dates

See July for SFSP Key dates

By Feb. 1 or sooner - On-Site Reviews for the National School Lunch/School Breakfast Program (NSLP/SBP) must be completed and kept on file at the School Food Authority (SFA)

USDA Department of Defense Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Department of Defense (DoD) Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program allows schools to use USDA Foods entitlement dollars to buy fresh produce. New Jersey joined this effort in 1995 through its Food Distribution Program.

Currently the DoD Program in New Jersey distributes more than 7.3 million pounds of fresh produce during the school year and works with 360 program participants. All produce is required to be grown in the United States and vendors are encouraged to provide local products in season. Local produce must be priced competitively and meet contract requirements for quality; therefore, supporting New Jersey's peach, blueberry, tomato, cucumber, pepper, and lettuce growers.

Schools interested in the DoD Fresh Program and who are part of the National School Lunch Program, should reach out to our Food Distribution Team at 609-292-0337 today!



Jersey Tastes!
SWEET POTATOES



FEBRUARY 2020

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<p>January 2020</p> <p>1 2 3 4</p> <p>5 6 7 8 9 10 11</p> <p>12 13 14 15 16 17 18</p> <p>19 20 21 22 23 24 25</p> <p>26 27 28 29 30 31</p>	<p>March 2020</p> <p>1 2 3 4 5 6 7</p> <p>8 9 10 11 12 13 14</p> <p>15 16 17 18 19 20 21</p> <p>22 23 24 25 26 27 28</p> <p>29 30 31</p>		<p>NATIONAL Sweet Potato MONTH</p>	<p>NATIONAL Heart MONTH</p>		<p>1</p>
<p>2</p> <p>Groundhog Day</p>	<p>3</p> <p>Feed the Birds Day</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>6</p> <p>USDA Foods Conference</p>	<p>7</p>	<p>8</p>
<p>9</p> <p>Pizza Day</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>11</p>	<p>12</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14</p> <p>Valentine's Day</p>	<p>15</p>
<p>16</p>	<p>17</p> <p>Presidents' Day Cabbage Day</p>	<p>18</p>	<p>19</p> <p>National Chocolate Mint Day</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>22</p>
<p>23</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25</p>	<p>26</p> <p>Ash Wednesday</p>	<p>27</p> <p>Strawberry Day</p>	<p>28</p> <p>National Chili Day</p>	<p>29</p>

Important Dates

Conduct Second On-Site Review for Afterschool Snack Program (ASSP)

Feb 1 – Deadline for NSLP and SBP On-Site reviews

Feb 29 – FFVP 50% of allocation should be spent

Farm to Preschool

The Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) works to bring nutritious meals to child care centers, day care homes, and adult day care centers around the state and around the country. Farm to Preschool or Early Child Education (ECE) exposes children at a young age to fruits and vegetables to set them up for a lifetime of wellness.

Preschool-aged children learn where fruits and vegetables come from by getting their hands dirty in the school gardens or reading a book or singing songs about fruits and vegetables. They learn to appreciate the taste of new foods by making a healthy recipe together.

There are many ways to connect Farm to Preschool with your CACFP Program: visit www.farmtoschool.nj.gov and search for Farm to Preschool to get ideas for lessons and resources for your Program.

CACFP Key Dates

- 10th Monthly CACFP Online Claims Due
- 15th Monthly Family Day Care Institution/ Facility Updates Due
- March 15-21 CACFP Week
- May 30 CACFP Summer Changes Due
- June 30 CACFP Reimbursement Rates and Household Income Eligibility Scale expire
- July 1 Family Day Care Reconciliation Report Due
- August 31 CACFP Renewal Packets Due
- October 1 CACFP Fiscal year begins



Jersey Tastes!

LETTUCE



CACFP Existing Sponsor Training Sessions

- Go to www.surveymonkey.com/r/ZJWY8SH for available training dates and to register
- If you are interested in becoming a New CACFP Sponsor, call 609-984-1250.



MARCH 2020

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT																																																																																																														
1	2	NATIONAL School Breakfast WEEK				6	7																																																																																																													
8 Daylight Saving Time Begins (set clocks forward)	9	10	11	12 Plant a Flower Day	13	14 Cereal Day																																																																																																														
15	16	NATIONAL CACFP WEEK				20	21																																																																																																													
		17 St. Patrick's Day	18	19 Vernal Equinox (Spring begins)	20 Read Across America Day																																																																																																															
22 Water Day	23 National Chip and Dip Day	NATIONAL Agriculture WEEK				27	28																																																																																																													
		24 Agriculture Day	25 Waffle Day	26 Spinach Day																																																																																																																
29	30	31		NATIONAL Nutrition MONTH	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="7">February 2020</th> <th colspan="7">April 2020</th> </tr> <tr> <td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td> <td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td> <td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td> </tr> <tr> <td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td> <td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td> </tr> <tr> <td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td> <td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td> </tr> <tr> <td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td> <td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td> </tr> </thead> </table>		February 2020							April 2020													1							1	2	3	4	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	23	24	25	26	27	28	29														
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Important Dates

- Mar 1** – FFVP Application Opens
- Mar 1** – Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) Site Data Collection Form opens in SNEARS

- Mar 1** - Fourth run of DC Opens
- Mar 30** – Deadline to complete fourth run of Direct Certification (DC)
- Mar 31** – Deadline to submit CEP Site Data Collection Form in SNEARS

Show us your School Gardens!

School gardens provide valuable learning experiences that encourage students to apply what they learn in the classroom, in a hands-on, experiential way. Gardens connect students to nature and can be used to teach a plethora of subjects from math and science to art, writing, and social studies. Gardens come in all shapes, sizes, and sites – they can be grown in the ground or on the windowsill, with dirt, or grown hydroponically. Most importantly, students are exposed to fresh fruit and vegetables out in the garden!

It's National Garden Month, show us your school gardens by emailing newjerseyf2s.ag.nj.gov or by tagging us on social media at [@farmtoschoolnj](https://www.instagram.com/farmtoschoolnj). Want to grow a garden of your own? Visit the *Schools* link at www.farmtoschool.nj.gov and search for *School Gardens*.

"To plant a garden is to believe in tomorrow."
– Audrey Hepburn, actress



Jersey Tastes!

SPINACH



APRIL 2020

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
March 2020 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	NATIONAL Garden MONTH		1 ☾ April Fool's Day	2 National Peanut Butter and Jelly Day	3	4
5 Palm Sunday	6	7 ○	8 Passover begins	9	10 Good Friday	11
12 Easter Sunday	13 International Plant Appreciation Day	14 ☾	15	16 Last Day of Passover	17	18
19 Garlic Day	20	21	22 ● Earth Day Administrative Professionals' Day	23 Ramadan begins Take our Daughters & Sons to Work Day	24 Arbor Day	25
26 National Pretzel Day	27	28	29	30 ☾		May 2020 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31

Important Dates

Apr 15 – SFAs notified of CEP eligibility

“Best in New Jersey” Award

Philip’s Academy Charter School in Newark, NJ was presented with the “Best in New Jersey” Farm to School Award for the 2018-2019 School Year.

Schools interested in applying for the award are required to show evidence of working with farmers and the community to ensure students have access to Jersey Fresh fruits and vegetables in their school cafeterias and classrooms. Check out Philip’s Academy Charter School’s website to learn more about their Farm to School Program (www.ecospacesed.org).

Do you have a Farm to School Program at your school? Applications are open now for the 2019-2020 Farm to School Recognition Program! Let’s see if your school could be the next “Best in New Jersey”! Please visit our website to review criteria and requirements to apply (www.farmtoschool.nj.gov).

Additional Farm to School Recognition Program Schools for the 2018-2019 School Year were:

- Absegami High School, Galloway
- Bridgeton High School, Broad Street School, and Cherry Valley School, Bridgeton
- Donald M. Payne Sr. School of Technology, Newark
- East Amwell Township Elementary School
- East Orange STEM Academy High School
- Essex County West Caldwell Tech
- Field Street Elementary School, Penns Grove
- Gloria M. Sabater Elementary, Vineland
- Hamburg Elementary School
- JC Shaner School, Mays Landing
- Juan Pablo Duarte-Jose Julian Marti School #28, Elizabeth
- Mount Vernon Elementary School, Newark
- National Park Elementary School
- Unity Charter School, Morristown



Jersey Tastes!

ASPARAGUS



MAY 2020

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
April 2020 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30	June 2020 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30	NATIONAL Salad MONTH			1 SNA School Lunch Hero Day	2
3 Garden Meditation Day	4 Orange Juice Day	5 Cinco de Mayo	6	7 ☉	8	9
10 Mother’s Day	11	12	13	14 ☾	15 National Chocolate Chip Day	16 Love a Tree Day
17	18	19 World Plant a Vegetable Garden Day	20 Pick Strawberries Day	21	22 ●	23
24 Eid ul-Fitr / 31	25 Memorial Day	26	27	28	29 ☾	30 Water a Flower Day

Important Dates

CEP Webinars will be conducted
 Complete Paid Lunch (PLE) Tool by the end of the month

May 1 – Annual Notifications of SFAs and schools eligible for CEP posted on NJDA website

May 15 – CEP Application opens in SNEARS

Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program

The Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program (FFVP) provides funding for schools to serve free, fresh fruits and vegetables to elementary students during the school day, outside of regular meals. The FFVP Program hosts fun and interactive trainings throughout the year to instruct those running the program how to use fresh produce in taste tests with delicious recipes students will love. Applications open in March and selected school districts are announced in May each year.

Additional funding is provided to schools that serve New Jersey produce in their program.

Each year the "Very Impressive Produce" (VIP) contest is conducted among the FFVP schools. For the 2018-2019 school year, **Juan Pablo Duarte-José Julián Marti School #28** from the Elizabeth School District was the winning school. **Passaic Gifted and Talented Academy** from the Passaic School District and **George L. Catrambone School** from the Long Branch School District tied for second place.

Is your school interested in the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program or learning more about the "Very Impressive Produce" Awards? Call our main office at 609-984-0692.



Jersey Tastes!

STRAWBERRIES



FFVP Key Dates

- Jan. 31.....Deadline to submit all large equipment request forms
- Feb. 29.....50% of allocation money should be spent
- March.....Application for 2020-21 released
- May.....VIP Awards announced for 2019-20 school year



JUNE 2020

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<p>May 2020</p> <p>1 2</p> <p>3 4 5 6 7 8 9</p> <p>10 11 12 13 14 15 16</p> <p>17 18 19 20 21 22 23</p> <p>24 25 26 27 28 29 30</p> <p>31</p>	1	2	3	4	5	6
	NATIONAL Gardening WEEK					
				Cheese Day		Gardening Exercise Day
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
			Iced Tea Day	National Corn on the Cob Day		
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
Flag Day			EAT ALL YOUR VEGETABLES DAY			June Solstice (Summer begins)
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
Father's Day						
28	29	30		NATIONAL Fruit and Vegetable MONTH	NATIONAL Dairy MONTH	<p>July 2020</p> <p>1 2 3 4</p> <p>5 6 7 8 9 10 11</p> <p>12 13 14 15 16 17 18</p> <p>19 20 21 22 23 24 25</p> <p>26 27 28 29 30 31</p>

Important Dates

Direct Certification Webinar will be conducted
June 1 – Provisions 1 or 2 Application Opens

June 30 – SFAs required to conduct a second independent review of applications are notified
June 30 – Deadline to submit CEP & Provisions Application in SNEARS

Farm to Summer

Summer is the time of garden abundance with juicy tomatoes, plump peppers, and sweet corn. Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) meal sites are the perfect places to take advantage of this garden abundance and highlight local products and feature fresh, local food, agriculture and nutrition education during the summer months.

One excellent example of Farm to Summer is the Greenwood Ave. Farmers Market in Trenton, which has been a summer meal site for the past four years. At this site, Jersey Fresh produce is used in summer meals, children have access to on-site nutrition education and games, and parents can use their benefits to buy local New Jersey produce from one of the farm vendors. It's a win-win for everyone!

To learn more about how to use the summer abundance in your summer meals, visit www.farmtoschool.nj.gov and search for Farm to Summer.

Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) Key Dates

10th of each Month

..... Reimbursement Vouchers due
Jan. 7, 9, 14, 16, 28, 30

..... Sponsor Application Training
Jan. 22&23...New Sponsor Training

Mar. 23..... Deadline to Submit Existing Sponsor Applications

Mar. 25..... Deadline to Submit New Sponsor Applications

Apr. Begin Planning Farm to Summer

May 27&28 Program Operations Training
Jun. 2,4,9.... Program Operations Training
Jun. State Agency Sponsor Kick-Off
Jun.-Jul. Sponsor Kick-Off Events
Sep. December Sponsor Administrative Reviews
Oct. Sponsor Debriefing
Dec. Vendor Training and Registration



Jersey Tastes!

PEPPERS



JULY 2020

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<p>June 2020</p> <p>1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30</p>	<p>NATIONAL Blueberry MONTH</p>		<p>1</p> <p>Creative Ice Cream Flavors Day</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4</p> <p>Independence Day</p>
<p>5 ☉</p> <p>Build a Scarecrow Day</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7</p> <p>Chocolate Day</p>	<p>8</p> <p>National Blueberry Day</p>	<p>9</p>	<p>10</p> <p>Pick Blueberries Day</p>	<p>11</p> <p>Blueberry Muffin Day</p>
<p>12 ☾</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14</p>	<p>15</p>	<p>16</p>	<p>17</p>	<p>18</p>
<p>19</p>	<p>20 ●</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>22</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25</p>
<p>26</p>	<p>27 ☾</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31</p>	<p>August 2020</p> <p>1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31</p>

Important Dates

July 1 – Letter to Parent Application Packet Opens in SNEARS

July 15 – First run of DC opens

Find Jersey Fresh

This month celebrate your favorite local farmers market during Farmers Market Week. Need help locating a local market? The New Jersey Department of Agriculture's Find Jersey Fresh website has that information and more – from what's in season, to where to find it, and how to cook it.

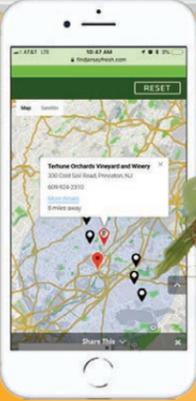
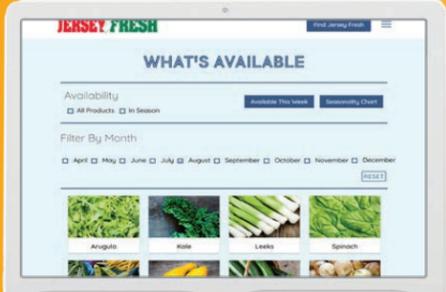
Search all things Jersey Fresh by visiting findjerseyfresh.com! Want to learn what is in season? Visit www.farmtoschool.nj.gov and click on our red bell pepper in the top right corner that says NJ Seasonality Chart.

We hope you celebrate Jersey Fresh produce all month and all season long!



Jersey Tastes!

CORN



AUGUST 2020

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
July 2020 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	September 2020 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30	NATIONAL Peach MONTH				1
2	3 ○	4	5	6	7	8
NATIONAL Farmers Market WEEK						
9	10 S'mores Day	11 ☾	12	13	14	15 National Honey Bee Day
16	17	18 ●	19	20	21	22
23 / 30	24 / 31	25 ☾	26	27	28	29 More Herbs, Less Salt Day

Important Dates

Certification and Benefit Insurance Webinar will be conducted

Claim of Thrones: A Beginner's Guide to Point of Sale of Webinar will be conducted
 Complete first run of DC by end of month

Jersey Fresh Farm to School Week

In 2019, New Jersey celebrated its 9th Annual Jersey Fresh Farm to School Week. Each year during this week, the New Jersey Department of Agriculture, Division of Food and Nutrition, honors a school and a farm that are an exemplary example of Farm to School in the Garden State.

Philip's Academy Charter School in Newark was presented with the "Best in New Jersey" Farm to School Award for the 2018-2019 school year on their school's rooftop garden and Cecil Creek Farm was presented with the 2019 Farmer Recognition Award at their farm in Gloucester County.

The visit to Cecil Creek Farm also included our annual *Jersey Tastes!* Tomato Tuesday Tasting. Each year during Farm to School Week, the Department of Agriculture invites their partners at the USDA to take a bite of a Jersey fresh tomato and this year we sampled a Red Deuce tomato.

Jersey Fresh Farm to School Week was signed into law in 2010 to celebrate the bounty of New Jersey and to teach students in Pre-K through 12th grade how important agriculture is to the Garden State. Each year, during the last full week in September, schools across the state celebrate with taste tests featuring local produce in the cafeteria and classroom, garden events, cooking contests, farmer visits to schools, and harvest meals.

Visit farmtoschool.nj.gov for more information on all Farm to School initiatives.



Jersey Tastes! TOMATOES



SEPTEMBER 2020

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
August 2020 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	NATIONAL Potato MONTH	1	2 International Bacon Day	3	4	5
6	7 Acorn Squash Day Labor Day	8	9	10 ☾	11 Patriot Day	12
13 Peanut Day	14	15	16	17 ●	18	19 Rosh Hashanah
20	JERSEY FRESH Farm to School WEEK		23 Farmers Against Hunger Day	NEW JERSEY Gleaning WEEK		26 Johnny Appleseed Day
27	28 Yom Kippur	29	30	NATIONAL Honey MONTH	NATIONAL Mushroom MONTH	October 2020 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31

Important Dates Civil Rights live webinar | Managing CEP Webinar
On or Before the First Day of School: appl. for Free & Reduced-Price School Meals and accompanying documents must be distributed to all households

Sep 1 – Second run of DC opens
Sep 30 Deadlines – (A) Submit application packet; (B) Deadline to complete second run of DC; (C) Deadline for first ASSP onsite review

National Farm to School Month

October's *Jersey Tastes!* is apples and New Jersey schools celebrated in a big way.

Lambertville Public Schools took students on farm field trips to Gravity Hill Farm where they made homemade apple sauce, Isles, Inc. sampled two different varieties of apples at Martin Luther King Elementary School in Trenton and other schools held local apple cider tastings, student cooking competitions, and pop-up farmers markets.

Check out our Facebook and Instagram pages, @farmtoschoolnj, to see what's happening throughout the Garden State. Also, reach out to us at newjerseyf2s@ag.nj.gov and invite us to your next Farm to School Celebration!



Jersey Tastes!

APPLES



OCTOBER 2020

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
September 2020 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30	November 2020 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30	NATIONAL Farm to School MONTH	NATIONAL Apple MONTH	1 ☉ World Vegetarian Day	2	3
4	5	6	7 World Kale Day Walk to School Day	8	9 ☾ World Egg Day	10
11	12 Columbus Day Farmer's Day	NATIONAL School Lunch WEEK			16 ● World Food Day Boss's Day	17 Pasta Day
18	19	20	21 Apple Crunch Day	22	23 ☾	24
25	26 Pumpkin Day	27	28	29 Oatmeal Day	30	31 ☉ Halloween

Important Dates

Oct 1 – Third run of DC opens

Oct 1 – Verification Collection Report Part 1 opens in SNEARS

Oct 15 – Civil Rights Compliance Forms Due

Oct 30 Deadlines – (A) Submit Food Safety Inspection Report in SNEARS; (B) Submit Verification Collection Report Part 1 in SNEARS; AND (C) Complete Third Run of DC

Oct 31 – Verification Collection Report Part 2 opens

Putting the FARM in Farm to School

"Every day- three times a day- you need a farmer." – Anonymous

New Jersey Farmers are famous for their commitment to the land and their community. The New Jersey Department of Agriculture honors farmers who connect to our youngest consumers through the Jersey Fresh Farm to School Farmer Recognition Program.

The 2019 Farmer Recognition Award was presented to Cecil Creek Farm of Gloucester County during Jersey Fresh Farm to School Week in September 2019. Visit <https://cecilcreekfarms.com> to learn more about Cecil Creek Farm and its many offerings.

The following farms are included in the 2019 Farmer Recognition Program

for their efforts to connect students with agriculture in the Garden State:

- Cherry Valley Cooperative Farm
- Robbinsville Hydroponic Farm
- Coombs Barnyard
- Honey and Sweets Farm Stand
- The Barn at Gravity Hill



Jersey Tastes! SQUASH



NOVEMBER 2020

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1 Daylight Saving Ends (set clocks back)	2	3 Election Day	4	5	6	7
8 Cook Something Bold Day	9	10	11 Veteran's Day	12	13	14 Diwali
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23 Eat a Cranberry Day	24	25 Parfait Day	26 Thanksgiving	27	28 French Toast Day
29	30			NATIONAL Pepper MONTH	October 2020 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	December 2020 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31

Important Dates

Verification Collection Report Part 2 Live Training Workshop

Nov 15 Deadlines –

(A) Submit Breakfast Improvement Plan;
(B) Complete verification process

Nov 30 Deadlines – (A) Submit Verification Collection Report Part 2 in SNEARS; (B) Application packet PAST DUE-reimbursement & USDA Foods are in jeopardy

Wintertime with Farm to School

Just because it may be cold outside does not mean the Farm to School fun has to stop.

Think about extending the garden season with row covers, or mini-hoop houses, or consider growing indoors hydroponically. Visit kidsgardening.org and search *Extend the Season with Plant Cover-ups* to learn more. With careful planning, you too, can enjoy garden-fresh lettuce in December!

Wintertime is also the perfect time to cook with your students. You can create recipes in the classroom or hold cooking competitions in the school cafeteria like Field Street School in Salem County which held multiple student cooking competitions with local ingredients this fall. Visit the USDA Recipe Database for some inspiration: <https://theicn.org/cnr>.

Talk with farmers and chefs in your area – they may be able to source local value-added products or frozen items to cook with. You can also invite local chefs and farmers to visit your school during the colder months and talk about their trades. With a little creativity, you can continue your Farm to School Program all school year long!



Jersey Tastes!

CABBAGE



DECEMBER 2020

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
November 2020 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30	NATIONAL Pear MONTH	1	2	3	4	5
6	7 Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day	8	9	10	11 First Day of Hanukkah	12 Poinsettia Day
13	14	15	16	17	18 Last Day of Hanukkah	19
20	21 December Solstice (Winter begins)	22	23	24 Christmas Eve	25 Christmas Day	26 Kwanzaa begins
27	28	29	30	31 New Year's Eve	January 2021 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	

Important Dates

Begin to conduct On-site Reviews(s) for NSLP and SBP