



Farm-Fresh Feature Program

Goal

To develop a program for D.C. schools that will:

- a) familiarize students with seasonal, locally-grown produce;
- b) educate and excite students about these foods so they'll be more likely to eat them; and
- c) develop partnerships between local farms and schools.

D.C. Farm-Fresh Feature Program Highlights

- A seasonal, local fruit or vegetable will be **incorporated into school meals** on a specific day each month. In the cafeteria, posters, banners, point-of-sale signage, and table tents will **educate students** about the featured local food.
- The D.C. Farm to School Network will conduct **in-cafeteria taste tests** with the featured local food. Students will be rewarded for their participation in the taste test with a Farm-Fresh Feature sticker, and will add a featured local food sticker to a poster in the cafeteria if they try the food.
- Teachers and other school staff will incorporate the Harvest of the Month program into **regular classroom education**, using standards-based downloadable curriculum materials from the website – for example, writing letters to farmers thanking them for the food they provided.
- Schools will participate in **educational farm visits** to Arcadia's Farm in Alexandria, VA, where they will learn how the featured local food is grown, harvested, and prepared in delicious and healthy ways.
- Arcadia's Mobile Market will visit schools and educate students about **marketing and selling** the featured local food to the community.
- A **user-friendly website** with information for schools, parents, and the community with free, downloadable materials in English and Spanish.
- Work with **school garden programs** to grow the featured produce and incorporate it into educational programming/classroom lessons.

Farm-Fresh Feature Collateral (hard copy and/or on website)

- Banner to be displayed in cafeteria
- Program introduction letter to parents/school staff
- Lessons and activities, with worksheets, for each month
- Templates for letters to farmers (from students)
- Informational fact sheets about the featured monthly food
- Letters to send home to families highlighting each month's food

- Blurbs to add to school newsletters about the program
- Recipe cards to be given to kids during taste tests
- Colorful table tents to display on cafeteria tables
- Farm-Fresh Feature stickers to give to students
- Poster in cafeteria where students can add featured local food stickers after trying foods each month

Arcadia/D.C. Farm to School Network Role

- Develop and maintain the website
- Develop and print hard-copy materials
- Act as the point of contact for interested schools
- Facilitate taste tests of the featured produce in cafeterias
- Highlight the monthly item on the mobile market during school visits
- Highlight the monthly item on Arcadia's farm during school visits to the farm
- Organize chef demonstrations on the farm and in conjunction with mobile market visits that use the featured food item

Partners

- OSSE
- Farm to Desk DC
- DC Schoolyard Greening