



At The Table

USDA nutrition assistance news and information for partners and community organizations

Northeast Region Summer 2017 V2

USDA gets back to the people

Back to school

from Brandon Lipps, Acting Deputy Undersecretary, USDA's Food, Nutrition and Consumer Services

With millions of children now eating both breakfast and lunch at school, school meals play a crucial role in providing the nutrition foundation children need to succeed in the classroom. For some, the food they get at school may be all they have to eat in the course of a day. It's an important fact to consider – particularly now that kids are back at school.

In my role as Acting Deputy Undersecretary of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Food, Nutrition and Consumer Services, I can assure you that we're committed to making certain that the food our kids are served at school is both nutritious and satisfying.

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Back to our roots in Connecticut

U.S. Department of Agriculture Secretary Sonny Perdue at Prides Corner Nursery, in Lebanon, CT. Owner Mark Sellow took him on a tour before a Farm Bill Listening Session with approximately 40 farmers and producers. The Farm Bill conversation was moderated by Connecticut Farm Bureau Executive Director Henry Talmage. Supporting the conversation were Senator Richard Blumenthal and Senator Chris Murphy. *(USDA Photo by Lance Cheung)*



Back to our roots

U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue embarked on a "Back to Our Roots" RV Tour during the summer to gather input on the 2018 Farm Bill and increasing rural prosperity. Along the way, Perdue met with farmers, ranchers, foresters, producers, students, governors, Members of Congress, U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) employees, and other stakeholders. In announcing the tour, Secretary Perdue issued the following statement:

"The 'Back to our Roots' Farm Bill and rural prosperity RV listening tour will allow us to hear directly from people in agriculture across the country, as well as our consumers – they are the ones on the front lines of American agriculture and they know best what the current issues are," Perdue said. "USDA will be intimately involved as Congress deliberates and formulates the 2018 Farm Bill. We are committed to making the resources and the research available so that Congress can make good facts-based, data-driven decisions. It's important to look at past practices to see what has worked and what has not worked, so that we create a Farm Bill for the future that will be embraced by American agriculture in 2018."

Perdue traveled to Connecticut, Massachusetts, and New Hampshire for the 2nd "Back to Our Roots" Tour. *(continued on page 12)*

Back to the farm



October is National Farm to School Month

Get logos, press release templates and daily themes via

[National Farm to School Network](http://NationalFarmtoSchoolNetwork.org)

The U.S. Department of Agriculture selected 65 projects nationwide to receive annual farm to school grants.

Farm to school projects foster healthy eating habits among America's school-age children. Local economies are nourished, as well, when schools buy the food they provide from local producers.

According to the 2015 USDA Farm to School Census, schools with strong farm to school programs report higher school meal participation, reduced food waste, and increased willingness of the students to try new foods, such as fruits and vegetables. In addition, in school year 2013-2014 alone, schools purchased more than \$789 million in local food from farmers, ranchers, fishermen, and food processors and manufacturers. Nearly half (47 percent) of these districts plan to purchase even more local foods in future school years. *(continued on page 11)*



October 9-13 is National School Lunch Week
The #NSLW17 theme is "School Lunch: Recipes for Success"

Get toolkits, tips and other resources via [School Nutrition Association](http://SchoolNutritionAssociation.org)

Summer meals

Ask me about summer meals

Connecticut--End Hunger Connecticut! Blitz Days organize volunteers to canvass a community with outreach materials about the free Summer Meals available. The goal is to get the word out to all families that these programs are available to them. Blitz Day outreach locations can include schools, businesses, community centers, churches, parks, health centers, homes, or any location that could help tell families about the meal sites.



(Photo by Mike Shauck, courtesy End Hunger Connecticut! and Share Our Strength)



Farm to summer in New Hampshire

Bethlehem, NH-- Since 1963 Copper Cannon has provided a free summer camp to low-income NH youth. Providing three meals a day, it includes opportunities for interactive learning, such as introducing kids to gardening and growing their food.



(Photos by Jan Kallio)



(Photo by Cynthia Tackett)

Mount Vernon Mayor kicks off summer meals program

Mount Vernon, NY--Mount Vernon Mayor Richard Thomas (left) kicked off the USDA Summer Food Service Program at the Mount Vernon High School. After playing some one-on-one with members of the Mount Vernon Knights, Mayor Thomas joined young campers for a healthy meal. Thirty meal sites were open in the city for the summer.

HUD properties serve as summer meal sites

Charlestown, MA--Resident Service Coordinator Sarah Perks (left) serves meals and a happy healthy environment to the children at the Cooperatives of CharlesNewtown Housing in Charlestown.

This is one of 30 HUD multifamily properties in Massachusetts to serve as a site for USDA's Summer Meals Program, resulting from a multiyear joint effort between the Boston offices of Housing and Urban Development and USDA's Food and Nutrition Service.



(Photo by Taylor Bryan Turner, HUD)