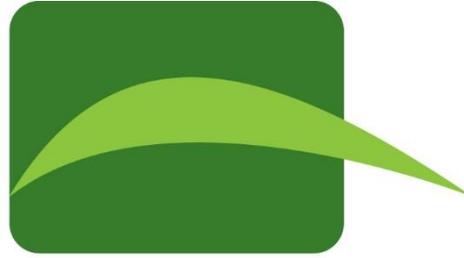


# ARKANSAS AGRICULTURE DEPARTMENT



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## OCTOBER DECLARED ARKANSAS FARM TO SCHOOL MONTH BY GOVERNOR ASA HUTCHINSON AND ARKANSAS FARM TO SCHOOL PARTNER AGENCIES

Little Rock, Ark. – Governor Asa Hutchinson proclaims October Arkansas Farm to School Month, joining a nationwide movement led by the National Farm to School Network. Farm to school practices enrich the connection communities have with fresh, healthy food and local farmers by changing food purchasing and education practices at schools and preschools. In Arkansas, 27 school districts use Farm to School practices, which includes 169 schools and over 86,000 students.

“The Arkansas Agriculture Department is proud to participate in Farm to School Month and helping to create additional opportunities for Arkansas farmers and ranchers,” says Arkansas Agriculture Secretary Wes Ward.

“Farm to school connections provide additional markets for Arkansas farmers, and give our students the freshest and best available ingredients. We hope that the Farm to School Movement helps children establish healthy habits that will last a lifetime, and directs school food purchasing dollars into the Arkansas economy,” said Arkansas Grow Healthy Program Administrator and Arkansas State Lead for the National Farm to School Network, Andrew Carberry.

You can be part of Farm to School opportunities locally, in a variety of ways, including:

- Learn more about how your local school or preschool chooses food sources for school lunches.
- Help plan a school or community garden.
- Take the family to visit a garden or farm.
- Find an Arkansas Farm to School success story, and consider replicating efforts in your district.
- Help your school officials apply for a Farm to School grant, or seek other funding sources.
- Attend an Arkansas Farm to School event in your community.

"Farm to School is an important tool in the fight against childhood obesity and food insecurity," said Melissa Terry, co-chair of the Arkansas Coalition for Obesity Prevention's Healthy Food Access Workgroup. "In addition to improving child health, when schools buy local, they create access to new markets for local and regional farmers," she added.

Find fact sheets, training guides, success stories, and events happening near you at [www.arkansasfarmtoschool.org](http://www.arkansasfarmtoschool.org). There, also find guidelines and school resources for beginning a Farm

to School initiative in your district. The National Farm to School Network also offers a variety of free resources at [farmtoschool.org](http://farmtoschool.org). Visit the National Farm to School Network blog throughout October for stories of Farm to School successes happening across the country.

The Arkansas Farm to School Month Proclamation is supported by a group of Farm to School state and private partners, including the Arkansas Children's Hospital Research Institute Childhood Obesity Prevention Research Program, Access to Healthy Foods Workgroup of the Arkansas Coalition for Obesity Prevention, the Arkansas Department of Education, Child Nutrition Unit, Arkansas MarketMaker, and the Arkansas Agriculture Department.

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*The Arkansas Agriculture Department offers its programs to all eligible persons regardless of race, color, national origin, sex, age or disability and is an Equal Opportunity Employer.*