

OCTOBER 2019

# THE NYSED BEET

FARM TO SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



**Hudson Valley Farm Hub**

## October is 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. From taste tests in the cafeteria and nutrition education activities in the classroom, to farm visits and school garden harvest parties, schools, early care and education sites, farms, communities and organizations across the US join in the celebrations. 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.

## News & Features

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**2019 Big Apple Crunch**

**FY 2019 USDA Farm to School Grant Awardees**

**2019 Census**

**1st Annual FINYS Farm to School Institute**

**Upcoming CN Meetings**



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This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

# Friday, Oct. 25th 2019



In partnership with local farmers across the apple belt of NY, and our dedication to bringing children closer to food and farming with healthy fun, the FarmOn! Big Apple Crunch will host the 6th annual statewide coordinated CRUNCH to bring awareness to the need to “Keep Farmers Farming” and inspire the community to Eat Local during apple harvest!

## How to CRUNCH:

- 🍏 Take the Eat Local Pledge: [www.farmonfoundation.org](http://www.farmonfoundation.org)
- 🍏 Invite friends, family & community members to take the pledge too
- 🍏 Buy locally grown apples from a local vendor
- 🍏 **CRUNCH** into a NYS apple on **Fri. Oct., 25th, 2019**
- 🍏 Share your Crunch with [@farmonfarmon](https://twitter.com/farmonfarmon) with a video or photo
- 🍏 Enter to win \$1,000 for a Victory Garden at a school of your choice by posting your favorite apple photo or practice CRUNCH video **NOW** on social media with hashtag **#HowBigIsYourBite**

## USDA Farm to School Grant Awardees

On an annual basis, the USDA awards competitive Farm to School grants to be used for training, supporting operations, planning, purchasing equipment, school gardens, developing partnerships, and implementing Farm to School programs. This year we are proud to share that over \$670,000 was awarded to NYS schools and organizations!

### *Implementation Grants*

Center for Agricultural Development and Entrepreneurship (CADE)  
Oneonta, NY

Madison-Oneida Board of Cooperative Educational Services  
Verona, NY

Wayne-Finger Lakes Board of Educational Services  
Newark, NY

Queensbury Union Free School District  
Queensbury, NY

Hamburg Central School District  
Hamburg, NY

Poughkeepsie Farm Project  
Poughkeepsie, NY

Common Ground Farm  
Beacon, NY

### *Planning Grants*

Schenectady City School District  
Schenectady, NY

Visit the NYSED Farm to School website  
for grant and funding opportunities!

[www.cn.nysed.gov/farmtoschool](http://www.cn.nysed.gov/farmtoschool)

# The 2019 USDA Farm to School Census

## The 3rd Farm to School Census (2019 Census) is Live!

2019 Census was emailed to SFAs by ABT Associates on September 06, 2019! 2019 Census is the only national survey to examine SFAs' farm to school activities such as local food purchasing behaviors, the number and use of school gardens, and the frequency of agricultural education. It is important that **all SFAs, (including public, charter, and private) participate** to ensure the results are representative of all SFAs in the country. The first nationwide Farm to School Census was conducted in 2013 to establish realistic goals with regard to increasing the availability of local foods in schools and serve as a baseline for data collection on farm to school efforts. A second census was conducted in 2015 to measure progress, and 2019 census has been released to assess the impact of farm to school across the nation.



### Only 76% of NY SFAs completed the 2015 census.

Organizations use the census data to apply for grants and guide future programming so it is essential that ALL SFAs (regardless if Farm to School activities take place) complete the survey!

### Data Collection Closes on Nov 4th!

If you are unsure of how to answer any of the census questions, please reach out to the NYSED Farm to School Team for help!

### 2015 CENSUS HIGHLIGHTS

**\$45,324,500**

Invested in local food

with the average school district spending

**11%** of their budget on local products

**61%** of NY districts surveyed reported participating in farm to school activities

Another **16%** of districts surveyed planned to start farm to school activities

**51%** of NY districts surveyed plan to increase local food purchases in the future

**292** School gardens are growing in NY

# FINYS Farm to School Institute Kick-off

Farm to Institution New York State (FINYS) is a statewide initiative with the overall goal of strengthening local economies through new markets for farmers and improving the health of New Yorkers through access to healthy, local foods. Modeled from the Vermont FEED Farm to School Institute, six teams representing nine NYS school districts kicked off the year-long NYS Farm to School Institute by gathering at the Omega Center for Sustainable Living on Aug 12-14, 2019.

Farm to school teams from the East End Farm to School Project (Southampton UFSD, Tuckahoe Common SD, Bridgehampton SD), Forestville and Pine Valley CSDs, NYC Dept of Education Office of Food and Nutrition Services, Perry CSD, Tri-Valley CSD, and Windsor Central High School met to develop an action plan to improve, or launch, their farm to school program throughout the 2019-20 school year. Team members included school nutrition professionals, educators, administrators, farmers, and community partners. The retreat provided school teams with the space and time to meet and develop an action plan to improve, or launch, their farm to school program throughout the 2019-20 school year.

The teams developed Farm to School Action plans to bring back to their respective schools. In the fall, the teams will reconvene to share progress made or challenges faced during the school year, so they can continue refining or reshaping their action plans. The Institute will match teams with resources and experts to help schools work towards their Action Plan goals. Finally, in the Spring of 2020, the Institute is going conclude with schools evaluating their year and progress. The teams will be asked to prepare presentations to share out with their peers and join an Institute network to continue sharing best practices to strengthen communities, the environment, health and wellness, and the economy across the state.

## Upcoming CN Updates Meetings

The upcoming Child Nutrition Program Updates Meetings will cover the most recent changes to the NSLP and SBP. School Food Service Professionals and Cooperative Ext. speakers will discuss creative solutions for meeting program requirements and share best practices Farm to School including strategies for meeting 30% initiative goals. A webinar containing the same update(d) information will be posted to the CNKC for those who are unable to attend. Registration will begin at 12:30 PM.

### **SYRACUSE** **10/10**

Onondaga Cortland Madison BOCES

### **MONSEY** **10/10**

Beth Rochel Elementary School

### **ALBANY** **10/15**

NYS School Boards Association

### **BUFFALO** **10/17**

Erie I Boces

### **LONG ISLAND** **10/24**

Eastern Suffolk BOCES

### **BROOKLYN AREA** **11/07**

NYC Dept of Ed. Office of Food & Nutrition Services

**Training: 01:00 - 04:00 PM**