

FARM TO SUMMER



Local food, interactive learning, nutrition and agriculture education



Get Local with Farm to Summer!

Summer Feeding Programs can reap in local summer produce by visiting a farm stand or farmers market to serve fresh fruit and vegetables at summer feeding sites. Summer feeding sites can also partner with a non-profit community garden, food hub or food bank for local produce and educational activities.

Farm to Summer Activities

Hold Farm to School activities to increase interest in fruit and vegetables. On aw shucks day, kids race each other to shuck an ear of corn, then students can find corn on the cob on their lunch tray. Find more ideas for fun activities online.

Freeze & Store Summer Produce

Some Farm to School Programs freeze produce harvested in the summer months to serve during the school year. Find information on how to freeze produce for k-12 schools in the document [Frozen Local: Strategies for Freezing Locally Grown Produce for the K-12 Marketplace](#).



Making Local Purchases

Did you know you can make a micro purchase of local food for special events? A purchase under \$3,500 can be made for local items. Be sure to keep documentation of calls to local producers, the product you purchased, and invoices or receipts.

To keep in compliance with regulations, spread purchases of local items between different farmers. To find out more about micro purchases contact the Alabama State Department of Education, find resources on the Alabama Farm to School Website, or find USDA resources online.

Find farmers and farm stands on the [Farmers Market Authority Website](#).

FARM TO SUMMER ACTIVITIES

Take a Farm Field Trip or Host a Farmer Visit

Taking a field trip to a farm, farmers market, or community garden can strengthen relationships with farmers and be a fun, educational opportunity for kids. Summer feeding sponsors can also invite farmers and non-profit organizations to a summer feeding site to teach students about nutrition and agriculture.

Grow or Visit an Edible Garden

Kids can get hands-on learning experience by engaging in school garden activities. Does your feeding site have a school garden? Summer feeding sites can help keep school gardens maintained during the summer months. Summer feeding sites may contact a local community garden organization for ideas and resources.



Chose an "Edible" Summer Feeding Site

Summer feeding sites may be held near farmers markets or edible teaching gardens. Summer Feeding Programs near "edible" locations encourages parents and children to increase their consumption of fruit and vegetables.

Have a Taste Test or Cooking Demonstration

The summer months can be a perfect time to try a new recipe or update an old one. Summer feeding sites can also be used to hold taste tests of new recipes or new fruit and vegetable items. Use the micro purchase method to test new products and build a relationship with a farmer.



BREAK for a PLATE
ALABAMA

If a Summer Feeding Site is holding a Farm to Summer activity the Alabama Farm to School Program wants to know! Contact Andrea Carter at the Department of Agriculture and Industries at: andrea.carter@agi.alabama.gov or 334-240-7258. The Farm to School Program may share your activity on the Alabama Farm to School Facebook page.



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