What’s New?

2016 Handbooks - FNS has published updated policy guides for the Summer Meal Programs available now at www.fns.usda.gov/sfsp/handbooks.
- The 2016 Administrative Guide for Sponsors
- The 2016 Nutrition Guide for Sponsors
- The 2016 Sponsor Monitor’s Guide

Full color designed versions of the guides will be available soon!

Capacity Builder—The FNS Capacity Builder has been updated. Comments welcome about visibility range (how far you have to zoom in to display the layer) and symbology.

⇒ The USDA Rural Development layer has been updated with the November 2015 dataset https://catalog.data.gov/dataset/usda-rural-development-multi-family-housing
⇒ HRSA Health Centers have been added http://datawarehouse.hrsa.gov/data/datadownload/hccDownload.aspx

Upcoming USDA and Partner Events

February 4th, 1:00pm EST
Food, Research, & Action Center (FRAC): Partnerships to Expand your Summer Outreach Efforts http://org2.salsalabs.com/o/5118/p/salsa/event/common/public/?

February 26th, 2:00pm EST
Share Our Strength: Serving Summer Meals at Hospitals https://bestpractices.nokidhungry.org/events/2016/february/16/serving-summer-meals-hospitals

Resources for Sponsors

Procuring Local Foods for Child Nutrition Programs -

FRAC Summer Meals Vendor Guide -
Improving Meal Service by Using Local Foods

With harvests at their peak in many regions across the country, summer is a perfect time to incorporate local foods at meal service sites. FNS highly encourages utilizing local foods as a way to improve the quality and appeal of summer meals. Local foods and related activities can help children understand where their food comes from, and encourage them to make healthy choices.

Sponsors can incorporate local foods into summer meal programs by:

- Purchasing local foods for meals and snacks
- Offering agriculture-based, hands-on activities
- Growing or visiting edible gardens
- Organizing farm field trips or producer visits
- Teaching children how to cook or prepare locally grown food
- Promoting nutrition lessons focused on local foods
- Conducting taste tests with local foods

Local foods add variety to meals, connect the community with local agriculture producers, and provide hands-on enrichment activities. For more information on local foods and related activities, check out the FNS toolkit page How Sponsors Can Use Local Foods in Summer Meals available at http://www.fns.usda.gov/sites/default/files/sfsp/SMT-Local_Foods_Sponsors.pdf

Tips for Procuring Local Foods

WHERE? Local products can be purchased from a variety of sources: direct from farmers, through produce or full service distributors or Food Service Management Companies (FSCM)’s, from food hubs, farmers markets, community supported agriculture (CSA) programs, and school or community gardens.

HOW? There are many ways to target local foods through fair, open, and competitive procurements. A good starting point is asking about the source of the food currently purchases. You may already be using local foods and not yet know it! Sponsors can also communicate to current vendors and potential vendors a preference for local products. Solicitations may be written with characteristics of products from local sources in mind. For instance, you can specify a particular variety of apple native to your region, or that a product be delivered within 24 or 48 hours of harvest. The desire for local products must be expressed as a preference, and may not be required as a product specification. See our Local Procurement Guide for more tips, check out http://www.fns.usda.gov/farmtoschool/procuring-local-foods.