

# Pilot MN's New Harvest of the Month (HOTM) Program!

*Are you interested in building your school's Farm to School programming and could you use some help figuring out how to get started?*

The Minnesota Departments of Agriculture and Education (MDA, MDE) invite school-based teams to apply to pilot the Minnesota Harvest of the Month (HOTM) program next school year. HOTM is a viable strategy to help successfully implement farm to school.

## Benefits of Participating

- Suite of digital and printed program materials
- Marketing materials that showcase the use of Minnesota Grown foods to students
- Recipes and guides to help food service staff utilize Minnesota Grown products
- Educational resources to help educators extend the program into classrooms and communications templates to engage your community
- Program training and ongoing technical support
- Peer support through cohort members participating in pilot program
- Recognition as a pilot year HOTM school
- A small stipend of \$1000 - \$2000 (depending on school/district size)

## Expectations of Participating Schools

### Sourcing Minnesota Grown Foods

- Serve Minnesota grown Harvest of the Month food items at least once
- Display promotional HOTM materials throughout the school community
- Track local purchases

### Linking Cafeteria to Classroom and Community

- Conduct educational activities in classrooms
- Incorporate taste tests of HOTM food in cafeteria and classroom
- Host a community Farm to School event

### Providing Feedback on Pilot Program

- Take short surveys to evaluate the HOTM pilot project
- Send monthly updates of activities (photos and stories, which may be featured in our newsletters, website and social media)

Teams from ten school districts will be selected in June 2021. MDE and MDA will evaluate applications to ensure a diverse mix of teams from across the state. Questions? Reach out to Helen Schnoes, MDA Farm to School Lead [[Helen.Schnoes@state.mn.us](mailto:Helen.Schnoes@state.mn.us)].



## Program Goals:



Encourage healthy food choices by increasing students' exposure to and knowledge about seasonal foods, building excitement about school meals



Support market development for local farmers



Provide connections between the cafeteria, classroom and community



## Apply Today!

**1) Assemble your team**  
(nutrition staff, educator, administrator, community partner)

**2) Fill out the online application**

**3) Turn in application by Friday, 6/4/2021**