



# National Farm to School Month

**Celebration Toolkit & Resources**

October 2025



NATIONAL  
FARM to SCHOOL  
NETWORK



# Why We Celebrate

## WHY FARM TO SCHOOL?

Farm to school is a triple win for kids, farmers and communities.

**KIDS WIN** Farm to school provides all kids access to nutritious, high-quality, local food so they are ready to learn and grow. Farm to school activities enhance classroom education through hands-on learning related to food, health, agriculture and nutrition.

**FARMERS WIN** Farm to school can serve as a significant financial opportunity for farmers, fishers, ranchers, food processors and food manufacturers by opening doors to an institutional market worth billions of dollars.

**COMMUNITIES WIN** Farm to school benefits everyone from students, teachers and administrators to parents and farmers, providing opportunities to build family and community engagement. Buying from local producers creates new jobs and strengthens the local economy.

## FARM TO SCHOOL CAN HELP ALL COMMUNITIES THRIVE

Farm to school is a strategy that can empower all kids to thrive by connecting to their culture and community. The three core elements of farm to school offer distinct approaches for uplifting a community's unique cultural roots, promoting belonging, and fostering a sense of responsibility and stewardship over the environment:

- (1) **Procurement of local and/or culturally-relevant foods** provides access to more nourishing school meals to more than 42 million students and advances income generation and access to land ownership for marginalized food producers.
- (2) **School gardens** offer opportunities for students to develop a sense of responsibility and connection to their communities. Through hands-on experience, students foster a deeper understanding of where their food comes from and cultivate a sense of stewardship for the land. Moreover, these green spaces can become hubs for community engagement, forging partnerships that extend beyond the school premises.
- (3) **Education about food and farming** is a proven approach for elevating the value of local agriculture and lifting up under-represented contributors in the food system. By educating students about the intricacies of farming and food production, farm to school programs empower the next generation with the knowledge and awareness needed to advocate for just and sustainable food systems.

# Ways to Celebrate

## TEACHERS & SCHOOL SUPPORT STAFF

- Teach a math, science, or literacy lesson in an outdoor classroom. Find farm to school curriculum resources at [farmtoschool.org/resources](https://farmtoschool.org/resources).
- Commit to serving on a school garden committee, district wellness committee, or any other group that champions farm to school.
- Create and cook a snack recipe with your students.
- Plan a field trip to a local farm, farmers market or food hub.
- Invite a farmer to visit your classroom.
- Make time for your students to practice their literacy while cultivating gratitude by writing "Thank You" notes to the school food service team and/or local farmers.
- Make a bulletin board celebrating farmers and local food.
- If you have a middle or high school FFA program, consider creating a cross-age teaching program that allows the middle and/or high school students to teach farm to school lessons to the younger grades.

## EVERYONE

- Let teachers, paraeducators, food service workers, school groundskeepers, and administration know that you appreciate their dedication to farm to school programs as a way to support healthy kids, communities, and farmers.
- Make a [community asset map](#) to assess organizations with relevant resources. Consider connecting organizations to each other or to existing farm to school programs.
- Participate in a school or community garden clean-up or planting day.
- Read your school district's wellness policy and look for specific policies to support farm to school programming.
- Talk to your local and state representatives about how farm to school programs are a win for kids, farmers and families in your communities. Through advocacy and education, you help shape farm to school policy.
- Connect your local librarians to farm to school programming. Many local libraries have community gardens on their property or even just a single raised bed for story time. Urban libraries can consider vertical gardens or tower garden systems.
- Call your county Extension office to connect their resources to farm to school efforts in your community. Master Gardeners may already be supporting school or community gardens in your area.

This list is just a start—there are thousands of small actions you can take to get information, get inspired, and get involved with farm to school in your community during National Farm to School Month!