

2023 FARM^{to}SCHOOL CENSUS

QUICK FACTS

KEY DATES FOR THE FARM TO SCHOOL CENSUS

Early October 2023 – Farm to School
Census Survey Opens

October 2023 – Farm to School Census
School Food Authority (SFA) Kickoff
Webinar



THE FARM TO SCHOOL CENSUS STORY

The 2023 Farm to School Census (the Census) will be the fourth Farm to School Census conducted by USDA, providing a nationwide picture of the type and scope of activities that connect local foods and local food producers with school meal programs and curricula.

The 2019 Farm to School Census showed that farm to school has taken root and is growing, with 65 percent of responding SFAs reporting that they are doing at least one farm to school activity.

Farm to school activity means that local producers win. The 2019 Farm to School Census found that an estimated \$1.2 billion was spent by schools on locally sourced food products in the 2018-2019 school year.



Food and Nutrition Service
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

www.farmtoschoolcensus.fns.usda.gov

WHY COMPLETE THE FARM TO SCHOOL CENSUS?

- The Census is the only survey collecting detailed and nationally-representative information about farm to school activities like local food purchases, use of edible school gardens, and food & agricultural education activities. This information is vital to help schools, partners, advocates, and producers understand the role of farm to school in supporting resilient local food systems and contributing to student experiences at school.
- The Census also provides important information to help FNS, policymakers, and other advocates learn about the benefits and challenges of doing farm to school activities so that they can secure and direct resources to support farm to school initiation and expansion.
- The Census responses are publicly available at the national, State, and SFA level on the Farm to School Census website (<https://farmtoschoolcensus.fns.usda.gov/>). This information can help schools, SFAs, and States plan new farm to school activities, find ways to expand their existing programs, and share their successes with community members.
- The Census helps growers and food producers “[Bring the Farm to School](#)” by providing data on the local market for their products and potential school buyers.

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT WITH THE FARM TO SCHOOL CENSUS?

- State agencies will provide contact information for all SFAs in their State or territory in April-May 2023 and will update this information in late summer/early fall 2023.
- In October 2023, FNS will send each SFA their own unique link to the Farm to School Census web-based survey. FNS will also host a webinar for SFAs to learn about the Farm to School Census.
- The Census will ask a range of questions, including the approximate amount spent on all food and on local food; which farm to school activities elementary, middle, and high schools are participating in and how many schools overall do any farm to school activities; and the number of edible school gardens.
- SFA directors are encouraged to connect with food service partners, teachers, administrators, and volunteers before October 2023 to prepare to answer the questions above.
- Resources to help State agencies, school food authorities, and their partners prepare for and complete the 2023 Census are available at www.fns.usda.gov/2023-farm-school-census-partner-resources.

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS?

- Email: Farm2SchoolCensus@dir-online.com or amy.rosenthal@usda.gov
- Toll-free phone number: 866-986-2230