

Office of Community Food Systems

2017



THE
FARM *to* **SCHOOL**
PROGRAM

HHFKA 2010

Section 243: Access to Local Foods

The Secretary shall create a Farm to School Program to:

1. Distribute **grant funding** to improve access to local foods in schools.
2. Provide **training and technical assistance** to improve access to local foods in schools.
3. Disseminate **research and data** on existing programs and opportunities for expansion.



Food Education



Local Food



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School settings



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Benefits

- Willingness to try new foods.
- Increased consumption of fruits and vegetables (.99 – 1.3 servings/daily)
- Improved knowledge and awareness regarding gardening, agriculture and healthy eating.



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Local in Summer



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Local in Preschool



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Tribal Schools

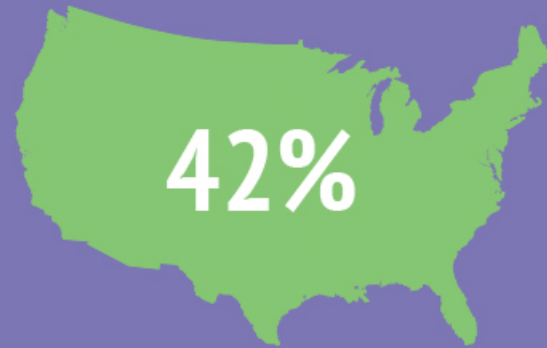


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Research



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of districts surveyed by USDA say they participate in farm to school activities.




That's
5,254
districts



and
42,587
schools bringing
the farm to school



for the benefit of an estimated
23.6 million
children.

 **The United States Department of Agriculture**
Food and Nutrition Service

<https://farmtoschoolcensus.fns.usda.gov>

www.farmtoschoolcensus.fns.usda.gov



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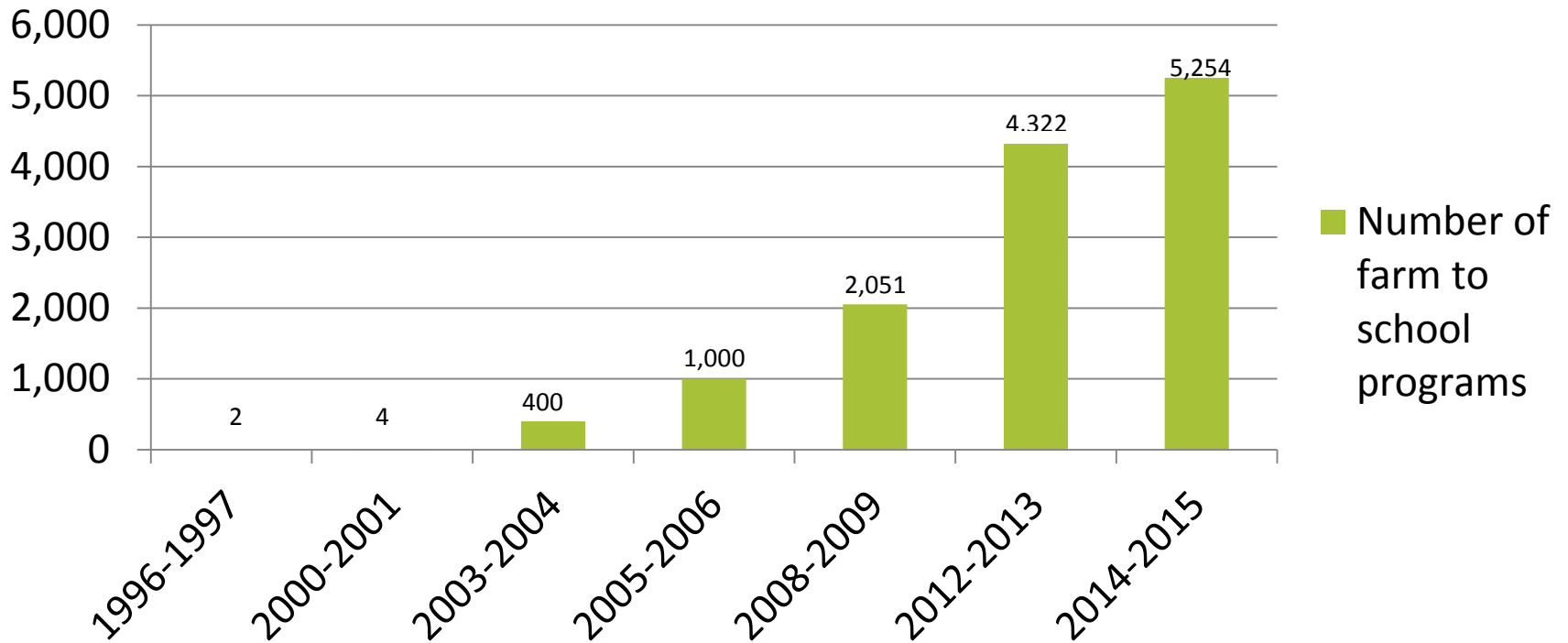


2015 Farm to School Census tell us...

76% of respondents (3,002 out of 3,954 districts) experienced at least one of the following benefits:

- reduced food waste (18%)
- lower school meal program costs (21%)
- greater acceptance of the new meal pattern (28%)
- increased participation (17%)
- greater community support (39%)

Growth of Farm to School



Grants

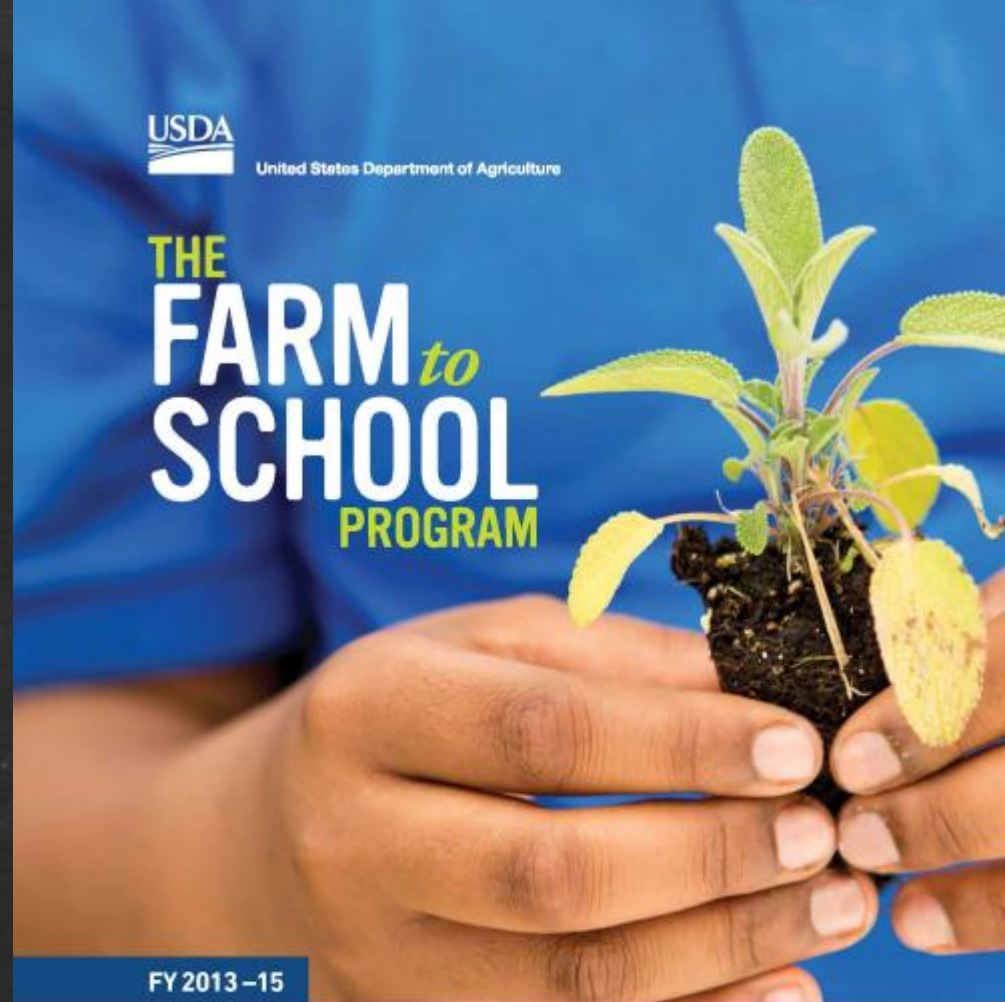


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Farm to School Grant Awards To Date

FY 2013 - FY 2016

- 300 projects
- 50 states, DC, Virgin Islands
- \$20.2 M
- Requests from 1,300+ projects seeking ~\$98 M



FY 2013-15

Summary of Grant Awards





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Pasta Salad

Pickled Beets

Delicata Squash
From Jim Ballard
Farm

Apple Blueberry
Crisp
Apples from Allenholm Farms
Blueberries from USDA





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Technical Assistance



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United States Department of Agriculture

GEOGRAPHIC PREFERENCE

What it is and how to use it



United States Department of Agriculture

USDA FOODS: A RESOURCE FOR BUYING LOCAL



United States Department of Agriculture

USING DOD FRESH TO PURCHASE LOCAL PRODUCE



THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program (DoD Fresh) allows schools to use their USDA Foods entitlement dollars to buy fresh produce. The program, operated by DoD's Defense Logistics Agency, began in school year (SY) 1994-1995 as a pilot in eight states. As of 2013, schools in 46 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, and Guam participate; schools received more than \$100 million worth of produce during SY 2012-2013.

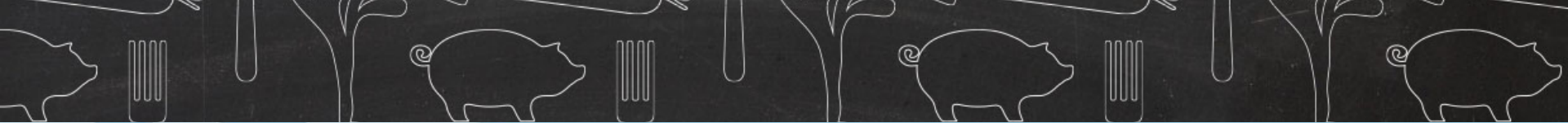
What are the advantages of DoD Fresh?

- Flexibility:** States can change DoD Fresh allocations on a monthly basis, which allows them to utilize USDA Foods entitlement dollars more effectively. USDA does not impose a cap on the amount of entitlement dollars or the amount of cash reimbursement funds that a state can allocate to DoD purchases.
- Variety:** DoD Fresh vendors offer as many as 50 different types of produce, available in multiple forms (whole, precut, and a variety of pack sizes) and from multiple locales (local and non local items are routinely offered).
- Easy ordering and funds tracking:** Schools place orders via the web-based Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Order/Receipt System (FFAVORS). The prices listed in the FFAVORS catalog reflect the prices that schools will be billed for the product. FFAVORS tracks schools' entitlement fund balances and total order costs. DoD manages vendor payment and reconciliation.
- Consistency:** DoD Fresh vendors update the catalog weekly, and depending on the state, schools can receive deliveries every week, making orders timely, fresh, and responsive to market fluctuations.
- High quality:** DoD maintains high quality standards through



United States Department of Agriculture

Procuring Local Foods for Child Nutrition Programs



Farm to School
TOOLKIT

**Bring the farm
to your school**



USDA
The United States Department of Agriculture



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The Team



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Erin Hysom

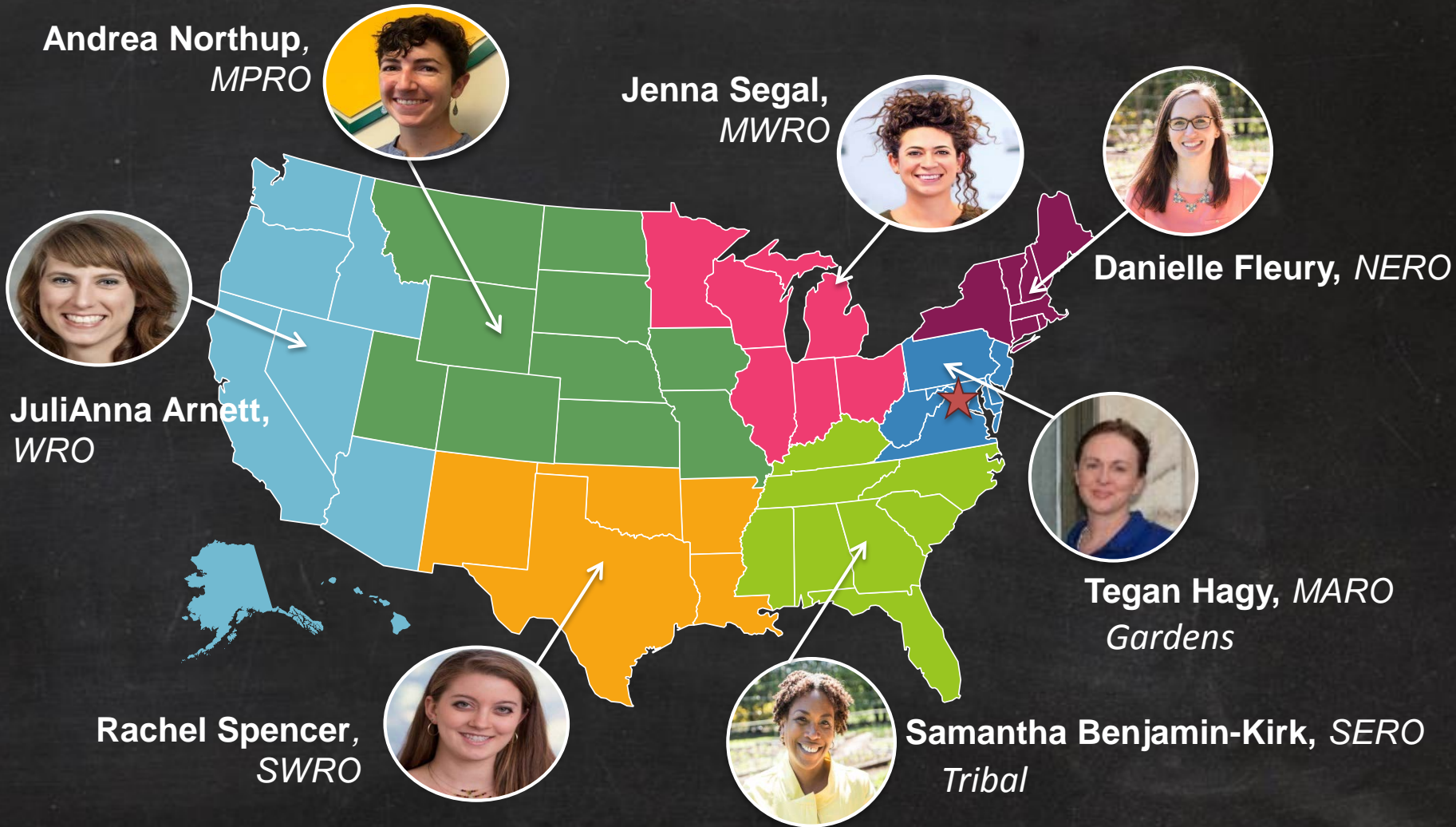
*Training + Technical
Assistance (NSLP, SFSP)*



Janell Walker

*Communications, Technical
Assistance (CACFP)*

Regional Leads



Get Involved

- Subscribe to our e-newsletter (more than 25,000 subscribers!)
- Help us connect producers with schools
- Promote our RFA among producers



Subscribe at www.usda.gov/farmentoschool





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