



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

P. O. BOX 2120

Richmond, Virginia 23216-2120

SNP Memo # 09-10-02

TO: Directors, Supervisors and Contact Persons, Addressed

FROM: Catherine Digilio Grimes, MS, RD, LDN, SNS
School Nutrition Programs

Catherine Digilio Grimes

DATE: September 28, 2009

SUBJECT: Save the Date: VIRGINIA FARM TO SCHOOL WEEK- November 9-13, 2009

The Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) and Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer (VDACS) have collaborated to promote the Farm-to-School program. Farm-to-school encompasses many types of programs and school experiences such as purchasing fresh, locally grown farm products, planting and tending school gardens, and of course educating children about nutrition. Incorporating local products into school meals also enhances the educational opportunity for students who benefit by learning about the seasonality of food products, the importance of supporting local agriculture and the benefits associated with reducing transportation cost and protecting farms and farmland in our communities.

As you begin to plan menus for November and beyond, we encourage all school divisions throughout the Commonwealth to incorporate locally grown foods on the menu during this week in November. Work with your vendors and local farmers in your area. It is a great opportunity to begin a partnership with your community to help nourish our students with healthy local choices.

Attachment A is a flyer reminding you to Save the Date for Virginia Farm-to-School Week. It also has a direct link to the VDACS website. This website provides a means to communicate information on the school divisions that are purchasing locally, what farms are able to supply schools, the Virginia Produce Availability Chart and much more.

A superintendent's memo announcing Virginia Farm to School week and encouraging all schools to participate will be forthcoming.

If you have questions, please contact your school nutrition specialist assigned to your region or you may call our office at (804) 225-2074.

cc: SNP Staff, VDOE
Leanne Dubois, VDACS
Beth Beville, VDACS

Attachment A – Virginia Farm to School week promo document



Virginia Farm to School Week

Hold the Date

November 9 – 13, 2009

The Virginia Department of Education and Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services request that you hold the week of November 9 – 13 for a statewide Virginia Farm to School week. All schools in the Commonwealth, kindergarten through college, are encouraged to purchase, serve, and promote locally grown foods in their cafeterias during the week.

Farm to School programs connect local farms and schools to provide healthful, local food. The program teaches the students about healthful eating, the importance of small farms and knowing where their food comes from.

Building connections between schools, students and producers throughout Virginia will provide better economic opportunity for agriculture and healthier options for our children. Look for more information, menu ideas and resources to follow on the Virginia Farm to School website (www.vdacs.virginia.gov/marketing/farm.shtml). The Virginia Grown logo is available to use on your menus to recognize your contribution to supporting Virginia Grown products during the week or anytime you use local products on your menu.