

### CHILD NUTRITION PROGRAMS FARM & SEA TO SCHOOL

### Farm & Sea to School Updates

**Presented by:** 

**Katie Knowles** 

Farm & Sea to School Coordinator





### Agenda

- ✓ Local Food Purchasing Incentives
  - State Local Foods Fund (LFF)
  - Federal Local Food for Schools (LFS)
- ✓ Harvest of the Month
- ✓ New! Maine Regional Local Foods Project

- ✓ Local Foods Trainings
- ✓ Fishermen Feeding Mainers
- ✓ Upcoming Events







### CHILD NUTRITION PROGRAMS FARM & SEA TO SCHOOL

### The State Local Foods Fund (LFF)



### The State Local Foods Fund (LFF)



- Permanent state fund
- Reimbursed \$1 for every \$3 spent on local foods!
- Up to \$5,000 in reimbursement
  - Get \$500 extra for attending a DOE Local Foods training!
- Submit claims by the 9<sup>th</sup> of every month.



### Submitting a State Local Foods Fund (LFF) Claim

Farm and Sea to School | Department of Education (maine.gov)

\*Bookmark this as a resource for all Farm and Sea to School content\*

#### Farm and Sea to School





Maine Fish in Maine Schools A Partnership with the Maine Coast Fishermen's Association



### Submitting a LFF Claim

- Click on summary claim form to download claim form
- Save a blank one for future use!

#### Local Foods Fund

When funds are available payments, will be made as first received, first paid. E-mail Katie Knowles at <u>katie.knowles@maine.gov</u> for information on receiving ADDITIONAL REIMBURSEMENT through a Child Nutrition Local Foods Training.

To file your Local Foods Claim, email the completed Summary Claim Form, signed by the Legal Agent to <u>katie.knowles@maine.gov</u>.

#### Summary Claim Form (Excel)

A list of approved products. A list of approved processed food

Program Year 2024

Directions and Description of the State of Maine Local Foods Reimbursement

Local Foods Fund Simple Guidelines

✓ Allowable Processed and Value-Added Food Products in the Maine Local Foods Fund

Procedure for Maine Producers/Processors to Apply

✓ Frequently Asked Questions - Allowable Processed and Value Added Food Products



### Submitting a LFF Claim

- Read opening page first
- Click on claim sheet tab at the bottom

#### Maine Local Foods Fund Program Year 2024

H I

C D E F G

Diffections and description of the State of Maine Local Foods Reimbursement. Submission for reimbursement must meet the Maine Legislation Sec. 1. 20-A MRSA §6602, sub-§12. Listed below. Sponsors are to complete the summary page with Legal Agent approval signature and email the Summary Page and Invoices to: katie.knowles@maine.gov

#### 20-A §6602. SCHOOL FOOD SERVICE PROGRAMS 12. Local Foods Fund.

The Local Foods Fund is established within the department. The fund is authorized to receive revenue from public and private sources. The fund must be held separate and apart from all other money, funds and accounts. Any balance remaining in the fund at the end of the fiscal year must be carried forward to the next fiscal year. The fund must be used to match \$1 for every \$3 a school administrative unit pays for produce, value-added dairy, protein or minimally processed foods purchased directly from a farmer, farmers' cooperative, local food hub, local food processor or food service distributor in the State, to a maximum state contribution of \$5,000 per school administrative unit in fiscal year 2021-22 and subsequent years or \$5,500 per school administrative unit if funding is received and the school

administrative unit sends a food service employee to local foods training administered by the department under subsection 13. All foods purchased using the fund must be grown or produced in the State, with the exception of processed and value-added food products produced in the State, which must meet standards set by the department. The department shall create standards for allowable processed and value-added food products produced in the State and provide guidance to school administrative units regarding which of those products are allowable for reimbursement under this subsection and subsection 12-A. At the end of the fiscal year, the school administrative unit may provide the department with receipts documenting purchases pursuant to this subsection during that year. Reimbursement or partial reimbursement to school administrative units may only be made up to the amount available in the fund. Failure to reimburse does not constitute an obligation on behalf of the State to a school administrative unit. The department shall apply for federal grant funding to provide state contributions in excess of \$5,000 per school administrative unit in fiscal year 2021-22 and subsequent years pursuant to this subsection.

The claim form is on the following sheet.

READ FIRST

Claim sheet

Maine Department of Education

Claim Month:	
Sponsor:	

Date	Supplier Name	Farm Name	Items	*Approved	Amount
Total Sum of Rec	eipts				
Total amount of proved process of		1.00 for every	\$3.00 Purch	ased)	
proved presses of	f value-added for	ds ,			



### Submitting a **LFF Claim**

- Fill om yellow cells
- Spreadsheet does math for you!
- If you can, please send a copy of this in form excel format, even if you send a scanned signed copy as a PDF
  - It helps with data collection!

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# Submitting a LFF Claim

#### Important to Note:

- Contact name is the filer
  - Commonly nutrition director
- Legal Agent Signature is Approver
  - Commonly Superintendent
  - In CNP Web, whoever approves your monthly claims
- This is because LFF claims are done outside of CNP Web

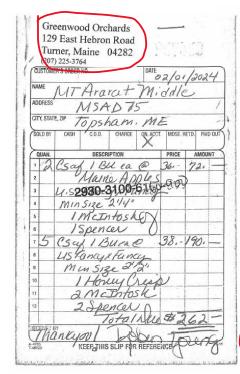
	eimbursement (\$1.00 for every \$3.00 Purchased)	0
* Approved process of	value-added foods	
	Amount of reimbursement requested: \$	0
Contact Name:		
Legal Agent Signature:		Date:
I hereby subm	it receipts for Maine produce purchased directly from fa	rmer or
farmers' coopera	tive, local food hub, local food processor or food service	distributor
in the State an	d used in the School Food Service Program. The produce	was not
of	fered in the Federal Fresh Fruit Vegetable Program.	



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## **Submitting a Local Foods Fund Claim**

- Include in your claim:
  - Receipts/Invoices that clearly identifies local product
  - Local Foods Fund Summary Claim Form
  - Email your claim to <u>katie.Knowles@maine.gov</u> by the 9<sup>th</sup> of every month!



	Farm Name	Items	*Approved	Amount \$
ha	Greenwood Or	Apples	190	190
ha	Greenwood Or	Apples	262	262
ha	Greenwood Or	Apples	370	370
ha	Greenwood Or	Apples	190	190
	Good Crust	Dough	321.56	321.56
	Field Fry	Potato FF	60.62	60.62
	Dough Co	Pizza Dough	43.43	43.43
	Good Crust	Dough	160.78	160.78
	Field Fry	Potato FF	30.31	30.31

FIII OUT VEIIOW CEIIS ONIV

2/12/23	Dennis	Good Crust	Dough	160.78	160.78
2/7'24	Dennis	Field Fry	Potato FF	30.31	30.31
tal Sum of Receip					1628.7
		1.00 for every \$3	3.00 Purchased)		542.9
ved process of va		Amount of	reimbursement i	requested: \$	542.9
ntact Name:	Nutrition Direct	tor			
	1			2017	2.4
egal Agent:	- SUM	mf yug	-	Da	ite: 3-4-
Lhoroby cubmit	racaints for Ma	ine produce pur	hased directly for	farmer or far	more'
			r food service dis		
			duce was not offe		
seu in the school		ruit Vegetable P		i co in cie redei	urreall

Claim Month:

Sponsor:

Date

Feb-24

Supplier Name

9/30/2021 Greenwood Ord

2/1/2024 Greenwood Orc 2/12/2024 Greenwood Orc

2/26/2024 Greenwood Ord

2/7/24 Dennis 2/26/24 Dennis

2/12/24 Dennis

### State Local Foods Fund (LFF)

- Allowable purchases: (Locally grown or produced)
  - Produce
  - Grain
  - Beans and legumes
  - Value-added dairy
  - Maple syrup and honey
  - 100% juice (pasteurized)
  - Certain processed and value-added food products\*\*



### State Local Foods Fund (LFF): Produce

- Allowable purchases: (Locally grown or produced)
  - Produce (minimally processed)
    - Whole, cut, and pureed fruits and vegetables
    - Frozen vegetables that have not been cooked
    - 100% juice and cider (pasteurized)
- Ineligible purchases:\*\*\*
  - Value-added or processed products such as-
    - Pickles, kimchi, jam/preserves
    - Pre-made coleslaw
    - Frozen French fries that have been par-cooked

\*\*\* Unless it is an approved value-added/processed product!





# State Local Foods Fund (LFF): <u>Dairy</u>

- Allowable purchases: (Locally grown or produced)
  - Value-added dairy
    - Yogurt
    - Sour cream
    - Cheese





- Ineligible purchases:
  - Fluid milk is <u>NOT</u> allowed



# State Local Foods Fund (LFF): Grain

- Allowable purchases: (Locally grown or produced)
  - Grain
    - Minimally processed grain products including:
      - Milled flour
      - Pizza dough
      - Rice
      - Pasta

#### Ineligible purchases

Pre-baked bread, pizza, pastries, cakes, and cookies\*\*\*

\*\*\* Unless it is an approved value-added/processed product!





## State Local Foods Fund (LFF) <u>Protein</u>



## Allowable products: (Locally grown or produced)\*

- Minimally processed proteins including but not limited to:
  - Livestock (whole animals for slaughter)
  - Beef and pork (ground, patties, steaks)
  - Poultry (ground, boneless, bonein)
  - Tofu and tempeh
  - Fresh or frozen fish and seafood

\* All meat must be slaughtered in a USDA or State inspected slaughterhouse



#### **Ineligible Products**

- Processed proteins including but not limited to:\*\*\*
  - Salami, pepperoni
  - Premade meatballs
  - Meatloaf
  - Falafel
  - Sausages and hot dogs
  - Crab cakes

\*\*\* Unless it is an approved valueadded/processed product!





### Value-Added and Processed Foods

- Value-added and processed foods are now eligible under the state Local Foods Fund! (LFF)
  - Changed in 2023 as part of new legislation
  - Must contain at least 51% local ingredients
  - Must be processed in the state of Maine
  - Processor must apply through DOE Child Nutrition website
- List of approved and processed food products can be found on our website!



### Value-Added and Processed Local Foods

List of approved processors on our Farm & Sea to School Webpage!

Company/Processor Name	Froduct Name(s)	Where can this product be purchased from?	Delivery information		
Maine Farm and Sea Cooperative/ Maine	Maine Marinara 20#	Native Maine Produce	Delivery through distributor		
Food Group	Maine Marinara 6/102 oz	Native Maine Produce	Delivery through distributor		
Hurricane's Premium Soups and Chowders	Maine Coast Monkfish Stew	Native Maine	Delivery through distributor		
	CRAB & SWEET POTATO BISQUE				
	CAJUN SWEET POTATO & CHICKEN	†	Delivery through distributor		
	MAINE BROCCOLI CHEDDAR	1			
	NEW ENGLAND CORN CHOWDER				
	CHICKEN VEGETABLE RICE	NATIVE MAINE, DOWNEAST			
	HADDOCK CHOWDER	FOODS, MAINE SHELLFISH, US			
	HUNGARIAN MUSHROOM	FOODS, SYSCO, PFG			
	MAINE LOBSTER BISQUE	,,			
	LOBSTER CORN CHOWDER				
	TOMATO LENTIL WITH SAUSAGE				
	MAINE SEAFOOD CHOWDER				
	NEW ENGLAND CLAM CHOWDER				
Maine Family Farms, Inc.	Natural Casing Frankforts	Maine Family Farms	Delivery direct to school ;		



# Do you have a locally processed food you'd like to be eligible for LFF?

#### Let us know!

We are trying to get more local processed and value-added food to be eligible for the state Local Foods Fund!

Please email Katie the following information for us to reach out:

- Name of business
- Name of product
- Contact information, if you have it!





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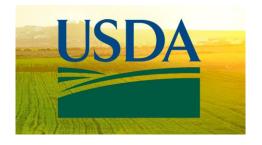
### CHILD NUTRITION PROGRAMS FARM & SEA TO SCHOOL

### Federal Local Food for Schools (LFS)



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Federal Local Food for Schools (LFS)



- One time, temporary federally funded program
- 100% reimbursement
- Allocations were based on district enrollment in 2023
- Funds expire in December of 2024
- All foods purchased must be locally grown and produced (Maine only)
- Focus on small and socially disadvantaged farmers



# Submitting a LFS Claim

- Farm & Sea to School Webpage:
  - Click Federal Local Food for Schools link

#### Farm and Sea to School



Local Foods Webinar Local Foods (pdf)

State - Local Foods Fund Federal - Local Foods for Schools

> Farm to School Cook-off Farm to School Month Maine Harvest Lunch Week Harvest of the Month

A Partnership with the Maine Coast Fishermen's Association



### Submitting an LFS Claim

- Click on LFS Summary Page Link
- Download file (save a blank one!)

#### Federal Local Foods for Schools (LFS) Program

The USDA has recently established the Local Food for Schools Cooperative Agreement Program. The federal funds, known as the Local Foods for Schools (LFS) program, are granted to districts that have opted in. Through the LFS program, USDA is awarding up to \$200 million to states for purchases of domestic local foods for distribution to schools. This program aims to strengthen the local food system by promoting local foods in schools. The program also emphasizes purchasing from historically underserved producers and processors. Funds are issued to districts based on enrollment.

- <u>2024 State and Federal Funding Chart</u>
- Final LFS Allocations by District
- Local Foods for Schools (LFS) Fact Sheet

#### Filing Your Local Foods for Schools (LFS) claim in CNP web:

Important reminders when submitting your claim:

- · Upload the summary page as an Excel file (this is required). Upload the receipts as one pdf.
- · Include each purchase on a separate line (i.e. don't combine the price of all things purchased on the same date)
- Organize Excel rows and receipts by date
- Begin your file names with your district name
- Local Foods for Schools Procedure-CNP web





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### Submitting LFS Claim

- Claim form slightly different than last year
- Now includes dropdown menu of commonly used producers
- You can still type in new producer at any time

		oods for Schools (LFS) S monthly in CNP web with all L		o get reimbursed
	inis for in must be aproduced			o get rembarsed
Claim Month:				
Sponsor:				
Date	Farm/Producer Name	Is farm/producer socially disadvantaged?* Yes/No	Value (\$ Amount)	Is this a new product that was purchased? Yes/No *if yes, list the items
EXAMPLE: 9/15/23	Liberation Farms	Yes	\$600.00	Yes- purple carrots
		<b>v</b>		
	Abbott's Family Farm Backyard Farms Bahner Farm Bailey's Orchard Berry Fruit Farm Bill Hamilton Boothby's Orchard Brackett Orchards Bumbleroot Farms Burk Hill Farm Caldwell Family Farm Century Elm Farms			
	Total Sum of Receipts		0	
	Total LFS Reimbursement			
	arms/producers on the Child N ov/doe/farmtoschool/lfs	lutrition website:		
https://www.indiffe.g	ov/doc/farmtoschool/lls	Comments/Feedback		

Maine Department of Education

# **Submitting a LFS Claim**

- In CNP Web with regular claim
- Under Local Foods Fund
- Enter in 100% Receipt total (ignore directions to enter 1/3!!)
- Upload receipts/invoices (PDF Format)
- Upload claim form in excel format

#### Local Foods Fund I hereby submit receipts for produce, value-added dairy, protein or minimally processed foods purchased directly from a farmer or farmers' cooperative, local food hub, local food 21. processor or food service distributor in the State of Maine and used in the School Food Service Program. The produce was not offered in the Federal Fresh Fruit Vegetable Program. Enter 1/3 of Receipt total (pre-tax) 98.74 **Receipt File Name** Date Uploaded Uploaded By Action Item 1 LFS Receipts.PDF 9/9/2024 ۲ 2 LFS Claim Form excel 9/9/2024 ۲

Education

# What's eligible for LFS?

• Examples of allowable food products include fruits and vegetables (including 100% juices); grain products such as pastas and rice; meats (whole, pieces, or food items such as ground meats); meat alternates such as beans or legumes, and fluid milk and other dairy foods such as cheese and yogurt. Foods in a wide variety of minimal processing states (e.g., whole, cut, pureed, etc.) and/or forms (e.g., fresh, frozen, canned, dried, etc.) are also allowable.

(Source: USDA LFS FAQ)









### Federal Local Food for Schools (LFS): Unallowable items

 Foods that are generally understood to be significantly processed or prepared are unallowable. Examples of unallowable products would include baked goods such as breads, muffins, or crackers; prepackaged sandwiches or meals; other prepared and/or pre-cooked items that come ready-to-eat or that require no further preparation beyond heating (eg. chicken nuggets, fish sticks, premade pizzas, etc).

(Source: USDA LFS FAQ)



### LFF vs LFS

#### STATE LOCAL FOODS FUND (LFF)



- State program
- Schools are reimbursed \$1 for every \$3 they spend on local food
- Fund reimburses for produce, valueadded dairy, protein or minimally processed foods purchased directly from a farmer, farmers' cooperative, local food hub, local food processor or food service distributor in the State
- Recently expanded fund to allow processed and value-added food products (51% of ingredients by weight or volume grown in Maine)
- \$5,000 reimbursed for every \$15,000 spent per school administrative unit per school year
- Can be used year-round and in the summer meals program

For more information contact Farm and Sea to School Coordinator: Katie.Knowles@Maine.gov

#### New! federal program

- Funds were made available for schools Aug 2023 and can be used through December 2024
- Funds are issued to districts based on enrollment.
- Schools are reimbursed at 100% cost
- Minimally processed local produce, value added dairy and protein, fluid milk, etc.
- Focus on small and socially disadvantaged farmers
- Can only be used during school year, not summer



#### Additionally:

#### • STATE LFF:

- Email claim to katie.Knowles@maine.gov
- Permanent fund

#### • FEDERAL LFS:

- submit with your monthly claim in CNP Web
- Temporary (only through December 2024)



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#### Approved Local Foods

#### Maine Department of Education, Child Nutrition

Ţ	Ψ		Eligible:	Y
		LFF (State)	LFS (Fed)	
Category	Food	Grown OR	Grown AND	Both LFF and
		Produced in	Produced in	LFS
		ME	ME	
Dairy	Cheese, yogurt, sour cream			
Dairy	Fluid milk	x		x
Grain	Pizza dough		x	
Grain	Rice, pasta			
Other	Beans & legumes			
Other	Honey & maple syrup			x
Other	Marinara	***	x	x
Other	Processed and value-added foods			
Produce	Minimally processed foods			
Produce	Fruits and vegetables (whole, cut, pureed)			
Produce	100% Juice (pasturized)			
Protein	Apple cider (pasturized)			
Protein	Tofu & tempeh		x	x
Protein	Livestock (whole animals for slaughter) ^			
Protein	Beef and pork (ground, patties, steaks) ^	***	x	x
Protein	Processed meat (hot dogs, sausages) ^			
Protein	Poultry (Boneless or bone-in) ^			
Protein	Fresh or frozen fish			

Key	:
***	eligible if it is on approved processor list
elig	ible product
ine	ligible product
<b>^</b> Al	l meat and poultry must be slaughtered in a
USD	A or State inspected slaughterhouse.

This is not an exhaustive list. Please email Katie for questions about a specific product!





### Where can schools purchase local foods?

- Directly from the farmer/producer
- Cooperative
- Food Hub
- Local food processor
- Food distributor

Make sure you are sourcing from a reputable producer!





### CHILD NUTRITION PROGRAMS HARVEST OF THE MONTH







### Maine Harvest of the Month

<u>Harvest of the Month (HOM)</u> is a nationwide marketing campaign that promotes the use of seasonally available, local products in schools. Each month, a different local product is highlighted, and participating schools pledge to serve the product and promote it through educational materials and activities.





### Join Maine Harvest of the Month (HOM)!

#### You are pledging to:

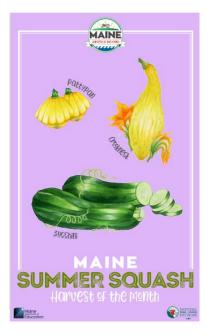
- Serve the local HOM product at least 2x per month
- Display HOM materials provided by DOE Child Nutrition
- Encouraged: HOM themed/related events: taste tests

#### In return you receive:

- Monthly Toolkits including:
  - Posters
  - Fact and recipe sheets
  - Stickers
- Monthly Newsletter email
- Additional resources & support from Farm & Sea to School Coordinator



# **HOM Toolkits**



#### Posters!



# Source cards!



# Fun fact sheets with recipes!



#### Plus, stickers!





# Maine Harvest of the Month

- Great way to promote locally sourced ingredients throughout the school year!
- Great introduction into Farm & Sea to School
  - Serve local ingredient only twice a month!



# **Pledge to Harvest of the Month!**



Join the Maine Harvest of the Month (HOM) Program! Take the pledge and join dozens of schools and childcare sites in bringing more healthy, local food to Maine children while supporting Maine farmers and producers!

Harvest of the Month Re-Pledges (Re-Pledge for Harvest of the Month) New Harvest of the Month Pledges (Join the Pledge) Summer Pledge (Join the Pledge)



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# Refreshing HOM



- SY 26 rollout
- New Recipes and collateral
- New resources
- Possible BONUS HOM
  - Will be distributing survey in late fall
- As always, email with any feedback!



### New! Maine Regional Local Foods Project

•New! Pilot project by Maine DOE Child Nutrition

- 2 years (Oct 2024-June 2026)
- Funded by a USDA Farm to School State Formula Grant
- •Objective: expand and deepen the impact of Farm & Sea to School programming in schools

•9 Local Foods Coordinators for each Superintendent Region in Maine

- Work with school nutrition staff to provide fresh, locally sourced foods in school meal programs
- Facilitate projects and activities that enable students to learn about local agriculture and nutritious foods



#### Year 1 (2024-2025)

#### **Pilot Year**

- Aroostook
- York
- Western ME (Oxford, Androscoggin, Franklin)
- **Downeast** (Hancock/Washington)



#### Year 2 (2025-2026)

#### Full Implementation

- Aroostook
- York
- Western ME (Oxford, Androscoggin, Franklin)
- Hancock

- Washington
- **Penquis** (Penobscot, Pisquataquis, Somerset)
- Mid-Coast (Knox, Lincoln, Sagadahoc)
- Kennebec Valley (Kennebec, Waldo)
- Cumberland



### **Local Foods Trainings for SY25**

- Monthly trainings
- A mix of recorded and in-person trainings
- Tentative calendar will be posted in Thursday update soon
- Culinary classroom, field trips
- Districts receive an additional \$500 in state Local Foods Fund reimbursements
- This webinar counts as a local foods training!
  - Email Katie so she can mark you down!





#### CHILD NUTRITION PROGRAMS FARM & SEA TO SCHOOL

#### **Fishermen Feeding Mainers**



### **Fishermen Feeding Mainers**



- Fishermen Feeding Mainers (FFM) is a program that is coordinated in partnership with Maine Coast Fishermen's Association.
- FFM provides direct financial relief to fishermen by helping them supply schools and families in need with healthy Maine seafood.



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### How the program works:

- FFM provides schools and CACFP sponsors with **FREE** Maine caught fish!
  - Flaky white fish (i.e. hake, monkfish, cod)
  - Received frozen
- Pickup is in Portland– sometimes at short notice!
- You can sign up to be notified when free fish is available via email by visiting the Farm and Sea to School Child Nutrition webpage.





### Get Involved in Farm & Sea to School!



This week (September 16-21) is Maine Harvest Lunch week!



October is National Farm to School Month!

- Great way to get involved with Farm & Sea to School
- Opportunity to spend federal and state local foods funding!





#### Maine Harvest Lunch Week

2024 Maine Harvest Lunch Week (MHLW) is this week!!
 (September 16th to the 20<sup>th</sup>)

• This annual week-long event spans back decades and celebrates Maine's local producers by promoting the use of local food in cafeterias across the state. Districts are also encouraged to host MHLW related events and activities.

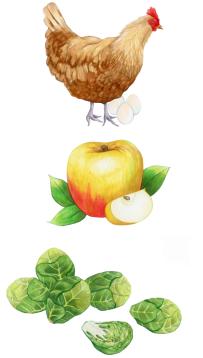
• If your district has exciting plans for MHLW, we would love to know about and celebrate your work! Please email katie.knowles@maine.gov with any details.



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# October is National Farm to School Month!

- Join thousands of schools, early care and education sites, farms, communities, and organizations across the country as we celebrate food education, school gardens and lunch trays filled with healthy, local ingredients.
- Visit the <u>National Farm to School Network website</u> to see how you can get involved! They have excellent resources and a <u>Farm to School Month Toolkit</u> for schools to use!





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### **Upcoming Events**

**October 17th: Fall Info Meeting** 

#### Augusta Civic Center 9:00 AM- 3:00 PM

- Local foods procurement training
  - More information about Geographic Preference expansion
- Panel discussion about local purchasing!
- Counts as a local foods training for extra \$500 for state Local Foods Fund reimbursements!

Register on our Child Nutrition webpage





#### **Child Nutrition Farm & Sea to School Webpage**



#### Farm & Sea to School

The Farm and Sea to School Program promotes the use of Maine-grown, raised, and caught ingredients in delivering meals to students throughout the state. Harvest of the Month program information is found here.

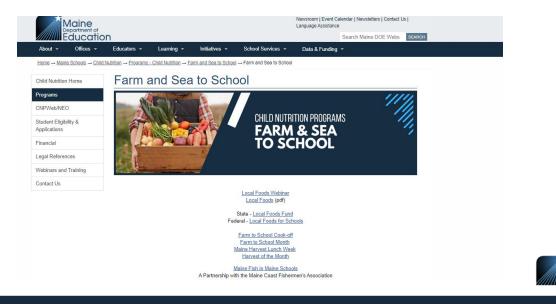
State Local Foods Fund

Federal Local Foods Fund

Maine Fish in Maine Schools

Farm & Sea to School

Includes recipes, videos, and additional HOM resources



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## **Questions?**

Katie Knowles

Farm & Sea to School Coordinator

Katie.Knowles@maine.gov

207-215-6716



