



SUMMER MEALS NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 2017 • STATE AGENCIES

Upcoming USDA and Partner Event

August 8, 2:00 PM EDT |
Partnering for More
Successful Summers: Bringing
Together Summer Meals,
SNAP-Ed, and Local Farmers
to Better Serve Communities
| USDA FNS

What's New

The Turnip the Beet Website is Now Live!

The **Turnip the Beet Awards** recognize outstanding Summer Meal Program sponsors across the nation who work hard to offer high quality meals that are appetizing, appealing, and nutritious during the summer months.

Learn more about the Turnip the Beet program on the new webpage located [here](#). Quick facts about the awards can be found on the one-pager, located [here](#).



August 6-12, 2017 National Farmers Market Week

During National Farmers Market Week, encourage sponsors to organize a field trip to a local farmers market or invite a local farmer to visit a site and teach the kids all about local produce!

Farm to Summer initiatives, like involving farmers markets in programming, can attract children and teens to summer meal sites, but require thoughtful planning and strategic partnerships. Discover how program operators are enhancing their programs through partnerships with SNAP-educators and farmers during the Farm to Summer webinar, "Partnering for More Successful Summers." Register

WRAPPING UP SUMMER 2017

● Congratulations
 ● on a successful
 ● summer so far!
 ● Now that we're
 ● almost to the
 ● close of the
 ● summer season,
 ● it's an excellent
 ● time to work
 ● with sponsors
 ● and discuss what
 ● worked, what
 ● didn't, and what
 ● deserves
 ● recognition, in
 ● order to begin
 ● planning for
 ● another summer
 ● of success!



Sponsor Interviews and Surveys

Survey your sponsors about:

- ☐ Their interest in returning as sponsors?
- ☐ If they don't plan on returning, why not?
- ☐ What were challenges they faced?
- ☐ How can the State agency help the sponsor overcome those obstacles?

Summer Debriefs

At summer debrief meetings, the State agency, sponsors, site supervisors, and partners can all discuss this past summer and its successes and challenges, and brainstorm together for the future.

Reach out to your regional office for assistance with tackling challenges.

Turnip the Beet Awards Overview

Help recognize sponsors who work hard to serve nutritious meals to kids during the summer! All Summer Meal Program sponsors who are in compliance with Program requirements are eligible for a Turnip the Beet award. Sponsors may nominate themselves or be nominated by another party. The sponsor or other party must fill out the Turnip the Beet Nomination Form (available on the [website](#)) and submit a one-month menu to their State agency for consideration. State agencies establish their own due dates for submission of Turnip the Beet nominations. State agencies then review and forward all nominations to their FNS Regional Office by Friday, November 17, 2017. FNS will notify the 2017 winners in early 2018. Learn more on the Turnip the Beet website [here](#).