

CELEBRATE Farm to School Month

Ideas and resources for celebrating National Farm to School Month

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

The **National Farm to School Network (NFSN)** advocated for the creation of National Farm to School Month by Congress in 2010 and now organizes the annual celebration in partnership with dozens of partner organizations.

Get involved

Everyone can celebrate Farm to School Month! The second page of this fact sheet contains ideas for how teachers, food service professionals, farmers and families can get involved. NFSN has also developed Farm to School Month resources and activities, which are all available on our website, farmtoschool.org.



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

Spread the word

- **#F2SMonth** and **#farmtoschool** - Use these hashtags in your social media messages
- **@FarmtoSchool** - follow us on Twitter
- Follow us on Facebook by searching for **“National Farm to School Network”**
- Read our Farm to School Month **Communications Toolkit** for more ideas

Learn more about the movement

Throughout October, we'll be sharing stories and information on our **blog** about how farm to school is contributing to vibrant communities and empowering children and their families to make informed food choices. Our **resource database** is home to even more information and includes searchable tags for Farm to School Month as well as topics like farm to preschool, school gardens and procurement.

Win registration for the 2016 National Farm to Cafeteria Conference!

Everyone who fills out a membership form or a “Share Form” on our website during October will be entered to win one of four registrations for the 2016 National Farm to Cafeteria Conference!

- By signing up for a **free membership** on our website you'll receive our monthly e-newsletter and will hear about special news and events.
- The **Share Form** collects stories about what's happening on the ground. These stories help us advocate and raise awareness about the benefits of farm to school.
- Learn more: 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. We hope you can use these ideas for celebrating Farm to School Month as a starting point for establishing a new farm to school projects or strengthening an existing program.

Organizations and businesses

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

Teachers

- Plan nutrition education activities, such as Harvest of the Month, featuring a local food product that is in season.
- Connect instructional school gardens and garden-based learning activities to the curriculum.
- Organize farm tours or trips to the local farmers' market.
- Send information about Farm to School Month to parents.

School food service professionals

- Promote 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 one item for lunch, breakfast or snacks.
- Create a farm to school salad bar using local products.

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 Farm to School Month on your farm or at your farmers' market booth with posters and other materials, which can be downloaded or ordered from farmtoschool.org.



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 can provide you with a regional crop calendar.
- Volunteer at your local school to support a school garden or classroom educational activity.

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 preschools.

