



Favorite Ways to Celebrate Farm to School Month In September

In the Cafeteria

- **Menu your favorite Farm to School (“F2S”) foods** during Farm to School Month.
- Make F2S visible in your cafeteria and classroom with **cafeteria line signs**, farmer photos **Farm to School posters** and bulletin boards.
- Feature **F2S foods in your school colors** (like locally grown red, green and yellow peppers or purple and white varieties of cauliflower).
- Highlight favorite Farm to School items on your **Salad Bar**.
- Have staff wear **F2S t-shirts, aprons, hats** or other F2S-related attire.
- Hang up a **map of your region** to show where your schools’ farmers are located.

For Students

- Read **short messages** on the morning “News” that highlight F2S foods on the menu that day and F2S activities happening during Farm to School Month.
- Run **F2S-related videos** on Smartboards before classes get started.
- Ask your **farmers to visit** with students in the cafeteria, classroom or school garden.
- Collaborate with your farmers to arrange a **farm visit** that give kids a chance to get their hands in the dirt and see where their food comes from.
- Mobilize students, the PTSA, community volunteers or interested organizations to shuck corn or **help with F2S taste-testings**. Feature foods from your school garden if you can.
- Inform teachers about the Farm to School foods you will be featuring and encourage them to discuss those foods or display **F2S signage** in the classroom.

For Parents and Community

- Highlight your F2S program in August and September at **Back to School events**, Curriculum Nights, in school offices and other visible locations in your district.
- **Invite** parents, farmers, administrators, media and community members to lunch.
- Include a few short **educational messages** on your September menu, newsletter or website to highlight your F2S foods and F2S Month activities with parents.
- Deliver a Farm to School **presentation** at a School Board meeting or other event with administrators, parents and community members.
- Send your farmers a **beginning-of-the-school-year kick-off letter** that highlights your F2S plans for the school year and thanks them for being a part of it.
- In late August or early September, send local media a **press release** about your F2S program. Describe how you will celebrate F2S Month and how the community can get involved.

Resources to help

A wide variety of Farm to School tools for foodservice staff are available from UM Extension at: <http://www.extension.umn.edu/farm-to-school/toolkit/>

The Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy's "I Dig My Farmer" Promotional Package includes free, easy-to-use graphics and templates for most of the ideas above. Learn more at: www.iatp.org/farm2school

FFA (formerly Future Farmers of America) may have High School Agriculture teachers and students who can help organize and conduct F2S activities. Find a nearby FFA leader at: <http://www.mnffa.org/ContactUs/ChapterDirectory/tabid/4128/Default.aspx>

