

2015 USDA Farm to School Census

March 3, 2015

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Today's Presenters



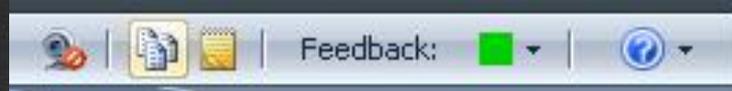
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75%



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2015 Farm to School Census

What is the Farm to School Census?

- » Survey of school district behavior buying local foods for school meals and participating in farm to school activities.

Why is USDA doing a Farm to School Census?

- » Section 243 HHFKA
- » To update information from the previous Farm to School Census conducted in 2013.

When will the Census be fielded?

- » USDA expects to send state agencies an invitation for districts to complete the Census on March 16, 2015.



Who should complete the 2015 Census?

- Every school district participating in NSLP.
 - » **IMPORTANT:** Even if the school district is not buying any local food or doing anything related to farm to school.



2015 Farm to School Census

Every director will be asked about their involvement in farm to school activities during the 2013-2014 school year.

- Yes
- No, but started activities in 2014-2015 school year
- No, but plan to start activities in the future
- No activities currently and no plans for the future

2015 Farm to School Census

- For school districts currently conducting no farm to school activities and have no plans for the future, only 1 additional question.
 1. Challenges procuring local foods



2015 Farm to School Census

- For school districts currently conducting no farm to school activities but planning to start activities in the future, only 3 additional questions.
 1. Benefits of participating
 2. Activities planning to start
 3. Start date



2015 Farm to School Census

- For school districts that started farm to school activities in 2014-2015 school year, only 3 additional questions.
 1. Benefits of participating
 2. Definition of local food
 3. Activities started



2015 Farm to School Census

- For school districts that conducted farm to school activities in 2013-2014 school year, 20 additional questions.
 - » Grades participating
 - » Number of schools with edible school gardens, salad bars, and participating in farm to school activities
 - » School meal programs involved
 - » Sources (Direct and in-direct)

2015 Farm to School Census

- Additionally:
 - » Types of local food purchased
 - » Frequency of purchases
 - » Dollars spent on local (including and excluding fluid milk)
 - » Future behavior

Guidance for Completing Census

- Like the 2013 Farm to School Census, school districts having trouble completing the survey should call or email the help line for assistance.
- Districts should answer the questions as best as they can.
- Best estimates about the amount of money spent on local food are perfectly acceptable.

Next Steps for State Agencies

- **Send email survey invitation and reminders.**
 - » Estimated time required – 1 hour total.
- **Forward email invitation to all school district food service directors.**
 - » FNS expects to send first invitation to complete Census on March 17.
- **FNS will send reminders to SA's to be forwarded to districts.**
 - » Tentatively on March 24, April 7, April 21, May 5, and May 19.

Additional Last Details

- **When emails bounce back, please resend to the correct address.**
 - » Please notify FNS of the correct email address.
- **USDA hopes to share results in October 2015.**
- **Contact Matthew Benson for more information or with questions.**
 - » Email: matthew.benson@fns.usda.gov
 - » Phone: 202-720-7640



Questions?

For more information, contact:

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