

## Welcome to the 2016 New York State Farm to School Survey!

This survey intends to collect information about what schools are buying food from New York State farms to integrate into school meals. Local for New York State means working with New York State farmers, distributors, packers/shippers, co-ops or food hubs that sell food grown or processed on farms or at processing facilities in the state. The term *Farm to School* is often defined by schools and local producers working together.

New York State ranks second in cabbage, snap beans and apple production and third in dairy production. Milk is available year-round, while many vegetables and fruits are available seasonally and some year-round and grown in greenhouses. Additionally, there are processors- from major applesauce companies that use local apples to tortilla makers in the Finger Lakes that can simplify meals and do not require cold storage.

***To help us at New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets understand the extent of your school's Farm to School program, we are asking you to complete this survey below.***

1. Do you use ingredients from New York State farms in your school meals?

Yes                       No

If **Yes**, where do you buy these ingredients from? Check the boxes that apply.

- Directly from farmer  
 Distributor  
 Packer/Shipper  
 Food hub  
 Other. Please share: \_\_\_\_\_.

If **Yes**, who helps/has helped you find farmers or distributors that supply New York State ingredients? Please check all that apply.

- Cornell Cooperative Extension  
 Department of Agriculture and Markets  
 Purchasing Manager  
 Local nonprofit  
 Parents  
 USDA resources  
 Other. Please share: \_\_\_\_\_.

If **No**, why are you not using ingredients from New York State farms?

2. What ingredients from New York State growers would you **like** to purchase more of? Write N/A if it doesn't apply.

3. If you are not currently purchasing local ingredients, what would you like to purchase from New York State growers? Write N/A if you answered "Yes" to question 2.

4. What percentage of your food budget do you estimate you spend on purchasing ingredients from New York State producers? Check One.

- None
- <25%
- 25-50%
- 50-75%
- >75%

5. What are the three most common ingredients served in your meal programs that are produced at New York State farms? Examples include milk, apples, cabbage etc.

1. \_\_\_\_\_

Please select all which applies:

2. \_\_\_\_\_

Please select all which applies:

3. \_\_\_\_\_

Please select all which applies:

N/A: Our schools do not currently purchase ingredients from New York State producers.

6. What are your barriers to purchasing more ingredients from New York State farmers? Please check all that apply.

- Cost
- Lack of kitchen equipment or tools to prepare ingredients
- Do not have enough cold storage available to store ingredients
- Do not know how to prepare ingredients
- Do not have time to cook from scratch
- Do not know where to buy local food
- Current distributors do not carry ingredients from New York State
- Trouble finding GAP Certified farms
- Do not have support from procurement/food purchasing manager

7. What resources are you looking for to introduce or increase your participation in the Farm to School initiative?

- In-person local procurement training of foodservice staff
- How to materials for procurement, storage, and preparation
- Proven recipes that utilize local farm products
- More up to date equipment
- Additional funding
- Other. Please specify:\_\_\_\_\_.

**Upon completion please submit results to [Amanda.Watson@nysed.gov](mailto:Amanda.Watson@nysed.gov)**

#### **Learning more about Farm to School:**

If you would like to learn more about purchasing food from New York State farmers, please refer to our Farm to School webpage on our Department's website. Please check back for updates in October to the page and its resources. These resources will include:

- New York State Harvest of the Month Educator's Toolkit
- New York State Local Procurement Toolkit

By the end of October, you will also be able to promote the New York State ingredients you are featuring on your menus and download the New York State Harvest of the Month posters off our website. There are 13 11 x 17 Harvest of the Month posters and one major poster to showcase Farm to School. For any questions, please write [farmtoschool@agriculture.ny.gov](mailto:farmtoschool@agriculture.ny.gov).

There are 11 x 17 posters you can hang in your cafeterias, classrooms and hallways for the following items:

- Apples
- Carrots
- Tomatoes
- Lettuce
- Broccoli
- Onions
- Potatoes
- Dairy- milk & yogurt
- Spinach
- Cabbage family
- Squash
- Beets
- Corn