

CT DEPT OF AGRICULTURE – FARM-TO-SCHOOL PROGRAM

The purpose of the Farm-To-School Program is to grow and reenergize respect and interest in farming, support the resurgence in buying local and the reinvestment of good fresh food for kids at their schools and to grow and expand the markets for farmers in Connecticut. This program encourages CT farmers to sell produce directly to their local schools or to have state wholesale houses provide CT Grown to their existing accounts.



How do I as a farmer “join”? Call Jane at 860-713-2588.

We need to know if you are willing to deliver to schools directly or you sell to a wholesaler or both, what type of crops you are growing that schools can buy, and how far you are willing to travel, etc. We put all that info on the website for food service directors to look at and use to contact you.

Is there a fee? No, there is no fee to be in this program. This is strictly voluntary for all parties involved. It is also honor system! There are no mandates except to the state's Department of Agriculture and the Department of Education to support this program

What kind of products are schools looking for? Most schools use apples and other fruits, however, most schools also look for vegetables, like tomatoes, corn, potatoes, peppers, easy to use stuff, that stores well. Strawberries and raspberries, for instance, are highly perishable are used, but less frequently because of the short shelf life.

What quantities are schools looking for? Schools have limited storage, except for major cities like Hartford, New Haven, Bridgeport, etc. For the typical school you may only need 5 cases of apples a week, 2-3 cases of slicing tomatoes. Ask Jane Slupecki or your school for more information.

What about counts, special sizes and other special needs? Elementary schools use smaller apples and fruits! Other produce is a school by school kind of question. No individual stickers, please! A food service director will have to have them peeled off and re-wash the fruit or vegetable. This is labor-intensive and wastes your stickers! We can work together to establish what the schools will need for each product. Call for info!

How does delivery to school work? Do I have to deliver to each school? Is there special paperwork? You should be ready to present proof of insurance, and your farmer tax ID number or FEIN or social security number, have an invoice with your farm name on it listing the products you sold to them and date it. Have the school sign for the produce. Finally, you can work out delivery with the school. Some school systems like to have delivery to each school. Some school systems have a drop ship policy, and are willing to receive goods at one school and then deliver to the individual schools themselves. Please discuss this with the food service director or business manager.



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www.ctgrown.gov Agency website

<http://www.ct.gov/doag/cwp/view.asp?a=2225&q=299424> Farm to School website